



CRYPTIC RESPONSE

Actor Sonakhi Sinha reacts to her wedding rumours after actor Zaheer Iqbal made their relationship official on IG

LEISURE P2



ALARMING CONSTRUCTION

Chinese activity near Ladakh is 'eye-opening' and some of the infra being created is 'alarming', says top US General

INTERNATIONAL P10



MITHALI CALLS IT A DAY

Mithali Raj, one of the greatest Indian women cricketers, announces her retirement from international cricket

SPORTS P12

Paddy MSP hiked by ₹100/qtl for 2022-23

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 8: The government Wednesday hiked the minimum support price (MSP) for paddy by ₹100 to ₹2,040 per quintal for 2022-23 crop year in order to encourage farmers to bring more area under the crop and boost their income.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the increase in MSPs for all 14 kharif (summer) crops for 2022-23 crop year.

"Government has increased the MSP of kharif crops for 2022-23, to ensure remunerative prices to the growers for their produce and to encourage crop diversification," an official statement said.

Briefing media, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said the Modi government has taken several steps from 'bej se bazaar tak' (seed to market) that has helped increase income of farmers.

Announcing the MSP hike before the sowing of kharif crops will give farmers an indication about the price which they would get and help them in deciding which crops to grow, he added.

As per the CCEA decision, the MSP of 14 kharif crops has been increased in the range of ₹92-523 per quintal. The maximum hike has been given in sesamum of ₹523 per quintal, while the lowest ₹92 per quintal is in case of maize. Paddy is the main kharif crop, the sowing of which has already begun.

Al-Qaeda warns of attacks

Central intelligence agencies are on alert after the Al-Qaeda in Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) issued a letter warning of suicide bombings to avenge the insult to the Prophet

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 8: Al-Qaeda in Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) has issued a chilling warning of carrying out 'suicide bombings' in Delhi, Mumbai, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat in a bid to take revenge of the insult to the Prophet Mohammed.

"The saffron terrorists should now await their end in Delhi, Bombay, UP and Gujarat. They should find refuge neither in their homes nor in their fortified army cantonments," a threat letter by the AQIS read.

It said that the hearts of Muslims all over the world are bleeding and are filled with feelings of revenge and retribution.

Former Bharatiya Janata Party spokesperson Nupur Sharma had allegedly made controversial remarks against Prophet Mohammed following which she was suspended by the party.

The controversial statement made by Nupur Sharma set off an international furor. Several Muslim nations, including Afghanistan, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Indonesia and Iran, as well as the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation have officially protested their statements and demanded an apology.



Security personnel patrol to maintain law and order as shops are reopened in Kanpur after violence following a controversial remark by suspended BJP leader Nupur Sharma

EGI raps news channels

Noting that the irresponsible conduct of some news channels has made the national discourse coarse and the gap between communities unbridgeable, the Editors' Guild of India (EGI) Wednesday asked them to pause and take a critical look at what they have done just to increase viewership and profit during the Kanpur violence. It also called for stricter vigilance by broadcasters and journalist bodies, noting that the recent incident of violence in Kanpur that caused "unnecessary embarrassment" to the country could have been avoided if those news channels had been mindful of the nation's constitutional commitment to secularism, as well as journalistic ethics and guidelines of the Press Council of India.

However, the chilling threat issued by AQIS has alerted the security agencies in the country.

Several Indian media groups shared the June 6 letter attributed to al Qaeda's branch in the Indian subcontinent (AQIS) in which threats were made to carry out suicide bombings in Indian states to defend, it said, the honour of the Prophet.

The letter also mentioned Ghazwa

e-Hind -- the battle for India -- in which they said victory of Muslims in the country. "At the same time, we bring tidings of death and destruction to the rulers of India, of executions and hangings, of imprisonment and being bound with chains," read the letter.

A federal home ministry official said intelligence agencies were checking the authenticity of the threats is-

sued by AQIS. "We have also ordered state police to ensure public gatherings or protests are not allowed as they could be targeted by the militant group," a senior home ministry official in New Delhi said.

Meanwhile, suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma was provided security by the Delhi Police in the wake of death threats she has received over her controversial remarks.

REMARKS ON PROPHET

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



We tried hard but couldn't confiscate more than a couple of crores... looks like he is really honest!

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	54892.49 ↓ 214.85
NIFTY	16356.30 ↓ 60.00
DOLLAR	78.59 ↑ ₹0.04
EURO	83.35 ↑ ₹0.27
GOLD	₹51,062 ↑ ₹94
SILVER	₹62,109 ↓ ₹134

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX	36.6°C	37.0°C
TEMP. MIN	28.1°C	28.0°C
Humidity	76%	76%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

Forecast: Mainly clear sky

EMIs to rise as RBI ups repo rate again

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) raises its inflation forecast for the current fiscal to 6.7% from April prediction of 5.7% but retains its economic growth projection at 7.2%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

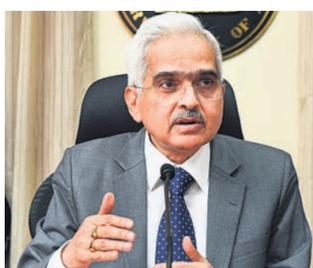
Mumbai, June 8: Home, auto and other loan EMIs will rise after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Wednesday raised the key interest rate by 50 basis points, the second increase in five weeks, to rein in a rise in prices that was seen continuing to hurt consumers in the near term.

The increase in lending rate or the repurchase rate (repo) by 50 bps -- the biggest in more than a decade -- to 4.90 per cent comes on the back of a 40 bps hike last month at an unscheduled meeting that kicked off the tightening cycle.

Simultaneously, the pandemic-era accommodative stance was dropped, which meant more hikes may be in the offing to tame inflation that since the start of the year has been hovering above the central bank's upper tolerance limit.

"Inflation has steeply increased much beyond the upper tolerance level (of 6 per cent)," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said while announcing the bi-monthly monetary policy. "Upside risks to inflation as highlighted in last policy meetings have materialised earlier than expected."

The RBI raised its inflation forecast for the current fiscal (April 2022 to March 2023) to 6.7 per cent from 5.7 per cent earlier on the expectations of prices staying above the 2-6 per cent tolerance band in the first three quarters (till December-end).



In such a scenario, further reduction of State VATs on petrol and diesel across the country can certainly contribute to softening of the inflationary pressures as well as expectations

SHAKTIKANTA DAS | GOVERNOR, RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

The law mandates that the central bank will have to explain in writing to the government the reasons for failing to keep inflation within the targeted band if prices were to stay above 6 per cent for three straight quarters. It also has to suggest remedial measures to bring prices under control.

To balance the inflation-growth dynamics, Das said RBI will remain focused on the withdrawal of accommodation as system liquidity continues to remain above pre-pandemic levels.

Rescue ops: Busy day for Forest officials

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 8: Two elephants got stuck in the Mahanadi river Wednesday while crossing the water body in Banki area of Cuttack district, a Forest official said. One of the two jumbos reportedly swam across the river and reached the bank safely. However, the other elephant was still stranded in the river.

The incident happened near Bhagipur while the jumbos were attempting to reach Chandaka sanctuary from Sukasen forest. The local residents spotted the wild ani-



A leopard, which had fallen into a well near Hindol Ghat under Charamala range in Sambalpur district, was rescued Wednesday

mals after hearing their trumpeting and immediately informed the Forest officials.

The Forest department officials reached the spot immediately and mounted a rescue operation. The water level was very high near the spot and the Forest officials were trying their best to rescue the elephant, the official said. The animals were hesitating to cross the water body because the river bank was overcrowded with people, he added.

Meanwhile, in another incident, a leopard, which had fallen into a well near Hindol Ghat under Charamala range

in Sambalpur district, was rescued by range staff with the help of police and Fire personnel Wednesday.

A wooden plank tied to a rope at both ends was lowered into the well to help the animal stay afloat. A ladder was then lowered down and the leopard hopped on it and climbed out of the well, the report said.

Local people said that the leopard might have fallen into the well Tuesday night and the matter came to the fore after some people heard its grunting roar in the morning. The condition of the leopard is now stable, a forest official said.

Grand Inauguration Ceremony of Odisha's First Luxury House Boat

@ Barkul, Chilika by

Sj. Naveen Patnaik
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha

In presence of

Sj. Aswini Kumar Patra
Minister of Tourism

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BILL KRAMER NEW CEO OF OSCARS ORGANISATION

The organisation behind the Oscars has named Bill Kramer as their new CEO. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences said that Kramer, who currently presides over the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, will succeed Dawn Hudson in the role starting in July.

JULIA GARNER IN RACE TO HEADLINE MADONNA BIOPIC

Ozark star Julia Garner is currently the frontrunner for the role of *Take a Bow* hitmaker Madonna in an upcoming biopic at Universal Pictures, reports *Deadline*. The Emmy-winner has been the top contender for the role since the start of the year.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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

ARIES
For no reason whatsoever, you may clam up today. Of course, you will give credit to others wherever they've contributed. But you need to be more generous than that, says Ganesh, and share the secrets of your success with your compatriots. Also, do you really need to buy that \$100 wallet?

TAURUS
It is about time that you stopped running from your problems and stand up and face them, suggests Ganesh. Your loved ones will bask in your material generosity today. You will be magnanimous with the wallet to impress members of the opposite sex. Don't forget that time is also money, advises Ganesh.

GEMINI
It is better for you to swim with the current in all of today's dealings, suggests Ganesh. This will help you effortlessly deal with even the most morbid state of affairs. No need to be a hero, today. Pleasure is the key word for you. Your performance will be satisfying at work, and more than satisfying back home.

CANCER
You have always been quite prudent when it comes to spending your hard-earned moolah, yet today you may feel stingier. And, you will rightly be so, for there may be unnecessary burdens and demands made on you by your near and dear ones.

LEO
You may not get the desired results inspite of working hard. You need to keep your weaknesses in mind, and your mistakes, before starting anew again. You will need to do more than necessary, if required, to make sure that your business relationships stay strong. Finances will improve, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
The time today is ripe to venture into a new business. Projects that have been put-off will finally be completed. Looking into the week ahead, you are most likely to give yourself an energy zap. Parties will be all fun and entertainment.

LIBRA
Ganesh says that for people you may appear to be a miser but when it comes to your closed ones you will never hold back or hesitate to spend. Today is a good day to take your loved ones shopping. You may overspend your budget but the spending will give you a feeling of happiness and contentment.

SCORPIO
The day just went from bad to worse today, says Ganesh. Troubles are coming in faster and thicker than a locust swarm. But keep a leash on yourself, says Ganesh, and steer clear of it all. Take criticism in your stride today and pay attention to what is being said, not who is saying them.

SAGITTARIUS
Your far-sightedness and brilliance will not only impress your peers, but also help you to rope in big clients and huge projects. Cheers to that! Thanks to your systematic and disciplined approach, you are entitled to be the 'most desirable' employee of the company. Business may look forward to huge profits, predicts Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
Now is the perfect time to showcase your talents and skills. You are all geared up to hit your target and do everything that is needed to be done. Your efforts will not go in vain as they will bear fruits for sure, says Ganesh. You will spend quality time with your family member and catch with old friends.

AQUARIUS
You will aim for the bull's eye today. Whatever you'll do today, will be done with your focus set firmly on your target, says Ganesh. You will not waste your resource on something unfruitful, and such an attitude will make your journey smoother and faster.

PISCES
You will find favourable conditions at work as you co-ordinate with your colleagues and seniors to tackle tough problems. You will be able to get the desirable results for all the effort you put in, in the office, says Ganesh. Those engaging in business will be able to make some strong and useful contacts today which will be handy in the future.

Ms Marvel makes her debut

The series has already caught the attention of Marvel's South Asian fans for its numerous Hindi films and Shah Rukh Khan mentions



New Delhi: She's Pakistani American, loves Shah Rukh Khan and manages permission from her protective parents to be 'distracted' from her studies for a party but only if 'Abbu' takes her. That's Kamala Khan, Marvel's latest superhero whose very name emblems a composite South Asian culture and identity.

Ms Marvel, a high school student dealing with teen angst and pains growing up in Jersey City, made her debut on OTT Wednesday. Pakistani Canadian actor Iman Vellani plays the first South Asian superhero of the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) and hopes the series is a "good start" for more such stories.

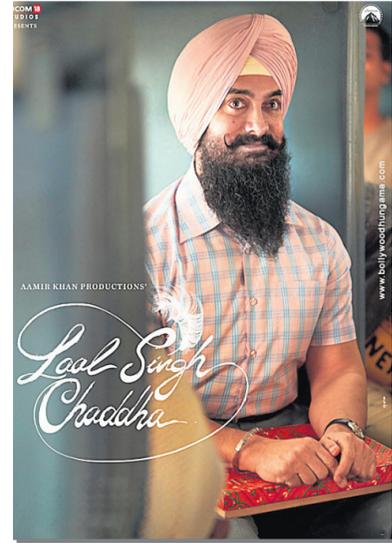
"It's so wonderful and it truly sets the example for other studios and other people to kind of tell their own stories because obviously *Ms Marvel* cannot represent every single South Asian Muslim person, but it's a start and it's a good start," the actor said in a recent global roundtable interview. The series, which also references Partition, has already caught the attention of Marvel's South Asian fans, particularly those living in India and Pakistan, for its numerous Bollywood and Shah Rukh Khan mentions. The series features Indian actors Mohan Kapur and Zenobia Shroff as Kamala's affectionate but overprotective parents - Yusuf and Muneeba Khan. In keeping with the South Asian appeal of the show, Pakistan's Fawad Khan and India's Farhan Akhtar have been announced as cast members but don't make an appearance in the first two episodes provided to critics. Actor-director Akhtar shared a post on Tuesday to praise Marvel for its "conscious inclusiveness" and celebration of diversity. Based on the comics created by Bisha K Ali, the series started streaming in India on Disney+Hotstar from Wednesday in English, Hindi, Telugu and Malayalam. AGENCIES

Kartik Aaryan wants to play Spider-Man



Mumbai: Given a choice to play a superhero, actor Kartik Aaryan said he would love to suit up as Spider-Man. English actor Tom Holland currently plays the beloved web-slinging Spider-Man in films.

Aaryan, who is currently basking in the success of his latest film *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2*, held a Q&A session on Twitter where a fan asked him choose one option from the list of superheroes such as *Thor*, *Captain America*, *Spider-Man* and *Doctor Strange*. The actor replied with a spider emoji and wrote 'Spidey'. Monday, Horror comedy *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2* crossed the Rs 150 crore-mark at the domestic box office emerging as one of the biggest hits of the year so far. Also starring Tabu, Kiara Advani and Rajpal Yadav, the film was released on May 20. When a fan asked Aaryan about his profit share from the film's collections, he said the audience had made him rich by their outpour of love. "Not profit, in 150 cr I got fans' love. No number is bigger than that." Directed by Anees Bazmee, the horror comedy is one of the biggest hits of the actor's career, who first tasted success in 2018 with Luv Ranjan's rom-com *Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweeti*. IANS



Aamir curious to see Hanks' reaction to Laal Singh Chaddha

Mumbai: Actor Aamir Khan, who is gearing up for the release of his upcoming film *Laal Singh Chaddha*, says he is curious to see Hollywood star Tom Hanks' reaction to the Hindi adaptation of the iconic movie *Forrest Gump*. Talking about the same, Aamir says: "Forrest Gump is an iconic film. I am very curious to see how Tom Hanks reacts after watching the film. He is a wonderful actor." Interestingly, Aamir Khan had once met Tom Hanks during a meeting with Steven Spielberg. Back in the day, Spielberg was filming a movie along with *Forrest Gump* star Tom Hanks in Germany. Spielberg further introduced Aamir to Hanks and referred to him as the 'James Cameron of India.' *Laal Singh Chaddha*, produced by Aamir Khan Productions, Kiran Rao, and Viacom18 Studios, also stars Kareena Kapoor Khan, Mona Singh, and Chaitanya Akkineni. IANS

Sonakshi reacts to wedding rumours

Mumbai: Actors Sonakshi Sinha and Zaheer Iqbal have been making headlines for their rumored relationship. After Iqbal's recent Instagram post, rumours were doing the rounds that the two will soon be tying the knot. Now, Sonakshi responded to those rumours through her latest social media post. Taking to her Instagram account, she shared a reel which was captioned, "Me to media: Kyu haath dho kar meri shaadi karwana chahate ho? (Why do you all want me to get married as soon as possible?)". In the clip, Sonakshi can be seen sitting in a room, having deep thoughts. Lip-syncing Shah Rukh Khan's lines from *Baazigar*, she said, "Accha lagta hai mujhe, bohot mazaa aata hai (I feel good. I have fun)." Captioning the video, she wrote, "Proposal, roka, mehendi, saangeet sab fix kar hi liya hai toh pls mujhe bata do." As soon as she shared the video, several of her fans and friends from the film industry dropped laughing emojis in the comment section. Zaheer too responded to the post. AGENCIES

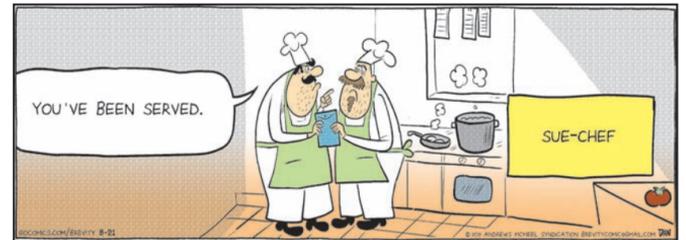
PEANUTS



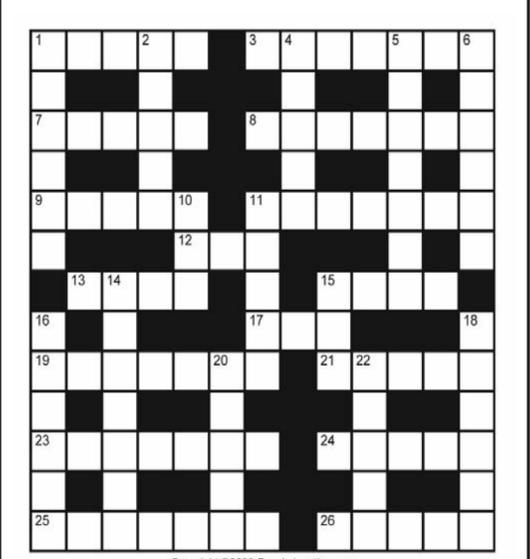
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



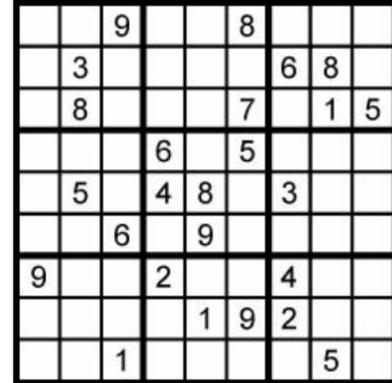
FUN post CROSSWORD



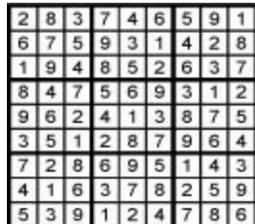
- Across**
- 1 Stableboy
 - 3 Seaport
 - 7 Bypass
 - 8 Home to some animals
 - 9 Speak like a frog
 - 11 Make certain (3,2,2)
 - 12 Perturb
 - 13 Agreement
 - 15 Garage occupant
 - 17 It paves the way
 - 19 Time-consuming procedure (3,4)
 - 21 Caravan beast
 - 23 Lights up
 - 24 Made bread
 - 25 Kick upstairs
 - 26 Knight fights
 - 5 Withdraws voluntarily (4,3)
 - 6 Take turns
 - 10 Young fox
 - 11 Large edible ray
 - 14 Italian for "to the tooth" (2,5)
 - 15 Compass doodle
 - 16 Voyage
 - 18 Grass units
 - 20 Skirt fold
 - 22 Valuable violin
- Down**
- 1 Side-look
 - 2 Kind of board
 - 4 Maxim

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

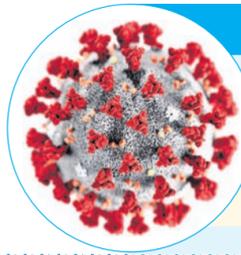


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



AWARENESS DRIVE

The district administration in Puri Wednesday organised a rally to create awareness against child labour



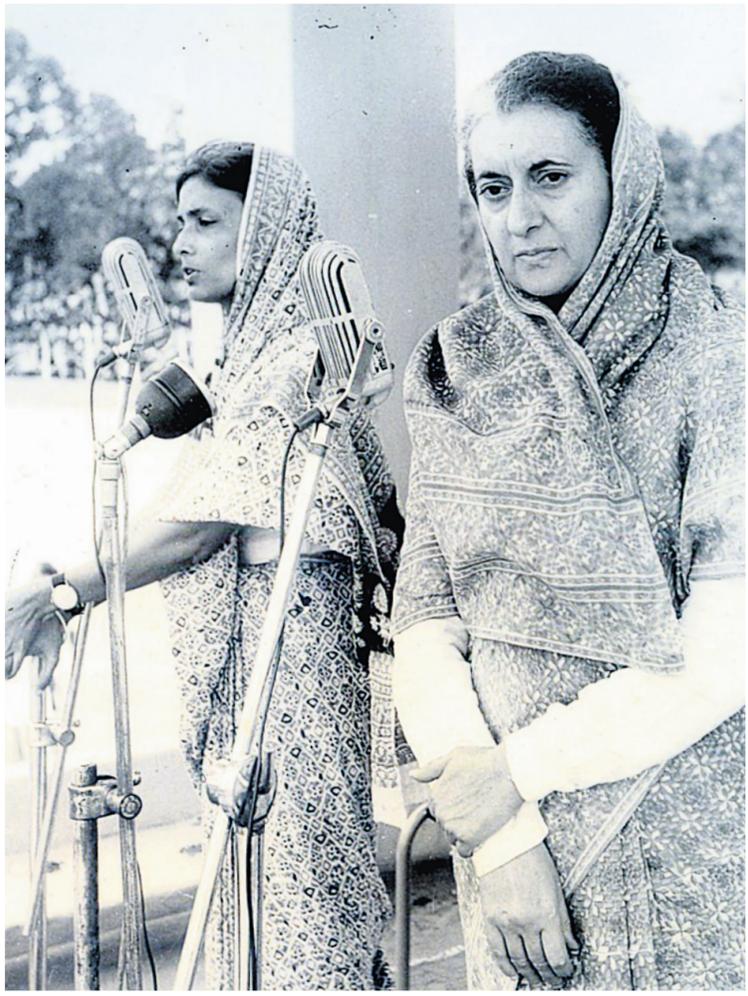
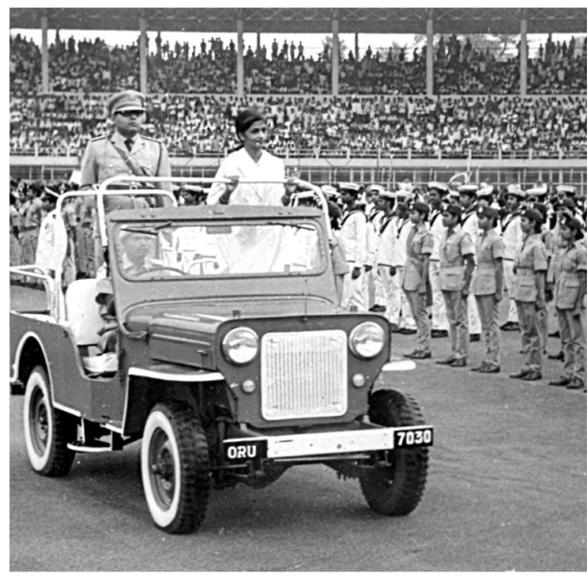
COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	53,68,20,625	50,79,06,209	63,24,062
India	4,31,90,282	4,26,36,710	5,24,715
Odisha	12,88,545	12,79,270	9,126

91st NANDINI: EPITOME OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Birth Anniversary

BORN JUNE 9, 1931, NANDINI SATPATHY CARVED OUT A NICHE FOR HERSELF IN POLITICS, LITERATURE AND MANY OTHER SPHERES OF LIFE. SHE HAD PROVED HER METTLE AS A UNION MINISTER AND CHIEF MINISTER OF ODISHA. WELL-KNOWN FOR HER LITERARY ACUMEN, NANDINI HAD WORKED TIRELESSLY FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL ECONOMY. **ORISSA POST** MAKES A SINCERE EFFORT TO RECAPTURE A FEW MOMENTS OF HER ILLUSTRIOUS JOURNEY...



CM felicitates Thomas Cup champions



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik with the Thomas Cup champions and their coach Pullela Gopichand during the felicitation ceremony at Lok Seva Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

Bhubaneswar, June 8: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday felicitated the Indian men's team members and the coach for their maiden spectacular Thomas Cup victory last month. India won this coveted cup for the first time in the history of Thomas Cup since the tournament started in 1948-49. Apart from hockey and cricket, this is the third sports discipline where India became the World Champions in a team event. Chief coach Pullela Gopichand and players Kidambi Srikanth, Dhruv Kapila, HS Prannoy, Priyanshu Rajawat, Vishnuvardhan Goud, GK Prasad, MR Arjun, Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy were felicitated at a special function organised at Lok Seva Bhawan convention centre here. Patnaik honoured Gopichand with a shawl and memento. All the players received Rs. 10 lakh cash award, a shawl and a memento

Patnaik honoured Gopichand with a shawl and memento. All the players received Rs. 10 lakh cash award, a shawl and a memento each. The players also presented the Chief Minister a Team India jersey autographed by all the players. Speaking on the occasion, Patnaik said India has now become a production centre for world champions in badminton. It is the dawn of a new era of Indian domination in badminton. While every state is promoting its own sportspersons, Odisha is the only state that is promoting all from across India, said Gopichand

Patnaik said India has now become a production centre for world champions in badminton. It is the dawn of a new era of Indian domination in badminton. While every state is promoting its own sportspersons, Odisha is the only state that is promoting all from across India, said Gopichand

badminton." A decade back it was unthinkable that India will dominate a sport like badminton. Thanks to the dedication and commitment of coaches like Gopichand and support of the Badminton Association of India (BAI), Centre and the state governments, India has been able to consistently perform well at international level in the last 10 years, Patnaik stated. Speaking on the state government's effort to promote badminton, Patnaik said, "In Odisha also, we are investing hugely in badminton. In partnership with Gopichand, a state-of-the-art high performance facility will be launched in next

In Odisha also, we are investing hugely in badminton. In partnership with Gopichand, a state-of-the-art high performance facility will be launched in next few months. We are constructing 89 multi-purpose indoor halls across the state. These indoor halls will primarily cater to the development of badminton players in Odisha and even from outside the state. Many champions will emerge from Odisha in the coming years
NAVEEN PATNAIK | CHIEF MINISTER

few months. We are constructing 89 multi-purpose indoor halls across the state. These indoor halls will primarily cater to the development of badminton players in Odisha and even from outside the state. Many champions will emerge from Odisha in the coming years." The Chief Minister announced that his government is also likely to host the Odisha Open badminton tournament as an annual event and support more such international championships. While every state is promoting its own sportspersons, Odisha is the only state that is promoting all from across India. Odisha is one of the pioneers in promotion of sports now, Gopichand said in his address. "This celebration is an inspiration for us. So, thank you Odisha for this big support," said an elated Gopichand. Sports & Youth Services Minister Tusharkanti Behera gave the welcome address and Sports Secretary Vineel Krishna offered the vote of thanks. Among others, Higher Education Minister and president of Odisha Badminton Association Rohit Pujari, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra and Development Commissioner PK Jena were present on the occasion.

MRF, MCC workers to get uniforms

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 8: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has decided to provide uniforms to the workers engaged in the material recovery facility (MRF) and micro composting centres (MCCs) here. As many as 31 MCCs have been made operational in the capital city here to manage the wet waste collected from various localities. The civic authorities have engaged more than 1,000 workers to process the waste at the MCCs, sources said. The BMC has issued tenders for selection of women self help groups (SHG) for stitching of uniforms for the workers engaged at the MCCs. The workers would be provided with the uniforms as part of an initiative to ensure a better working environment for them, said a civic official. "The selected agency will be required to stitch 1,068 uniforms in the initial phase. It will have to complete the stitching of 100 uniforms within 10 days of receiving the order while the remaining uniforms will be stitched within the next seven days. The uniforms will be specifically designed to cater to the needs of the MCC workers," he added. It can be mentioned here that the capital city generates around 600 tonnes of garbage every day.

WORLD OCEANS DAY-2022

Let's pledge to prevent plastic waste entering sea: Naveen

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 8: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik asked people to take a pledge to prevent plastic waste entering the sea and keep our beaches clean on the occasion of World Oceans Day-2022, Wednesday. Taking to his twitter account, Patnaik said, "Oceans play a crucial role in generating oxygen and regulating climate. They are also a major source of food and medicine. On this World Oceans Day, let's pledge to prevent plastic waste going into the sea and keep our beautiful beaches clean." The oceans feed billions and covers 70 per cent of the planet. They are also home to 80 per cent of the biodiversity. Yet, garbage enters oceans via drains, canals, rivers, lakes and seas. "A little investment of our time and energy could revitalise the oceans. The situation is so alarming that we may catch the polythene instead of fish from the oceans by 2050," said environmental activist Piyush Ranjan Rout. Rise in the pollution level, acidification of ocean water, high average temperatures and reduction in oceans' biodiversity are the major issues before us, experts said. The World Oceans Day hopes to protect Earth's major water bodies through awareness. The theme of this year's World Oceans Day is 'Revitalisation: Collective Action for the Ocean'. The oceans are absorbing too much heat and carbon dioxide, making it warmer and more acidic. Scientific evidence shows that the impact of human activities, including industrial and agricultural waste, green house gas emissions and coastal development, are seriously affecting the health of our oceans, experts added. Forty per cent of our oceans are affected by human activities. The trend of biodiversity loss is accelerating on a global scale. The coastal habitats are under pressure with approximately 20 per cent of the world's coral reefs were destroyed and another 20 per cent witnessed a massive degradation. At least 29 per cent of sea grass habitats are estimated to have disappeared. Ocean acidification is one of the major threats for the marine ecosystems in the world, sources said.

Man, son die in road mishap

POST NEWS NETWORK

Begunia, June 8: A 50-year-old man and his son died in a road accident on Khurda-Bolangir National Highway no. 57 near Chakapada Square here Wednesday. The deceased have been identified as Madhusudan Das of Bolagarh and his son Khirud, 27, police said. According to sources, the father-son duo was travelling on a bike to reach Khurda for some work at 10.15 am. A speeding car hit the bike from opposite direction, leav-



ing the father-son duo critically injured. On being informed, the fire brigade personnel from Begunia rescued Madhusudan and Khirud

and rushed them to the district headquarters hospital at Khurda. However, the duo was declared dead on arrival. The Begunia police arrested the car driver and seized both the vehicles from the spot after registering a case in this regard. "The driver of the car has been identified as Sukadeba Sahu of Kandapur area in Cuttack. He works as a service engineer in a tractor company," said an official of Begunia police. The police, meanwhile, handed over the bodies to the deceased's family after an autopsy.

Naveen dedicates 445 transformed schools

The Chief Minister dedicates 135 transformed high schools in Balasore, 95 in Puri, 60 in Nayagarh, 75 in Jagatsinghpur and 80 in Bhadrak on virtual mode



Under the High School Transformation programme, altogether 1,070 high schools have been transformed in the first phase while another 2,907 schools have been redeveloped in the second phase

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik dedicated 445 transformed high schools in five districts through virtual mode as 5T Secretary VK Pandian looks on

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 8: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday dedicated 445 high schools, transformed with modern facilities under the 5T initiative of the state government, in five districts to the people.

The CM dedicated 135 transformed high schools in Balasore, 95 in Puri, 60 in Nayagarh, 75 in Jagatsinghpur and 80 in Bhadrak on virtual mode.

Earlier, Naveen had dedicated 532, 531, 492 and 490 transformed schools June 1, 3, 4 and 6 respectively.

Speaking on the occasion, the CM said, "Each child is unique and holds great potential. Children dream of a better future and doing something big in life. The school transformation programme has

added wings to their dreams and brought new opportunities for them." If the dreams of children come true, the goal to build a new Odisha will be fulfilled and the foundation of a new Odisha will be laid, said the CM.

He further said that the new look of schools has filled the hearts of children with joy and excitement. This has created new hopes and aspirations among the students.

Stating that school life is the best time for an individual, Naveen appealed to students to utilise their time properly and create a new identity for themselves, their families and the state.

He further said transformation of school is a classic example of the 5T programme. He elaborated how the five Ts (technology, teamwork, time, transparency and transfor-

mation) have brought positive changes in the school education sphere. The CM thanked the school management committees, members of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), members of alumni associations and teachers for supporting the programme.

On the occasion, ministers Aswini Patra, Samir Ranjan Dash, MLAs Arun Kumar Sahoo, Byomkesh Ray, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, 5T Secretary VK Pandian and senior officers from different departments attended the function.

Under the High School Transformation programme, altogether 1,070 high schools have been transformed in the first phase while another 2,907 schools have been redeveloped in the second phase.

INDUCTION WORKSHOP



CMC commissioner Ananya Das addressed the corporators' induction workshop organised at Pramod Convention in Cuttack, Wednesday

OP PHOTO

15 fresh Covid-19 cases in Odisha

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 8: Odisha recorded 15 new coronavirus cases Wednesday, two more than the previous day, taking the tally to 12,88,545, the health department said.

The toll remained at 9,126 as there was no death due to the pathogen in the last 24 hours.

Fifty-three other coronavirus patients have died due to comorbidities so far, according to a bulletin.

There are 105 active Covid-19 cases and eight more people recuperated from the disease, taking the total number of recoveries to 12,79,261, the department said.

The daily positivity rate was 0.15 per cent as the new infections were detected from 10,277 samples tested, it added.

Early detection, treatment key to fight brain tumour: Expert

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 8: A brain tumour is an abnormal growth of cells in the brain that can be cancerous or non-cancerous. Early detection and treatment is key in the fight against tumours, said Narendra Kumar Das, a neurosurgeon at Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences here, on the occasion of World Brain Tumour Day, Wednesday.

World Brain Tumour Day is observed June 8 every year to educate people about the severity, causes, symptoms, prevention, and treatment of the disease.

Das, who has successfully performed hundreds of brain tumour surgeries, said, "Brain tumour can develop in any person at any age. However, contrary to the general perception, not all brain tumours are cancerous. Only 30 to 35 per cent of cases might lead to such conditions. A large number of patients with brain tumour are treatable and curable. However, it depends on the nature of the tumour."

Most people diagnosed with malignant (cancerous) brain tumour live less than five years. However, those with non-malignant tumours

WORLD BRAIN TUMOUR DAY



usually survive longer, he said.

SYMPTOMS

According to Das, common symptoms of the condition include headache, vomiting, convulsions, paralysis, vision loss, hearing loss, difficulty in walking, communication and speech abnormalities.

DIAGNOSIS

As most of the brain tumour initially present with very nonspecific complaints, early diagnosis by a neurosurgeon or neuro physician helps plan further management in the initial stages of the disease. Diagnosis is aided by imaging modalities like CT scan or MRI.

TREATMENT AND PROGNOSIS

Surgery is the most common treatment for brain tumours. Thanks

to advancements in medical science, surgery has become minimally invasive. Modern surgical equipment such as a specialised microscope, neuro navigation system, intraoperative monitoring systems, intraoperative CT scan and neuro endoscopic system has played a key role in treating brain tumour cases successfully, Das said.

"The neurosurgery operative procedure is now done in a very precise and safe manner with minimum injury to tissues and blood loss," he said, adding that some cancerous brain tumours may require adjuvant treatment such as radiation therapy, chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

After the surgery, a majority of the patients recover quickly. "However, the recovery depends on whether the tumour is cancerous or non-cancerous and the condition in which the patient has come to the hospital," said the neurosurgeon.

According to the International Association of Cancer Registries (IARC), over 28,000 instances of brain tumours are recorded annually in India, with over 24,000 individuals dying from them each year.

Upadhyay reviews fire safety at City airport

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 8: Fire Services DG Santosh Kumar Upadhyay Wednesday reviewed the fire safety and security relating to fire hazards for air passengers at the lounge of Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) here.

The discreet review meeting was attended by BPIA director Pravat Ranjan

Beuria, CISF deputy commandant and Bhubaneswar Fire officer Ramesh Chandra Majhi.

Existing hydrants and sprinklers were tested to know actual efficiency. The airport authority agreed to suggestions of the Fire Services DG on keeping the adequate number of fireballs in closed rooms/ lounges which act as the first responders automatically to extinguish

a fire in case of heat originated by fire. Upadhyay also checked the emergency exits and evacuation plan of the airport.

During landing and take-off, the strength of fire tenders (mist, water, foam) was tested at the fire control room of the airport. The emergency treatment care unit and crisis mobile control were checked.

EMIs to rise as RBI ups repo rate again

Continued from P1

However, withdrawal of accommodation will be done in a way that growth will continue to get adequate support, he added.

"We have dropped the word (accommodative) but we remain accommodative and that is mainly to give more clarity to the market," he said. The MPC, however, retained its economic growth projection at 7.2 per cent. While food, energy and commodity prices remain elevated, it suggested that most of the excess inflation is due to global/supply-side factors. Retail inflation in April accelerated to 7.79 per cent from a year earlier. Das said 75 per cent of the 100 bps increase in the inflation forecast is on account of a spike in food prices which are due to the war in Ukraine. "The war has led to globalisation of inflation," he noted.

The rate hike May 4 and Wednesday came after the RBI held the interest rate at a record low of 4 per cent for 11 consecutive times.



MISSION CLEAN CITY

Bhubaneswar mayor Sulochana Das launched a month-long awareness drive against dumping waste at public places, at CRP Square in the City Wednesday

OP PHOTO

Man held for gunrunning

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, June 8: Badambadi police Wednesday arrested a 30-year-old man on charges of gunrunning in the Silver City here.

The accused was identified as Manoranjan Swain of Bagada under Sadar police limits of Kendrapara, an official said.

According to sources, the police crackdown came when Swain was waiting for a prospective buyer of country-made pistol at a playground near Kathajodi here in the evening.

A team, led by Badambadi sub-inspector Jogesh Kumar Baiz, raided the place and arrested Swain. The police claimed to have recovered a 7.65mm country-made pistol and two live bullets from Swain's possession.



The police claimed to have recovered a 7.65mm country-made pistol & two live bullets from the possession of Manoranjan Swain

Swain has been booked under several sections of the IPC and Arms Act. A case (159/2022) has been registered in this regard, said a Badambadi police official.

Long Covid may negatively impact performance at work

Facing memory, attention and concentration problems at work post Covid infection? A new study shows individuals, who had contracted Covid-19, reported significantly more cognitive failures at work.

The study, published in the journal Scientific Reports, showed that contracting Covid had significant indirect effects on task performance and turnover intentions via cognitive failure.

The results also indicate that beyond physical harm, Covid can also have a detrimental influence on an individual's capacity to perform at work.

"Covid-19 is going to be an ongoing part of life, at least for the foreseeable future," said James Beck, Associate Professor at University of Waterloo's Psychology department.

"It is now common for people to catch Covid-19, recover, and then return to work. Yet, in our study, people who had contracted Covid-19 reported more difficulties at work, relative to people who had never caught Covid," he added.

Beck and team collected data from a sample of 94 full-time working adults who either had or had not contracted Covid at least one month prior to the study. Both groups were matched on key demographic characteristics.

Relative to the group who had never had Covid-19, the group who

had contracted Covid-19 reported more cognitive failures at work, which are defined as problems 'with memory, attention, and action'

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Relative to the group who had never had Covid-19, the group who had contracted Covid-19 reported more cognitive failures at work, which are defined as problems with memory, attention, and action

Further, the findings showed that cognitive failures were associated with decreased self-ratings of job performance, as well as increased intentions to voluntarily leave one's current job

THE STUDY



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which are defined as problems 'with memory, attention, and action',

Beck said.

Further, the findings showed

that cognitive failures were associated with decreased self-ratings of job performance, as well as increased intentions to voluntarily leave one's current job.

"These results may have important implications for managers and organisations more broadly," Beck said.

"Individuals returning to work after contracting Covid may experience difficulties returning to their pre-Covid-19 level of performance, and accommodations may be necessary. These accommodations might include reducing workloads, extending deadlines, or providing flexible work arrangements," he suggested.

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In Bolangir, dairy is new mantra of self-reliance



Bolangir district was producing only 16,800 litres of milk in 2018-19 fiscal which has now increased to 31,252 litres in 2021-22

has started bearing fruits for the residents by making them self-reliant.

The women cooperative milk union at Jambahal village under Patnagarh block in the district is a case in point.

The women members of the union are now supplementing their family income through dairy farming and have become self-reliant. Dairy has now become the symbol of financial empowerment for people in migration prone and Maoist dominated Turekela, Muribahal, Bongomunda, Belpada, Khaprakhol blocks in the district.

According to reports, the dairy development scheme being implemented in Bolangir district has turned out to be the leading livelihood based programme in the state. To bring them under dairy farming and provide them a regular source of income, the district administration has formed several women-centric dairy cooperatives under Bolangir-Kalahandi-Nuapada Regional Cooperative Milk Producer Union (BKNCMU) of Omfed.

Milk production has become a profitable venture for the residents after formation of BKNCMU.

The district currently has over 230 cooperative milk unions in 14 blocks. These milk unions have over 15,313 milk farmers registered as its members. Over 31,252 litres are produced daily by the milk farmers.

The district administration has increased the capacity of milk chilling plants to 60,000 litre after witnessing the interest of the farmers towards dairy farming and the success rate in the scheme.

The district was producing only 16,800 litres of milk in 2018-19 fiscal which has now increased to 31,252 litres in 2021-22.

The dairy farmers are constantly reaping success in milk farming under the direct supervision of Saroj Kumar Sahu, general manager of BKNCMU.

The district administration is laying stress on awareness programmes, formation of new co-operative milk unions, use of automatic milk collection equipment, establishment of new milk routes, upgradation of infrastructure and equipment and direct participation of dairy farmers. This has freed the milk farmers from misappropriation of their money and delayed payment.

People are getting increasingly drawn to dairy farming due to use of advance technology.

When contacted, Collector Chanchal Rana, also administrator of the milk producer union, said dairy farming came across as one of the best solutions to curb migration of residents particularly women. This has empowered them socially and financially.

The involvement of women in dairy farming has helped in preventing women and children from migrating to other states, he added.

CLAMOUR FOR TRIBAL STATUS



Members of Kudumi Sena staged a demonstration outside the Mayurbhanj Collectorate in Baripada, Wednesday, demanding tribal status for Kudumi caste

Modern bus terminus in Angul by next month

POST NEWS NETWORK

Angul, June 8: If everything goes as per plan, a modern bus terminal, which includes shopping-cum-office complex, mall, hotel and allied infrastructure, will be inaugurated next month.

With all the modern facilities, the bus terminal is nearing completion. The dream of the residents to have a modern bus terminal is finally going to see the light of the day after 10 years.

The new terminal was planned to be built over 9.72-acre land with an outlay of ₹56.31 crore. According to the MoU, the new terminal was constructed over 5.83-acre land at an investment of ₹13.95 crore while a commercial complex was built on a 3.89 acre land inside the premises with an investment of ₹42.36 crore.

The state government had decided to construct a modern bus terminal in view of the increasing influx of people from near and far, due to the presence of various industries and mines in the district.



Accordingly, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had laid the foundation stone for the project June 28, 2013. The decision to have a modern bus terminal at Angul along with Sambalpur, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack

and Dhenkanal was taken during a high-level meeting held by the Transport department at Angul July 13, 2011. The department floated the tender for Angul bus terminal and awarded the contract to a private construction firm, Milan Developers and Builders Pvt Ltd. An MoU was signed between Talcher Angul

and Dhenkanal was taken during a high-level meeting held by the Transport department at Angul July 13, 2011. The department floated the tender for Angul bus terminal and awarded the contract to a private construction firm, Milan Developers and Builders Pvt Ltd. An MoU was signed between Talcher Angul

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had laid the foundation stone for the modern bus terminus project June 28, 2013

The new terminal was constructed over 5.83-acre land at an investment of ₹13.95 crore while a commercial complex was built on a 3.89 acre land inside the premises with an investment of ₹42.36 crore

Meramandali Development Authority and the private firm for the work on a public-private partnership mode.

The new bus terminal has a hotel, a market complex, a recreation centre, a waiting hall for passengers, demarcated space for movement of buses — provisions for simultaneous movement of 20 buses — parking lots, toilets, restaurants, cafeterias, shops, kiosks and a public address system.

₹8.95cr water bills pending in Rayagada



POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, June 8: Development of infrastructure for drinking water facilities in the district has taken a back seat as water bills to the tune of ₹8.95 crore have remained outstanding on the residents, a report said.

Drinking water is supplied to the households in three townships of the district throughout the year. The townships are: Rayagada, Gunupur and Gudari. The Public Health Engineering Organisation (PHEO) charges a nominal amount of ₹200 each for supplying drinking water to the households.

However, ₹8 crore is outstanding on the residents in Rayagada town while ₹70 lakh and ₹25 lakh have been pending on the households of Gunupur and Gudari towns respectively. While Rayagada town has 12,400 households, Gunupur has 4,300 and Gudari has 1,400 households that are availing the drinking water through pipelines.

Meanwhile, the PHEO has assigned the task of bill collection to 'Jalasathis' — members of women self-help groups (SHGs). As many as 10 Jalasathis in Rayagada town, four in Gunupur and one in Gudari have managed to collect over ₹20 lakh towards the outstanding bills.

₹8 crore is outstanding on the residents in Rayagada town while ₹70 lakh and ₹25 lakh have been pending on the households of Gunupur and Gudari towns respectively

Sources from PHEO said that the arrears, if collected, will help in development of infrastructure for drinking water supply to the residents

The Jalasathis are moving from door to door with billing machines to collect the outstanding bills. However, people are turning them away stating that they will visit the office and clear their dues.

Sources from PHEO said that the arrears, if collected, will help in development of infrastructure for drinking water supply to the residents. "Moreover, pilferage and misutilisation of drinking water have emerged as major obstacles to upgradation of drinking water supply," executive engineer of PHEO Sarat Panigrahi said.

The state government is losing crores due to dependency of water bills. Observers said that the PHEO should take urgent steps to recover the arrears before it is too late. Sources from the PHEO said that despite repeated reminders people are not paying their outstanding bills.

99 AWCs run sans own buildings

POST NEWS NETWORK

Buguda, June 8: Although the Union and state governments have been spending crores of rupees every year under Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) to improve infrastructure and services at Anganwadi centres (AWCs), most of these centres in Buguda block of Ganjam district are in deplorable condition, without having their own buildings, a report said. According to the report, there are

AWC workers and kids face loads of difficulties during monsoon. Work for 58 AWC buildings have been left halfway

231 AWCs in 21 panchayats under Buguda block and NAC area. However, 99 of the Anganwadi centres do not have their own buildings. Anganwadi workers manage to run some of these

centres either from rented accommodation or from village community centres or schools verandahs.

As a result, the AWC workers and children are facing loads of difficulties during monsoon.

Work for 58 AWC buildings have been left halfway or at different stages of construction.

₹7 lakh has been allocated for each Anganwadi building in urban areas under ICDS while the amount is ₹8.20 lakh in rural areas.

7 held for murder over land dispute

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasure, June 8: Police have cracked the murder mystery of Satyabrat Das, a native of Chandipur Road in Balasure district and arrested seven people in this connection.

Addressing a presser here Wednesday, eastern range Inspector General (IG) Himanshu Lal and SP Sudhansu Sekhar Mishra said that the murder was fallout of a land dispute and financial transactions. The main accused, identified as Anna, was a native of West Bengal while six others are from Balasure and Bhadrak. Police also revealed that the seven accused murdered



Satyabrat, but did not flee the place. They sat near the body for hours crying in a bid to hoodwink the police.

Satyabrat was working at a liquor shop in Balaramgadi area. The shop was owned by one Naba Ray. The main accused had bought three plots from Naba Ray. However, Satyabrat had taken away money from Anna and misappropriated it. Naba after coming to know about it murdered Satyabrat with help of six others on June 3 night.

PARCHED THROATS



Villagers of Jambani on the foothills of Swarnachuda under Nilagiri block in Balasure staged a road blockade demanding drinking water supply, Wednesday

Locals sore over defunct mega LI project in Rajkanika

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, June 8: The state government had spent around ₹25 crore on construction of a mega lift irrigation project at Deulatara under Rajkanika block, but the purpose has remained unfulfilled as the project is yet to become operational.

Reports said Rajkanika block does not have any canal to irrigate the farmlands. The farmers depend on rain or lift irrigation points to irrigate their farmlands. Considering the difficulty of the farmers, the state government had ordered for construction of a mega LI project with an expenditure of ₹25 crore at Deulatara which was inaugurated by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in March 2019, ahead of the gen-



eral elections. The project was supposed to irrigate 1,200 acre of land in Deulatara, Muradpur, Ujanga,

Sihopada, Namtara, Parinuapada and Haveliganda panchayats having around 10,000 farmers.

As per sources, the project on Kharasrota river was put on trial run in 2020 but thereafter it has been left unused.

It was alleged that the project was hastily inaugurated ahead of the elections, while many of its works remained incomplete. The Water Resources department completed the work within a year after its foundation stone was laid. The farmers borrow from various sources for their farming. It becomes difficult for them to repay their loans if their crops face sapling blight due to adverse climatic conditions.

The farmers have drawn the attention of the local MLA and the district Collector towards their plight but their pleas are yet to be addressed.

They have demanded to resolve the snags in the project and make it operational. Farmer leader Gayadhar Dhal said there is always a huge gap between making a promise and delivery. Kendrapara district always has lagged behind on this front, he quipped.

Notably, the state government had announced to make at least 35 per cent irrigation facilities available in every block, but this announcement is far from reality in Kendrapara district.

Over 50 per cent of the 629 LI projects are lying defunct in Aul and Rajnagar blocks.

When contacted, ADM Pitambar Samal assured that he would enquire about the non-functioning of the project.

SOLAR PROJECT GOES KAPUT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, June 8: Kanheiyaigola, a remote hilly village inhabited by Juanga tribals under Harichandanpur block in Keonjhar district, has been reeling in the dark for last several years as a 30 KW solar project set up under Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana in 2016 has gone out of order.

"We are living in the dark as the solar panels are not working. After nightfall, there is fear of onslaught from wildlife. Venturing out in the dark is risky," lamented villagers. They added that their kids fail to study at night in the absence of lights. Though the tribal residents had apprised the local administration of their plight several times in the past, no step has been taken to rectify the glitches.

Juanga tribals demanded immediate repair of the project.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
 File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/22-23/
 E-Tender/30, Dt. 06.06.2022
 1. Tender No. e-tender-CEN-KUR-200-2022, Date: 01.06.2022
 Description: NEW WORKS, ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS TO THE EXISTING STRUCTURES, ALL ORDINARY REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE WORKS OF MISCELLANEOUS NATURE AND SUPPLIES EACH COSTING RS. 5,00,000/- OR LESS IN THE SECTION TALCHER ROAD-ANGUL-KEREJANGA INCLUDING ELECTRIC LOCO SHED AT ANGUL UNDER SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER/TALCHER ROAD FOR THE PERIOD UPTO 30.06.2023.
 Approx cost of the work: ₹60.79 lakhs. EMD: ₹1,21,600/-
 2. Tender No. e-tender-CEN-KUR-201-2022, Date: 01.06.2022
 Description: PROPOSED REBUILDING OF BRIDGE NO. 588 AT SOUTH END OF SHUBHAWAR WARD BY MICRO TUNNELING SYSTEM OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.
 Approx cost of the work: ₹278.42 lakhs. EMD: ₹2,89,200/-
 Completion Period of the work: 12 (Twelve) Months (for sl. no. 1) & 06 (Six) Months (for sl. no. 2)
 Date & time of Tender Closing: 22.06.2022, 1500 hrs (For both Tenders).
 No manual offers sent by Post/ Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-Tenders, even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tenders is available in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>
 Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 (ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigendum issued for this tender.
 Divisional Railway Manager (Engg./ Khurda Road
 PR-184/N/22-23

ଓଡିଶା ଉପର ଉପର ଉପର ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡିଶା ସରକାର
 Housing & Urban Development Department, Govt. of Odisha
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OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, JATANI
 ଗ୍ରାମ-ଜଟାନୀ, ଜିଲ୍ଲା-ଖୋର୍ଦ୍ଧା, ୭୫୨୦୫୦
 At/Ps- Jatani, Dist- Khordha (Odisha), Pin-752050
 E-mail-municipalityjatani@gmail.com, Phone No.0674-2490826
LIMITED TENDER CALL NOTICE
 No.C-486: The sealed tenders are hereby invited for selection of agencies for sales of e-waste collected from various wards under Jatni Municipality and stacked/stored in Material Recovery Facilities (MRF) of the Wealth Centre only from the intending agencies duly authorized by the Central Pollution Control Board (SPCB), Bhubaneswar from date 08.06.2022, 5.30 PM to 24.06.2022, 5.30 PM. For more details, interested agency may visit the official website of Jatni Municipality (www.jatnimunicipality.in).
Executive Officer, Jatni Municipality
 OIPR-13041/11/0007/2223

FOCUS POLITICS

SORRY: THE HARDEST WORD



The punishment dealt to two of the BJP's leaders in Delhi, Nupur Sharma and Naveen Jindal, is a big surprise. It is confusing to the RSS and BJP's ranks

nings, transitions, and endings. He is depicted with two faces, one looking to the future and one to the past. Thus, the month of January, which looks at both the year gone by as well as the new year, is named after Janus. But why has the BJP decided to behave like Janus in the month of June? Is it the stern warning from the oil producing countries to the government to prevent BJP leaders and politicians from using the language of hate? Or is it the clear signs of fatigue that Hindu voters have developed towards constant minority-baiting? Or is it the government's assessment of the Chinese threat, making a QUAD alliance take precedence over the idea of Hindu-rashtra? Or is it the fear that anarchic mobs let loose may bring India closer to a Sri Lanka-like situation? Or all of these together?

The punishment dealt to two of the BJP's leaders in Delhi, Nupur Sharma and Naveen Jindal, is a big surprise. It is confusing to the RSS and BJP's ranks. Yet, recall how Narendra Modi had done a 'pranam' to the Parliament House, and in the years of his tenure brought down the centrality of the parliament as a house for dialogue.

Many decades ago, I was watching a folk performance of the epic Ramayana. The actor who played Ravana had been done up with ten heads. The performance went on late into the night. There were many recesses. In one of the recesses, the actor playing Ravana took a break to eat. And as he did so, amused children discovered his real head! Ravana has ten faces, the Roman god Janus has two. Like Janus, the RSS and the BJP have two faces, one face has marks of the actions of the past on it. Some of these marks are too clear and deeply etched to allow a makeover.

The writer is a literary critic and a cultural activist. He is Chairman of the People's Linguistic Survey and leads the Dakshinayan movement of writers. Views are personal.

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'Sorry' - just a common word exchanged between people who feel related. One hears it frequently in everyday life. It has been in use for the last thousand years. The Old German language inherited it as 'sore', meaning 'pain'. Later, in Old English, it became 'sarig', meaning 'pained or distressed'. It continued with a variant spelling 'sorry'. A word easy to say when it is necessary to say it. But even simple words prove difficult to say in some rare circumstances. Shakespeare's Macbeth, having just killed the king, confessed that, in response to the church bells ringing, he could not say 'amen'. The word that means "so be it", just stuck in his throat. That was in medieval times. More recently, in 2007, during a television interview with the Chief Minister of Gujarat, the CM had to rush for a glass of water and bring the interview to an abrupt end when it came to this simple word.



Ganesh N Devy

LIKE JANUS, THE RSS AND THE BJP HAVE TWO FACES, ONE FACE HAS MARKS OF THE ACTIONS OF THE PAST ON IT

The interviewer recalls the scene at the point the CM was asked, "Why cannot you say that you regret the killings that happened? Why can't you say maybe the government should have done more to protect Muslims?" The answer was "what I have to say I have said at that time, and you can find my statements." However, the statement was "action creates reaction." Then the interview was brought to an abrupt end.

The word sorry has been a peculiar difficulty for this CM of Gujarat, who is now the PM of India. And the difficulty has increased with time. Recall the long lines of migrant workers walking home after the lock down was announced without sufficient preparation? Many died on the way. Surely, someone was responsible for the miscalculated decision? But saying sorry was scrupulously avoided. Recall also the year-long agitation against three farm laws introduced without discussion in September 2020? A large number of farmers died during the peaceful protest. The word sorry once again stuck in the throats of those who should

have expressed regrets. Mob-lynching, allegedly, was by fringe elements. False encounters were, allegedly, by patriots fighting foreign infiltrators. Imprisoning intellectuals was, ostensibly, to crack alleged conspiracies of disruption of law and order. However, anti-conversion laws in many BJP ruled States were not passed by any fringe elements or non-State actors. Yet, for the atmosphere of fear and intimidation that was created no one wanted to say 'sorry'.

No one has said 'sorry' for messing up with the COVID death figures. No one at all has said sorry for the motivated use of CBI, NCB, ED and police. No one ever said that they did not intend to scare and intimidate, no one said 'sorry, that was not intended.' When trolls roam unchecked on the nation's digital highways, when vigilante mobs roam the physical highways and openly assault any difference of food or dress, they have never been told, sorry guys, "it's too late in the day to use coercion to sort out differences; we live in a civilised nation." When a net makes an open appeal to shoot protesters, when a dharm-sansad gives a call for communal purging, when a Lok Sabha member describes violence using the 'karma' theory the word sorry is expunged from the public discourse.

Why is it then that the RSS and the BJP have all of a sudden found the word still exists in the dic-

tionary? Mark the chronology, to use an often-heard phrase. First, the RSS supreme explains to his organisation that India has a Constitution, that it requires treatment of all citizens on an equal footing, and that all citizens have the right to practice religions of their choice. Following this explanation, the government of India assures many Asian countries that India will not tolerate hatred towards any religion. Then the Karnataka CM assures the people of Karnataka that the misrepresentation of Basava and Ambedkar will be rectified and the school textbooks will be modified.

Recall also the chronology of the foreign affairs minister retorting to his American counterpart when the latter mentioned the increasing communal divide in India. Media devoted to the current dispensation has spent many hours of TV time explaining how today's India is a more confident nation. Not more than a month ago, when Muslim vendors were being driven away from Hindu temple premises in Karnataka, the Chief Minister had justified the action by citing an obscure law. Just a couple of weeks ago, lists of mosques to be brought under the Hindutva scanner were in wide circulation in UP. The word sorry was in an acute short supply in those instances.

In ancient Roman myth and religion, Janus is the god of begin-

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

Can nuclear energy return from its grave?

Nuclear power has been in decline since the Fukushima disaster in Japan more than a decade ago, but it may be poised for a comeback. Russia's invasion of Ukraine and soaring natural-gas prices have led some to argue that nuclear energy can help solve the twin challenges of energy security and climate change. Is the industry back in business, or will this prove to be another false dawn?



Nick Butler

WITHIN A DECADE, NUCLEAR, ALONGSIDE WIND AND SOLAR, COULD UNDERMINE THE GLOBAL GAS MARKET

Until recently, nuclear power's prospects seemed poor: Plants built in the 1970s and 1980s are nearing the end of their working lives, while Germany and Japan decided to shut down theirs for political reasons. Of the relatively few new nuclear plants currently being built, many have been blighted by management failures and technical faults. The flagship EPR pressurised water reactors at Flamanville in northern France and Olkiluoto in Finland are, respectively, 13 and 12 years behind schedule. Hinkley Point in southwest England, which was supposed to have provided the power to cook Britain's Christmas turkeys in 2023, may now be operational in 2027. Inevitably, all of these projects are massively over budget.

In the US, no new commercial nuclear facility has opened since 1996. The combination of cheap domestic shale gas and subsidies for wind

power has undermined the economics of existing plants and discouraged investment in new ventures. With the cost of alternative energy supplies falling, nuclear began to look excessively costly and risky. In many countries, staff with nuclear engineering skills are aging, and recruitment has been minimal over the past decade.

The industry's argument that nuclear should be regarded as a boon to the clean-energy transition has not halted the decline. But over the past year, surging energy prices and the energy insecurity triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine have reminded governments and consumers that depending on imports of key strategic resources is risky. Maximising domestically produced electricity supplies should be the starting point for any energy-security strategy. At the same time, the sharp increases in natural-gas prices in the past 12 months have begun to make new nuclear facilities look much more competitive.

The result is a wave of new projects and plans. UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson wants nuclear power to provide 25% of the country's electricity by 2050. In April, China approved the construction of six new reactors, adding to the 54 already in operation and 19 under construction. Chinese firms are re-

portedly negotiating to develop 40 new reactors around the world.

True, Germany began to shut down its nuclear capacity in 2011 and is scheduled to close its three remaining stations by the end of this year. Elsewhere in the EU, however, there is significant interest in the potential of nuclear power to replace the Russian natural-gas supplies on which the EU has depended for the past 40 years. French President Emmanuel Macron announced before the recent presidential election that France would build up to 14 new nuclear reactors, starting in 2028. And Poland submitted plans in March for the construction of six new reactors.

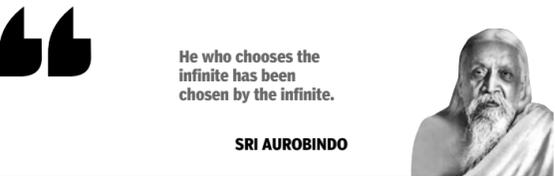
Supporting this trend, firms such as Rolls-Royce in the UK and NuScale in the US are developing a new generation of small modular reactors (SMRs) that can be built and commissioned in under ten years. SMRs can be built in series and should attract private investors deterred by the long lead times, escalating construction costs, and risks associated with complex large-scale plants such as Flamanville.

But a nuclear renaissance is far from certain. Today, more reactors are at risk of closure and decommissioning than are being built. Although public sentiment has become more favourable to nuclear power in most countries, entrenched

resistance, underpinned by environmental and safety concerns, continues to impede a renaissance.

Moreover, there is no guarantee that natural-gas prices will remain high when new fields in regions such as North Africa or Central Asia come on stream, or that the EU will deliver on its pledge to reduce its gas imports from Russia by two-thirds by the end of this year. Equally, the nuclear industry is still failing to deal effectively with the problem of waste disposal. At plants such as Sizewell in England, there is the additional challenge of securing sufficient water supplies to operate the reactors. Given the prospect of a long conflict in Ukraine limiting trade with Russia, and with electrification likely to become increasingly important as we move to a low-carbon world, the potential for nuclear power is huge. Because of the lead times involved, nuclear energy cannot offer an instant solution to today's challenges. Within a decade, however, nuclear, alongside wind and solar, could undermine the global gas market. The question is whether civil nuclear power can now finally fulfill the promise it has shown since it was first developed in the 1950s.

The writer is a visiting professor at King's College London. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE



He who chooses the infinite has been chosen by the infinite.

SRI AUROBINDO

Not a Culture War

In an interesting recent article in the Times Literary Supplement, the Ukrainian novelist, essayist, and poet Oksana Zabuzhko took Western readers to task for not recognising Russia's barbarism. Too many people, Zabuzhko argued, believe that the great Russian writers, such as Fyodor Dostoevsky, expressed humanistic European values. They have not looked deeply enough into the savage Russian soul.

Zabuzhko believes that Russian literature represents "an ancient culture in which people only breathe under water and have a banal hatred for those who have lungs instead of gills." Russia's invasion of Ukraine can be understood only through the prism of "Dostoevskiyism," defined as "an explosion of pure, distilled evil and long suppressed hatred and envy."

This type of cultural analysis has a rather old-fashioned ring. It used to be common to interpret the Third Reich as a sickness of the German soul: "from Luther to Hitler," the thesis went, implying that Luther's anti-Semitism sowed the seeds of Nazism some 350 years before Hitler was born. But few people nowadays take such a crude view of German history.

Many applied similar ideas with even greater conviction to Japan in the 1940s. Since Japan lacked a dictator like Hitler or a party resembling the Nazis, critics blamed the country's culture for its twentieth-century militarism. While Germans could be coaxed back from their murderous cult of racism into the European tradition of Mozart and Goethe, Japan was supposedly different. There, only massive reeducation could cure an ancient cultural sickness related to the samurai spirit and "feudalism."

After World War II, the US occupation authorities banned symptoms of this alleged disease, such as Kabuki plays, swordfight dramas, and even images of the hallowed Mount Fuji. This irritated many Japanese, but most were having enough trouble surviving the harsh postwar years to push back against the bans, which were soon lifted anyway.

Both Germany and Japan still have far-right groups that strut around in combat gear; but so do most Western democracies. Otherwise, it is difficult to find any trace of the samurai spirit in today's Japan or of racial barbarism in contemporary Germany. On the contrary, both countries are remarkably pacific, with Germany more welcoming to immigrants and refugees than most other European countries.

This does not mean that cultural reeducation worked. Rather, it suggests that the cultural analysis was always misguided. After all, Nazis read Goethe and listened to Mozart, too. And Japan's war in Asia was hardly the result of watching too many swordfight dramas.

Even a cursory survey of world history shows that savage behaviour and murderous regimes can arise anywhere. Some of the worst atrocities during the Thirty Years' War in the seventeenth century were committed by Swedes.

Highly civilised people can turn into barbarians when demagogues and dictators exploit their fears and trigger their most atavistic instincts. Rape, torture, and massacres often happen when soldiers invade foreign countries. Commanding officers sometimes actively encourage such behaviour to terrorise an enemy into submission. And sometimes it occurs when the officer corps loses control and discipline breaks down. Japanese and Germans know this, as do Serbs, Koreans, Americans, Russians, and many others.

True, some countries have longer histories of political oppression than others. Russians have not been lucky in this respect. One might say that powerful elements in the Russian Orthodox Church have been complicit in oppressive rule, from the czars to President Vladimir Putin. But to claim that Putin's misrule (or Stalin's, for that matter) is a natural and inevitable outcome of Russian culture is to fall into the same trap as the "from Luther to Hitler" theorists. As postwar Germany and Japan have shown, nothing is inevitable, and "national character" can change quickly.

Fetishising Russian culture as the savage root of Putin's aggression and the brutal war in Ukraine is as dangerous as it is misguided. Canceling performances of Russian composers, excluding Russian artists and tennis players, or fulminating against Russian literature plays into the Kremlin dictator's hands.

No culture, least of all Russian culture, is monolithic. The European Enlightenment brushed St. Petersburg, and many Russian writers, composers, and artists have looked for inspiration to France, Germany, and Britain. Then there is Russian culture's Slavophile side, suspicious and resentful of the West, which has been the source of some great romantic and spiritual art, as well as fostering violent paranoia. Dostoevsky's novels are a mixture of both.

Putin channels the paranoid tendency. He would like all Russians to feel that the arrogant, decadent, depraved West is out to dominate them and crush their proud spirit. He appeals to a persecution complex that is easily roused but not uniquely Russian.

Both Nazi and Japanese WWII propaganda were soaked in self-pity. Putin's version feeds off traumatic memories of the terrible German invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941, and is also deeply personal. As a former KGB officer, he sees the Soviet Union's demise as an affront to everything he stood for. But, much as he would be flattered by the idea, Putin does not represent Russian culture.

To see the Ukraine war as a conflict not only with Putin's regime but also with Russian culture, and to treat all Russians as existential enemies, is a great gift to the Kremlin. It strengthens the persecution complex Putin needs to keep the Russian people on his side. Moreover, it fosters the kind of attitudes that the Allies mistook in postwar Germany and Japan for the markers of an essential and immutable national character.

We must avoid making that mistake again. Instead, we should celebrate the masterpieces of Russian art, music, dance, and literature, and save our condemnation for those, like Putin and his inner circle, who have poisoned the well that produced them.

The writer is an editor and author. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

- Ability is what you're capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it. LOU HOLTZ
- The greatest legacy one can pass on to one's children and grandchildren is not money or other material things accumulated in one's life, but rather a legacy of character and faith. BILLY GRAHAM
- It's in responsibility that most people find the meaning that sustains them through life. It's not in happiness. It's not in impulsive pleasure. JORDAN PETERSON

LOL Money is the answer

"How can I ever thank you?" gushed a woman to a lawyer, after he had solved her legal troubles. "My dear woman," the lawyer replied, "ever since the Phoenicians invented money there has been only one answer to that question."

Supremacy of time

Sir, The article 'Don't be late - You might be replaced' (Orissa POST, June 8) was a timely reminder of the importance of time management in our day-to-day lives. While we cannot influence the flow of time, we can still get the best out of it by becoming an effective time manager. Even Napoleon, one of the greatest military leaders in world history had acknowledged the supremacy of time in these prophetic words: "There is one kind of robber whom the law does not strike at, and who steals what is most precious to men: time." Needless to add, time is a precious resource, to be spent wisely and productively. Procrastination of any sort is to be shunned altogether to ensure the optimum utilisation of time.

Amit Banerjee, NEW DELHI

Tough times ahead for BoJo

Sir, this refers to 'Johnson survives confidence vote' (Orissa POST, June 8). British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has managed to stave off a challenge from within to his leadership - for now Monday, he survived a vote of confidence held by his own party. While 211 Tory MPs voted in his favour, 148 voted against him. Consequently, he will remain leader of the Conservative Party and, by extension, Prime Minister. Although Johnson and the Tories won a landslide victory in the 2019 general election, his government's performance and behaviour have been below par. It has lurched from one crisis to another. His handling of the COVID-19 pandemic was, at least initially, disastrous. A fine was imposed on Johnson for violations of lockdown norms laid down by his own government, thereby making him the UK's first serving PM to be penalised. Johnson survived the challenge, but he can hardly sit easy. The number who voted against him - 148, or 41 per cent of Tory MPs - was far bigger than expected. It indicates the magnitude of the challenge he faces. His predecessor Theresa May survived a similar vote in 2018 when 117 Tory MPs voted against her, but she had to resign less than six months later. If Johnson's situation in his own party is not secure, his position in the rest of the UK is at best precarious. Surveys reveal that most Britons see him as unsuited to lead their country.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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national



Our embassies abroad distribute BJP's apologies. Government keeps mum. Of course, Vishguru who is the inspiration and driving force behind these actions with a poisonous track record of over 20 years, keeps quiet
JAIRAM RAMESH | FORMER MEMBER OF RS

MUKUL ESCAPES DISQUALIFICATION

West Bengal Assembly Speaker Biman Bandopadhyay Wednesday ruled out the possibility of disqualifying Mukul Roy as a member of the Assembly representing the Krishnanagar (North) constituency in Nadia district



of the day quote

This (BJP) government has failed to win the confidence of every community, thanks to selective silence and selective outrage

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

The Tamil Nadu government doesn't have any jurisdiction to direct the Government of India on what to do and what not to. The CWMA is a body that has been constituted on the orders of the Supreme Court. It alone has the authority to give clearance to any projects and regarding the tribunal orders. It (TN's plea) stands the scrutiny of the court

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI | KARNATAKA CHIEF MINISTER

Today is the holy day of Jyeshtha Ashtami. (I extend my) warm wishes to all Kashmiri Pandit brothers and sisters on this auspicious day. May the blessings of Maa Kheer Bhavani always be with you all

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

4 held in Bettiah bus gangrape case

Patna: A day after a minor was allegedly raped in a bus in Bihar's West Champaran, four accused were arrested Wednesday, police said. In an FIR registered in the women police station of Bettiah in West Champaran, the victim said that she boarded the Patna-Bettiah bus in Motihari and the driver, conductor, and helpers of the bus gang-raped her in the moving bus. She alleged that the accused served her food lashed with sedatives and when she consumed the food, she became unconscious. The accused then gang-raped her. When the bus reached Bettiah bus stand, the driver, conductor and helpers locked the bus and fled from the spot. When the victim gathered some consciousness, she knocked on the door and windows to attract the attention of passers-by. Some of them spotted her, freed her from the vehicle, and also informed local police about the incident.

Lalu fined in model code violation case

Medinagar: RJD chief Lalu Prasad was fined Rs 6,000 by a court in Jharkhand's Palamu district Wednesday for violating the model code of conduct during the 2009 assembly elections in the state. Appearing in the court of judge Satish Kumar Munda, Prasad accepted that he violated the model code of conduct and tendered an apology.

President to visit Jammu, Himachal

New Delhi: President Ram Nath Kovind will visit Jammu and Himachal Pradesh from June 9 to 11, a statement issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan Wednesday said. The President will address the 5th annual convocation of the Indian Institute of Management at Jammu Thursday, it said. On June 10, he will address the 6th annual convocation of the Central University of Himachal Pradesh at Dharamshala, the statement added.

Three held for killing youth

Gurugram: Three persons were arrested by the police Wednesday for allegedly killing a 24-year-old man on the intervening night of May 21 and 22 in the IMT Manesar area of Gurugram. They have been identified as Anubhav (20), Vijay (20) and Ravi (29). The trio were arrested by a crime unit of Sector-31 Gurugram Police.

DGCA makes masks mandatory in flights

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 8: Airlines must de-board any passenger before departure if they refuse to wear face mask inside an aircraft even after being warned, aviation regulator DGCA said Wednesday.

Besides, airport operators must take help of the local police and security agencies and levy fines on people not wearing face masks in terminals, it noted. The circular followed a Delhi High Court order of June 3 which said the "DGCA should issue separate binding directions to all staff persons deployed at the airports and in the aircraft, including flight attendants, air hostesses, captains/pilots and others, to take strict action against passengers and others who violate the masking and hygiene norms".

All such persons as are found violating the norms must be fined and persistent defaulters must be placed on the no-fly list, the court had said. The DGCA's Wednesday circular said airlines must ensure the passengers wear masks properly on flights and they are removed from faces only "under exceptional circumstances and for permitted reasons". If a passenger needs an extra face mask, the airline must provide it, it noted. "The airline shall ensure that



If any passenger refuses to wear mask or follow Covid-19 protocol in a flight mid-air, the airline may bar them from flying for a certain period of time by classifying them as "unruly passenger"

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION

in case any passenger does not adhere to above instructions even after repeated warnings, he or she should be de-boarded, if need be, before departure," it said.

In case any passenger refuses to wear mask or violates the Covid-19 protocol even after repeated warnings in flight mid-air, he can be treated as "unruly passenger" as defined in the DGCA regulations, the circular said.

The DGCA regulations give powers to airlines to ban passengers for a certain period of time after they have been declared "unruly".

Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and other police personnel deployed at the entrance of the airport must ensure that no one is allowed to enter the premises without wearing a mask, it said.

All airport operators must increase announcements and surveillance to ensure that passengers at terminal are wearing face masks properly and following Covid-appropriate behaviour at all times within the airport premises, it noted. "In case any passenger does not wear mask or refuses to wear mask and follow Covid-19 protocol, he should be fined as per the respective state law where the airport is located and he may even be handed over to security agencies," it said.

Heatwave continues in northwest, central India

The India Meteorological Department said the heatwave spell will continue in Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Telangana and Madhya Pradesh till Thursday and in Odisha till Friday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 8: Parts of northwest and central India reeled under a searing heatwave Wednesday with Ganganagar in Rajasthan and Brahmपुरi in Maharashtra recording a highest maximum temperature of 46.2 degrees Celsius.

At least 42 towns and cities across Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh



and Andhra Pradesh reported maximum temperatures above 44 degrees Celsius.

In Delhi, Safdarjung, the base station for the national capital, reported a maximum temperature of 44 degrees Celsius, which was four notches above normal.

The weather office said the maximum temperatures may dip by two to three degrees Celsius in Gujarat and Maharashtra during the next five days. However, no significant change

is predicted in the rest of the country, it said. On the monsoon front, due to westerly winds from Arabian Sea over south peninsula India, fairly widespread rainfall with thunderstorm/lightning is very likely over Karnataka, Kerala and Lakshadweep over the next five days, it said.

The weather office has forecast isolated heavy rainfall very likely over south interior Karnataka on Wednesday, coastal Karnataka and Kerala till Saturday.

Boy kills mother as she stops him from playing PUBG

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, June 8: A 16-year-old boy allegedly shot dead his mother as she stopped him from playing the online game PUBG and kept her body hidden in the house for two days, police said Wednesday.

He allegedly threatened his nine-year-old sister not to reveal the incident to anyone and used a room freshener to hide the smell of the decomposed body, police said, adding the boy informed his father, an Army personnel posted in West Bengal, only when the stench became unbearable.



The boy, who was addicted to the online game, was enraged after his mother asked him to stop playing and fatally shot her with his father's licensed gun, they said.

Police said they recovered the partially decomposed body of the woman Tuesday night and sent it for post-mortem. The boy was apprehended.

The minor shot his mother on Saturday and hid the body inside a room for two days before informing his father, they said.

Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police Qasim Abidi said, "The incident took place in Yamunapuram Colony under PGI police station area. The deceased used to live with her two children in the house. Her husband, who is a JCO (Junior Commissioned Officer), is currently posted in West Bengal."

"The 16-year-old boy was addicted to online game PUBG. He told us that his mother used to stop him from playing the game, this is why he killed her. The minor used the registered firearm of his father to kill the mother," he said. Police said they have recovered the weapon.

PROUD MOMENT



National Emblem of India placed at the new Parliament House in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

NHAI creates Guinness World Record



The longest piece of asphalt/bituminous concrete laid continuously was achieved by Raj Path Infracon Pvt. Ltd. and Jagdish Kadam (both India) between Amravati and Akola Districts on NH53, India from 3 to 7 June 2022.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 8: State-owned NHAI has created a Guinness World Record for the longest continuously laid bituminous lane of 75 kilometres in 105 hours and 33 minutes on the national highway between Amravati and Akola districts in Maharashtra.



Mentioning about the record, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari Wednesday said the project was implemented by 720 workers including a team of independent consultants who worked day and night.

The total length of the 75 kilometres of single lane continuous bituminous concrete road is equivalent

to 37.5 kilometres of two-lane paved shoulder road and the work started June 3, at 7:27 am and was completed June 7, at 5 pm, the minister said in a video message.

The previous Guinness World Record for the longest continuously laid bituminous was for building 25.275 kilometres of road that was achieved in Doha, Qatar in February 2019 and that task was completed in 10 days, Gadkari said.

The Amravati to Akola section is part of NH 53 and this is an important east-east corridor which connects major cities like Kolkata, Raipur, Nagpur and Surat. According to Gadkari, once completed, this stretch will play a major role in easing movement of traffic and freight on this route.

He also congratulated all the engineers, contractors, consultants, workers from NHAI and Raj Path Infracon Pvt Ltd for efficient implementation of the project that has helped in successful completion of this world record.

INDIA, IRAN HOLD WIDE-RANGING TALKS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 8: India and Iran Wednesday held wide-ranging talks focusing on enhancing trade, connectivity and counter-terror cooperation even as Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian raised the issue of controversial remarks on Prophet Mohammad made by two former BJP spokespersons.

The crisis in Ukraine and the situation in Afghanistan were among the key issues that figured in the talks between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Abdollahian who is on a three-day visit to India.

The two sides also signed an agreement on mutual legal assistance in civil and commercial matters. The Iranian Foreign Minister also held talks with National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and the



discussions centered around enhancing connectivity through the Chabahar port, boosting trade and investment ties and expansion of cooperation in education and research. There were no details from the Indian side on the meeting between Doval and Abdollahian. An Iranian readout said Abdollahian raised the issue of the "negative atmosphere" triggered by "disrespectful" comments on the Prophet and that the Indian side reiterated the Indian government's respect for the founder of Islam.

Drones may replace weather balloons soon

The sensors embedded in a radiosonde, which is a telemetry instrument carried by a weather balloon, record atmospheric pressure, temperature, wind direction and speed as the hydrogen-filled weather balloon soars up to 12 km height and transmit data to the ground receiver through radio signals

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 8: India is set to deploy drones to gather atmospheric data that is currently collated by sending sensors through weather balloons released from at least 55 locations across the country twice every day.

The sensors embedded in a radiosonde, which is a telemetry instrument carried by a weather balloon, record atmospheric pressure, temperature, wind direction and

speed as the hydrogen-filled weather balloon soars up to 12 km height and transmit data to the ground receiver through radio signals.

However, weather balloons and radiosondes are unretrievable as they drift afar from weather stations that release them in the atmosphere.

"We are now exploring the possibility of using drones to gather this atmospheric data which is crucial for weather forecasting," M Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry



of Earth Sciences, told PTI.

Various studies have suggested that specialised drones equipped with sensors to gather weather data could be an efficient successor to the traditional weather balloons.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) gathers weather data from 550 locations across the country through weather stations

and uses radiosonde observations which are then fed into forecasting models to issue weather forecasts.

The drones have a key advantage over weather balloons as they can be controlled and guided to fly at low as well as high altitudes.

The IMD plans to use drones to gather data from up to five km altitude and compare it with data gathered using the traditional

weather balloons.

It has invited industry and academia to join the demonstration of the capability of drone technology for weather observations.

"It is expected that drones should be capable, economically feasible, easily deployable and recoverable and should be technically comparable or superior to currently deployed radiosondes for upper air observations up to the boundary layer of upper air atmosphere," the weather office said.

While the flight of a weather balloon usually lasts for up to two hours, the IMD expects to gather data using drones during a 40-minute flight.

If successful, a key benefit would be reducing the wastage of radiosondes as the IMD loses more than 100 such instruments every day as weather balloons cannot be retrieved after their flight.

Air quality panel bans use of coal in Delhi-NCR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 8: The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has issued directions to ban the use of coal in industrial, domestic and other miscellaneous applications in the entire Delhi-NCR region from January 1, 2023.

However, the use of low-sulphur coal in thermal power plants has been exempted from the ban. Around 1.7 million tonnes of coal is used annually in industrial applications in NCR, with about 1.4 million tonnes being consumed in six major industrial districts alone.



In an order issued on June 3, the CAQM said the ban on the use of coal will come in force with effect from October 1 in areas having PNG infrastructure and supply and from January 1, 2023 in areas where the PNG supply is still not available.

"In full effect, the use of coal as fuel shall be banned across NCR with effect from January 1, 2023," the panel said.

The panel had earlier invited suggestions from the general public and experts in the field to find a permanent solution to the air pollution problem in Delhi-NCR. A large number of suggestions were related to the banning of coal.

The CAQM then constituted an expert group to examine and deliberate upon all such suggestions and proposals. In its report, the expert group also strongly recommended phasing out heavily polluting fossil fuels like coal and mandating cleaner fuels to the extent possible.

GOLD SMUGGLING CASE

Swapna's charges against Vijayan kick up row

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Palakkad, June 8: Kerala Wednesday witnessed a political storm over the startling revelations by Swapna Suresh, a key accused in the sensational gold-smuggling in the diplomatic bags case, while a co-accused in the case was picked up by Vigilance officials, and a complaint lodged by a ruling LDF MLA seeking a probe into the "conspiracy" behind her allegations.

The entire chain of events played out like the screenplay of a thriller movie starting with Suresh in the morning telling reporters outside her office in Palakkad that her allegations against Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan came in the wake of threats to her life and not because of any personal or political agenda. Minutes after she concluded her press conference, she told a TV channel that her colleague Sarith PS, who also worked with her at HRDS India, had been kidnapped in broad daylight from her home by 3 or 4 unknown people.

The opposition continued its onslaught against the government over the issue and pressed for Vijayan's resignation. Continuing her attack against the government, Suresh alleged Sarith was 'kidnapped' by some unknown people because of her revelations. "Earlier, you asked what the threat was. Now, it is no longer threats, the attacks have started. HRDS India staff Sarith has been forcefully kidnapped from my home by 3 or 4 unknown people. They have started their attacks. Can you imagine that? I only spoke a little, did not speak in detail and already they have become scared. This is a signal of that. They are confessing on their own through such dirty tactics," she claimed after news of his alleged abduction came out.

"Now you know the threats faced by me, my family and Sarith. People of Kerala need to realise that anyone can be killed or abducted in broad daylight here," she added.



Unsubstantiated allegations have been made through the media from some quarters for narrow political reasons and this was part of some political agenda

PINARAYI VIJAYAN | KERALA CHIEF MINISTER

Subsequently, it emerged that State Vigilance officials had picked up Sarith in connection with another case against him regarding the Life Mission project.

Sarith, who was released from Vigilance custody after a few hours, told reporters he was not given any prior notice or even allowed to wear slippers before he was forcibly picked up and taken away by the officials. They did not even disclose who they were when they hauled me away, he alleged.

At the Vigilance office he was repeatedly asked only one question - on whose instructions had Suresh made the allegations - and nothing was asked regarding the Life Mission case, he claimed. Sarith said he received no prior notice before he was picked up and only today he was given a notice to appear June 16 and that his phone has been seized.

Suresh, while speaking to reporters, also questioned how Sarith could be picked up in the case with-

out being given any prior notice and added that she was not scared of anyone. Earlier in the day, she told mediapersons that she only disclosed before the court - in her statement under section 164 of Criminal Procedure Code - the other people allegedly involved in the smuggling cases and their "degrees of involvement".

Suresh said she gave the 164 statement as there were threats to her life and if something happened to her or her family members, she may not have the courage to come forward and speak about the case. "There is a lot more for me to say", she added.

Subsequently, the drama surrounding the case unfolded further with Kerala Assembly legislator and former minister K T Jaleel Wednesday lodging a police complaint demanding a probe into the alleged conspiracy behind the fresh allegations levelled against Vijayan and his family by Suresh. Earlier in the day, LDF convener

EP Jayarajan had told the media that there was a "well-planned conspiracy" behind the "baseless allegations" against the chief minister and the State government should investigate into the matter and find out those behind it.

After her revelations before the media, subsequent to recording her 164 statement, Vijayan had issued a statement dismissing Suresh's claims and allegations as "baseless".

Strongly reacting to the charges, the CM, in a statement, said, "Unsubstantiated allegations have been made through the media from some quarters for narrow political reasons and this was part of some political agenda."

"Such an agenda was rejected by the people earlier. After a break, the old things are repeated by the accused in the case. There is not even a shred of fact in it," Vijayan said. The ruling CPI(M) continued to defend the CM, with its State secretary issuing a statement alleging conspiracy behind the "false" allegations against Vijayan.

In her press conference held in the morning, Suresh had also alleged that while in jail she was "tortured and mentally harassed" by the senior jail officers leading to her suffering from a heart attack, which was termed by them as a drama, and later she repeatedly suffered from fits.

On Tuesday, Swapna first accused Vijayan, his wife and daughter that they had a role in shady things like transferring currency notes to the UAE and also on a few occasions transferred vessels which were used to make biriyani from the residence of the UAE Consul general here to Vijayan's residence and it contained metal objects.

Swapna Suresh, a former employee of the UAE Consulate here, was taken into custody by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) along with another accused Sandeep Nair from Bengaluru July 11, 2020.

JK Mani's clean chit to Vijayan

AGENCIES

Thiruvananthapuram, June 8: Jose K Mani, chairman of the third biggest ally in the ruling Left government in Kerala, Wednesday gave a clean chit to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan who is caught in a massive allegation that he and his family were involved in smuggling gold and currency.

Jose is the son of the founder of Kerala Congress (Mani) late KM Mani, who faced big protest in 2014 when he was the state Finance Minister, after Vijayan and the then Left opposition went hammer and tongs against him on bar bribery scam.

The case began in October 2014 when a bar owner Biju Ramesh alleged that Mani was given Rs 1 crore as bribe by Kerala's bar owners to see that the 418 closed bars in the state are reopened.



Mani had to face the wrath of the protesters both inside and outside of the assembly, which saw one of the worst ever tumultuous scenes on the floor of the assembly, the day he presented his 13th state budget.

The then Left opposition was after Mani's blood to quit, which he eventually did in November 2015 following a remark in the Kerala High Court. A year later, Mani got a clean chit in the case and by then the Left opposition had given enough hiccups to the 82-year-old veteran.

Later after KM Mani passed away in 2019, the relation Jose and his faction had with the Congress led UDF got strained beyond repair and stunned one and all as he along with his supporters joined the LDF as an ally and today one of his legislators is a minister in the Vijayan cabinet.

SEDITION CASE

High Court reprieve for actor Ayesha Sulthana



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kochi, June 8: Lakshadweep film personality Ayesha Sulthana Wednesday got relief from the Kerala High Court, which temporarily stayed the proceedings related to the FIR registered against her for sedition and promoting enmity between different religions.

A complaint was registered last year by Lakshadweep BJP unit president Abdul Khader against her as she had, in a TV channel debate June 7, 2021, said that the "Centre used biological weapons for the spread of Covid in Lakshadweep," which according to the complainant, was "anti-national".

The Kavaratti police registered a case against her under non-bailable sections and then began a long legal tussle, which ended Wednesday.

A bench of Justice AA Ziyad Rahman passed the interim order staying the proceedings for a period of three months, based on the recent directions of the Supreme Court.

The Kerala High Court June 25 last year granted her anticipatory bail.

But July 2, 2021, the court de-

A complaint was registered against the actor last year as she had, in a TV channel debate, said that the Centre used biological weapons for the spread of Covid in Lakshadweep

clined to grant an interim order staying the FIR registered against her, stating that it would be improper for the court to interfere at that stage of the investigation.

Following this, the Lakshadweep administration filed a statement opposing the plea to quash the FIR, but in May 2022, the apex court asked all proceedings initiated under Section 124A (sedition) across the country be kept in abeyance till the Central government's exercise of reviewing said section is completed and the Kerala High Court Wednesday temporarily stayed it.

Sulthana hails from Chelath Island in Lakshadweep, and is based here. Besides being a model, she has worked in numerous films in Malayalam.

Narcotics dropped by Pak drone seized

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sriganganagar, June 8: The Border Security Force (BSF) has said that it apprehended four persons and seized over 3 kg narcotics substance dropped by a Pakistani drone in Sriganganagar district of Rajasthan.

Villagers in Khyaliwali area near the Indo-Pak border nabbed two suspected persons early Tuesday morning and informed the BSF, an official of the force said.

On their information, two more

persons were nabbed while they were escaping in a car, he said.

The BSF personnel conducted a search operation and recovered four packets containing suspected heroin and weighing 3.6 kg. The accused, hailing from Punjab, had come to take delivery of the narcotics dropped by a drone, the official said.

The accused, identified as Nirmal Singh, Ravindra Singh, Jaspreet and Lovepreet, are being interrogated, he said, adding a team of the Narcotics Control Bureau has also arrived for investigation.



UPPING THE ANTE



Activists shouted slogans during a protest in Ahmedabad, Wednesday, demanding arrest of suspended BJP leader Nupur Sharma over her remarks on Prophet Muhammad

PTI PHOTO

RAJYA SABHA POLLS AHEAD

BJP wants to poach MLAs; Cong will win all 3 seats: Gehlot

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Udaipur, June 8: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot once again Wednesday accused the BJP of horse trading attempt ahead of the Rajya Sabha polls and asked why the party backed media baron Subhash Chandra's candidature when it lacked numbers to win the seat.

He alleged that Chandra filed his papers as the opposition BJP's intention is to poach legislators of other parties ahead of the June 10 elections to four seats of the Rajya Sabha from the state.

Gehlot's statement has come a day after Chandra claimed that eight MLAs of the ruling Congress in the state may vote for him and asked former deputy chief minis-

ter Sachin Pilot to cross sides.

The Congress is set to win two seats while the BJP is assured of one. Both parties need the support of Independent legislators and MLAs of other parties to win one more seat.

Days after the Congress shifted its MLAs to an Udaipur hotel fearing horse trading, Gehlot said the party and its MLAs are united, and all three Congress candidates will win in the Rajya Sabha elections.

"We have the support of 126 MLAs for three seats," he said referring to the support of legislators of other parties and Independents.

Questioning the BJP's support to Chandra, Gehlot said, "The intention of indulging in horse trading has been there from the beginning." They backed the independent



candidate even though they do not have the numbers to secure the seat, he said.

"Our MLAs are united and we are proud of the fact that earlier also when a political crisis came, the MLAs were united," he said apparently referring to a rebellion against him by party leader Sachin Pilot two years ago.

On the BJP writing to the Enforcement Directorate and the Election Commission alleging horse trading, Gehlot said, "The elections are there on the day after tomorrow and they are writing letters now. Actually, their conspiracy did not succeed. They are furious because they are failing in horse trading."

The Congress with its 108 MLAs in the 200-member state Assembly is set to win two seats. After win-

ning the two spots, it will have 26 surplus votes, 15 short of the required 41 to win the third seat.

Congress leaders claim the support of 126 MLAs, including 108 from the party itself. The party needs 123 MLAs to win three seats.

The BJP has 71 MLAs in the state Assembly, enough to get one seat comfortably. After that, it will have 30 surplus votes, which along with three of the RLP are set to go to Subhash Chandra.

He will need eight more votes to win the seat.

To protect their MLAs from being lured by the rival parties, the Congress had shifted them to a hotel in Udaipur on June 2. The BJP has also shifted its MLAs to a resort on the outskirts of Jaipur in the name of a training camp.

Rajasthan minister gets 'threat' call

Bikaner/Jaipur, June 8: Rajasthan minister Govind Ram Meghwal, who was staying at a resort in Udaipur along with other Congress MLAs ahead of the Rajya Sabha polls, was allegedly threatened by a man who demanded Rs 70 lakh from him.

IG (Bikaner) Omprakash said the caller identified as Sethi Ram alias Sunil Bishnoi was traced to Malaysia. Sunil made an internet call to the disaster and relief management minister Tuesday and threatened him with dire consequences if he failed to make the payment. "Around a dozen people who were in touch with the caller have been detained," Omprakash said.

of the day quote

The coming years will belong to those who have invested in healthcare. I am proud of the work our government has done to strengthen the healthcare sector in India

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

India has, under the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, taken decisive actions in all areas of climate change. It is one of the few countries to have achieved most of its voluntary NDCs submitted to the UNFCCC under the Paris Agreement before schedule

BHUPENDER YADAV | UNION ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

Regional parties throughout the country have turned into meagre family outfits for whom politics is not a medium to serve people but self-interests

JP NADDA | BJP NATIONAL PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Fire breaks out at paint factory

Shibpur (WB): At least 18 people suffered injuries as a major fire broke out at a paint factory in West Bengal's Howrah district Wednesday afternoon, a fire department official said. Two of those injured are in "critical" condition, having sustained 80 per cent burns, he said, adding that the blaze was first spotted at the paint manufacturing unit in Shibpur around 1.40 pm. "Workers were inside the factory when the fire started. While some managed to flee, at least 18 sustained injuries. An electrical short circuit at the mixing plant or the air conditioning system might have led to the fire. Since it is a paint unit, there were several inflammable items," he said.

Himanta announces Cabinet expansion

Guwahati: Two more BJP MLAs will be inducted as ministers as Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced the first cabinet expansion of his government on Wednesday, nearly a month after completing one year in power. The two new faces are chief minister's Political Secretary Jayanta Malla Baruah, the MLA of Nalbari, and Haflong MLA Nandita Gorlosa, the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) said in a statement.

Chaat seller killed for ₹10

Sonbhadra (UP): A chaat seller was killed allegedly following a dispute with a customer over ₹10 bill at Doria turn under Raipur police station area here, police said Wednesday. Superintendent of Police Amarendra Prasad Singh said that Avinash Gupta (16), a resident of Doria village, who used to sell chaat-kulfi died after being attacked by a youth belonging to the same village Tuesday.

PPE scam: Left, TMC seek CBI probe

Guwahati: Opposition Left parties - CPI, CPI(M), CPI(ML) and RCPI and Trinamool Congress in Assam Wednesday demanded CBI probe into the alleged corruption in Assam government which gave contracts to Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's wife and family business friend to supply PPE kits during the pandemic above market rates. Issuing a joint statement, the four Left parties alleged that all norms were flouted by the National Health Mission (NHM), Assam, while awarding contracts for supply of medical equipment to fight Covid-19 two years ago.



As now schools have reopened, our teams will go into schools and will vaccinate students

VISHWAJIT RANE | GOA HEALTH MINISTER

SC PULLS UP MCC

The Supreme Court Wednesday pulled up Medical Counselling Committee (MCC) for leaving more than 1450 seats vacant in NEET-PG-21, saying it will not only put the aspirants in difficulty but would also lead to a dearth of doctors. The apex court gave 24-hours to the Centre and the MCC to file an affidavit indicating the position of total seats which have remained vacant and the reasons as to why they were not filled up by the candidates



GANGSTER LAWRENCE BEHIND MOOSEWALA'S KILLING: DELHI POLICE

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 8: The Delhi Police Wednesday said gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, currently in its custody was the mastermind behind singer Sidhu Moosewala's murder, and that a close associate of the main shooter involved in the brutal killing in Punjab's Mansa last month had been arrested.

The police, however, did not divulge the details about the motive behind the killing of the popular singer and Congress leader and how Bishnoi conspired to execute the crime despite being lodged in the high-security Tihar Jail in the national capital.

Addressing a press conference, Special Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) H S Dhaliwal said that they have identified five more people involved in the murder case. Dhaliwal said that Lawrence's relative Sachin Bishnoi's role in the killing has also emerged.

He said that Siddhesh Hiranam Kamle, alias Mahakal, has been arrested in Pune in a joint operation with the Maharashtra Police in a case under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act. Mahakal, a close associate of the main shooter, is in 14-day custody of the Maharashtra Police, the special commissioner told reporters. According to the police, Mahakal has committed a crime in Punjab's Moga district on the instance of Lawrence. Mahakal used to commit crime in coordination with main shooter of Moosewala's killing and Lawrence.

Earlier, Lawrence had told investigators that his gang's members, including Canada-based Goldy Brar, hatched a conspiracy and killed Moosewala. Lawrence had also alleged that Moosewala was involved in the killing of Akali Dal youth leader Vikramjit Singh, alias

Lawrence Bishnoi is lodged in Tihar Jail in connection with a case lodged under the stringent Maharashtra Control of Organised Crimes Act (MCOCA)

Last week, he was remanded in three-day custody of the Delhi Police Special Cell and was interrogated in connection with the case, during which he admitted to his gang's involvement in the murder

Vicky Middukhera, on August 7 last year which led to a "rivalry" between him and the Punjabi singer.

Lawrence has been very uncooperative and has not yet disclosed the names of his gang members who were the real conspirators being the killing, officials had said.

"Bishnoi has been very uncooperative so far. But during interrogation, he accepted that he had a rivalry with Moosewala and claimed that his gang members killed the singer

"He has revealed that Goldy Brar was one of the gang members who conspired and executed the killing of Moosewala but has not yet disclosed the names of other associates who were the real conspirators and executioners of the killing," a police official had said.

Twenty-eight-year-old singer-politician Moosewala was shot dead by some unidentified assailants in Punjab's Mansa district on May 29, a day after the Punjab government curtailed his security cover. The Mumbai Police's Crime Branch unit on Wednesday arrived in the national capital to question gangster Bishnoi in connection with a threat letter to screenplay writer Salim Khan and his son and Bollywood actor Salman Khan. Dhaliwal refused to comment on the matter related to the threat letter.



ED opposes Karti's anticipatory bail plea in HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 8: The Enforcement Directorate Wednesday opposed in the Delhi High Court the anticipatory bail plea of Congress MP Karti P Chidambaram in the alleged Chinese visa scam case, saying he cannot file the application on a figment of imagination which does not show any genuine apprehension of his arrest.

The ED said the application is premature as the investigation has not yet begun in the matter and even Karti has not been summoned. Justice Poonam A Bamba, who heard the matter for nearly three hours, reserved the order on Karti's plea. Karti had approached the



high court after his anticipatory bail plea and that of two others were dismissed by the trial court June 3, on the ground that the offence was of a very serious nature.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, representing Karti, said there were no proceeds of crime and he was not a flight risk and also ready to cooperate in the investigation. He said the incident relates to 2011 and the CBI and ED registered the FIR and Enforcement Case

MATTER OF FAITH



Devotees perform pooja during the annual Kheer Bhawani mela at Tulmulla in Ganderbal district, in Jammu and Kashmir Wednesday. The attendance of devotees was low due to recent suspected target killings

RS polls: Haryana BJP sends its MLAs to resort; Cong-JD(S) stalemate in K'taka

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 8: Ahead of Rajya Sabha polls Friday, the Haryana BJP has shifted its MLAs to a resort near Chandigarh, while the state Congress is likely to fly back its legislators who have been lodged in Chhattisgarh on the day of voting.

Three candidates are in the fray for two Rajya Sabha seats from Haryana. The BJP has fielded Krishan Panwar and extended support to independent candidate Kartikeya Sharma who also has the backing of the Jannayak Janata Party (JJP), an ally of the BJP.

Ajay Maken is the Congress nominee for the Rajya Sabha elections from Haryana. Both BJP and Congress have claimed that they have the numbers to ensure the victory of their candidates.

"All BJP MLAs from Haryana have been asked to reach Chandigarh by Wednesday evening so that a training session on the voting process of Rajya Sabha polls can be held for them," BJP's Haryana unit president O P Dhankar told reporters here. The Congress shifted its MLAs to a hotel in Raipur fear-



ing the poaching of its legislators. They are expected to return to Chandigarh in a chartered flight Friday morning, sources said.

This is for the first time since 1998 that the Rajya Sabha election in Maharashtra will see a contest and every vote could prove crucial for the parties. BJP leader Devendra Fadnis, who tested COVID-19 positive a couple of days ago, will have to cast his vote towards the end of the voting procedure if he continues to remain infected, an official said. However, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) had on Tuesday opposed their bail pleas, citing that they don't have the right to vote under the Representation of the People Act. Voting for the six Rajya Sabha seats from Maharashtra will take place between 9 am and 4 pm. The ruling Shiv Sena has fielded two candi-

dates, its Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) allies NCP and Congress have nominated one candidate each, while the opposition BJP has put up three candidates. The contest for the sixth seat lies between BJP's Dhananjay Mahadik and Shiv Sena's Sanjay Pawar.

Union minister Piyush Goyal, Anil Bonde, Dhananjay Mahadik (BJP), Sanjay Raut, Sanjay Pawar (Shiv Sena), Praful Patel (NCP), Imran Pratapgarhi (Congress) are in the fray. JD(S) leader H D Kumaraswamy had made an offer to trade second preference votes with the Congress, which pointed out that former prime minister H D Deve Gowda was elected to Rajya Sabha with its support in June 2020 and it was time for the regional party to return the favour. Six candidates are in the fray for the Rajya Sabha poll to four seats from Karnataka, necessitating a heated contest for the fourth seat. Despite not having the adequate number of votes to win the fourth seat from the state Assembly, all the three political parties in the state - BJP, Congress and JD(S) - have fielded candidates for the seat, forcing an election.

Cabinet approves MoU for research on climate change

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 8: The Union Cabinet Wednesday approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), Japan and Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), India, a professional body for joint research on air quality and climate change.

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the signing of MoU to establish collaborative guidelines between NIES and ARIES. No such MoUs were signed by the ARIES, Nainital in the similar areas of research with any other foreign bodies in the past.



Some of the possible activities under MoU are joint use and operation of scientific instruments, exchange of scientific and technical information on observing methods, joint analysis of observational data and making scientific reports, joint educational and research activities, exchange of visiting scholars, including PhD students for the purpose of conducting research and joint scientific workshops and/or seminars. The ARIES is an autonomous research institute established under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. ARIES is a centre of excellence for research in Astronomy & Astrophysics and Atmospheric Sciences. It carries out research on air pollution and climate change on earth, formation and evolution of sun, stars and galaxies.

Little girl tied on rooftop for not doing homework, FIR lodged

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 8: A shocking video of a little girl in Delhi left on the terrace amid scorching heat with her hands and legs tied went viral on social media on Wednesday, prompting the police to take cognisance of the matter.

In the video, the minor girl could be seen weeping continuously under the scorching sun. "First it was said that the video was shot in the Karawal Nagar area. However, on inquiry it was found that no such incident was reported from there," a police officer said. On further inquiry, the police learnt that the address was in



the area under the Khajuri Khas police station, but there also no such incident was found to be reported.

"The address was incomplete, hence special teams were sent to verify it on the ground. After cumbersome efforts, the address and the family were traced," said the officer.

It was learnt that the mother of the girl had tied her on the roof as a punishment for not doing homework.

INDIA, RANKED LOWEST, SLAMS 'UNSCIENTIFIC' EPI

The Union environment ministry said, "The Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2022 released recently has many indicators based on unfounded assumptions"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 8: The Union environment ministry Wednesday rebutted the Environmental Performance Index 2022, which ranked India at the bottom of a list of 180 countries, saying some of the indicators it used are "extrapolated and based on surmises and unscientific methods".

The index published recently by the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy and the Center for International Earth Science Information Network, Columbia University, used 40 performance indicators across 11 categories to judge countries on climate change performance, environmental health and ecosystem vitality.

"The Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2022 released recently has many indicators based on unfounded assumptions. Some of these indicators used for assessing performance are extrapolated and based on surmises and unscientific methods," the ministry said in a statement.

"A new indicator in the climate policy objective is 'projected GHG emissions levels in 2050'. This is computed based on the average rate of change in emission of the last 10 years instead of modelling that takes into account a longer time period, extent of renewable energy capacity and use, additional carbon sinks, energy efficiency etc. of respective countries," the ministry said.



Forests and wetlands of the country are crucial carbon sinks but have not been factored in while computing the projected GHG emissions trajectory up to 2050 given by EPI 2022. Historical data on the lowest emission trajectory has been ignored in the computation,

it said while rejecting the analysis. The ministry said the weight of the indicators in which India performed well has been reduced and the reasons for such change have not been explained in the report.

"The principle of equity is given very low weightage in the form of indicators like GHG emission per capita and GHG Emission intensity trend. The CBDR-RC principle is also barely reflected in the composition of the index," it said.

Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC) acknowledges the different capabilities and differing responsibilities of individual countries in addressing climate change. The indicators on water qual-

ity, water use efficiency, waste generation per capita which are closely linked to sustainable consumption and production are not included in the index, the ministry said.

"The index emphasises the extent of protected areas rather than the quality of protection that they afford. Management, effectiveness and evaluation of protected areas and eco-sensitive regions is not factored into the computation of biodiversity indices," it said.

The index computes the extent of ecosystems but not their condition or productivity. It did not include indicators like agro biodiversity, soil health, food loss and waste even though they are important for developing countries with large agrarian populations.

international

of the day quote

As a strong pillar of the iron-clad partnership, China Cambodia military cooperation is in the fundamental interests of our two nations and two peoples

WANG WENTIAN | AMBASSADOR TO CAMBODIA, CHINA

I do expect inflation to remain high although I very much hope that it will be coming down now. I think that bringing inflation down should be our number one priority

JANET YELLEN | TREASURY SECRETARY, US

If the whole world is in need of the products to be exported by Ukraine and the Russian Federation, then a method needs to be established. I hope technical preparations could be made as soon as possible

MEVLUT CAVUSOGLU | FOREIGN MINISTER, TURKISH

SHORT TAKES

SL PM meets IMF chief; seeks \$6bn

Colombo: Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe has urged IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva to send a team to Colombo "as soon as possible" so that a staff-level agreement could be finalised as his cash-starved government is seeking to find \$6 billion to keep the country afloat for the next six months. The conversation comes as Sri Lanka has decided to seek the assistance of the Washington-based global lender to combat the worst economic crisis since its independence from Britain in 1945.

22 dead as van falls into ravine in Pak

Karachi: At least 22 people, including women and children, were killed and several others injured Wednesday as a van they were travelling in fell hundreds of feet into a ravine in Pakistan's mountainous Balochistan province, an official said. The vehicle plunged into the ravine when the driver apparently failed to negotiate a sharp bend in the mountainous area of Akhtarzai near Killa Saifullah, which is at an elevation of 1,572 metres. Twenty-two people were killed and a child was injured in the accident, the Dawn newspaper reported.

1 killed, 8 hurt in Germany car crash

Berlin: A person drove a car into pedestrians in a popular Berlin shopping district Wednesday, killing at least one person and injuring eight others, rescue services said. Berlin fire service spokesman Stefan Salzweid, who provided the casualty figures to The Associated Press, wasn't immediately able to provide further information on the victims. Berlin police spokesman Martin Dams said the crash happened near the Kurfurterendamm shopping boulevard in the west of the German capital.

Talks to end Sudan crisis begin

Cairo: Talks aiming at ending Sudan's ongoing political deadlock began Wednesday, the United Nations said, although the country's main pro-democracy alliance is boycotting them over a continued police crackdown on those protesting last October's military coup. The joint peace effort is brokered by the UN political mission in Sudan, the African Union, and the eight-nation east African regional group Intergovernmental Authority in Development, IGAD.

Chinese defence infra build-up near Ladakh 'eye-opening', 'alarming': Top US General

Last month, it came to light that China is constructing a second bridge in an area held by it around the strategically key Pangong Tso lake in eastern Ladakh and it could help its military to quickly mobilise its troops in the region

Ukrainian forces come under renewed attack



Moscow says it is engaged in a "special military operation" to disarm and "denazify" its neighbour. Ukraine and allies call this a baseless pretext for a war that has killed thousands, flattened cities and forced millions of people to flee

Kyiv, June 8: Ukrainian troops holding out in the ruins of Sievierodonetsk came under renewed heavy assault Wednesday from Russian forces who see the capture of the industrial city as key to control of the surrounding Luhansk region. In southern Ukraine, another major battleground in the war; authorities warned that Russian attacks on agricultural sites including

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 8: The destabilising and corrosive behaviour of Chinese Community Party (CCP) in the Indo-Pacific region is "eye-opening" and some of the defence infrastructure that is being set up by China near its border with India is "alarming", US Army's Pacific Commanding General Charles A Flynn said Wednesday. "I believe that the activity level is eye-opening. I think some of the infrastructure that is being created in the Western Theatre Command is alarming. And so much, like across all of their military arsenal, one has to ask the question, why," the General, who oversees the Asia-Pacific region, told a select group of journalists. General Flynn said China's "incremental and insidious path, and destabilising and corrosive behavior" projected on to the region



was "simply not helpful". "I think it is worthy of us working together as a counterweight to some of those corrosive and corrupted behaviours that the Chinese [demonstrate]," said the General. India and the US are set to conduct high-altitude training missions at an altitude of between 9,000-10,000 feet in the Himalayas as part of the Yuddh Abhyas exercises this October. The location has not been specified. Indian forces will then train in similar extreme-cold weather conditions in Alaska. This includes new technology, Air Force assets, attack aviation, logistics, and information sharing on a real-time basis. "These are all invaluable opportunities that the Indian Army and the US Army can capitalise on," General Flynn said.

India and the US are set to conduct high-altitude training missions at an altitude of between 9,000-10,000 feet in the Himalayas

The exercises are meant to be extremely high-level joint operations across the gamut of high-altitude warfare

This includes new technology, Air Force assets, attack aviation, logistics, and information sharing on a real-time basis

Further afield, the Chinese have significantly upgraded and expanded their airfields and road infrastructure, posing a direct threat to India across the Himalayan frontier.

Despite more than a dozen rounds of military talks, the Chinese have not withdrawn from several areas that they illegally occupy after breaching the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh.

Iran turns off 2 of UN nuclear watchdog's surveillance cameras

REUTERS

Dubai, June 8: Iran said Wednesday it was removing two UN nuclear watchdog surveillance cameras at a uranium enrichment facility as the watchdog's board prepared to pass a resolution criticising it for failing to fully explain uranium traces at undeclared sites. Tehran's move was most likely either a shot across the bows before more drastic action or an early response to the draft resolution, which was being discussed at the 35-nation Board of Governors and diplomats said was likely to pass easily, with only Iran's ally Russia publicly expressing strong opposition so far. The United States, France, Britain and Germany have put the draft resolution to the board. It states the board's "profound concern" that the traces remain unexplained due to Tehran's lack of cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and calls on Iran to take up an offer of more talks "without delay". Iranian state TV said: "So far, the IAEA has not only been ungrateful for Iran's extensive cooperation but has also considered it as a duty. From today, relevant authorities have ordered that surveillance cameras of the Online Enrichment Monitor (OLEM) be shut down."

Iran bristles at IAEA board resolutions against it and has warned of retaliation. That could further undermine already stalled talks on rescuing the 2015 nuclear deal. Iran says its nuclear designs are wholly peaceful. "We are not taking this action to escalate a confrontation for political purposes. We seek no such escalation," a US statement to the board said, adding that Iran removing cameras installed under the deal would be "extremely regrettable and counterproductive to the diplomatic outcome we seek".

PUSH TO DEFENCE TIES

India, Vietnam sign mutual logistics pact



The implementation of the projects will add substantially to Vietnam's defence capabilities and further Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Make in India, Make for the World', according to the statement

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hanoi, June 8: India and Vietnam Tuesday signed an MoU on mutual logistics support, the first such major agreement Hanoi has inked with any country towards simplifying procedures for mutually-beneficial logistic support as Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held wide-ranging discussions with General Phan Van Giang on "effective and practical initiatives" to further bolster defence engagements. Singh, who is in the key Southeast Asian country on a three-day visit from June 8, received a guard of honour at the headquarters of the Ministry of National Defence of Vietnam. Singh was also accorded a grand welcome by General Giang. Wide-ranging discussions on effective and practical initiatives to further expand bilateral defence engagements and regional and global issues were held between the two sides, the Ministry of Defence said in a statement. The two defence ministers also signed the 'Joint Vision Statement on India-Vietnam Defence Partnership towards 2030', which will significantly enhance the scope and scale of our defence cooperation," Singh said in another tweet.

Partnership towards 2030', which will significantly enhance the scope and scale of existing defence cooperation, at a time when China is flexing its muscles in the strategic Indo-Pacific region. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Mutual Logistics Support was inked in the presence of both the ministers, the release said. "In these times of increasing cooperative engagements between the defence forces of the two countries, this is a major step towards simplifying procedures for mutually beneficial logistic support and is the first such major agreement which Vietnam has signed with any country," it said. Both ministers also agreed on the early finalisation of the \$500-million Defence Line of Credit extended to Vietnam. Singh also announced gifting two simulators and a monetary grant towards the setting up of a Language and IT Lab at Air Force Officers' Training School for capacity building of the Vietnamese Armed Forces. "We renewed interactions on expanding bilateral cooperation. Our close Defence and Security cooperation is an important factor of stability in the Indo-Pacific region," Singh said on Twitter. "We had wide-ranging discussions on effective and practical initiatives to further expand bilateral Defence engagements and regional and global issues," he tweeted. "After our fruitful deliberations, we signed the 'Joint Vision Statement on India-Vietnam Defence Partnership towards 2030', which will significantly enhance the scope and scale of our defence cooperation," Singh said in another tweet.

Iran train derailment kills 22; 87 injured

"Passengers were bouncing in the car like balls in the air," one injured passenger told media



Tehran, June 8: A passenger train travelling through eastern Iran struck an excavator and nearly half its cars derailed before dawn Wednesday, killing at least 22 people and injuring 87, officials said. The derailment near the desert city of Tabas was the latest disaster to strike the Islamic Republic in recent weeks as Tehran struggles under US sanctions and any re- turn to its nuclear deal with world powers remains in doubt. The train, operated by the state-run Islamic Republic Railway, carried some 350 people as it travelled from the town of Tabas, some 550 km (340 miles) southeast of Tehran, to the city of Yazd. The route had begun as an overnight train out of Iran's holy city of Mashhad. Based on images after the crash, it appeared the train's locomotive passed the excavator and the later cars somehow hit the digger and caused the derailment, though authorities did not immediately explain how the disaster happened in the rural scrubland near a railway bridge. The state-run IRNA news agency gave the casualty figures, citing emergency officials. Rescue teams with ambulances and helicopters arrived in the remote area where communication is poor. Over a dozen people suffered critical injuries, with some transferred to local hospitals, officials said.

Belgian King returns mask to Congo in symbolic gesture of restitution

Kinshasa, June 8: Belgium's King Philippe returned a traditional mask to Democratic Republic of Congo Wednesday on his first visit to the former colony, where many remain angry at Belgium's failure to apologise for decades of brutal rule. In 2020, Philippe became the first Belgian official to express regret for the "suffering and humiliation" inflicted on Congo. But he stopped short of issuing an apology, and some Congolese have demanded he does during this first visit since taking the throne in 2013. "They left us isolated, abandoned. They pillaged all our resources, and today you invite the



Belgian king again?" said Junior Bombi, a salesman in Kinshasa's central market. Antoine Roger Lokongo, a pro-

fessor at the University of Joseph Kasa-Vubu in southwestern Congo, said he would be waiting to see if Philippe formally apologised for colonial-era crimes. "The simple regret that you have expressed is not sufficient," Lokongo said. INITIATION MASK Congo President Felix Tshisekedi and many other politicians have enthusiastically welcomed the visit, as have some residents who hope it will bring investment and a renewed focus on the conflict in the east of the country. "My feeling is that we should start having good Congolese-Belgium relations again, like before," Kinshasa resident Antoine Mubidiki said. "Despite what the Belgians did to us during coloni-

sation, we are ready to forgive." Philippe offered the initiation mask of the Suku people to Congo's national museum as an "indefinite loan". The mask has been held for decades by Belgium's Royal Museum for Central Africa. "I am here to return to you this exceptional work in order to allow Congolese to discover and admire it," Philippe said, standing next to Tshisekedi. "It marks the symbolic beginning of the reinforcement of the cultural collaboration between Belgium and Congo."

The king arrived Tuesday with his wife, Queen Mathilde, and Prime Minister Alexander De Croo for a week-long visit that will also take him to the eastern cities of Bukavu and Lubumbashi.



India recently achieved 10 per cent ethanol blending target 5 months in advance, saving over ₹41,000 crore worth of fuel imports for the nation. Our next target is to achieve 20 per cent ethanol blending and it is projected to be completed by 2025-26

ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY | MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

INTERNET ASKS MUSK TO "BUY YOUTUBE"

Tesla CEO Elon Musk has once again caused a buzz on Twitter after posting about "scam ads" on YouTube. The last time he did something like this, the word got to know about the Twitter deal. So this time, Twitter users are making their demands in advance, asking the billionaire to "buy YouTube"



of the day quote

India is an innovation and talent hub for IBM, and our collaborations with IIT Kottayam, TCS, and Wipro will help us accelerate the adoption of automation for businesses across industries

DINESH NIRMAL | GENERAL MANAGER, IBM AUTOMATION

By integrating its expertise in digital services that include end-to-end SAP automotive solutions along with manufacturing and plant engineering experience, Hinduja Tech will be able to develop the best-in-class IoT solutions together with Senseye's predictive maintenance solution

KUMAR PRABHAS | CEO, HINDUJA TECH

APM Terminals Pipavav is contributing its bit to conserve environment and fulfill the group's commitment to net-zero greenhouse emissions by 2040

JAKOB FRIIS SORENSEN | MD, APM TERMINALS PIPAVAV

SHORT TAKES

India to okay wheat exports of 1.2MT

Mumbai: India could soon allow traders to ship out around 1.2 million tonne of wheat as it seeks to clear cargoes stuck at ports since last month's sudden ban of exports of the grain, government and trade sources said Wednesday. But even after New Delhi's permission to export that much, about 500,000 tonne of wheat could remain sitting at ports, as some traders have failed to secure export permits, the sources with knowledge of the matter told Reuters.

Exports up 24.18% during June 1-7

New Delhi: The country's exports increased 24.18 per cent to \$9.39 billion during June 1-7 on account of healthy growth in sectors like engineering, gems and jewellery and petroleum products, an official said. The exports during June 1-7 2021 stood at \$7.56 billion, the commerce ministry official said. Imports during the first week of this month too rose by about 77 per cent to \$16 billion. Gems and jewellery, engineering, petroleum products, and electronic goods' exports increased by 84.3 per cent, 25.7 per cent, 20.4 per cent and 73.5 per cent, respectively.

Coal production rises 34% in May

New Delhi: The country's coal production registered a rise of 33.88 per cent to 71.30 million tonne (MT) in the month of May. Coal output in the corresponding month of the previous fiscal was 53.25 MT, as per provisional data of the Ministry of Coal. Of the top 37 coal producing mines, 23 produced more than 100 per cent, while the performance of 10 mines stood between 80 and 100 per cent, the ministry said. The thermal power generation went up by 26.18 per cent in May over the corresponding month of the previous fiscal.

IBM begins closing business in Russia

New York: IBM has started an orderly wind-down of its business and laying off the workforce in Russia with its Indian-origin CEO Arvind Krishna saying the global IT giant will continue to stand by its employees in the country. The company Tuesday issued an update on its business operations in Russia, saying it has made the decision to carry out an orderly wind-down of IBM's business in Russia.

'ACCOMMODATIVE' STANCE DROPPED

RBI hikes repo rates as inflation pressures build

The rise in interest rate follows a 40-bps rise in early May at an unscheduled meeting that kicked off the central bank's tightening cycle, which economists expect to be relatively short

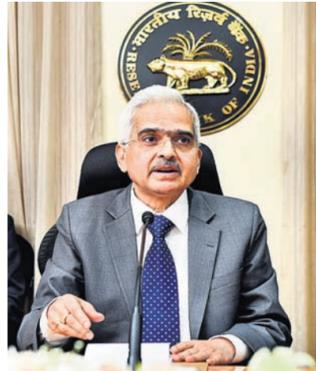
REUTERS

Mumbai, June 8: The Reserve Bank of India's key interest rate was raised by 50 basis points Wednesday as widely expected, the second hike in as many months, in a bid to cool persistently high inflation in Asia's third-largest economy.

The central bank also dropped its long-standing phrase that future policy would remain 'accommodative', reinforcing expectations of further rate hikes and other forms of tightening in coming months as fighting inflation becomes its main focus.

"Upside risks to inflation as highlighted in last policy meetings have materialised earlier than expected," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said after the policy decision.

The monetary policy committee



RBI MPC HIGHLIGHTS

- Key lending rate (repo) raised by 50 basis points to 4.9%; 2nd increase in 5 weeks
- Inflation projection for current fiscal raised to 6.7% from 5.7%
- GDP growth forecast retained at 7.2% for current financial year
- Credit cards to be linked with UPI; RuPay credit cards to be linked first
- e-mandates on cards for recurring payments enhanced to ₹15,000 from ₹5,000
- Urban cooperative banks allowed to lend up to ₹1.40 crore as against the previous cap of ₹70 lakh, while rural cooperative banks can now lend up to ₹75 lakh as against earlier cap of ₹30 lakh

(MPC) raised the key lending rate or the repo rate by 50 basis points (bps) to 4.90%. The Standing Deposit Facility rate and the Marginal

Countries across the world are facing inflation at decadal highs and persistent demand-supply imbalances. The war has led to globalisation of inflation. Inflationary pressures have become broad-based and remain largely driven by adverse supply shocks

SHAKTIKANTA DAS | GOVERNOR, RBI

Standing Facility Rate were adjusted higher by the same quantum to 4.65% and 5.15%, respectively. "The more hawkish tone on in-

flation suggests to us that the MPC will continue to frontload policy tightening over the coming months, perhaps with another a 50bp hike in the next scheduled meeting in August," said Shilan Shah, senior India economist at Capital Economics.

PRICE PRESSURES INTENSIFYING

The RBI raised its inflation projection for this fiscal year to 6.7% from 5.7% earlier, and Das said it will likely remain above the bank's upper tolerance band in the first three quarters of the financial year that started April 1.

"We have dropped the word (accommodative) but we remain accommodative and that is mainly to give more clarity to the market," Das said. "The MPC also decided to remain focused on withdrawal of accommodation to ensure that inflation remains within the target going forward, while supporting growth," he said adding that liquidity still remains above pre-pandemic levels.

Retail inflation in April accelerated to 7.79% from a year earlier, above the RBI's tolerance band for inflation of 2% to 6% for a fourth month in a row, and a further rise in global prices of crude oil, food and other commodities is expected to keep up the upward pressure.

RBI allows credit cards to be linked with UPI

UPI has become the most inclusive mode of payment, with over 26cr unique users and 5cr merchants onboarded on the platform. In May, 594.63cr transactions amounting to ₹10.40L cr were processed through UPI, Das noted

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank Wednesday allowed credit cards to be linked with the unified payments interface (UPI), which will enable more people to make payments using the popular platform. Till now, only debit cards connected to savings bank accounts and current accounts were allowed to link up to the UPI platform.

At present, making UPI payments is free, while credit card companies usually depend on the merchant discount rate (MDR), which is charged on every usage for making merchant payments as a revenue stream. "... The basic objective of link-



ing credit cards to UPI is to provide a customer (with) a wider choice of payments. Currently, UPI is linked through debit cards to savings accounts or current accounts," Reserve Bank Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar told reporters at the

This is a game changer move by RBI. Also the beginning of MDR/Interchange of card networks starting to apply on mobile payments

VJAY SHEKHAR SHARMA | FOUNDER & CEO, PAYTM

customary post-policy press conference.

Earlier in the day, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das announced that such linking will be possible starting with the credit cards issued by the RBI-promoted National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

He said the new arrangement will be implemented after system developments and instructions will be issued to the NPCI for the same.

Das said the new arrangement is expected to provide more avenues and convenience to the customers in making payments through the UPI platform.

To a specific question pointing out the differences between UPI and credit cards from a usage fees perspective, and how they are exactly opposite, Sankar said going into the pricing structure for such a service right now will be akin to jumping the gun.

Indian Bank observes AKAM Iconic Week



Bhubaneswar: The Ministry of Finance, has allocated AKAM (Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav) Iconic Week to be observed in selected branches of Indian Bank from June 6 to 12. On the third day of the week, Indian Bank FGMO organized walkathon by its employees for public awareness. Manoj Das, FGM; LD Jena, DGM; MR Sahoo, AGM; Bidya Bhusan Senapati, Chief Manager and other employees participated in the programme.

Sugar exports at record high: ISMA

New Delhi: Sugar exports from India, the world's largest producer and second biggest exporter of the sweetener, touched a record 8.6 million tonne till May of the ongoing 2021-22 marketing year ending September, said the latest data released by industry body ISMA Wednesday. The country had exported total 7 million tonne of sugar in the 2020-21 marketing year, while domestic production stood at 31.19 million tonne in the same period. Last month, the government capped sugar exports at 10 million tonne to ensure enough domestic supply and check retail prices during festival season in October-November. However, cooperatives have demanded raising the export cap by 1 million tonne. According to Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA), it is reported that around 9.4-9.5 million tonne of export contracts have already been entered into so far.

Porsche forays into pre-owned car segment in India

The Porsche Approved programme is now available across India with a comprehensive warranty on pre-owned cars for a minimum of 12 months, including access to the 24-hour roadside service after passing a rigorous 111-point inspection, the automaker said in a statement

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 8: German sports luxury car manufacturer Porsche Wednesday said it has forayed into pre-owned car segment in India.

Porsche India Brand Director Manolito Vujicic said the initia-

tive aims to ensure that more Porsche units remain active on Indian roads for many years to come.

"This is an important step for Porsche India to extend our services into the pre-owned car segment, as it shows our commitment

to customer satisfaction long after the car has been sold and even to customers who have never owned a new Porsche," he added.

He said that Porsche Approved programme offers a high level of quality by passing a 111-point check on every pre-owned

Porsche. This means that every vehicle should meet the standard of its original condition and thus enhances the value of any model carrying the 'Approved' seal, he added.

With this



This is an important step for Porsche India to extend our services into the pre-owned car segment, as it shows our commitment to customer satisfaction long after the car has been sold and even to customers who have never owned a new Porsche

MANOLITO VUJICIC | BRAND DIRECTOR, PORSCHE INDIA

seal, the company will certify that only genuine Porsche parts have been used and installed by qualified Porsche technicians, Vujicic said.

STAGFLATION RISKS

WB cuts global GDP forecast to 2.9%

The World Bank report said global growth was being hammered by the war, fresh Covid lockdowns in China, supply-chain disruptions and the rising risk of stagflation -- a period of weak growth and high inflation last seen in the 1970s

REUTERS

Washington, June 8: The World Bank Tuesday slashed its global growth forecast by nearly a third to 2.9% for 2022, warning that Russia's invasion of Ukraine has compounded the damage from the Covid-19 pandemic, and many countries now faced recession.

The war in Ukraine had magnified the slowdown in the global



economy, which was now entering what could become "a protracted period of feeble growth and elevated inflation," the World Bank said in its Global Economic Prospects report, warning that the outlook could still grow worse.

In a news conference, World Bank President David Malpass said global growth could fall to 2.1% in 2022 and 1.5% in 2023, driving per capita growth close to zero, if downside risks materialized.

"The danger of stagflation is considerable today," Malpass wrote in the foreword to the report. "Subdued growth will likely persist throughout the decade because of

weak investment in most of the world. With inflation now running at multi-decade highs in many countries and supply expected to grow slowly, there is a risk that inflation will remain higher for longer."

Between 2021 and 2024, the pace of global growth is projected to slow by 2.7 percentage points, Malpass said, more than twice the deceleration seen between 1976 and 1979.

Growth in advanced economies was projected to decelerate sharply to 2.6% in 2022 and 2.2% in 2023 after hitting 5.1% in 2021.

US growth was seen dropping to

2.5% in 2022, down from 5.7% in 2021, with the euro zone to see growth of 2.5% after 5.4%.

Emerging market and developing economies were seen achieving growth of just 3.4% in 2022, down from 6.6% in 2021, and well below the annual average of 4.8% seen in 2011-2019.

China's economy was seen expanding by just 4.3% in 2022 after growth of 8.1% in 2021.

Negative spillovers from the war in Ukraine would more than offset any near-term boost reaped by commodity exporters from higher energy prices, with 2022 growth forecasts revised down in nearly 70% of emerging markets and developing economies.

The regional European and Central Asian economy, which does not include Western Europe, was expected to contract by 2.9% after growth of 6.5% in 2021, rebounding slightly to growth of 1.5% in 2023. Ukraine's economy was expected to contract by 45.1% and Russia's by 8.9%.

The 12-month warranty includes repairs to all vehicle components including labour charges, except consumables and wear and tear parts such as wiper blades, tyres, fluids and brake pads.

While the term depends on the age of the vehicle, it mostly covers any Porsche that has not completed 2,00,000 kms and is up to six years old. Porsche sales in India grew by 22 per cent to 188 units in the first quarter of the current calendar year, recording its best Q1 performance since 2013.

The brand's SUV range, comprising Cayenne and Macan, remain the most sold models in the range.

Nod for India-UAE pact on industrial cooperation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 8: The government Wednesday approved a proposal for signing a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on cooperation in the field of industries and advanced technologies.

The decision was taken by the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



An official statement said the MoU envisages cooperation on a mutually beneficial basis in areas including strengthening the supply chain resilience of industries, renewable and energy efficiency, health and life sciences, space systems, artificial intelligence, standardisation, metrology, conformity assessment, accreditation, and halal certification.

The MoU aims at strengthening and developing industries in both nations through investments, technology transfer and the deployment of key technologies in industries, it said.

The implementation of the MoU, it said, may lead to increase in research and innovation in all areas of mutual cooperation.

India-UAE bilateral trade, valued at \$180 million per annum in the 1970s, has increased to \$60 billion at present, making the UAE India's third-largest trading partner after China and the US.

The UAE is the eighth largest investor in India with an estimated investment of \$18 billion.

Indian investments in the UAE are estimated at around \$85 billion (Rs 6.48 lakh crore).

Both the countries have implemented a comprehensive trade agreement with an aim to increase bilateral trade from \$60 billion to \$100 billion in the next five years.

MITHALI BIDS ADIEU

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 8: Mithali Raj, one of the greatest female cricketers to have played the game, Wednesday announced retirement from all forms of international cricket, having made a significant contribution in popularising the women's game during a storied 23-year-long career.

The trailblazer ended her glorious career with a record 7805 runs from 232 ODIs, the most in the format. With an overall tally of 10868 runs, she is also the leading-run getter in women's cricket across formats.

The 39-year-old featured in 89 T20 Internationals and even though

she got to play only 12 Tests in her long career, she managed to score a double hundred and remains the only woman cricketer from India to do so in the longer format.

She had retired from the T20 format in 2019 and her decision to stop playing all formats was expected after India's underwhelming ODI World Cup campaign in March. She was the captain of the team in the ICC mega event.

The cricketer from Rajasthan attained the legendary status with her exploits with the bat for over two decades. When she made her India debut back in 1999, women's cricket was a neglected sport but now it has become a career choice with millions of girls aspiring to

be like her.

She said another journey beckons her as she would love to stay involved with the game. Mithali played in as many as six ODI World Cups and also holds the record of scoring seven half centuries in a row.

She is the only Indian captain – male or female – to have led India in two World Cup (ODI) finals (2005 and 2017). The team's performance in 2017 had given a huge fillip to the women's game.

However, a fairy tale ending eluded her five years later in New Zealand, where India made an early exit from the competition after an inconsistent campaign.

“I set out as a little girl on the journey to wear the India blues as representing your country is the highest honour. The journey was full of highs and some lows.

Each event taught me something unique and the last 23 years have been the most fulfilling, challenging & enjoyable years of my life. Like all journeys, this one too must come to an end. Today is the day I retire from all forms of International Cricket.

Each time I stepped on the field, I gave my very best with the intent to help India win. I will always cherish the opportunity given to me to represent the tricolour.

I feel now is the perfect time to call curtains on my playing career as the team is in the capable hands of some very talented young players and the future of Indian Cricket is bright.

It was an honour to have led the team for so many years. It definitely shaped me as a person & hopefully helped shape Indian Women's Cricket as well.

I love and contribute to the growth of Women's Cricket in India and world over. Special mention to all my fans, thank you for all your love & support.

CRICKET FRATERNITY HAILS 'TRUE LEGEND'

The Indian cricket fraternity hailed Mithali Raj as “true legend” and an “inspiration” to millions after she bid adieu to international cricket. In her 23-year-long eventful career, Mithali positively influenced the perception about women's cricket. Here is a compilation of tweets, posted by current and former cricketers...

DINESH KARTHIK: In India, the name Mithali Raj has been synonymous to women's cricket. You have been an inspiration to millions all over the world. My best wishes to you for your future endeavours @M_Raj.

SHIKHAR DHAWAN: Congratulations on a marvelous career @M_Raj03. You've been a fine example for cricketers across the country. Good luck for whatever lies ahead.

VVS LAXMAN: To play for India is a dream a very few fulfill and to be able to represent the nation for 23 years is just amazing. You have been a pillar to Women's Cricket in India and have shaped the lives of many young girls. Many congratulations on a phenomenal career @M_Raj03.

REEMA MALHOTRA: Congratulations @M_Raj03 on one beautiful journey. Fortunate to have played alongside. You've inspired oodles of young girls to take up the sport. Your name shall remain etched forever in the hearts of cricket fans. Well played, truly.

RP SINGH: You can be very proud of your career. A true legend and a hero who inspired millions to dream about playing cricket. Congratulations and best wishes for your new innings.

WASIM JAFFER: Towards the end of her career, Mithali had been in form longer than some of her teammates had been alive. That's how long she served Indian Cricket. Congratulations and thank you @M_Raj02. Good luck for your second innings.

YUVAJ SINGH: Congratulations on a wonderful career @M_Raj03! Not only have you set remarkable records, you led by example each time you stepped on to the field. Countless youngsters around the world look up to you with inspiration and pride! Here's wishing you good luck for the next innings!



Kaur named captain for SL tour

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 8: Harmanpreet Kaur was Wednesday named India women's team captain for the white-ball tour of Sri Lanka on a day when her ODI predecessor Mithali Raj announced her international retirement.

Harmanpreet, who remains T20I skipper, and Smriti Mandhana were in the running to replace Mithali in the 50-over format. Eventually the selectors have gone for the 33-year-old Harmanpreet over the 25-year-old Mandhana.

India will play three T20Is and as many ODIs against Sri Lanka in Dambulla and Kandy, starting June 23. It will be India's first assignment since the early exit from the ODI World Cup in March.

Notable omissions from the ODI squad were veteran Jhulan Goswami, who too like Mithali, was expected to retire after the World Cup, and Sneha Rana.

Opener S Meghana, who had



THE SQUADS

ODI: Harmanpreet Kaur (C), Smriti Mandhana (vc), Shafali Verma, Yastika Bhatia (wk), S Meghana, Deepti Sharma, Poonam Yadav, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Simran Bahadur, Richa Ghosh (wk), Pooja Vastrakar, Meghna Singh, Renuka Singh, Taniya Bhatia (wk), Harleen Deol.

T20I: Harmanpreet Kaur (C), Smriti Mandhana (vc), Shafali Verma, Yastika Bhatia (wk), S Meghana, Deepti Sharma, Poonam Yadav, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Simran Bahadur, Richa Ghosh (wk), Pooja Vastrakar, Meghna Singh, Renuka Singh, Jemimah Rodrigues, Radha Yadav.

year, also made a return. The three T20Is will be played in Dambulla June 23, 25 and 27 while the ODIs will be held in Kandy July 1, 4 and 7.

The timing of the squad announcement was rather interesting as it came soon after Indian legend Mithali called time on her 23-year-old career.

impressed in the ODIs in New Zealand before World Cup, has been included in both the ODI and T20I squads. Jemimah Rodrigues, who was not included in the ODI World Cup squad, made a comeback for the T20Is. Radha Yadav, who last played for India in July last

SAI CALLS BACK TEAM FROM SLOVENIA AFTER FEMALE CYCLIST ACCUSES COACH OF INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR

Controversy hits cycling contingent

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 8: The Sports Authority of India (SAI) Wednesday decided to call the entire Indian cycling contingent back from Slovenia after a female cyclist accused chief coach RK Sharma of “inappropriate behaviour” during the training-cum-competition trip.

The Indian endurance contingent, consisting of five male and a female, flew to Slovenia May 15 and was scheduled to return June 14.

SAI has already called back the cyclist, who made the allegations, and formed an enquiry committee to look into the matter.

The Cycling Federation of India (CFI) Chairman Onkar Singh told this agency that SAI has made the decision to cut short the training trip. “SAI official called up CFI this morning and said all the contingent including coach RK Sharma

will be called back immediately from Slovenia,” Singh said.

It has been learnt that SAI also shot off a separate missive to coach Sharma to return as soon as possible. The training-cum-competition trip to Slovenia was arranged to help Indian team prepare well for the Asian Track Cycling Championships, scheduled to be held in the national capital from June 18 to 22.

The female cyclist had apprised the SAI of inappropriate behaviour by coach during her stay in Slovenia and was so terrified that she feared for her life.

The matter had come to light Monday when SAI issued a statement, saying it has called the cyclist back to ensure her safety. The complainant claimed that the coach forced her to share a hotel room with him on the pretext that accommodation has been arranged on twin-sharing basis. Later on her request,



SAI arranged for a separate single room for her but the coach did not take her to Germany for an event along with the other members of the contingent for putting up resistance.

The coach threatened the cyclist that he will destroy her career by having her removed from the National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) if she will not sleep with him, according to the complaint. Fearing for her

safety, the cyclist had then decided to quit the training camp.

However, it has come to light that SAI had actually arranged for a separate room for her because she was the only female member of the contingent and there was no need for her to share the room with anyone. “SAI in its direction had beforehand said that the athlete in question will be given a single room as she was the only female member in the contingent,” a SAI source said.

Coach Sharma will have to appear before a five-member inquiry panel, which will be headed by SAI's internal sexual harassment committee head.

Sports Minister Anurag Thakur promised action against the coach if allegations proved to be true. “After the inquiry whatever actions needs to be taken we will take because in sports we can't tolerate anything like this,” Thakur said.

Sindhu, Sen advance



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jakarta, June 8: Top Indian shuttlers PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen recorded contrasting victories to make a positive start to their respective women's and men's singles campaign at the USD 360,000 Indonesia Masters Super 500 tournament here Wednesday.

While World Championship bronze medalist Sen, seeded seventh, outwitted Denmark's Hans-Kristian Solberg Vittinghus 21-10, 21-18, two-time Olympic medalist Sindhu had to toil hard to get the better off Line Christophersen of Denmark 18-21, 21-15, 21-11 in a 51-minute match. Sen will face Denmark's Rasmus Gemke next, while Sindhu plays Indonesia's Gregoria Mariska Tunjung.

In other results, Aakarshi Kashyap went down 12-21, 11-21 to USA's Beiwen Zhang in under 30 minutes to bow out of the competition. On a comeback trail after recovering from an injury, Sameer Verma couldn't put his best foot forward, losing 17-21, 15-21 to

Indonesia's Chico Aura Dwi Wardoyo.

The mixed pairing of Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Crasto produced a gallant fight before losing 14-21, 21-16, 12-21 to fourth seeds Praveen Jordan and Melati Daeva Oktavianti of Indonesia in an opening round match.

Sindhu, a former World Champion, came into the match with a 30 head-to-head record against Line but she blew a 11-9 advantage to lose the opening game, primarily due to her unforced errors.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

errors put paid to her hopes. She missed the lines far too many times and also found the nets a lot to undo all her good work. A wide shot from Sindhu helped Line to grab a slender 11-10 lead but she again went long as the Indian established a three-point cushion and extended it to 17-12 after an enthralling rally.

CHHETRI BRACE SINKS CAMBODIA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, June 8: Talismanic Sunil Chhetri was once again the man of the moment as he struck a brace to inspire India to a 2-0 win over Cambodia in their opening match of the Asian Cup qualifying final round match at the Salt Lake Stadium here Wednesday.

The Igor Stimac's side were far from their best and failed to make use of their better possession against a weak side but the 37-year-old returned Chhetri from an injury layoff to score on either side of the break (13th and 59th minute).

The double strike brought him back to the third place in the list of highest scorers among active footballers in the world. With 82 goals from 127 matches, Chhetri now sits



behind Portugal superstar Cristiano Ronaldo (117) and Argentine virtuoso Lionel Messi (86).

Following a tense start, Chhetri settled the nerves converting a 14th minute penalty in a calm-headed way. It was Liston Colaco who was tripped inside the box by Kok Boris of Cambodia. Chhetri took the cen-

tre stage and slammed past a diving Hul Kimhuy.

But thereafter, it was a tale of missed chances for the Blue Tigers who failed to justify their 69 per cent possession.

Finally, it was from a superb assist by Brandon Fernandes that saw Chhetri complete his brace to give India a 2-0 cushion at the hour mark.

The start of the match was marred by a technical glitch as the Cambodian team had to wait for about 10 minutes for their national anthem to be played much to the embarrassment of the All India Football Federation.

The announcement was made for the visiting team's national anthem but what was played out was the Indian national anthem and the Cambodians stood waiting.