



**BIG BENEFITS**  
Actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu reportedly earns over ₹3 crore a month through her Instagram handle  
**LEISURE P2**



**IRAN REMOVES CAMERAS**  
Iran is removing 27 surveillance cameras from nuclear sites across the country, says the UN nuclear watchdog  
**INTERNATIONAL P10**



**SINDHU, SEN ADVANCE**  
PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen progress to the Indonesia Masters Super 500 badminton tournament quarterfinals  
**SPORTS P12**

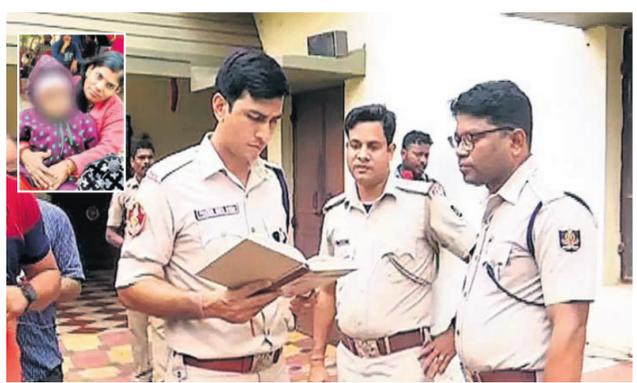
## LATHI RULE



Police personnel Thursday resort to lathicharge to control unruly crowd queued up to buy tickets for the upcoming India-South Africa T20 International match at Barabati Stadium in Cuttack (More P3) OP PHOTO

# Man kills wife, slits daughter's throat

■ A 45-yr-old man in City enters into a heated exchange with his wife and knifes her to death while attacking his six-year-old daughter



Bhubaneswar DCP Prateek Singh along with other officials at the crime scene, Thursday (Inset: File photo of Saraswati with her 6-year-old daughter)

**POST NEWS NETWORK**  
**Bhubaneswar, June 9:** A 45-year-old man killed his wife and grievously injured his six-year-old daughter by slitting her throat over suspected family feud in Ghatikia area of the City here, Thursday.  
Sources said Sanjit Das, the accused, had married Saraswati Das of the same locality around eight years ago. Saraswati used to work as a nurse in a nearby hospital while Sanjit, a lazy bum, is addicted to drugs and alcohol.  
A jobless Sanjit used to borrow money from the near and dear ones for consuming alcohol and brown sugar. The family members had also admitted him to a de-addiction centre a few years back, but to no effect, said a source.  
The couple entered into a heated argument in the wee hours of Thursday. Soon, a mountain was made out of a molehill and an infuriated Sanjit attacked Saraswati with a knife, killing her on the spot, it was learnt.  
In a fit of rage, Sanjit also slit his six-

year-old daughter's throat. Before fleeing the scene, Sanjit informed his mother about the gruesome episode. Family members informed the police about the incident, it was learnt.  
"We got a call from Sanjit's family members who informed us about the brutal incident. The couple also has a four-day-old daughter who was left unharmed. The elder daughter has been ad-

**IRREGULAR** by MANJUL



If my mom says anything, don't take it to your heart. Consider her as fringe, dear!

## Presidential poll July 18

NO POLITICAL PARTY WILL BE ALLOWED TO ISSUE ANY KIND OF WHIP: EC

PNN & AGENCIES

**New Delhi, June 9:** Election for the next President of India will be held July 18 in which 4,809 electors comprising MPs and MLAs will vote to elect incumbent Ram Nath Kovind's successor, the Election Commission announced Thursday.  
Going by its strength in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, as well as in many state assemblies, the BJP is in a comfortable position to ensure the victory of the candidate nominated by it in the upcoming election.  
The nominations can be filed after the issue of notification June 15 and can be filed till June 29, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said at a press conference. Kovind's term ends July 24 and an election for the next president has to be held before that day.  
Kumar said the EC is fully geared to conduct the election in a free and fair way, while all Covid-related safety protocol would be followed during the voting and counting of votes. He further said that no political party will be allowed to issue any kind of whip. Scrutiny of nominations will take place June 30 and the last date for withdrawal of nominations will be July 2.  
If necessary, the voting will take place July 18 and counting of votes July 21. Kumar said the total number of electors for the election will be 4,809 - 776 MPs and 4,033 MLAs. Voting for presidential election will take place in Parliament and the premises of state assemblies, while Rajya Sabha Secretary-General will be the returning officer. Normally, MPs cast their vote in Parliament and MLAs in their respective state assemblies.

### ALL EYES ON NAVEEN

**Bhubaneswar:** With the announcement of dates for the prestigious presidential election, all eyes are on the move of BJD supremo and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, who alone can ensure smooth victory for the BJP-led NDA candidate. Currently, opposition parties collectively have 51.1 per cent share of the electoral college, while the BJP and its alliance have 48.9 per cent. The NDA needs only 1.2 per cent to cross the halfway mark. With 21 MPs (12 in Lok Sabha and nine in Rajya Sabha) and 114 MLAs in Assembly, the BJD has 2.9 per cent of votes in its kitty. So, the BJD is going to play a crucial role in the poll, it was learnt. The ruling party has not disclosed its card yet for the election to the top position in India. The CM had earlier stated that he will take a decision looking into the profile of the candidates for the election. Notably, the BJD had supported non-UPA candidates for the presidential poll during the last two elections held in 2017 and 2012. In 2020, Naveen supported NDA candidate Harivansh Narayan Singh in the election to the deputy chairman of Rajya Sabha. The party had also supported UPA candidate Gopal Krishna Gandhi during the vice-presidential poll in 2017.

If there is an emergency, the EC would need to be informed 10 days in advance for MPs to vote in a state assembly or for MLAs to vote in Parliament complex, Kumar said.  
The President is elected by the members of the electoral college consisting of elected members of both houses of Parliament, and elected members of the legislative assemblies of states including the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the Union Territory of Puducherry.

**MARKET WATCH**

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	55320.28 ↑ 427.79
NIFTY	16478.10 ↑ 121.80
DOLLAR	78.60 ↑ ₹0.01
EURO	83.21 ↓ ₹0.01
GOLD	₹50,951 ↓ ₹100
SILVER	₹61,639 ↓ ₹387

**WEATHER**

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX	33.2°C	34.0°C
TEMP. MIN	28.2°C	28.6°C
Humidity	80%	78%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Mainly clear sky	

## Regulatory architecture soon for digital lending platforms

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, June 9:** The Reserve Bank of India will soon come out with regulatory architecture for digital lending platforms, many of which are illegal, Governor Shaktikanta Das said Thursday.  
There have been increasing cases of alleged suicides of borrowers due to harassment by a few of the operators of digital lending apps.  
"I think very soon we will be coming out with a broad regulatory architecture, which should be able to address the challenges that we are confronted with regard to lending through digital platforms, many of which are unauthorised, unregistered and, should I say, illegal," Das said while delivering a lecture on - Indian Businesses (Past, Present and Future).  
He was speaking at the Iconic Week celebration as part of the

There have been increasing cases of alleged suicides of borrowers due to harassment by a few of the operators of digital lending apps

'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' to mark the 75th anniversary of Independence, organised by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).  
Das Wednesday suggested that customers borrowing from unregistered digital lending apps should approach the local police in case of any issue. Most of the digital lending apps are not registered with the central bank and operate by themselves, he told reporters. Das said whenever it gets a complaint from any customer, the central bank directs customers of such unregistered apps to approach the local police, which will conduct an investigation and take necessary action on the issue.  
"It is my humble request to all those using such apps to first check if the app is RBI registered or not. If the app is RBI registered, the central bank will act immediately in case of any misdoing, I assure you," he had said.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Minors die as sand mound caves in

**KENDRAPARA:** Two minor boys died after a mound of sand caved in on them while they were playing near a pond at Magur Gandapatna village under Sadar police limits in the district, police said Thursday. The deceased were identified as Surendra Chamia, 11, son of Budharam Chamia and Surendra Jika, 7, son of Bula Jika of the locality. According to locals, the incident occurred Wednesday evening. Suddenly, a portion of mound of sand collapsed on them. They got buried under it. Family members launched a search operation after the duo did not return home in the evening. After finding the two buried under sand late in the night, family members rushed them to the DHH where doctors pronounced them brought dead.

### Ex-tehsil official held after 6 yrs

**BHUBANESWAR:** Vigilance sleuths Thursday arrested a former nazir of Jajpur tehsil, who was on the run since 2016 in connection with his alleged involvement in the misappropriation of government funds to the tune of ₹4.95 crore. The irregularity by Rajat Kumar Routray was noticed during an audit in 2016. On the basis of the audit report, Vigilance had initiated an inquiry into the case. It found that Routray, in connivance with a few other staffers of the tehsil, was involved in the fraud during the period from April 2006 to April 2016, said Vigilance SP (Cuttack) Akshaya Kumar Mishra. When Routray's involvement in the case came to the fore, he managed to remain incognito. P4

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# leisure

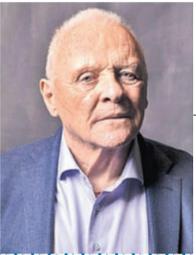


## IDINA MENZEL IS SAD AS SHE'S TOO OLD TO STAR IN WICKED

Actress Idina Menzel is sad that she is too old to star in the *Wicked* but is excited to see Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande on screen. Since opening on Broadway in 2003 and in London's West End in 2006, the musical has been seen by over 60 million people worldwide.

## ANTHONY HOPKINS JOINS SNYDER'S SCI-FI ADVENTURE

Two-time Academy Award winner Anthony Hopkins has joined *Rebel Moon*, a sci-fi adventure film that Zack Snyder is directing for Netflix. The film is set in a peaceful colony on the edge of the galaxy that finds itself threatened by the armies of the tyrannical regent named Balisarius.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com  
accuracy • reliability • trust  
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**ARIES**  
Okay, so the plans you chalked out have not delivered any results. Today, you may want to do a rethink. By noon, you may put things in place, and this will fire your confidence. Ganesh says this is what life is about — try, try, try, until you succeed.

**TAURUS**  
This day you will be thinking of pleasant outings, picnics and pleasure trips. The morning could be spent with your friends and family members, finalising plans and programmes. But, warns Ganesh, you could lose track of things later in the day and, unfortunately, change your plans and end up by spoiling a lovely, enjoyable day and turning it into a drab and dull affair.

**GEMINI**  
A hectic and busy day awaits you. You will be busy trying to complete your pending projects and in trying to figure out a way to beat your deadlines. However, the workload should ease a bit post-noon.

**CANCER**  
Early today, you may spend a great deal of time thinking about your career and future, predicts Ganesh. In the afternoon, you will devise a plan on how to go about it, and by evening, you may even put the plan into action. You will spend some time with the near and dear ones.

**LEO**  
Champagne, anyone? Well, Ganesh seems to favour a good celebration today as you give a major boost to your reputation in your chosen field. You will bring success and glory to all your associates. Do not be misled by the initial stress of your workplace, as it shall fade away with the passage of day.

**VIRGO**  
Reap and harvest the good things in your life. You may seem to arrive at your wits' end today. Ganesh predicts that you will probably sort all of it when you sit down with your better half and discuss the issues at hand.

**LIBRA**  
Does money really matter when compared to your loved ones? You might be asking yourself this question at some point in time during the day, foresees Ganesh. Chances are high that today, you may be at the receiving end of some sort of financial loss accelerated by someone close to you. Arguments with your siblings over property issues might take centre-stage, but you need to be beligerent towards them in the afternoon.

**SCORPIO**  
Family members would want to talk about important matters with you today, says Ganesh. Time at work will be comfortable. Take special care of new assignments though. You are likely to bear expenses on account of tours and services today, predicts Ganesh.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Business tycoons, be ready to scale new heights today! Ganesh sees a fantastic day of massive business growth. In the afternoon, your professionalism will be held in high esteem by friends and foe alike. You may also take your first step in exploring new territories by launching new products in the market, says Ganesh.

**CAPRICORN**  
Don't be surprised if you are suddenly showered with attention at work. Ganesh says it's your lucky day today, for you will leave no room for complacency and rewards for this may come by way of special treatment from your colleagues and even your boss.

**AQUARIUS**  
As the day begins, you will be irritated and troubled by the most trivial of matters. But you won't let it hamper your pace and sincerely pursue your goals. Evening promises some kind of monetary windfall.

**PISCES**  
Your cauldron of conflicts boils over, says Ganesh. At work, confrontations with your peers are a distinct possibility. Domestically, property related squabbles with your siblings are possible. Your family will be the cause of some monetary loss today. Keep a calm head.

# Samantha earns ₹3 crore a month from Instagram

**Chennai:** Samantha is a popular name, not just in South states but all across the country. The reason stands for her work in all the big and happening industries and projects she does in the country. To top it she is the ex-wife of popular Telugu actor Nagarjuna's son.

Samantha also had quite a few interesting projects in digital space

and she will soon reportedly be making her Hollywood debut. She is not just popular for films alone, but for her income from films and other brand promotions as well.

She has been posting several brands related stuff on her social media handles such as Instagram. Recently she was seen posting a bikini picture of herself representing an expensive bikini brand and she is reported to have got a crore for promoting and sporting the above company's dress.

Samantha reportedly earns over Rs 3 crores a month through her Instagram itself as she posts 2-3 ads of various brands every month, which reportedly pays her big monetary benefits in return. On the work front, she had *Kaathu Vaakula Rendu Kaadhal* released this year and has *Shaakuntalam* in post-production. Soon, she will be seen as Yashoda in a Telugu language film and she is also busy shooting for Vijay Deverakonda starrer *Kushi*, being directed by Shiva Nirvana.



# 91st Reminiscing the Iron Lady of Odisha



People from all walks of life including Congress legislator Suresh Kumar Routray, BJD MLAs Shashi Bhushan Behera and Ananta Narayan Jena, City Mayor Sulochana Das, Chairperson of Odisha State Commission for Women Minati Behera along with Orissa POST and Dharitri Editor Tathagata Satpathy and Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy paid floral tributes to former Odisha Chief Minister Nandini Satpathy on her 91st birth anniversary near Raj Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Thursday.



Homage by Science and Technology Minister Ashok Chandra Panda and other dignitaries



Members of Utkala Sammilani remembered the only woman CM of Odisha



Team Orissa POST and Dharitri paid their respect

# Ms Marvel talks about inclusivity

**Mumbai:** Pakistani-Canadian actress Iman Vellani, whose miniseries *Ms Marvel* opened to a positive response, feels that the film and content industry is heading in the right direction with inclusivity.

She also hopes that the series is not the end of the road for Muslims and Pakistanis in Hollywood and that more such projects keep coming to the fore.

Elaborating on the same, Iman said, "I think we are heading in the right direction and I hope *Ms Marvel* is not the end of seeing Muslims and Pakistanis in Hollywood."

She also shared that hopefully the show will allow more people from the South Asian community to tell their stories. "I do believe that we are creating space for more inclusiveness and we are also hoping

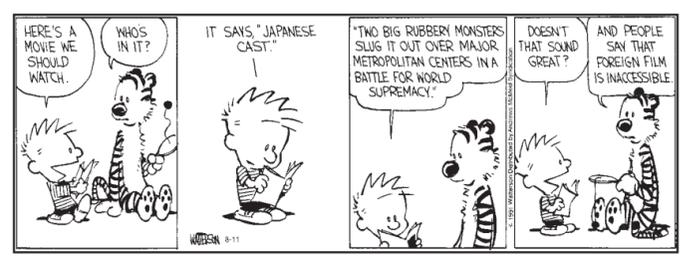
that the show inspires more South Asian creators to tell their own stories. And I really hope that the series gets the ball rolling on more representation in Hollywood and people to tell their stories.

"I really think that the show is going to be for everyone and they can see themselves in some parts of Kamla's journey," she concluded.

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

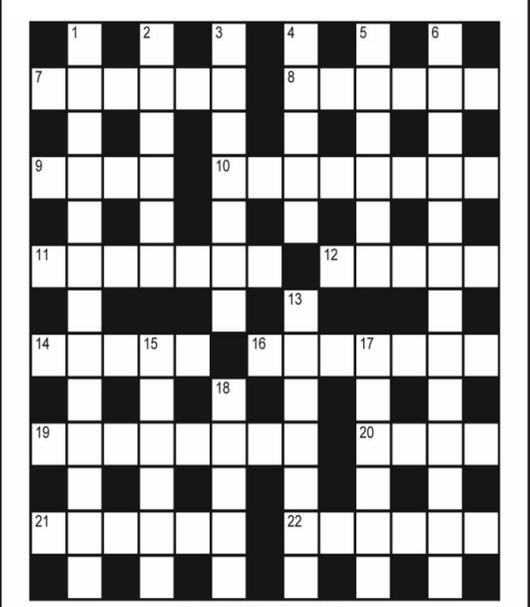


### BREVITY



### FUN post

### CROSSWORD



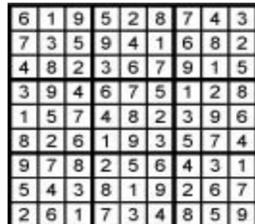
- Across**  
7 Queue (4,2)  
8 Dies Irae, e.g.  
9 Con game  
10 Precise  
11 Winter wear  
12 Blind followers  
14 Coconut holders  
16 Thingamajigs  
19 Beach find
- Down**  
20 Leisure  
21 On one's back  
22 Formal order
- Across**  
4 Pas de trois, for example  
5 Arum  
6 Maid's tool (7,6)  
13 Smash into  
15 Mountain part  
17 Saturate  
18 Small three-masted vessel

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS



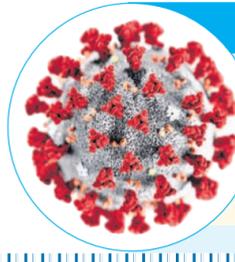
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown



## CULTURAL FETE

Artistes perform at Srikhetra Mahari Utsav-2022 at Annapurna theatre in Puri, Thursday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	53,83,09,157	51,15,39,303	63,27,082
India	4,31,97,522	4,26,40,301	5,24,723
Odisha	12,88,576	12,79,281	9,126

## CRICKET FRENZY GRIPS STATE



Thousands of cricket lovers gathered at Barabati stadium in Cuttack, Thursday, to buy tickets for the upcoming T20 International match between India and South Africa  
PICS: RAJKISHORE MOHANTY



## Stampede-like situation for tickets ahead of T20

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, June 9:** Tension prevailed near the Barabati Stadium here Thursday following a stampede like situation after cricket fans jostled for space to buy tickets for the India-South Africa T20 match to be held Sunday.

As per reports, police resorted to mild lathi charge to control the crowd. There was a brief quarrel between fans after some complained that a section of people had broken the queue. This led to scuffle and exchange of blows. There were also heated arguments involving some women after a section of those standing in the queue complained that several others had jumped their turns.

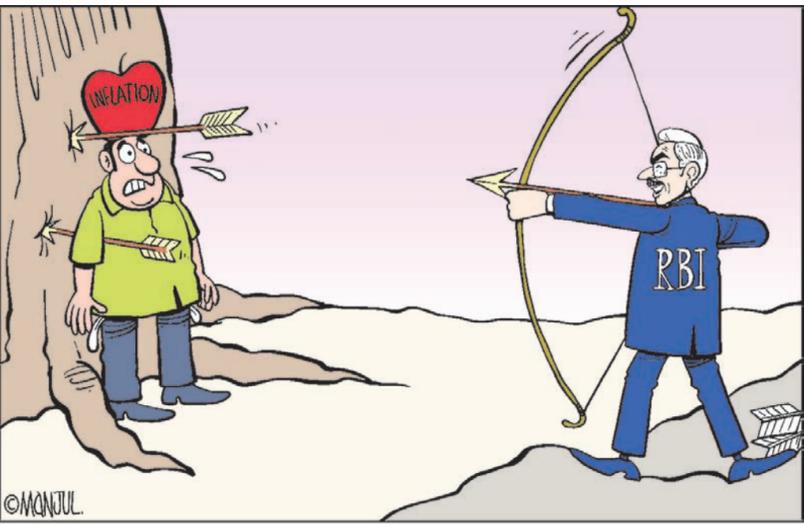


The offline ticket counters opened from 9am, but people had made a beeline from dawn. Many women had to jostle for space to buy tickets even at counters meant especially for them. "I have been standing from 6 am. But some came after 9 and jumped the queue," a native of Cuttack complained. "A huge crowd had gathered and a few were seen breaking the queues, following which police had to intervene. There was a mild lathi charge to bring order," said ACP Ajay Das. Around 12,093 offline tickets will be available for the public including 1,362 expensive tickets and 10,731 gallery tickets. The Odisha

Cricket Association (OCA) has set up nine counters to sell the tickets, out of that seven counters are for male and for the first time, the state cricket body has made two dedicated ticket counters for female fans. One person can buy maximum two tickets by producing any of his/her identity proofs. A total of 5,000 tickets were sold online while 8,000 tickets were sold to clubs, schools and other organisations associated with the OCA. A broad range of security arrangements including the deployment of as many as 12 platoons of police force have been made to tackle any kind of untoward situation. Wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant is set to lead team India after opener KL Rahul was ruled out of the five-match T20 series against South Africa owing to a last-minute groin injury.



## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



## 11 projects worth ₹2,082cr get nod

THESE PROJECTS ARE LIKELY TO GENERATE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR 3,612 PEOPLE

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 9:** The State Level Single Window Clearance Authority (SLSWCA) headed by Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra Thursday approved 11 investment proposals worth ₹2,082.17 crore. These projects are likely to generate employment opportunities for 3,612 people in the state. The state panel has approved the proposal of the National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) to set up a 3.5 million tonne per annum (MTPA) over land conveyor (OLC) corridor at Pottangi in Koraput district with an investment of ₹732 crore. Similarly, the panel gave its approval for a rolling mill, 0.6MTPA

pellet plant, coal gasification unit and 10 MW coal based CPP at Hirma in Jharsuguda district by Konark Ispat Limited with an investment of ₹379.2 crore. The committee has approved three downstream steel units at Kalinga Nagar in Jajpur district. The ASL Enterprises Ltd will set up its unit with a cost of ₹167.03 crore while PSPL Steel Processors Pvt Ltd and Khetan Viniyog Pvt Ltd have promised to invest ₹150 crore and ₹50.1 crore respectively to set up their units at Kalinga Nagar. IFGL Refractories Limited got the nod for expansion of its project at Kalunga Industrial Estate in Sundergarh district by investing ₹66.27 crore. The government has also allowed Oddiyaana Eco Resorts



Private Limited for setting up of a hotel-cum-resort facility along marine drive road with an investment of ₹128 crore and Lifeline Multiventures Pvt. Ltd. for hotel-cum-resort facility - Konark East Horizon - with an investment of ₹100 crore in Balukhand area of Puri district. Hotel Sukhmay Private Limited has got approval of the government for expansion of its existing

The panel has approved the proposal of NALCO to set up a 3.5 million tonne per annum over land conveyor corridor at Pottangi in Koraput district with an investment of ₹732 crore. Similarly, the panel gave its approval for a rolling mill, 0.6MTPA pellet plant, coal gasification unit and 10 MW coal based CPP at Hirma in Jharsuguda district by Konark Ispat Limited with an investment of ₹379.2 crore. hotel 'The Crown' in Bhubaneswar with an investment of ₹88.09 crore. Aspen Lake Suites LLP will set up a 5-star resort facility by spending ₹69.23 crore at Barkul in Khurda district. Besides, approval was also given to CtrIS Datacenters Limited for setting up a data center facility at Infocity Industrial Area in Bhubaneswar with an allocation of ₹152.25 crore.

## BJD unhappy over 'paltry' hike in paddy MSP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, June 9:** A day after the Centre announced a hike of Rs 100 per quintal on paddy, raising the minimum support price (MSP) to Rs 2,040, the ruling BJD in Odisha expressed its dissatisfaction over the move and demanded that the amount be further increased to Rs 2,930 per quintal. BJD national spokesperson Sasmit Patra, at a press conference here, said the rise in MSP of the common grade variety of paddy was 'insufficient'. "The BJD had been demanding a 1.5-time MSP rise over the cost of production of paddy, as per the recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission. The Centre, however, did not pay any heed," the BJD MP said. He pointed out that the Odisha Assembly had unanimously passed a resolution on March 25, 2017, recommending Rs 2,930 per quintal as MSP of common paddy. The BJD leader said that the state government had placed before the Centre at least five demands, including the MSP hike to Rs 2,930. But none of these demands has been fulfilled. The BJD leader also came down heavily on the Centre for not lifting surplus parboiled rice from Odisha. "The rice produced in Odisha is mostly of the par-boiled



variety. The state is one of the contributors to the PDS system in the nation. The Centre's decision to stop lifting surplus parboiled rice will adversely affect lakhs of farmers in Odisha," Patra said. He also stated that the Odisha government had demanded the release of Rs 10,334 crore food subsidy bills for ease of paddy procurement but no action has been initiated by the Centre on the matter thus far. The BJD leader said that the state government had placed before the Centre at least five demands, including the MSP hike to Rs 2,930. But none of these demands has been fulfilled. Meanwhile, the Congress lashed out at both the BJP and the BJD for their 'anti-farmer attitude'. "If the BJD government is serious about its intentions and wants farmers to earn more, it should announce a bonus on every quintal of paddy being sold by the cultivators," Congress MLA Taraprasad Bahinipati said. BJP Krushak Morcha state president, Pradip Purohit, however, welcomed the Centre's decision as 'much-needed move'. "The state government must first ensure that the farmers get the MSP of Rs 2,040. Middlemen and agents often eat up a share," Purohit added.

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## EOW urges Google to drop 45 fake loan apps from Play Store

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 9:** The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of state crime branch has asked Google Inc, popular information technology firm of USA, to immediately remove 45 fake loan apps from the Google Play Store, a digital distribution service platform operated by the tech giant. In a letter sent to the Legal Investigations Support Team of Google Inc in California, the EOW informed that these fake apps have been violating the guidelines of Google as well as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The apps include Beloon App, Go Cash, Go Go loan, INS Loan, Asan Loan, Fast cash/ Cash Fast, Flip cash, Rupee Wallet, Rupee King, Fast Rupee, Easy Credit Loan, Cash Cola, Infinity, Sunshine, Agile loan, AGLONR, Credit wallet, OB cash loan, On stream App, Money tree, Discover loan, Cash pocket, Hello



rupee, Small credit, Money house/Crystal loan, Fresh loan, Cash room, Pesin Bee, Life stream loan, Star loan, Yes rupee, Eslite loan, Ariaeko loan, Fast coin/ cash advance, Lucky rupee/quick loan/bike loan/cash market/money loan, Fair credit loan, Ok rupee loan, Hone loan/rupee tiger/get a cash/little borrow/rich cash, Rupee spark, More cash/fish loan, Flash rupee, Dhani loan, Magic money loan, Money vault, Instant loan/Dutta loan, bike loan/mobile loan. "These apps have been illegally providing short term loans at very

high interest rates. These apps are not authorised by RBI to do so. Besides, these loan apps are using illegal methods of harassing, threatening, blackmailing, using extremely filthy languages in order to extort money from victims. They are also harassing their friends/relatives as these loan apps get access to the entire contact list of the victim. Many other state police in India are investigating such cases as well. It is also reported that many people have committed suicide because of such illegal, humiliating and torturous activities by these loan apps," wrote EOW. Google guidelines prohibit the operation of any app which involves in harassment, blackmailing, and threatening people. The apps available on the Play Store have to follow the local laws and respect the privacy of the users. These fake loan apps have been flouting all these guidelines.

### Govt health institutes will get composite facility centres: CS

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 9:** With an aim to provide of basic allied facilities to people and medical staff, the state government has decided to develop composite facility centres in all government medical college and hospitals in Odisha.

Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra Thursday asked the Health and Family Welfare department to prepare a detailed proposal for building such facilities, where permanent Aahar Kendra, attendant rest shed, ATM, OMFED stall and food cafeteria will be made available under one roof for patients as well as health staff.

He directed the officials to design the rest shed in such a manner that attendants can stay there when the patients are in hospital. The rest shed should have proper toilet facilities, said the Chief Secretary.

Mahapatra made it clear that the cafeteria should have a common eating space with three to four counters serving different kinds of food. Proper hygiene and cleanliness in food preparation and serving should be strictly maintained in these counters, he said.

The Health department was also directed to prepare the layout plan in 15 days for consideration of the government.

At present, the state has three old medical college and hospitals at Cuttack, Berhampur and Burla. Besides, five new medical colleges at Baripada, Balasore, Bolangir, Koraput and Puri have been made operational in recent years while two more are coming up in Sundargarh and Keonjhar.

### OPF demands self defense training to state girl students

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 9:** The Odisha Parents' Federation (OPF) Thursday wrote a letter to the state School and Mass Education (S&ME) department and the Higher Education (HE) department demanding self defense training to girl students in Plus II and Plus III colleges in state.

In a letter to HE department secretary Saswat Mishra and S&ME secretary Bishnupada Sethi, OPF chairman Basudev Bhat said that in 2013, the state government had decided to impart self-defense skill to 2.5 lakh college-going girls to boost their self confidence. The objective has not been achieved fully.

He also wrote that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had declared that the girl students of Plus II and Plus III colleges would be given the said training. While 200 trainers were to be selected from college level, another 100 were to come from Odisha Police, and the self defense course would kick off in all over the state but the government has not met the target yet.

Bhatt wrote that the self defense training was essential for girls in view of the rise of crimes against women in state and the training would boost the confidence of female students. "Recently, a report stated that girl students are being forced to come to Bhubaneswar for self defense training, which is not possible for many who live in far away districts. In this situation, we propose to involve physical education teachers of schools, colleges and create female master trainers in self defense courses, aiming to reach out to all schools and colleges in state. We also request the government to include Khelo India concept in the initiative and create thousands of female self defense master trainers," the letter read.

In a high-level meeting chaired by CM Naveen Patnaik in 2013, the decision to provide self-defense training to 2.5 lakh girls from state colleges in the next six months was taken. The spurt in incidents of rapes and violence against women in the country has prompted various state and central authorities to initiate measures to ensure their safety and security.

Also in 2020, the HE department had decided to engage reputed and experienced martial arts institutes or sports organisations to provide self-defense training to college-going girls.

### TEACHERS' DEMO



The Odisha School College Teachers' & Employees Coordination Committee held a demonstration at PMG square in Bhubaneswar, Thursday, pressing for demands including salaries on the basis of the recommendation of the 7th pay commission

## Vig nabs Jajpur ex-nazir after six years of chase



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bhubaneswar, June 9:** Odisha vigilance has arrested Rajat Kumar Routray, ex-nazir of Jajpur tahasil who was absconding since 2016, for his involvement in irregularities & misappropriation of government fund to the tune of ₹4.95 crore, a vigilance official said Thursday.

The financial irregularity was noticed during an audit conducted by a special team of Board of Revenue, Odisha, in 2016. On the basis of audit report, vigilance

had initiated inquiry into the case.

It found out that the nazir was involved in the fraud during the period from April, 2006 to April, 2016 in connivance with other officials of the Jajpur Tahasil, said Akshya Kumar Mishra, vigilance SP (Cuttack division).

"By the time his involvement in the case came to fore, Routray had absconded. He had cut all contacts with his family and close relatives, and remained untraceable all these years, by frequently changing his identity, address and mobile numbers," said Mishra.

However, he said, a month ago a special team was formed by Odisha vigilance to trace and arrest the nazir who was found to be the kingpin of the case. Following sustained efforts, in an early morning raid Thursday, he was found in a rented house at CDA, Cuttack along with his second wife.

When the vigilance team reached the house, Routray and his wife locked themselves inside. The man climbed into a dark narrow pipeline passage going from the kitchen room and hid himself under the terrace. The vigilance officials broke open the door and after a thorough search managed to trace him hiding in the hole, said the official.

Three cases have been registered against Routray, former tahsildars Laxmikanta Mishra, Gourahari Behera and Mamata Barik, and former nazir Sarat Chandra Barik among several others.

Notably, Routray has already been dismissed from service by the Odisha government following registration of this case.

## ECoR observes Int'l Level Crossing Awareness Day



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 9:** The East Coast Railway (ECoR) carried out public awareness campaigns at several places under its jurisdiction to educate road users on safety measures during crossing of the level crossing gates, as part of the observance of the International Level Crossing Awareness Day, Thursday.

The campaign was conducted through distribution of posters, leaflets, various short films, advertisements and street plays (Nukkad Natak).

Senior officials of the Safety Department from ECoR headquarters, Bhubaneswar, and from divisional headquarters at Khurda Road led by its Divisional Railway Manager Rinkesh Ray inaugu-

rated the safety awareness programme on the International Level Crossing Awareness Day Thursday at manned Level crossing gate near Arugul.

Informing the gathering, Ray said, "Life is more precious than your time. Do not risk your life while crossing the level crossings." He also informed that trains move faster than they appear to be moving and can reach the level crossing sooner than we think. He advised people to be careful while passing through level crossings.

A street play was organised by the Civil Defence volunteers at the spot. Leaflets were distributed, and placards and banners were displayed for educating the road users about the precautions to be taken while crossing the gates.

## CM flags off state's 1st cruise boat at Chilika

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 9:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday launched Odisha's first cruise boat 'Garuda' in Chilika Lake and termed it a key step in making the state an Eco Tourism destination.

The initiative of Vikash Eco Resorts is supported by the state government, Directorate of Ports and Inland Water Transport and Chilika Development Authority (CDA).

CM Naveen Patnaik joined the virtual launch of the event along with Tourism Minister Aswini Kumar Patra, Director of Department of Tourism, Collector



and District Magistrate Khurda and other dignitaries.

"Such innovative projects will help attract tourists to Odisha and make state an Eco Tourism destination of India. Such endeavors will also boost employment and development at local levels," CM said. The 105-feet long and 22-feet wide

luxury boat is equipped with dual engine which is exclusively designed for climatic conditions of Chilika. Among its other distinctive features, the boat has four premium rooms along with two suites giving a 180 degree view of the lake.

The boat can accommodate six individual couples with bookings

including a 24-hour package that will comprise of breakfast, lunch, tea and dinner. Priced at ₹18,000 and ₹25,000 per day, the four packages include sightseeing, birds and dolphin watch, musical evening at deck, barbecue, activities and event at Rajhans/Magarmukh among others.

"Chilika is the most popular destination for eco-tourism in Odisha which is being treated as the real paradise for major tourists. So we choose it for our project. This house boat will offer an exciting, comfortable and enjoyable journey in the lake. A similar project will be initiated soon at Hirakud too," said D Murali Krishna, Chairman of the Vikash Group.

## Odisha sole presenter at SNA PFMS launch

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 9:** The state Finance department Thursday demonstrated the implementation of the Single Nodal Agency (SNA) dashboard at New Delhi, making Odisha the sole presenter in the country to implement the Central government initiative.

As a part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations by the Ministry of Finance, Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the SNA Dashboard of Public Financial Management System (PFMS). The dashboard displays various states' public finances in the public domain. An early adopter of the SNA

model, Odisha was invited by the Union Ministry as the sole presenter amongst states at the event. It can be mentioned that the new SNA model for release of funds under Centrally sponsored schemes and their monitoring were brought by the Union government in March, 2021.

The model envisages just-in-time release of funds to the states and to down level agencies thereafter, greater efficiency in CSS fund utilization and tracking of funds; leading to better cash management. The untiring efforts of state in implementation of SNA model and other fields of reform in financial management are being appreciated at the highest level nationally.

## Cherry Blossom species founder honoured with Green Globe Award

**THE CHERRY BLOSSOM OR 'SAKURA' IS THE NATIONAL FLOWER OF JAPAN, WHICH IS ALSO A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION FOR THE JAPANESE PEOPLE. INDIA BECAME THE 28TH COUNTRY IN THE WORLD TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SAKURA MAP**

**D**inabandhu Sahoo, Director at the Centre for Himalayan Studies under Delhi University, who had earlier discovered a new plant species of 'Cherry Blossom' in Manipur, has been conferred with the Green Globe Award 2022 for his contributions in the field of biodiversity, conservation and Himalayan ecosystem.

The Green Globe Award was conferred to Sahoo during a function held at IIT Delhi. Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ashwini Kumar Choubey was the Chief Guest in the event, while Bollywood actor Darshan Kumar gave the award to Sahoo.

**I feel growing a suitable and appropriate tree species should be made compulsory not only in all educational and scientific institutions, but it should be a public movement in the long run to double our per capita tree availability**

**DINABANDHU SAHOO | DIRECTOR, CENTRE FOR HIMALAYAN STUDIES, DELHI UNIVERSITY**



The Confederation of Renewable Energy Services Professionals and Industries in association with IIT Delhi, IIM Lucknow and Hansraj College, University of Delhi, instituted the award.

A former Vice-Chancellor of FM University, Odisha, and a botanist at Delhi University, Sahoo has done substantial work in the remote areas of northeastern states

Due to Sahoo's sustained efforts, Cherry Blossom is now available in six of the eight northeastern states, excluding Assam and Tripura

Sahoo was instrumental in launching India's first Cherry Blossom Festival in Shillong and a new Cherry Blossom plant species - Prunus Dinabandhuana - has been named after him

It should be a public movement in the long run to double our per capita tree availability," Sahoo told IANS. A former Vice-Chancellor of FM

University, Odisha, and a botanist at Delhi University, Sahoo has done substantial work in the remote areas of northeastern states.

Due to Sahoo's sustained efforts, Cherry Blossom is now available in six of the eight northeastern states, excluding Assam and Tripura.

The Cherry Blossom or 'Sakura' is the national flower of Japan, which is also a source of inspiration for the Japanese people. India became the 28th country in the world to be included in the Sakura map.

Sahoo was instrumental in launching India's first Cherry Blossom Festival in Shillong. Also, a new Cherry Blossom plant species - Prunus Dinabandhuana - has been named after the botanist.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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

# REMEMBERING NANDINI DEVI



Guests paid tributes to Odisha's only woman Chief Minister Nandini Satpathy at her 91st birth anniversary at a programme held in Jagatsinghpur Thursday



A programme was held at Bhandarpokhari in Bhadrak



A speaker makes a point at a function organised by Ananya on Biramitra Club premises at Sundargarh town



Guests remembered Nandini Devi at a seminar titled 'Price Rise: Why the Government is helpless' organised at Sambadik Bhawan in Bolangir, Thursday



MP Mahesh Sahoo (Left row near the photo) and guests remembered the steps taken for industrialisation in Dhenkanal district and the implementation of Land Reforms Act by the first woman Chief Minister and litterateur Nandini Satpathy at a function organised at the MP's office in Dhenkanal



People paid tributes to Nandini Satpathy at a programme held at Rajnagar in Kendrapara district



Guests at the 91st birth anniversary function of former Chief Minister Nandini Satpathy organised by Nandini Devi Smruti Committee at Press Club in Balichandrapur of Jajpur district, Thursday

## Now, bees to curb elephant menace

In the first phase, the Khadi Board has provided 100 bee boxes which were hung at different places



Boinda, June 9: At a time when several villages near the forested areas of Handapa and Athamallik ranges in Angul district have been grappling with elephant menace, the Forest department and the Khadi Board have jointly launched honeybee projects at Laxmipur under Handapa range and at Rathipur under Athamallik range on a pilot basis.

It is scientifically recorded that elephants get annoyed by honeybees. Elephants also fear the swarms of bees which can bite their sensitive parts like trunks and eyes. The collective buzz of the bees is very annoying for elephants and it will force the pachyderms to return to their habitats.

The programme was launched recently in the presence of Khadi Board director Samir Kumar Mohanty, Athamallik DFO S Anand, forester Subrat Satpathy and other senior forest officials.

In the first phase, the Khadi Board has provided 100 bee boxes which were hung at different places in forests. Forest officials said that 10 villagers will be trained for bee keeping in the first phase.

It was stated that this project was launched on an experimental basis after its successful implementation in Karnataka, Uttarakhand and Assam.

Local people exuded hope that the project would be of great help for containing jumbo menace and creating livelihood.

The project is aimed at reducing elephant-human

conflict using bees. Fences have been erected by setting up bee boxes on the passages of elephants to block their entrance to human settlements.

The bee boxes have been connected with a string so that when elephants attempt to pass through, a tug or pull causes the bees to swarm around elephant herds and dissuade them from progressing further; it was stated.

Moreover, this project is expected to be a sustainable solution to the human-elephant conflicts that are very common in Handapa and Athamallik ranges, forest officials said, adding that it is a cost-effective way to ward off the animals trying to enter villages without causing any harm to them.



## ROBBERS SNATCH ₹12L FROM TEACHER

**Bhadrak, June 9:** A teacher was Thursday left in tears in the middle of Partibindha Square under Town police limits of Bhadrak district after miscreants robbed him of Rs 12 lakh which he had saved to buy a landed property.

Two bike-borne miscreants, believed to be following him, came from nowhere and fled after snatching his money bag. The victim teacher has been identified as Ashok Kumar Khilar of Podapatna village.

According to sources, Ashok had saved some money to buy a plot to build a house. When he was returning home after withdrawing the money from a bank, the miscreants snatched the cash bag from him and sped away.

"It was my whole life's saving. I wanted to buy a plot with the little savings," said an inconsolable Ashok as tears rolled down from his eyes.

On getting information, Bhadrak Town Police reached the spot and initiated a probe into the matter.

A case has been registered in this connection and a manhunt was launched to nab the miscreants.

## Man arrested for killing wife

**KORAPUT:** A man who murdered his wife under Sadar police limits in Koraput district for opposing his second marriage was arrested Thursday. The accused was identified as Damodar Dami of Chhotaguda village and the victim as Janaki Dami, said Koraput SPO Manoj Kumar Pujari during a presser here. Damodar admitted to the crime during interrogation, Sadar IIC Kiranbala Samal said. His decision to marry another girl resulted in a heated brawl between the couple. Enraged, he slit Janaki's throat with a kitchen knife.

## 10 teachers show caused

**CHHATRAPUR:** As many as 10 teachers including three headmasters have been served show-cause notices for playing truant in Bhanjanagar and Sheragada blocks of Ganjam. The teachers have been asked to send satisfactory replies within seven days. In case of failure, departmental proceedings will be initiated against them. The S&ME department has launched a school monitoring application to keep tabs on teachers' dereliction of duties.

## Sarpanch held for murder bid

**BERHAMPUR:** Police Wednesday night arrested the sarpanch of Masihakhali panchayat under Digapahandi block in Ganjam district on charge of his involvement in the murder bid on former sarpanch Manoj Kumar Sethi. Miscreants in hiding brutally assaulted Manoj and tried to kill him, late Monday night when he was returning home after attending a fair at his village. During probe, police found the involvement of the incumbent sarpanch K Bulu, 42, in the murder bid and arrested him Wednesday night, said ASP Ramesh Chandra Sethi, Thursday.

**SAHID NAGAR BRANCH**  
A/123, Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007, Odisha, Ph.: 0674-2545386

**RELATED INFORMATION ABOUT LOST DEED**

This is to inform the public in general that Mr. Bharat Barad, S/o: Sri Khali Barad has availed Loan from our Branch by mortgaging of the Registered Deed No.: 961, Dt: 07.03.1994 bearing Dist.: Khordha, P.S.: Bhubaneswar, District Sub Registrar: Khordha, Mouza: Bhubaneswar Sahar Unit No.: 36 Rajarani, P.S No.: 65/B, Khata No.: 80, Plot No.: 1107, Area: Ac.0.055 Dec. out of Ac.2.600 Dec., Sthitban, Bounded by East: Plot No.: 1133, West: Road left by Vendor, North: Sub Plot No.: 6, South: Sub Plot No.: 8, but unfortunately the above Deed has been lost from our bank loan file and in spite of our best efforts, we couldn't be able to trace out the same. If anybody find the above deed or found the same requested to return to our branch. If anybody misutilises the same, then Bank shall not be responsible for the same and legally they will be punished.

**Date: 09.06.2022** Sd/- Chief Manager

**STATE BANK OF INDIA** POSSESSION NOTICE UNDER RULE 8 (1)  
RACC, JAJPUR ROAD, DIST.: JAJPUR

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the State Bank of India, Byree Branch under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice under section 13(2) of the said Act calling upon the Borrower/Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice plus interest and expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. Whereas the Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The Borrower / Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the State Bank of India, Bayree Branch for an amount stated below with further interest and other charges, costs thereon.

BYREE BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrower / Guarantors	Description of the Security Interest taken over possession	Liabilities due on the specified date as per Notice	Date of Demand/Possession Notice
Borrower: Mr. Rabindra Kumar Swain, S/o.: Mr. Sukadeb Swain, At: Chheda Haripur Kaitha, Chhatia, Dist.: Cuttack/Guarantors: 1) Mr. Paramananda Swain, S/o.: Mr. Pranakrushna Swain, 2) Mr. Sukadeb Swain, S/o.: Mr. Pranakrushna Swain, Both are At: Chheda Haripur Kaitha, Chhatia, Dist.: Cuttack	All that part & parcel of the property consisting in Mouza: Kaitha, Tahasil: Mahanga, Dist.: Cuttack, Khata No.: 754, Plot No.: 205, Area: Ac.0.59 Dec., KISSAM: Gharabari, standing in the name of Sukadeb Swain, Paramananda Swain & Sara Swain, Both are S/o.: Pranakrushna Swain, Bounded by North: Prasant Swain, South: Surendra Swain, East: Akshay Swain, West: Canal & Road	₹7,51,040/- as on 02.06.2022 + further Interest, other charges & costs thereon	20.08.2021 / 03.06.2022

**Place : Byree, Date : 09.06.2022** Sd/- Authorised Officer, State Bank of India

**Indian Overseas Bank** POSSESSION NOTICE (Appendix-IV) [Rule-8(1)] (For Immovable Property)  
Raghunathpur Branch, NH-5, By-Pass Road, PO.: Berhampur University, Dist: Ganjam, Odisha, Pin- 760007

(Under Section13(4) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 for Immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Overseas Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice calling upon the Borrower / Mortgager / Guarantor in the loan account mentioned below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice with further interest at contractual rates and rests, charges etc till date of realization within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrower / Mortgager / Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower / Mortgager / Guarantor and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken the possession of the property described here-in-below in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The Borrower / Mortgager / Guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the said property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Overseas Bank for an amount with further interest at contractual rates and rests, charges etc till date of payment as mentioned below and interest thereon at contractual rates & rests as agreed charges its till date of payment. The borrower has paid Rs.38,451/- after issuance of demand notice.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section(8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name & Address of Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgager	Liabilities due on the specified date as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession	Description of the Immovable Property
Borrower/Mortgager: Sri S Balaji Patro, S/o: S Kura Patro, H No 29, Hudco Colony, Monarch Chhak, At: Mandiapalli, PO: Rangelunda, Near University Gate, Dist: Ganjam, Pin- 760007.	Rs.4,88,056/- as on 12.11.2021 + further Interest, at contractual rates & rests, charges etc. till date of payment	12.11.2021 / 09.06.2022	All that part and parcel of residential land and building situated in Khata No.195/143, Plot No.577/1661, measuring an area of Ac.0.024 dec., at Mouza: Mandiapalli, PS.: Gopalpur, PO.: Rangelunda, Tahasil: Kanisi, Dist: Ganjam, Pin- 760007, Odisha recorded in the name of Setaru Balaji Patro. The property is bounded by: East- Land of Trinath Nayak and Kanhei Nayak, West- Land of Trinath Nayak and Kanhei Nayak, South- Road

**Place : Raghunathpur, Date : 09.06.2022** Sd/- Authorised Officer, Indian Overseas Bank

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** No. O-424  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
RURAL WORKS DIVISION, GAJAPATI, PARLAKHEMUNDI  
e-mail: rwd\_gajapati@yahoo.co.in

**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement**  
Identification No. Online Tender 03/GJP/2022-23

1. Name of the work	: Road Works
2. Total No. Work	: 16 (Sixteen) Nos. of Road Works
3. Estimated Cost	: Rs.38.05 lakhs to 5.30 lakhs
4. Class of Contractor	: 'C' and 'B' Class Contractor & 'D' and 'C' Class Contractor (as applicable)
5. Period of Completion	: Furnished in Annexure
6. Availability of Tender Online for Bidding	: 16.06.2022 at 10.00 A.M. to 23.06.2022 upto 5.30 P.M.
7. Date and time of Opening of Tender	: 24.06.2022 at 11.30 A.M.
8. Place of Opening	: As per Annexure

Further details can be seen from the website [www.tenderorissa.gov.in](http://www.tenderorissa.gov.in).  
Sd./- Superintending Engineer  
R.W. Divn., Gajapati  
OIPR-25158/11/0007/2223

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, ANANDAPUR  
e-Mail ID [mianandapur@yahoo.co.in](mailto:mianandapur@yahoo.co.in)  
e-Procurement Notice  
Identification No-02 MID (ANP/2022-23)

No.A-310: The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Anandapur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids through e-procurement to be received in online mode only for the works as detailed in the table below.

1. Name of the works	: Civil Construction works as mentioned in the website
2. Total No. of works	: 04 nos.
3. Estimated Cost	: Varies from 27.81 Lakhs to 42.82 Lakhs (Detail list of work Annexed)
4. Class of Contractor	: As mentioned against work
5. Period of completion	: As mentioned against work
6. Date & time of Availability of on-line Bid Document in the Portal	: 13.06.2022 at 11.00 AM to 24.06.2022 upto 5.30 PM
7. Last date/Time for online receipt of Cost of Bid document, Bid security Declaration, Affidavit etc. in the Portal	: 24.06.2022 up to 5.30 PM.
8. Date/Time of Opening of Bid	: 27.06.2022 at 11.00 AM. Onwards at Office of the E.E.M.I.Divn. Anandapur
9. Date/Time of lottery if required	: 30.06.2022 at 11.00 AM at Office of the E.E.M.I.Divn. Anandapur
10. Name & Address of the Officer Inviting the Bid	: Executive Engineer, M.I.Division, Anandapur
11. Further details can be seen from the "e" Procurement Portal <a href="https://tendersorissa.gov.in">https://tendersorissa.gov.in</a> .	

Sd./- Executive Engineer, M.I.Division, Anandapur  
OIPR-32108/11/0002/2223

**GOVT. OF ODISHA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,**  
MAHANADI NORTH DIVISION-I, JAGATPUR, CUTTACK  
E-mail ID :- [exengr.mnd@gmail.com](mailto:exengr.mnd@gmail.com)  
**'e' Procurement Notice No- MND-03/2022-23**

No.A-312: The bid documents consisting of work, estimated cost, cost of tender paper, EMD, time of completion, class of contractor, the set of term & conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in e-procurement portal [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in). The tender submission process will be completely online.

**BIDDERS REGISTERED THEMSELVES UNDER CDMS PORTAL ONLY. CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE BIDDING PROCESS AFTER 31.12.2020 AS PER WORKS DEPTT. LETTER NO- 9100 DATED 17.07.2020.**

1. Nature of Work	: Works in Canals & River Embankments
2. Total No. of Works	: 34 (Thirty Four) works
3. Bid Identification No	: MND-03/2022-23
4. Tender Cost	: Between Rs.1.86 Lakhs to Rs.15.00 Lakhs
5. EMD	: Bid Security declaration to be furnished in the format given in Annexure-B of Section-6 of Technical Bid document
6. Period of completion	: One to Two Months
7. Other Details	: As noted below
a) Procurement Officer	: Superintending Engineer, Mahanadi North Division-I, Jagatpur email: <a href="mailto:exengr.mnd@gmail.com">exengr.mnd@gmail.com</a> Ph:- 0671-2491546
b) Availability of Tender On-line for bidding	: 10.00 Hours of 10.06.2022 to 17.00 Hours of 16.06.2022
c) Last date & time of submission of bid document	: 17.00 Hours of 16.06.2022
d) Date, time & place of Opening of Bid	: 17.06.2022 at 11.30 Hours in the O/o.the Superintending Engineer, Mahanadi North Division-I, Jagatpur
e) Date of Lottery (if required)	: 22.06.2022 at 11.30 Hours.

Further details can be seen from the Govt. website "<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>".  
Sd./- Superintending Engineer,  
Mahanadi North Division-I, Jagatpur  
OIPR-32003/11/0004/2223

Each new dawn brings the possibility of a new progress.  
**THE MOTHER**



## New Nationalism

The euphoria after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 was not just about what Francis Fukuyama called an “unabashed victory of economic and political liberalism.” It was also about the decline of nationalism. With the world economy rapidly becoming more integrated, it was assumed that people would leave their national identities behind. The project of European integration – embraced enthusiastically by well-educated, upwardly mobile young people – was not just supranational, but post-national. But nationalism is back, and it is playing a central role in global politics. The trend is not confined to the United States or France, where former President Donald Trump and the far-right National Rally leader Marine Le Pen, respectively, lead new nationalist coalitions. Nationalism is also driving populist movements in Hungary, India, Turkey, and many other countries. China has embraced a new nationalist authoritarianism, and Russia has launched a nationalist war aimed at eradicating the Ukrainian nation.

There are at least three factors fueling the new nationalism. First, many of the affected countries have historical grievances. India was systematically exploited by the British under colonialism, and the Chinese Empire was weakened, humiliated, and subjugated during the nineteenth-century Opium Wars. Modern Turkish nationalism is animated by memories of Western occupation of large parts of the country after World War I.

Second, globalisation increased pre-existing tensions. Not only did it deepen inequalities in many countries (often in unfair ways), by enriching those with political connections; it also eroded longstanding traditions and social norms.

And, third, political leaders have become increasingly skilled and unscrupulous in exploiting nationalism to serve their own agendas. For example, under Chinese President Xi Jinping’s authoritarian rule, nationalist sentiment is being cultivated through new high-school curricula and propaganda campaigns.

Similarly, under Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s regime, the world’s largest democracy has succumbed to majoritarian liberalism. In Turkey, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan initially eschewed nationalism, even spearheading a peace process with the Kurds in the early 2010s. But he has since embraced nationalism wholeheartedly and cracked down on independent media, opposition leaders, and dissidents.

Today’s nationalism is also a self-reinforcing reaction to the post-Cold War project of globalisation. In 2000, then-presidential candidate George W. Bush described free trade as “an important ally in what Ronald Reagan called ‘a forward strategy for freedom’ ... Trade freely with China, and time is on our side.” The hope was that global trade and communication would lead to cultural and institutional convergence. And as trade became more important, Western diplomacy would become more potent, because developing countries would fear losing access to American and European markets and finance.

It has not worked out that way. Globalisation was organised in ways that created big windfalls for developing countries that could reorient their economies toward industrial exports while also keeping wages down (the secret sauce of China’s rise), and for emerging economies rich in oil and gas. But these same trends have empowered charismatic nationalist leaders.

As well-placed developing countries have accumulated more resources, they have acquired a greater ability to carry out propaganda and build coalitions. But even more important has been the ideological dimension. Because Western diplomacy has increasingly come to be seen as a form of meddling (a perception with some justification), efforts to defend human rights, media freedom, or democracy in many countries have proved either ineffective or counterproductive.

In Turkey’s case, the prospect of accession to the European Union was supposed to improve the country’s human rights record and reinforce its democratic institutions. And for a while, it did. But as the demands from EU representatives multiplied, they became fodder for Turkish nationalism. The accession process stalled, and Turkish democracy has been weakening ever since.

The nationalism fueling Russia’s invasion of Ukraine reflects the same three factors listed above. Many Russian political and security elites believe that their country has been humiliated by the West ever since the fall of the Berlin Wall. Russia’s integration into the world economy has brought few benefits to its population while furnishing unimaginable riches to a cadre of politically connected, unscrupulous, often criminal oligarchs. And though Russian President Vladimir Putin presides over a vast system of clientelism, he skillfully cultivates and exploits nationalist sentiment.

Russian nationalism is bad news for Ukraine, because it has allowed Putin to make his regime more secure than it otherwise would have been. Sanctions or no sanctions, he is unlikely to be toppled, because he is protected by cronies who share his interests and nationalist sentiments. If anything, isolation may further strengthen Putin’s hand. If the war does not weaken his regime, it could continue indefinitely, regardless of how much it damages the Russian economy.

This era of resurgent nationalism offers some lessons. We may need to rethink how we organise the processes of economic globalisation. There is no doubt that open trade can be beneficial for developing and developed economies alike. But while trade has reduced prices for Western consumers, it has also multiplied inequalities and enriched oligarchs in Russia and Communist Party hacks in China. Capital, rather than labour, has been the main beneficiary.

We therefore need to consider alternative approaches. Above all, trade arrangements must no longer be dictated by multinational corporations that profit from arbitraging artificially low wages and unacceptable labour standards in emerging markets. Nor can we afford to base trade relations on the cost advantages created by cheap, subsidised fossil fuels.

Moreover, the West may need to accept that it cannot reliably influence its trading partners’ political trajectories. It also needs to create new safeguards to ensure that corrupt, authoritarian regimes do not influence its own politics. And, most importantly, Western leaders should recognise that they will gain more credibility in international affairs if they acknowledge their own countries’ past misbehaviour during both the colonial era and the Cold War.

Recognising the West’s limited influence on others’ politics does not mean condoning human-rights abuses. But it does mean that Western governments should adopt a new approach, curtailing official engagement while relying more on civil-society action through organisations such as Amnesty International or Transparency International. There is no silver bullet to vanquish nationalist authoritarianism, but there are better options to counter it.

The writer is Professor of Economics at MIT.

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### WISDOM CORNER

- One must still have chaos in oneself to be able to give birth to a dancing star. **FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE**
- In three words I can sum up everything I have learned about life: it goes on. **ROBERT FROST**
- The best portion of a good man’s life is his little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love. **WILLIAM WORDSWORTH**

# ENGAGING THE MUSLIM WORLD

FOCUS DIPLOMACY



DK Giri

**THE QUESTION TO INVESTIGATE IS WHY INDIA AND CHINA ELICIT HIGHLY DISPROPORTIONATE REACTIONS FROM THE ISLAMIC WORLD**



Daron Acemoglu

**As well-placed developing countries have accumulated more resources, they have acquired a greater ability to carry out propaganda and build coalitions**

Some remarks, clearly avoidable, made in a TV channel in reference to Prophet Mohammad triggered a storm. It also incurred the wrath of several Islamic countries. The reactions are coming in terms of summoning Indian ambassadors, avoiding official meetings, and boycotting Indian goods. The Government of India has clarified its position. The BJP has disowned the spokesperson making those comments. The law enforcement agencies have swung into action to contain the fallout and punish the guilty by registering FIRs from both sides -- against the person who made the remark, and against those issuing death threats to the offender.

Under normal circumstances, the leadership in India and in the countries in reference should have let the controversial episode rest as the legal procedures are taken to a logical conclusion. But that is not to be. Politics in any country including India is charged with emotions, polarisation, vindictiveness, and baying for blood. It is a sad commentary on the state of affairs, managed, rather mismanaged by the leadership that be. However, since the issue has resumed international dimension, I would like to focus in this piece on the differential approach of Islamic countries, at least a prominent few, to India and China. Both countries in the Asia-Pacific are viewed as rivals which is not untrue. Yet, the question to investigate is, why India and China elicit highly disproportionate reactions from the Islamic world.

To illustrate the above, India, of late, is being portrayed as being polarised on the lines of religions and ethnicity. This is more so after the BJP came to power since 2014. This perception however is debatable and is being vigorously contested in the political domain in the country. The BJP-led government is claiming to take everybody along the path of progress and prosperity (Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas), whereas the Opposition



**Is it not that these countries regard their economic relations with China more important than defending the human rights of the Uyghur Muslims?**

parties strenuously contest this accusing BJP of being partisan, and sectarian. Such political controversies and ideological contests are not uncommon in democracies. Factually though, there is no widespread violence in the country despite some contested structural changes.

But look at Communist China, the persecution of religious minorities is deep and distressing; be it Tibetan Buddhists, Christians or Uyghur Muslims, all of whom have been systematically repressed and subjugated by the Communist Party of China. In particular, rampant abuse of and inhuman treatment to Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang province has shocked the human conscience. What is more, Beijing’s so-called ‘re-education’ is diabolically repulsive; aimed at eradicating Islamic beliefs of the Uyghur community and at changing the demographic composition in the region.

Intriguingly, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Pakistan and Turkey, who claim to be champions of Islam have not protested, not spoken a word. Is it not that these countries regard their economic relations with China more important than defending the human rights of the Uyghur Muslims?

After the twin-tower attack in

New York, there were worldwide efforts to curb terrorism. As a result of such collaborations and consensus, some Uyghur separatist movements like ETIM, TIP, ETLIO and so on, were labelled as terrorist groups by the UN and the US State Department. The CCP grabbed this opportunity to suppress the growing Islamic radicalisation in Xinjiang province. Furthermore, CCP treated every form of dissent against the PRC as an act of extremism.

Surprisingly, the human rights violations and despicable acts of torture of Uyghur religious activists, did not draw any sharp reaction from the Muslim world. While they talk about Palestine and Kashmir, and the persecution of Muslims in India, they did not talk about the sufferings of Uyghurs in China. When Pakistan’s Prime Minister Imran Khan was questioned about the Uyghur persecution, he said, “Frankly I do not know much about it.” Turkish President, Recep Tayyip Erdogan shockingly claimed that Uyghurs live happily in Xinjiang. Malaysia’s former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad suggested that, “China should not be antagonised as it is beneficial to us.”

The comment by Mahathir is the crux of comparison in this piece. India becomes an easy target because of its weaker economy than

China, and secondly, New Delhi, not projecting or marketing its democratic credentials. Let us be crystal clear that India can compete with China only by catching up with China with a rapidly growing economy, and consolidating and canvassing its democratic politics based on human rights, social justice, pluralism, equality, freedom and accountability.

Looking at these two determinants of India’s foreign policy, especially vis-à-vis China, and of course, the rest of the world, the growth rate of GDP has been consistently declining since 2016 despite the assertions to the contrary Prime Minister Modi’s announcement in 2019 of India hitting a \$5 trillion economy by 2024 could not be achieved without major reforms. From 2019 to 2024, the economy needed to grow at 14.8 per cent to reach the promised target. It has not been anywhere near it.

What the Indian economy needs today is a fresh policy based on clear targets and priorities. Without economic growth and distribution leading to alleviation of poverty, India would not achieve its aspiration of becoming a major power; let alone countering China, and attracting equal world attention as that of Beijing.

The second imperative is consolidation of democracy which is the USP of India’s foreign policy. In every country, democracy is based mainly on four pillars – free and fair elections, a Constitution, abided by all citizens, integrity and independence of institutions, and finally the accountability of those in power. Mere elections are not adequate for democracy.

To conclude, the cascading complaints by the Islamic countries against comments made by a lightweight spokesperson of BJP point to the fact that they do not treat India with awe as they do to China. This is the lesson New Delhi must draw from this avoidable unsavoury episode of a TV talk-show last week.

The writer is professor of International Relations, JIMMC. ©INFA

SPECTRUM NATION

## Economic growth: Missing the majority

The GDP expanded by 4.1% in the final quarter of 2021-22, according to data released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) and the overall growth recorded for the financial year 2021-22 is estimated at 8.7%. It seems the government is happy with the growth numbers, particularly in the light of the contraction of 6.6% that the country witnessed in the financial year 2021.

According to the CSO’s report, the private consumption expenditure grew by 7.9 per cent, reflecting some impact of pent-up demand. The eight core infrastructure industries (coal, steel, cement, fertilizer, electricity, natural gas, refinery products and crude oil) grew by 8.5 per cent in April 2022 which was the six-month high. Experts from different quarters too have endorsed that most of the economic indicators have emerged higher than their pre-COVID days. The fall, if any, was attributed to the Omicron-led third wave and the ubiquitous Ukraine war.

However, when one shifts the focus to the millions at the bottom of the pyramid, we get a different picture. A picture of widening gap between the rich and poor; stalling majority, and unemployed youth. It is not out of place to remember the statement of former RBI governor Dr D Subba Rao. He said, “The positive wealth effect of the upper income segments juxtaposed with the negative income effects of the lower income households tells a story of a very uneven recovery and sharpening inequalities. This is morally wrong and politically corrosive.”

One economic indicator which captures the size of the population and throws light on the overall economic growth is annual per-capita income. Per-capita income is one of the most important measures of the state of the economy. The per-capita income is accepted as an important indicator of economic prosperity of individual.

India’s annual per capita income at constant prices was ₹91,481 in 2021-22 which was even below the pre-COVID level of ₹94,270 in 2019-20. This single number is enough to say that our economy is not doing well as being claimed by the economists and other people in power. As per a report by the IMF, India’s nominal per capita income is at 144th position out of 194 economies in terms of GDP (nominal) per capita.

While interpreting the income per capita one needs to recognise the prevalent income inequality too. In India, we have low per capita income along very high-income inequality. As per the ‘World Inequality Report 2022’, India is among the most unequal countries

in the world. The report highlights that the top 10% of the population holds 57% the total national income while the bottom 50% holds less than 13%.

The income inequality can also be attributed to wealth inequality. The top 10% of the population owns 65% of the total wealth and top 1% owns 33% of total wealth of the country. Income inequality shows present poor-economic status of the majority, and the wealth inequality on the other hand, sends a signal that economic inequality will continue to haunt us in future too.

The recent soaring prices of almost all products further aggravate the problems for the poor. The retail inflation touched an eight-year high of 7.79% in April 2022. It is even higher than the upper limit of RBI’s tolerance band for the fourth consecutive month. Inflation increases poverty; therefore, it is being called the ‘cruel tax’ on the poor. One needs to talk to one’s domestic help or the driver or the street vendor to understand how difficult it has become to meet the day-to-day expenses. Today’s inflation affects tomorrow’s life for poor people. High prices keep the poor away from good quality food and the affect of which will be seen only in the future. Increase in the prices of essential commodities made even tomatoes, onions, and lemons be-

yond the reach of majority of people in the country.

Notwithstanding the widening gap between the rich and poor, the popular press keeps on reminding us about the presence of two Indians, Ambani and Adani, in the list of top ten richest persons of the world. No wonder Indians are large hearted even with empty pockets.

The disturbing fact is that policies in the direction of reducing economic inequality are often conspicuous by their absence. It is very clear that the economic policies of governments, both present and the previous, have benefited the rich (minority) rather than the poor (majority) even though, the policymakers depend on the poor to get the votes to remain in the power. Let us make policies that will enable us to celebrate prosperity-for-all, not prosperity-for-some.

How long we can go on talking about the bottom of the pyramid? It is time for our policymakers to follow the principle of “the greatest good for the greatest number” in the true spirit as was proposed by the English philosopher Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832). Let us make India a \$5 trillion economy by reducing income and wealth inequality.

The writer is a professor at XIMB. Views are personal.



DV Ramana

**ONE NEEDS TO TALK TO ONE’S DOMESTIC HELP OR THE DRIVER OR THE STREET VENDOR TO UNDERSTAND HOW DIFFICULT IT HAS BECOME TO MEET THE DAY-TO-DAY EXPENSES**

COVID calling

Sir, There is a rising trend in COVID-19 cases in some parts of the country. In the last two weeks the fresh infections have doubled after being under control for the last two months. The state governments, especially in Maharashtra, Kerala and Delhi, should take steps to keep this rising trend under control and prevent another wave of infections.

Gopal Mittal, BHUBANESWAR

Fringe or mainstream

Sir, Courtesy the BJP, the two words ‘fringe elements’ have suddenly hit the global headlines. If the two prominent and national spokespersons of the ruling BJP are ‘fringe elements’, what about the party itself, as many fringe elements are mainstream in the BJP? Intriguingly, Nupur Sharma, the suspended spokesperson, has been photographed with top BJP leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, and many of whom follow her on social media. Both Sharma and Naveen Kumar Jindal’s repulsive comments about Prophet Muhammad reflect the deep religious polarisation that the country has been witnessing over the past some years. Hindutva bigots were calling for the economic boycott of Muslims in India, but now that has been turned on its head against the country. Turkey has returned our wheat, Saudi Arabia and the UAE have stopped buying our products, and Indonesia has stopped selling us palm oil. There has to be a breaking point for any extremism and the trash-talk about the Prophet by the BJP spokespersons seems to have been the last straw. The fringe elements have truly put the BJP in a bind.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Curb hate peddling

Sir, The unbridled hate peddlers in the country are not only damaging the social fabric, they are also projecting the nation’s image as one of the intolerant ones to the outside world. The political polarisation which such hate agendas encouraged internally has started boomeranging from external quarters which will definitely damage our economic interests. The BJP establishment at the Centre has a greater responsibility for ensuring harmony among the communities. The good work being done by the government on the domestic economic front as well as in foreign relations policy is being eclipsed by acts of such hate peddlers.

Brij Bhushan Goyal, LUDHIANA

## 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](mailto:edit@orissapost.com)

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

# national

## of the day quote

I will now work for the NCP and live up to the confidence shown in me by Sharad Pawar  
**EKNATH KHADSE** | FORMER MAHA MINISTER

Covid expert committee and Health Minister Vishwajit Rane have advised people to take precautions and follow protocol. People should follow it. We are monitoring the situation  
**PRAMOD SAWANT** | GOA CHIEF MINISTER

The fraud of support price announced by Modi government has been exposed. Once again the Modi government has betrayed the farmers of the country in declaring the support price of Kharif crops for 2022-23. Far from increasing the income of the farmer, the pain of the farmer has increased a hundred times  
**RANDEEP SURJEWALA** | CONGRESS CHIEF SPOKESPERSON

## SHORT TAKES

### Muslim 'fakirs' heckled in UP

**Gonda, (UP):** A video, purportedly from a village in Gonda district, has gone viral on the social media in which some local people are seen abusing and harassing three Muslim 'fakirs' (religious men) who were begging for alms. The police said that one of the accused had been arrested. The cellphone video, shot in the Degur village of Gonda area, shows the three men seeking alms being chased by boys, who shout out abuses linked to religion. Some call out 'beat them'. Then a young man, armed with a large stick, accost the men and demand their identification cards. Hearing that they were not carrying any, he calls them 'jihadis' and 'terrorists'.

### Rape victim set ablaze by in-laws

**Giridih (Jharkhand):** A woman was set ablaze by her in-laws in Jharkhand's Giridih after they came to know that she was raped. The woman has been admitted to a hospital where her condition is said to be critical. Rape accused Sunil Chaudhary has been arrested but the woman's in-laws - Bahadur Pandit and Shanichar Pandit, who set her on fire, are absconding. The incident happened on Wednesday night.

### Ukrainian national found dead in Goa

**Panaji:** The Goa Police are investigating the death of a Ukrainian national, Dmytro Gurov, 49, whose body was found in his rented villa at Benaulum in South Goa. The body was found late Wednesday, police said. Dmytro Gurov came to Goa in December 2021. Since then he had been staying in a rented villa near Benaulum beach. "His friend was also staying with him in the villa. She gathered the locals from the area and then informed us about the incident," Police Inspector Melson Colaco told IANS.

### 5 killed as vehicle falls into gorge

**New Tehri (Uttarakhand):** Five people were killed and three injured when the vehicle in which they were travelling fell into a deep gorge in Uttarakhand's Tehri district Thursday, police said. The accident occurred around 2:45 pm near Pokhar on Ghansali-Dhuttu road in Bhillangana block of the district. The vehicle was on its way to Saud village. Ghansali police station in-charge Sukhpal Singh Mann said. Lakshmi Prasad (66), Pratap Singh (44), Gunanand (65), Bihari Lal (65) and Hema Devi (50), all from Saud village, died on the spot, he said.

## PROPHET MUHAMMAD ROW

# Delhi Police files FIRs against Nupur, Jindal and Owaisi



According to the FIR, 31 people named in it were also using hate-worthy languages intentionally or having complete knowledge that use of such type of language, claim and assertion is not only discriminatory but more than sufficient to create a situation of animosity amongst different groups of persons having faith in different religions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 9:** Delhi Police has registered two FIRs - one against former BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma and the other against 31 people, including AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi and controversial priest Yati Narsinghanand - for allegedly spreading hate and hurting religious sentiments, officials said Thursday.

The two FIRs were registered Wednesday after an analysis of social media, they said. Former Delhi BJP media unit head Naveen Kumar Jindal, who was expelled from the party over alleged remarks against Prophet Mohammad, and journalist Saba Naqvi, are among the people named in the second FIR.

"The cases have been registered against those who were posting and sharing messages against the maintenance of public tranquility and were inciting people on the basis of divisive lines," a senior police officer said. The cases have been registered under sections 153 (wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot), 295 (injuring or defiling place of worship with intent to insult the religion of any class), and 505 (statements conducing to public mischief) of the Indian Penal Code, he said. Reacting to the FIR, All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief Owaisi said that he will not be intimidated by these tactics, asserting that criticising hate speech and giving hate speeches cannot be equated. Owaisi attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, alleging that if he were sincere, he would have stamped out



Road blockades are going on since morning in some places and people are suffering. I will request you (protestors) on behalf of the common people to call off the blockades as nothing has happened in West Bengal. Go to New Delhi and protest, where there is a BJP government. Go to Gujarat and UP  
**MAMATA BANERJEE** | WEST BENGAL CM

## DRIVE SLOWLY

The Kaziranga National Park authorities have fixed a maximum speed limit of 40 km per hour for vehicles in the sanctuary with an objective to avoid wildlife deaths due to accidents and allow free movement of animals, an official said



## PRESIDENTIAL POLL

### Oppn likely to put up joint candidate

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 9:** The opposition is likely to put up a joint candidate for the July 18 presidential election despite not having numbers on its side and consultations in this regard have already begun.

Sources said that Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge has reached out to leaders of some opposition parties and sought their views for a joint opposition candidate who can be fielded. Some opposition parties are of the view that they should not give a walkover to the ruling dispensation but put up a fight, the sources said.

CPI Rajya Sabha member Binoy Viswam said the Congress had reached out to him to discuss a "common candidate". "Mallikarjun Khargeji called and consulted about a common candidate for the presidential election. I told him that the CPI would support a common candidate with secular credentials and progressive outlook. He replied that Madam Soniaggi and the Congress Party also have the same position," Viswam said in a tweet.

"Consultations for the presidential election have begun among various opposition parties," a senior opposition leader told PTI, adding that once a consensus is arrived at, a joint candidate may be put up.

### Remarks do not reflect views of govt, says MEA

**New Delhi:** Facing widespread anger in the Arab countries over the controversial comments on Prophet Mohammad, India Thursday said it has made it clear that the remarks do not reflect the views of the government. "We have made it pretty clear that tweets and comments do not reflect views of government," External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said at a media briefing. "This has been conveyed to our interlocutors as also the fact that action has been taken by the concerned quarters against those who made the comments and tweets. I really do not have anything additional to say on this," he said.

hate speech without indulging in "fake balance-vaad".

The AIMIM chief alleged that Delhi Police is suffering from "both sideism" or "balance-waad" syndrome. "One side has openly insulted our Prophet while the other side has been named to assuage BJP supporters and make it look like there was hate speech on both sides," he said. According to police, one case has been registered against Sharma and another against multiple social media entities, including Owaisi, Jindal, Narsinghanand, Shadab Chauhan, Saba Naqvi, Maulana Mufti Nadeem, Abdur Rehman and Gulzar Ansari, based on the analysis. Notices will be sent to the social media intermediaries for the details, the police officer.

According to the FIR, 31 people named in it were also using hate-worthy languages intentionally or having complete knowledge that use of such type of language, claim and assertion is not only discriminatory but more than sufficient to create a situation of animosity amongst different groups of persons having faith in different religions.

This will certainly be a serious threat to public tranquility and maintenance of public order in our country wherein people have been living peacefully, it stated.

Transmission and publication of such language has been done through electronic media which are filthy in nature and appeals to prurient interest and sufficient to deprave and corrupt any person who see it or hears the objectionable words, the FIR said.

## Monsoon on track: IMD

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, June 9:** The monsoon is progressing normally and is likely to reach Maharashtra in the next two days, the India Meteorological Department said Thursday.

The MeT office has also warned of isolated extremely heavy rainfall (more than 204.5 mm) in Arunachal Pradesh June 10-11, and Assam and Meghalaya during the next five days. The monsoon accounts for around 70 per cent of the country's annual rainfall and is considered the lifeline of its agriculture-based economy.

Senior IMD scientist R K Jenamani said monsoon touched the Kerala coast May 29 and covered south and central Arabian Sea, Kerala, parts of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu and the entire northeast between May 31 and June 7.

"There is no delay in the progress of the monsoon. It is likely to reach Maharashtra in the next two days and cover Mumbai in the subsequent two days," he told reporters here, dismissing reports that its progress had slowed down.

"We have strong monsoon features - there are strong winds and clouds have started developing - for the next two days," he added.

The scientist said conditions are favourable for the further advance of monsoon over Goa and some more parts of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and



### No major relief from intense heat till June 15

**New Delhi:** The maximum temperature in Delhi-NCR and other parts of northwest India will come down by a few notches over the weekend but no major relief is likely till June 15, the India Meteorological Department said Thursday. It said moisture-laden easterly winds will bring significant relief in the region from June 16 onwards. Northwest and central India is reeling under a heatwave spell since June 2 due to an onslaught of hot and dry westerly winds.

Tamil Nadu in the next two days.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) had last month said the southwest monsoon will be normal and quantitatively be 103 per cent of the 50-year average of 87 cm rainfall received in the entire season.

It will be the seventh consecutive year when the country would receive normal rainfall during the June-to-September period.

## India carefully monitors developments along its border areas: MEA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 9:** India on Thursday said it carefully monitors developments along its border areas including the construction of infrastructure by the Chinese side in the eastern Ladakh sector.

The comments by External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi came in response to remarks by an American military commander that some of the defence infrastructures that China is creating near its border with India in Ladakh is "alarming".

"The government is committed to and takes all adequate and appropriate measures to safeguard territorial integrity and sovereignty as the developments in recent years have clearly demonstrated," Bagchi said at a media briefing.

He said the government of India has taken various measures in recent years to develop infrastructure



The comments came in response to remarks by an American military commander that some of the defence infrastructures that China is creating near its border with India in Ladakh is "alarming"

along the border areas to not only meet India's strategic and security requirements but also facilitate the economic developments of the areas.

US Army's Pacific Commanding General Charles A Flynn on Wednesday talked about the infrastructure development by China along its borders with India in the Ladakh sector, and called the Chinese activities in that region as "eye-opening". "As far as the current situation (in eastern Ladakh) is concerned, we have maintained continuous communication with the Chinese side both through diplomatic and military channels," Bagchi said. He said India will maintain its dialogue with the Chinese side to resolve the remaining issues in eastern Ladakh.

## WATER WOES



People fill water from an NDMC water tanker in New Delhi. Water supply in parts of the national capital was affected due to the depletion of the water level at the Wazirabad pond  
PTI PHOTO

## CBI counters Pb police on RCN against Goldy Brar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 9:** Setting the record straight, India's Interpol liaison agency CBI issued a statement on Thursday saying the Punjab Police had sought a Red Corner Notice against Goldy Brar, who claimed responsibility for the killing of singer Sidhu Moosewala, only May 30, a day after the killing.

Satinderjeet Singh, alias Goldy Brar, is currently living in Canada. The statement from the CBI flew in the face of the Punjab Police which claimed Wednesday that it had sought a Red Corner Notice against gangster Brar nearly 10 days before Moosewala's killing

## MOOSEWALA'S KILLING



May 29. The CBI said a communication was received from the Bureau of Investigation, Punjab Police through an email on May 30 at 12.25 PM with a letter dated May 19

attached in it seeking issuance of Red Notice against Brar in two FIRs registered by Punjab Police - FIR No. 409 dated November 12, 2020 and FIR No. 44 dated February

18, 2021 - at City Police Station, Faridkot. Twenty-seven-year-old singing sensation Moosewala, who had fought the recent assembly elections in Punjab on a Congress ticket, was shot dead on May 29 by unidentified assailants in Punjab's Mansa district, a day after the state government curtailed his security cover. Over 30 empty cases of bullets were found near his SUV in which he was killed.

"In the present matter, the proposal for issuance of Red Notice (RCN) against Satinderjeet Singh alias Goldy...A hard copy of the same proposal was received from Punjab police in IPCU, CBI, New Delhi on May 30, 2022," it said.

## NEET-PG-21 COUNSELLING

# Education and people's health can't be compromised: SC

The top court orally observed that there should be a limit for every exercise and admissions made after 1.5 years might compromise medical education and health of the people, while reserving order on pleas seeking a special stray round of counselling for NEET-PG 2021, to fill vacant seats

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 9:** The Supreme Court Thursday said there has to

be a limit to the stray round of counselling for All India Quota in NEET-PG-21 and the students cannot be given admission by compromising the education and the health of people.

The observation was made by a vacation bench of Justices M R Shah and Aniruddha Bose which reserved its order for Friday on a batch of petitions seeking a special stray round of counselling to fill the 1,456 seats in NEET-PG-21 that have remained vacant after the conduct of a stray round of counselling for All India Quota.

"Special stray rounds, special stray rounds- there must be a limit. For many years, the seats have remained vacant and it is not for the very first time."

"There must be a limit to the entire exercise. Merely because some



seats have been left vacant after 8-9 rounds of counselling can you say you will be given admission after one-and-half years in a three-year course compromising with the education and the health of people? Try to appreciate this is a three-year course," the bench observed while concluding the hearing.

When the hearing commenced, the apex court asked Additional Solicitor General Balbir Singh, appearing for the Centre, not to treat the petitions as adversarial litigation.

"Don't treat and consider it as an adversarial litigation and don't stand on the technicalities. It is a question of 1,400 medical seats.

They are post-graduate (PG) seats. Government wants doctors also. Government wants doctors with PG also. Government wants super speciality doctors also. We have a dearth of doctors. They can serve the nation. And these 1,400 seats cannot be said to be a small number of seats," the bench said.

This observation of the top court came while perusing the affidavit filed by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) informing that it has concluded four rounds of online counselling for NEET-PG-21 and it cannot fill 1,456 seats by conducting a special stray round of counselling as the software stands closed.

The bench said the centre cannot take a technical ground and say that since the website is closed nothing can be done.

"We are not only concerned with the students. We are concerned with the nation as a whole. When the nation, our country is getting 1,400 super-specialist doctors, then it will be in the larger public interest also. Suppose these posts are unfilled, how will the medical council or the government will be benefitted? You tell us," the bench said.

"Instead of fighting, you try to find a solution and a way how it can be cured and this problem can be solved," the bench observed.

The ASG submitted that this is an annual phenomenon, and seats in this segment are mostly non-clinical and nobody applies.

In 2021, out of the said 1,456 vacant seats, 800/900 seats were opted for but the students did not take admission.

# B'lore: Probe intensifies in Hizbul terrorist arrest case

THE ARREST HAS TRIGGERED A DEBATE IF BANGALORE IS A CENTRE OF SLEEPER CELLS FOR TERRORISTS AND ANTI-NATIONAL ELEMENTS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bangalore, June 9:** The intelligence agencies and special wings of Karnataka police department have intensified investigation into the case of Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist Talib Hussain in Bangalore who was arrested last week, police sources said Thursday.

Sources say that the intelligence and investigation agencies have come under fire for not being able to track the movements of the most wanted terrorist, who planned killings of Hindus in Kashmir Valley and was involved in disruptive activities challenging the state of India. Talib Hussain, who lived here with his family for three years, later went to get shelter at Okalipuram Mosque. He was finally arrested in a joint operation by the armed forces, police from Jammu and Kashmir along with Karnataka police department June 3.

Even as he was a key person of terror outfit Hizbul Mujahideen, Talib stayed in Bangalore in disguise, the Internal Security Division (ISD), intelligence wing, Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATC) had no idea about his presence in the city. The authorities have now intensified their investigation and have asked for his phone call details from the service provider.

The ISD and ATC sleuths are verifying the details of the persons who came in contact with Hussain. They are also making inquiries at places where Talib Hussain worked, the places where he stayed and the masjid where he got the shelter after the Covid pandemic. The authorities are also coordinating with



## VHP demands seizure of Masjid

**V**ishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) Thursday filed a complaint with Bangalore Police Commissioner Pratap Reddy demanding seizure of the Okalipuram masjid from where Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist Talib Hussain was arrested. VHP leaders Tejas Gowda, Govardhan and Shivakumar have submitted a complaint to the top police official of Bangalore in this regard. The masjid where terror element Talib Hussain was given shelter must be seized. Action must be initiated against those who sheltered him and gave him SIM cards, the complaint said. They have also urged the Police Commissioner to gather inputs on terrorist activities in the city. The Hindu leaders brought to the notice of the Police Commissioner that if any Hindu festival is to be celebrated, the organisers have to struggle.

Jammu and Kashmir police to identify the persons who helped the Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist.

Talib Hussain, who belonged to Kishtwar district of Nagaseni Tehsil of Jammu and Kashmir, joined Hizbul Mujahideen in 2016. He belongs to a tribe and has 2 wives and 5 children.

Talib allegedly brainwashed youths and used them to kill Hindus in Kashmir Valley. He is also involved in many incidents of bomb explosions. When the armed forces intensified their hunt for him, he escaped to Bangalore.

He came to Bangalore with one of his wives and children. He ran an auto and led life as a normal man.

After his arrest, the neighbours were shocked to know that he was a terrorist. He led a quiet life here like a normal person.

His arrest has triggered a debate if Bangalore is a centre of sleeper cells for terrorists and anti-national elements. The questions are being raised as to how Talib Hussain managed to stay here for 3 years without coming into the radar of intelligence agencies.

The authorities are on high alert, particularly after the hijab ban in classrooms which made international headlines. They can't take any chances with the security of the city.

# Siddaramaiah urges JD-S MLAs to back Cong pick

As the stage is set for Rajya Sabha polls for four seats from Karnataka Friday, suspense continues over the outcome of the fourth seat, to which all three political parties are contenders, despite none of them having adequate number of votes to win it

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICES

**Bangalore, June 9:** Karnataka Opposition leader Siddaramaiah has written a letter to the Janata Dal Secular (JD-S) MLAs, seeking their votes for the Congress candidate in the Rajya Sabha elections.

Befitting answer has to be given to the ruling BJP. Hence, JD-S legislators must support the second candidate of the Congress, Mansoor Ali Khan, he said.

The Congress supported JD-S which had 37 MLAs and made HD Kumaraswamy the Chief Minister. JD-S has announced its candidate

(Kupendra Reddy) a day after the Congress declared its second candidate, even as the party does not have required numbers to win the Rajya Sabha seat. This has pained us, Siddaramaiah stated. The former Karnataka Chief Minister said the BJP is spoiling the diversity and peace, and has insulted the respected personalities on the pretext of textbook revision.

"You (JD-S MLAs) have to utilise the opportunity of Rajya Sabha elections and answer the communal BJP in a befitting manner by supporting Congress," he said. The senior Congress leader fur-

## RS POLLS



ther said the country is treading on a dangerous path. There is an attack on social justice, fraternity, secular values, and constitutional objectives. By these developments, the democracy in the country is at stake, he wrote in the letter.

When the opportunity came for HD Deve Gowda to become the Prime Minister, the Congress had supported his candidature, he said.

"We hoped the JD-S would support the Congress candidate and put up the second candidate. However, the JD-S announced its candidate the next day and shocked us. Being secular parties, JD-S and Congress should ensure the victory of Mansoor Ali Khan, the second candidate fielded by Congress party," he said.

However, former Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy of JD-S has stated that it is not possible to support the Congress candidate at this juncture. There is no discussion on the issue so far, he said.

Rajya Sabha elections are scheduled to be held June 10.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, and former Union Minister Jairam Ramesh are contesting the polls.

# Hindu groups want to celebrate I-Day, Yoga Day on Eidgah Maidan

Though the state was passing through a phase of communal unrest following the hijab crisis and series of related events, the capital city, known as IT and BT hub of the country, had remained immune to all these

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bangalore, June 9:** After Jamia Masjid in Srirangapatna, Malali Masjid in Dakshina Kannada, and Peer Shah Dargah in Bidar, Karnataka is seeing another row loom large over another site - the Eidgah Maidan in Bangalore.

Hindu organisations have taken objection over the Eidgah Maidan in Chamrajpet area being treated as the property of minorities and decided to celebrate the Independence Day August 15 in the grounds and hoist the tricolour. They have also taken a decision to celebrate Yoga Day June 21 on the grounds.

Hindu activist Pathapat Srinivas Thursday said that Hindu leaders are meeting Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai with a request to hoist the 'tiranga' (tricolour) and celebrate the Yoga Day there.

Congress MLA from Chamraj Pet, Zameer Ahmad Khan, has been repeatedly making speeches that he would get the biggest masjid in Bangalore constructed in 2.5 acres of Eidgah Maidan. There are plans of putting Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah to contest elections from Chamrajpet, he alleged.

Srinivas also claimed that the

Supreme Court judgment in connection with the Eidgah Maidan was tampered with.

There are corrections and no short signatures are found in the order. There will be mention of the number of corrections, which are not found, he said.

The Bangalore civic agency had not contested the claims of the opposite party in the Supreme Court, which upheld the injunction order of the High Court not allowing constructions in Eidgah Maidan by the civic agency, he added.

"We will demand from CM Bommai that Eidgah Maidan should be preserved as a public property and cultural activities of all religions must be permitted," Srinivas said.

The Hindu activists have vented out their ire on the police department for not allowing celebration of the Hindu festivals and programmes in the grounds. After the row came to the front, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has stated that the Eidgah Maidan is one of the play grounds owned by it in the city.

However, Muslim leaders vehemently argue that it is a property of the Wakf Board. They are also stating that they will not allow the celebration of Yoga Day at any cost on the premises.

# Firecracker makers in suspense as SC to take up hearing next month



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, June 9:** Like a boy filled with suspense and waiting for the cracker to burst after its fuse was lit, the over 1,000 units of firecracker industry in Sivakasi in Tamil Nadu is waiting in suspense with their fingers crossed.

The final hearing of the case against the industry will be heard by the Supreme Court next month. The Supreme Court's decision will determine the fate of the industry that feeds about eight lakh families, industry officials told IANS.

"The final hearing is to be held next month. We hope something good happens for the industry and the lakhs of families who are dependent on it. We feel more for the environment, but there is some other interest that is playing against the industry," A Asaithambi, President, Sivakasi Fireworks Manufacturers Association (SFMA) told IANS.

Asaithambi said as per a detailed study made by the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK), the pollution from firecrackers ranks at 26th, way below of other sectors that contribute to the air pollution of Delhi like the automobile, thermal power stations, construction activities, stubble burning in Punjab and others.

"The industry is being targeted and being made a fall guy," Asaithambi added.

According to him, crackers are burst for only two days in a year that is during the Hindu festival Diwali. "Diwali is the only festival that is being celebrated across the country by crores of people. And firecrackers are an integral part of the festival celebration. Taking that out of the festival will dilute the core spirit," he added.

**Sivakasi in Virudhunagar district in Tamil Nadu accounts for nearly 90 per cent of the country's firecracker production, and has 1,070 firecracker units located in and around the city**

**About 300,000 workers are directly employed whereas another 500,000 workers are in the allied sectors**

Industry officials feel that the apex court was misled about the barium nitrate chemical that is used to manufacture several traditional firecrackers like sparklers, flower pots and others. Barium nitrate chemical is used by several industries like welding electrodes, tyres and others. Nowhere in the world the use of barium nitrate in making firecrackers has been banned, industry officials told IANS.

Industry officials also question the efficacy of the formulation provided by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) to make green crackers.

For a long time, the fireworks industry has been a target in different forms. First, the manufacturers were targeted for child labour and it was followed up with the noise pollution charge. With the noise pollution issue getting resolved with the laying down of the norms, the industry is being charged with polluting the air.

The industry players and common people are of the view that Hindu festival Diwali is being targeted by vested interests. Manufacturers say that Sivakasi would have turned into a ghost city long back if firecrackers were the reason for air pollution in Delhi.

# 'Museum of Possibilities for Disabled' a major attraction

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, June 9:** The Museum of Possibilities for the Disabled opened by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin has turned into a major attraction for the specially-abled and the common people alike.

There are several assistive and adaptive devices that help persons with disabilities at the Commissionerate for the Welfare of Differently Aabled on the Lady Wellington Campus.

The museum is built on a domain-specific model with live, work, and play as major domains. It showcases various adaptations and technologies that will help people with all kinds of disabilities become independent. It showcases various items from a tactile geometry set and drawing tool, Braille Cube, alphabet plate, tactile wrist watch, tactile scramble board with coins, talking bathroom scale, a signature guide to an adapted colour keyboard, appropriate paper-based technology (APT), standing crutches, pull down cloth hanger,



adjustable backrest and various other adapted kitchen utensils and bathroom utilities.

M Krishnamoorthy, whose son Deepak is a 21-year-old with disabilities, told IANS, "The Museum of Possibilities is a place that provides the necessary confidence to those with special abilities and I have brought my son over here. It's a huge relief for people like us, who are worried about the future of our children."

"The museum aims to help people with disabilities participate in various events and could try new

technologies and find if it works for them, he added." The museum displays products made by disabled persons that visitors can buy and it also has a cafe run by six specially-abled persons.

The museum also has a skill development centre and a dedicated space to encourage and promote employment opportunities for the specially-abled. Murugan R told IANS, "I am a person with disabilities and the Museum of Possibilities is a place wherein we can get some help with employment and skill development opportunities."

# IIT Madras develops robot to clean septic tanks

Ten units of the robot named 'HomoSEP' will be first deployed across Tamil Nadu, and later in Gujarat and Maharashtra

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 9:** Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras have developed a robot to clean septic tanks without human intervention.

Named "HomoSEP", ten units are planned to be deployed across Tamil Nadu and the researchers are in touch with sanitation workers to identify the locations, officials said. Gujarat and Maharashtra are being considered for the deployment of the robots that have been developed with an aim to eliminate manual scavenging in the next phase, they said. At present, first two HomaSEP

units have been distributed to self-help groups led by Nagamma and Ruth Mary whose husbands died tragically during sanitation work, through the support of the NGO, Safai Karamchari Andolan (SKA).

The septic tank is a poisonous environment, filled with semi-solid and semi-fluid human faecal material that make up about two-thirds of the tank, said Prabhu Rajagopal, Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, IIT Madras.

"Hundreds of deaths are reported every year across India, due to manual scavenging in septic tanks despite bans and prohibitory orders," he added.

Rajagopal explained that the HomaSEP can homogenise the hard sludge in septic tanks through custom-developed rotary blade mechanism and pump the tank slurry using an integrated suction mechanism. "Sanitation workers will be able to operate the HomaSEP on their own, after being



## MANUAL SCAVENGING

provided with relevant training and appropriate guidance along with necessary safety measures, both of which our team is working on right now," he said. "Safety plays a vital role in this whole procedure, starting with the design of HomaSEP itself," he added. HomaSEP was



first developed as a final year Masters' project by Divanshu Kumar under the guidance of Rajagopal and showcased at the IIT Madras Carbon Zerp Challenge 2019, after receiving seed support from IIT Madras' Socially Relevant Projects initiative.

Despite the pandemic-related difficulties over the next couple of years, the IIT Madras researchers collaborated with an IIT Madras-incubated start-up Solinas Integrity Private Limited (now headed by Kumar) to further develop HomaSEP. GAIL (India) further supported product development and CapGemini supported efforts towards miniaturisation and portability of the robot, through their CSR initiatives. Over the last year, NSE Foundation and L&T Technology Services Foundation have commissioned the fabrication and distribution of 8 and 2 numbers of HomaSEP robots respectively, through CSR support.

This is history in the making as Nagamma, a widow of a person who died in a septic tank, becomes the owner and an entrepreneur of mechanised septic tank cleaning services, she said.

This enterprise will focus on changing lives of sanitation worker communities with dignified livelihoods providing mechanised sanitation solutions to stop manual scavenging deaths, she added.

of the day **quote**

The country is witness to the fact that the Congress has always adopted an anti-farmer policy. During the 10 years of UPA government, when Manmohan Singh was the prime minister, M S Swaminathan had recommended to increase minimum support price (MSP). But, the Congress government kept sitting on the recommendations

**NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR** | UNION AGRICULTURE MINISTER

The work of upgrading the Mahendragarh Narnaul road into a four-lane road will also be completed soon. An additional two-lane bridge is also being built on this road at Mahendragarh

**MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR** | HARYANA CM

Being a Bihari, I wish that Nitish Kumar will become President of India. He has brought extremely backward Bihar on the track and if he would be given a chance to work as a President of India, he will give his efforts to bring the country forward in the world

**SHRAWAN KUMAR** | BIHAR RURAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTER

**SHORT TAKES**

**Gujarati couple murder: Three held**

**Kolkata:** Three persons were Thursday arrested for their alleged involvement in the murder of an elderly Gujarati couple in the city's Bhawanipur area, but the "mastermind is still absconding", city police commissioner Vineet Goyal said. Goyal stated that the crime was the fallout of financial dispute among family members. Businessman Ashok Shah and his wife Rashmita were on Monday found dead at their flat on Harish Mukherjee Road, which is a high-security zone owing to its proximity to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's residence. One of the three arrested admitted that he was the first one to stab Ashok Shah, Goyal said.

**Cong not to contest MLC polls in Bihar**

**Patna:** The Congress Thursday decided not to contest the election for seven MLC seats in Bihar. The decision was taken after a meeting of state leaders including Congress Legislature Party leader Ajit Sharma and state unit president Madan Mohan Jha. "The number of Congress MLAs in Vidhan Sabha is not adequate. Hence, we have decided not to contest the MLC election," Sharma said.

**Elderly couple ends life in UP**

**Fatehpur (UP):** An elderly couple allegedly ended their life by jumping in front of a train near a railway station here Thursday, police said. GRP inspector Ankush Kaithwar said that an elderly couple allegedly died by suicide by jumping in front of a train near Fatehpur railway station. The couple was identified as Shivraj Raidas (68) and his wife Dhanpat (65), residents of Phulwama village under Ghazipur police station area.

**Strict vigil**

**Ahmedabad:** Gujarat Police has issued an alert after Al Qaeda threatened suicide attack in Delhi, Mumbai, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat over Prophet row. Ahmedabad city will also witness Jagannath Rathayatra July 1 this time, after two years break due to Covid situation, in which millions of people participate. For the first time, drones will be deployed to keep a strict vigil. According to Ahmedabad Crime Branch DCP Chaitanya Mandlik, security has been tightened due to the threat posed by Al Qaeda.



There is a difference between loyalty and performance. The Modi government did not show loyalty to the country, or to the people

**RAHUL GANDHI** | FORMER CONGRESS PRESIDENT

**KAMAL HAASAN TO CONTEST IN NEXT TN ASSEMBLY POLLS**

South Indian superstar Kamal Haasan, who is now in the limelight in wake of the success of "Vikram", on Thursday said that he would not shy away from politics and would contest the next Tamil Nadu Assembly elections. The veteran actor said that his Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM) party has entered its fifth year and that he would not take a break from politics due to the success of the movie



**SC grants paternal grandparents custody of Covid orphan**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, June 9:** The Supreme Court Thursday said paternal grandparents would better take care of a six-year-old than his maternal aunt, as they are more emotionally attached, in a custody case where the child's parents died due to Covid last year.

A vacation bench comprising Justices M.R. Shah and Aniruddha Bose gave the paternal grandparents the custody of the boy, who was orphaned due to Covid - his father died on May 13 and mother on June 12 during the second wave in Gujarat in 2021.

The bench said in our society paternal grandparents would always take better care of their grandchildren. "They are more emotionally attached to grandchildren," said the bench, adding

**'THEY TAKE BETTER CARE'**



that he will get a better education in Ahmedabad. The bench emphasized that paternal grandparents should be given preference in custody matters of the child as he lost his parents.

The maternal relatives took the child from his paternal grandparents' house in Ahmedabad to attend the last rites of his mother and since then, the child had been living with his maternal aunt and her family. The paternal grandparents moved the Gujarat

High Court seeking custody of the child. After interacting with the child, the high court said that he is comfortable with the petitioner and his wife (the grandparents), however he was not in a position to give an independent preference between the petitioner and the maternal aunt.

The high court gave the boy's custody to the 46-year-old aunt. The court noted that she was unmarried, working with the central government and she was in a joint family, and pointed out such a family is good for the upbringing of the child.

The top court noted that income cannot be the sole criteria and cannot be the sole ground to deny custody to parental grandparents and quashed the high court judgment granting custody to the maternal aunt.

**Upsurge in Covid cases, don't lower guard: Govt**

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, June 9:** The Centre Thursday asked all states and Union territories to ensure high level of testing in areas reporting new or cluster of Covid-19 cases while emphasising the need to follow the five-fold strategy of combating the disease.

This strategy is test-track-treat, vaccination and Covid appropriate behaviour. In a letter to the states/UTs, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said in the past two weeks, an upsurge in cases has been noticed even as there has been a sustained and significant decline in the number of cases across the country during the past four months.

In the week ending June 8, 4,207 average daily new cases were reported as compared to 2,663 average daily cases in the week ending June 1, he highlighted in the letter.

There has also been an increase in the weekly positivity rate from 0.63 per cent (week ending June 1) to 1.12 per cent (week ending June 8).

In the last 24 hours, 7,240 new coronavirus cases have been reported in India, out of which, 81 per cent cases have been reported from Maharashtra, Kerala, Delhi and Karnataka (in descending order of number of new cases reported).



**Nearly 40% spike for 2nd day in a row**

**NEW DELHI:** For a second day in a row, India reported a nearly 40 per cent spike after it registered 7,240 fresh Covid cases in the last 24 hours, against the 5,233 infections logged the previous day, the Union Health Ministry said Thursday. In the same period, the country has reported eight new Covid fatalities, taking the nationwide death toll to 5,24,723. Meanwhile, the active caseload of the country has also increased to 32,498 cases, accounting for 0.08 per cent of the country's total positive cases. The recovery of 3,591 patients in the last 24 hours took the cumulative tally to 4,26,40,301. Consequently, India's recovery rate stands at 98.71 per cent.

Bhushan said specific strategic areas of intervention for states/UTs like testing and surveillance, clinical management, vaccination, Covid appropriate behaviour and community engagement with an increased focus on evidence-based decision-making was underlined.

"Given the significance of adequate testing in early identification of cases and providing an accurate picture of the level of infection spread, it is required that states/UTs must ensure high level of testing in all such areas that are reporting new cases/cluster of cases," he said.

The health secretary also advised the states and Union territories (UTs) to monitor average daily testing per million as well as share of RT-PCR in total tests conducted.

"This will enable states/UTs to take timely pre-emptive action wherever required," the letter stated.

States/UTs must also enhance monitoring of Influenza like illness (ILI) and SARI cases in all health facilities on a regular basis for detecting early warning signals of the spread of infection, he stressed.

Genome sequencing of prescribed samples of international passengers as well as collection of samples from sentinel sites (identified health facilities) and local cluster of new Covid-19 cases is equally important.

**T'GANA GANGRAPE CASE**

**Cops to appeal to JJB to try 5 juveniles as adults**



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Hyderabad, June 9:** The city police is mulling filing a petition with the Juvenile Justice Board seeking to treat the five CCLs (child in conflict with law) as adults during the trial in the gang-rape case, to ensure that the accused get the maximum punishment.

Six people, including five juveniles have been apprehended in connection with the sexual assault of the 17-year-old girl May 28. One juvenile was purportedly seen in videos misbehaving with the vic-

tim, but was not involved in the offence, police said.

Hyderabad Police Commissioner C V Anand told PTI that they are considering filing a plea before the board to treat the five as adults to ensure that they receive maximum punishment. He had already said that stringent sections of law have been invoked against those involved in the heinous crime and the punishment under the sections could be imprisonment for life till death or even death penalty. The case is now under investigation and once the charge sheet is filed, a requisition will be made to the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) to make a recommendation that the five CCLs be tried as adults, police sources said adding "otherwise as juveniles they get only 3 years jail term".

**RS POLLS**

**Corralled in resorts, MLAs to vote today**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi / Mumbai / Bangalore / Chandigarh, June 9:** Polling for 16 Rajya Sabha seats in four states will be held Friday amid allegations of attempts at horse-trading by rival parties which have corralled their MLAs in hotels and scenic resorts, prompting the Election Commission to appoint special observers and order videography of the entire exercise.

Prominent among those whose electoral fate will be decided are Union Ministers Nirmala Sitharaman and Piyush Goyal, Congress candidates Randeep Surjewala, Jairam Ramesh and Mukul Wasnik, and Shiv Sena's ubiquitous face Sanjay Raut. All these leaders are expected to win without a hiccup.

Biennial elections to 57 Rajya Sabha seats were announced recently and all 41 candidates in Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, Telangana, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand were declared elected unopposed last Friday.

However, elections will be held for 16 seats of Haryana, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Karnataka Friday as the number of candidates exceeds



the seats going to the polls. Arch rivals BJP and Congress have corralled their MLAs in hotels and resorts lest they should be poached, treating them to generous hospitality.

Political parties in Maharashtra, where polling will be held for six seats, were Thursday engaged in hectic parleys to fine-tune their strategy.

NCP chief Sharad Pawar, Congress general secretary Mallikarjun Kharge, and BJP leader and Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw went into a huddle with with leaders of their respective parties in Mumbai to give final touches to their strategy.

Shiv Sena has 55 MLAs, NCP 53, Congress 44, BJP 106, Bahujan Vikas Aghadi (BVA) three, Samajwadi party, AIMIM and Prahar Janshakti party two each, MNS, CPI(M), PWP, Swabhimani Party, Rashtriya Samaj Paksh, Jansurajya Shakti party Krantikari Shetkari Party one each, and there are 13 independent legislators.

**NIA conducts searches in TN, Pondicherry**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chennai, June 9:** The National Investigation Agency Thursday conducted searches at multiple locations in Tamil Nadu and neighbouring Pondicherry in connection with its probe into a group of individuals, who among others, "were associating" themselves with the proscribed ISIS, the NIA said.

Incriminating documents, digital devices and handwritten notes were seized during the searches held at nine locations in Chennai and Mayiladuthurai in Tamil Nadu and Karaikal in neighbouring Pondicherry, the agency said in a statement.



The case relates to one Md. Sathik Batcha alias ICAMA Sadik of Mayiladuthurai, who along with four other accused persons, had "hatched a conspiracy for threatening the general public and police officials and had also attempted to murder the police personnel" during a vehicle check in February this year, the NIA said.

**PURE DEVOTION**



Devotees perform Ganga aarti on the occasion of Ganga Dussehra, at Sangam, the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati rivers in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh

**KERALA GOLD SMUGGLING CASE**

**HC rejects Swapna's anticipatory bail plea**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Kochi, June 9:** The Kerala High Court Thursday dismissed the anticipatory bail plea filed by Swapna Suresh and P.S. Sarith on the grounds that the charges against her are bailable and hence her plea was rejected.

Sarith is not even an accused in the case which was filed on Wednesday. She, the prime accused in the gold smuggling case on Thursday filed an anticipatory bail plea after the Kerala Police registered a case against her on Wednesday.

On Tuesday, she revealed that Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, his wife and their daughter have all played a role in smuggling of gold and currency.

On Wednesday, she again repeated her allegations and said she said all this in her confession statement before a magistrate under Section 164 of the CrPC at Kochi Monday and Tuesday.

When the Congress and the BJP took up the issue and demanded Vijayan's resignation, former State Minister and CPI-M supported Independent MLA K.T. Jaleel filed a case against Swapna and former seven time MLA PC George that they are airing baseless allegations against Vijayan to tarnish the image of the government.

On Wednesday evening after the case was filed, the Kerala Police registered an FIR against the two and charged them for conspiracy to create violence and it was against this that Swapna and Sarith, also an accused in the gold smuggling case filed an anticipatory bail plea fearing arrest by the police.

**40% in India suffer from non-alcoholic fatty liver: Docs**

Those who are overweight are encouraged to lose weight by cutting down on their calorie intake and by burning more calories through aerobic or anaerobic exercises

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chandigarh, June 9:** Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) is a lifestyle ailment which affects 25-30 per cent of the world population.

In India, the overall prevalence of NAFLD in the general population is close to 40 per cent and may still be higher at certain places, including Chandigarh, say doctors.

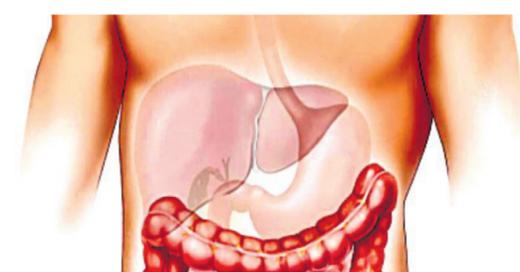
On the occasion of International NASH Day, the Indian National Association for Study of the Liver (INASL)-NAFLD Taskforce and Indian Consortium on NAFLD (ICON-D) launched an Action plan for the prevention and control of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease in India.

Experts feel that educating the public on healthy lifestyle will go a long way in preventing and controlling this disease.

NAFLD is usually thought as a benign condition and is often ignored by the patients.

The main reasons for NAFLD in India are the metabolic risk factors related to sedentary lifestyle and intake of high calorie food.

Overweight or obesity, diabetes mellitus (blood sugar), hypertension



(high blood pressure) and dyslipidemia (deranged blood lipids) are the main risk factors for NAFLD, even though some patients may be predisposed genetically.

The diagnosis of NAFLD is usually simple, based on blood tests, ultrasound and few other tests, but

may be delayed due to lack of symptoms in the early stage.

The disease may also be ignored by the patients and physicians alike due to slow progression and lack of specific complaints.

In addition to affecting the liver, NAFLD has also become a very com-

mon risk factor for various extra-hepatic diseases like cardiovascular disease, chronic kidney disease, bone loss, obstructed sleep apnoea and cancers of various organs.

The treatment of patients with NAFLD revolves around maintaining a healthy lifestyle with good diet and regular exercise.

Those who are overweight are encouraged to lose weight by cutting down on their calorie intake and by burning more calories through aerobic or anaerobic exercises.

Patients who progress on to severe form of disease (NASH with or without fibrosis, cirrhosis, liver cancer) do require other modalities of treatment, including pharmacological drugs, endoscopy and liver transplantation for those with liver failure.

# international

## of the day quote

We must keep our global food trade system open and ensure that agricultural food exports are not restricted or taxed

QU DONGYU | FAO'S DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Canada is imposing new sanctions on Russian oil, gas and chemical industries

MELANIE JOLY | CANADIAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER

Had a productive meeting with Amb and HC's of the #MiddleEast, #China & #India this morning. I requested their assistance in resolving the existing crisis, while briefing them on the current economic, social and political situation of #lka & appreciate their positive response

GOTABAYA RAJAPAKSA | SRI LANKAN PRESIDENT

## SHORT TAKES

### 17 killed, 4 missing

Beijing: At least 17 people were killed and four are missing after flooding hit the central Chinese province of Hunan and a landslide buried parts of several villages in the southern Guangxi region, state media reported. Storms have pummeled Hunan since the beginning of the month, with some monitoring stations reporting historic levels of rainfall, the Xinhua News Agency said late Wednesday.

### Seven dead in fire

Seoul: A fire broke out at an office building in the South Korean city of Daegu on Thursday, leaving seven dead and injuring 46 others, officials said. The fire broke out at the seven-storey building in the city, 302 km south of Seoul, at around 10.55 a.m. (local time), according to firefighters. It was fully extinguished some 20 minutes later, reports Yonhap News Agency.

### House passes gun control bill

Washington: The House passed a wide-ranging gun control bill on Wednesday in response to recent mass shootings in Buffalo, New York, and Uvalde, Texas that would raise the age limit for purchasing a semi-automatic rifle and prohibit the sale of ammunition magazines with a capacity of more than 15 rounds. The legislation passed by a mostly party-line vote of 223-204. It has almost no chance of becoming law as the Senate pursues negotiations focused on improving mental health programs, bolstering school security and enhancing background checks. But the House bill does allow Democratic lawmakers a chance to frame for voters in November where they stand on policies that polls show are widely supported.

### Thailand makes marijuana legal

Bangkok: Marijuana cultivation and possession in Thailand was decriminalized Thursday, like a dream come true for an aging generation of pot smokers who recall the kick the legendary Thai Stick variety delivered. The stated intention of the country's public health minister to distribute 1 million marijuana seedlings for cultivation has added to the impression that Thailand is turning into a weed wonderland. But for the time being, would-be marijuana tourists will be disappointed. Thailand has become the first nation in Asia to decriminalize marijuana — also known as cannabis, or ganja in the local lingo — but it is not following the examples of Uruguay and Canada, the only two countries so far that have legalized recreational marijuana on a national basis.

## IAEA warns of 'fatal blow' to nuclear deal

REUTERS

Vienna, June 9: Iran Thursday dealt a near-fatal blow to chances of reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal as it began removing essentially all the International Atomic Energy Agency monitoring equipment installed under the deal, IAEA chief Rafael Grossi said.

Iran had warned of retaliation if the IAEA's 35-nation Board of Governors passed a resolution drafted by the United States, France, Britain and Germany criticising Tehran for its continued failure to explain uranium traces found at undeclared sites. The resolution was passed by a crushing majority late on Thursday.

Iran informed the agency overnight that it plans to remove 27 IAEA cameras and other equipment as of Thursday, which was "basically all" the extra monitoring equipment installed under the 2015 deal going beyond Iran's core obligations to the agency, Grossi told a news conference called at short notice. That leaves a window of opportunity of three to four weeks to restore some of the monitoring that is being scrapped or else the IAEA will lose the ability to piece together all or essentially all Iran's most important nuclear activities and material, and restoring the

deal requires that, Grossi said. "I think this would be a fatal blow (to reviving the deal)," Grossi said of what would happen if nothing were done within that window of opportunity. Indirect talks between Iran and the United States on reviving the 2015 deal are already stalled and have not been held since March.

Since then-President Donald Trump pulled Washington out of the deal and re-imposed sanctions against Tehran in 2018, Iran has breached the deal's limits on its nuclear activities, enriching uranium to close to weapons-grade, using more advanced centrifuges and swelling its stock of enriched uranium.

While Western powers warn it is getting ever closer to being able to sprint towards making a nuclear bomb, Iran denies having such intentions. As part of its erosion of the deal's nuclear measures, Iran had already held onto the data recorded by the extra monitoring equipment since February of last year, meaning the IAEA can only hope it will be able to access it at a later date. Grossi said it was not clear what would happen to that data now. He added, however, that more than 40 IAEA cameras would continue to operate as part of the core monitoring of Iran's activities that pre-dates the 2015 deal.



IAEA director General Rafael Mariano Grossi speaks at a news conference about developments related to the IAEA's monitoring and verification work in Iran, in Vienna, Austria

## Over 22L Hindus in Pak: Report

The report, based on data collected from National Database and Registration Authority, says that minorities constituted less than five per cent of the total population of Pakistan, with Hindus being the largest minority community

AGENCIES

Peshawar, June 9: Pakistan is home to 22,10,566 people from the minority Hindu community, comprising only 1.18 cent of the country's total registered population of 18,68,90,601, according to a



report by the Centre for Peace and Justice Pakistan.

The report, based on data collected from National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), says that minorities constituted less than five per cent of the total population of Pakistan, with Hindus being the largest minority community.

According to NADRA data till March, the total number of registered people stood at 18,68,90,601 of whom 18,25,92,000 are Muslims. The report that col-

## For the first time in years, Gazans enjoy clean seawater

People sat around plastic tables at the water's edge, while children played with inflatable rubber bathing rings. In some areas, horse owners gave their animals a cooling sea bath

REUTERS

Gaza, June 9: The water looks crystal blue, with no trace of sewage, the yellow sand is clean and the smell in the air is salty and pleasant, giving beachgoers in Gaza their first experience in years of clean and safe beaches.

Untreated sewage has flowed directly into the waters off Gaza for years, causing an environmental disaster that has ruined one of the few

affordable opportunities for swimming available to people locked into the narrow coastal strip.

This season has been different, as internationally-funded sewage treating facilities across the coastal enclave have stepped up their operations, reducing pollution to its lowest rates in many years, environmental officials said.

"We couldn't come before because the sea was polluted and if we did, our children used to come back home with viruses and skin diseases," said Sahar Abu Bashir, 52. "Today the area is clean and the sea is clean. We felt as if we were in another country," the mother of four said.

This week, the long sandy beach looked almost empty of red flags warning beachgoers against swimming because of the dozens of millions of cubic meters of untreated sewage that used to pour into the



Ukraine conflict may trigger social and economic chaos around the world

ANTONIO GUTERRES | UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

## RACE TO CHECK WILDFIRE

Emergency agencies deployed almost 1,000 firefighters, military personnel and support crews Thursday to fight a wildfire in southern Spain that has forced the evacuation of some 2,000 people amid fears that torrid weather may feed the blaze



## BOOSTING TIES



India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during a ceremony to hand over 12 High Speed Guard Boats to Vietnam at Hong Ha Shipyard in Hai Phong

## Battle rages in east Ukraine

In the wake of a series of setbacks in the 3-month-old war, Russia set its sights on the industrial Donbas region of coal mines and factories, where Moscow-backed separatists have been fighting Ukrainian troops for years and where they already held swaths of territory before the invasion

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bakhmut (Ukraine), June 9: Russian forces pounded an eastern Ukrainian city on Thursday and the two sides waged pitched street battles that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said could determine the fate of the critical Donbas region.

Meanwhile, Russia claimed that it struck a training facility far from the front lines, west of the capital. In the wake of a series of setbacks in the 3-month-old war, Russia set its sights on the industrial



Donbas region of coal mines and factories, where Moscow-backed separatists have been fighting Ukrainian troops for years and where they already held swaths of territory before the invasion. But, as elsewhere, the Russian advance has not been as quick as expected, and the plodding battle for control of Sievierodonetsk has devolved into street-to-street fighting that has been relatively rare in the conflict.

"Fierce battles continue in the city itself, street battles are taking place with varied success in city blocks," Luhansk governor Serhiy Haidai said. "The army of

Fierce battles continue in the city itself. Street battles are taking place with varied success in city blocks. The army of Ukraine is fighting for every street and house

SERHIY HAIDAI | LUHANSK GOVERNOR

Ukraine is fighting for every street and house."

Separately on Thursday, Russia's Defence Ministry said it used air-launched missiles against a Ukrainian military base in the Zhytomyr region, to the west of Kyiv, alleging that mercenaries were being trained there.

## Hindu temple vandalised in Pak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Karachi, June 9: A Hindu temple has been vandalised by a group of unidentified people in Pakistan's southern port city of Karachi, the latest incident of vandalism against the places of worship of the minority community in the country.

The attack on Shri Mari Maata Mandir in "J" area within the limits of Korangi police station in Karachi has caused panic and fear among the Hindu community in the area where police were deployed to avoid any untoward incident, police said. According to an FIR registered at the Korangi police station, five men on motorcycles stopped by the temple late on Wednesday night and inquired about the whereabouts of the caretaker, Dawn newspaper reported.

When two workers who were painting the walls inside the tem-

ple told the men that the caretaker wasn't available, the suspects started pelting stones at an idol, the complainant, Sanjeev Kumar, was quoted as saying by the newspaper.

"They also threatened the workers and then fled from the crime scene," he said. "We don't know who has attacked and why." After getting information, the police reached the area and inspected the temple and inquired about the incident.

Korangi Senior Superintendent of Police Faisal Bashir Memon said that the temple was located inside a hall of a house in the area and renovation work was underway there. A case against the miscreants has been registered under different sections of the Pakistan Penal Code, he was quoted as saying by the newspaper. The police are further trying to obtain CCTV footage of the area to arrest the suspects as soon as possible, Memon added.

## Basil Rajapaksa resigns from Parliament

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, June 9: Basil Rajapaksa, the youngest brother of Sri Lanka's president and former finance minister, resigned from his parliamentary seat on Thursday, the second such resignation from the cash-strapped government in a month from the powerful Rajapaksa family amid massive public protest over the unprecedented economic crisis in the country.

With the Rajapaksas coming under intense public pressure for their mishandling of the economic crisis, Mahinda Rajapaksa, the prime minister and elder brother of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, had to resign last month.

Talking to reporters here, Basil said, "I resigned my seat to allow Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) to nominate someone suitable." Asked if he had preempted resignation as he would be disqualified to be in Parliament through the proposed 21st Amendment (21A) to the Constitution due to his holding of both the US and Sri Lankan dual citizenship, Basil, the youngest of the Rajapaksa brothers, said it wasn't so.



Basil, however, said he is opposed to the 21st Amendment, the Daily Mirror newspaper reported. The 21A aims, among other reforms, at barring dual citizens from contesting elections to hold public office.

The 21st Amendment is also expected to annul the 20A to the Constitution, which gives unfettered powers to President Gotabaya after abolishing the 19th Amendment that will strengthen Parliament.



People sat around plastic tables at the water's edge, while children played with inflatable rubber bathing rings. In some areas, horse owners gave their animals a cooling sea bath.

People sat around plastic tables at the water's edge, while children played with inflatable rubber bathing rings. In some areas, horse owners gave their animals a cooling sea bath. The Hamas-run Environment Quality and Water Authority said sewage dumped into the sea was now partially treated, making 65% of the beach safe and clean, with plans to expand it.

## The summer season in Gaza Strip will be relatively safe compared to previous years because of the noticeable improvement of the quality of seawater

MOHAMMAD MESLEH | DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

"The summer season in Gaza Strip will be relatively safe compared to previous years because of the noticeable improvement of the quality of seawater," said Mohammad Mesleh, director of environmental resources.

Gaza, measuring 375 square kilometers (145 square miles) is home to 2.3 Palestinians, most of them

can't afford to travel as poverty and unemployment stand at around 50%, according to local and international records. Citing security concerns with the Islamist group Hamas, which runs the territory, both Israel and Egypt maintain restrictions along their Gaza frontiers.

In Deir Al-Balah, in the southern Gaza Strip, people crowded a beachfront resort called "The Old Nights", built on a hilltop looking down the beach. Families dined inside colourful wooden structures, built to resemble natural coloured hilltops in some Asia countries, said the owner, Rami Al-Naa'outq.

His business is booming this season. "When there is no pollution I will have many customers in my place. That helps me make up for the losses of innovating and getting the place ready for the New Year," he said.

# business

## of the day quote

Now in the competitive banking sector, cooperative banks will also get a level playing field. The rise in credit flow to the housing sector through cooperative banks will lead to an increase in economic activity

AMIT SHAH | COOPERATION MINISTER

Whatever indicators I have at the moment, I feel very optimistic, and think this year again, we will be able to do far better than we thought initially when we were making the budget as to how we will do

TARUN BAJAJ | REVENUE SECRETARY

The growth momentum is likely to pick up further, with the increase in rural and urban housing activities, a commercial real estate boom and a massive government impetus to infrastructure.

GAUTAM DALMIA | MD, DALMIA BHARAT

## SHORT TAKES

### Rupee hits record low against dollar

**Mumbai:** The Indian rupee hit a record low against the US dollar Thursday as the relentless surge in global crude oil prices raised concerns about a sustained rise in imported inflation, while choppy domestic shares also hurt. The partially convertible rupee was trading at 77.79/80 per dollar after touching a record low of 77.81. The previous low of 77.7975 was touched May 17.

### May Equity MFs see ₹18,529cr inflow

**New Delhi:** Witnessing positive momentum for the 15th straight month, equity mutual funds attracted a net sum of ₹18,529 crore in May amid heightened volatility in stock markets and consistent selling by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs). This was much higher compared to a net inflow of ₹15,890 crore in April, data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) showed Thursday. Equity schemes have been witnessing net inflow since March 2021, highlighting the positive sentiment among investors.

### Amul urges to delay plastic straw ban

**New Delhi:** Leading dairy firm Amul has urged the environment ministry to postpone the ban imposed on plastic straw by one year due to lack of adequate availability of paper straws in the domestic as well as international markets. The government's ban on single-use plastics, including plastic straw, is going to be effective from July 1, 2022. "We have written a letter to Environment Secretary on the proposed ban on single use plastic straw," Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) MD RS Sodhi told PTI.

### Akasa Air signs deal with Irish co Griffin

**New Delhi:** Akasa Air has signed a contract with Irish leasing company Griffin Global Asset Management for sale and leaseback of five Boeing 737 Max aircraft, a statement said Thursday. Under sale and leaseback model, the airline sells its planes to a leasing company and then leases them back. This frees up the cash that the airline has spent in buying the aircraft. Akasa Air had signed a deal with Boeing to purchase 72 Max aircraft on November 26, 2021, approximately three months after the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) gave the green light to Max planes.

## FIRST IN 11 YEARS

# ECB to hike rates in July to tame prices

The move underlines concerns about surging consumer prices, which rose by an annual rate of 8.1 per cent in May, the highest since statistics started in 1997. The bank's target is 2 per cent

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Amsterdam, June 9:** The European Central Bank (ECB) Thursday said it would carry out its first interest

rate increase in 11 years next month, followed by another hike in September, as it catches up with other central banks worldwide in pivoting from supporting the economy during the pandemic to squelching soaring inflation.

The surprise announcement of two quarter-point increases came after the bank's 25-member monetary policy council met in Amsterdam, saying inflation had become a "major challenge" and that those forces had "broadened and intensified" in the 19 countries that use the euro currency. The prospect of rapid increases



has sent shudders through stock markets, as higher rates would raise the returns on less risky alternatives to stocks. Rate hikes in Europe also are

**Businesses should avoid aggressive short-term reward-seeking culture without regard for the build-up of excessive risk in the balance sheet**

SHAKTIKANTA DAS | GOVERNOR, RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

## OKINAWA PIPS OLA ELECTRIC

Despite the incidents of fire, electric two-wheeler manufacturer Okinawa Autotech has overtaken Ola Electric to become India's top electric two-wheeler brand. According to the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations, Okinawa Autotech sold 9,309 units. Meanwhile, Ola Electric sold 9,225 units last month



## IndiGo, American Airlines launch codeshare pact

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 9:** American Airlines and IndiGo have launched a codeshare agreement that allows the former to sell seats on the latter's flights operating on Delhi-Bangalore and Delhi-Mumbai routes, a statement said Thursday.

American Airlines currently operates flights on the New York-Delhi route only. "American and IndiGo plan to expand the codeshare in the near future to include more than a dozen additional destinations in India (in addition to Bangalore and Mumbai), the statement by American Airlines said.

American Airlines and IndiGo had in September last year announced that they are entering into a codeshare agreement.

"IndiGo is a premier Indian carrier and through our codeshare agreement, customers can book travel on IndiGo via Delhi to and from two of India's most popular destinations, Bangalore and Mumbai," said Anmol Bhargava, Vice President of Global Alliances and Partnerships, American Airlines. IndiGo, India's largest airline, already has codeshare agreements with Qatar Airways, Turkish Airlines and Air France-KLM airlines.

## RIL, Apollo make 5bn pounds bid for Boots

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 9:** Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries (RIL) is said to have teamed up with US private equity fund Apollo Global Management to make a 5 billion pounds bid for the UK chemist chain Boots, people with knowledge of the matter said.

US parent Walgreens Boots Alliance (WBA) will retain an unspecified minority stake as part of the deal, the people said. It was not immediately clear how much stake Reliance and Apollo combine are picking up.

Reliance will add pharmacy and beauty retailing to its burgeoning retail business through the acquisition. The oil-to-retail-to-telecom conglomerate is likely to expand Boots in India.

Boots currently has a presence in the United Kingdom, Ireland, Italy, Norway, the Netherlands, Thailand, and Indonesia.

It has over 2,200 stores, most of them old, in the UK that need investment for sprucing up as they struggle to deal with retailing shifting online.

## DESPITE FALLING INFLOWS

# India's FDI rank rises to 7th position in '21

Global FDI recovered to pre-Covid levels in 2021, reaching nearly \$1.6trn, but this is unlikely to be sustained in 2022 due to macroeconomic shocks set off by the Ukraine-Russia conflict

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**United Nations, June 9:** Foreign Direct Investment inflows to India declined \$19 billion to \$45 billion in 2021 but the country still remained among the top 10 global economies for FDI last year, the United Nations said Thursday.

According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) World Investment Report, flows of foreign direct investment recovered to pre-pandemic levels last year, hitting nearly \$1.6 trillion.

However, the prospects for this year are grimmer as global FDI in 2022 and beyond will be affected by the security and humanitarian crises caused by the Ukraine war, by macroeconomic shocks set off by the conflict, by energy and food price hikes, and by increased investor uncertainty.

India, which had received \$64 billion in FDI in 2020, recorded a decline in FDI inflows in 2021 at \$45 billion. But India was still among the top 10 economies for FDI inflows in 2021, ranking 7th after the US, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Canada and Brazil. South Africa, Russia and Mexico rounded up the top 10 economies for FDI inflows in 2021.

"Flows to India declined to \$45 billion. However, a flurry of new international project finance deals were announced in the country: 108 projects, compared with 20 projects on average for the last 10 years,"



The top 10 economies for FDI inflows in 2021 were US, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Canada, Brazil, India, South Africa, Russia and Mexico

Large projects in India include \$13.5bn by Arcelormittal Nippon Steel (Japan) and a new car making facility by Suzuki Motor (Japan) for \$2.4bn

the report said, adding that the largest number of 23 projects were in renewables. Large projects include the construction of a steel and cement plant in India for \$13.5 billion by Arcelormittal Nippon Steel (Japan) and the construction of a new car manufacturing facility by Suzuki Motor (Japan) for \$2.4 billion. Outward FDI from South Asia,

mainly from India, rose by 43 per cent to \$16 billion.

The report said despite successive waves of Covid-19, FDI in developing Asia rose for the third consecutive year to an all-time high of \$619 billion, underscoring the resilience of the region. It is the largest recipient region of FDI in the world, accounting for 40 per cent of global inflows.

This fragile growth of real productive investment is likely to persist in 2022. The fallout of the war in Ukraine with the triple food, fuel and finance crises, along with the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and climate disruption, are adding stresses, particularly in developing countries

ANTONIO GUTERRES | SECRETARY-GENERAL, UN

## TO SPUR LOCAL MAKING

# Govt mulls fridge import curbs

REUTERS

**New Delhi, June 9:** India is considering restricting imports of refrigerators to promote local manufacturing, two industry sources told Reuters Thursday, potentially freezing out shipments from Samsung Electronics Co and LG Electronics Inc in the \$5 billion market.

The sources, who declined to be named as the talks were private, said the government was considering mandating that importers seek a licence from the authorities, replacing the existing free-import regime.

That could be followed by a ban on imports of refrigerators with re-

frigerant already added, to create opportunities for value-added operations in India, said one of the sources, who has direct knowledge of the government's discussions.

The source said a decision could come within a month, adding, "The thrust is to support all those who are manufacturing in India rather than those bringing them into India."

# CIL floats maiden tender to import coal

The move came in the wake of the govt making all efforts to build up stock of coal to avoid the reoccurrence of power outages which happened in April on account of shortage of the fossil fuel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 9:** State-owned CIL Thursday said that it has floated its maiden tender to import 2.416 million tonne of coal to ensure adequate supply of the fuel to power

plants in the country.

"In a first ever, Coal India Limited (CIL) on Wednesday floated an international competitive bidding tender, seeking bids for import of 2.416 million tonne (MTs) of coal," the company said in a statement.

The coal being sourced on behalf of the state generating companies (gencos) and independent power plants (IPPs) is based on the tenders received from them.

It is for July-September period of the current fiscal year, the statement said. Though coal import is an uncharted terrain for CIL, within a week of receiving tendents from the seven state gencos and 19 IPPs, for a total of 2.41.6 MTs of coal, the company on a war footing has



finalised and floated the tender.

The current short-term tender for import of dry fuel for the second quarter of the ongoing financial year is source agnostic. This means the coal can be sourced from any country.

The Centre had nominated the maharatna firm as a centralised agency to increase coal supplies

to state gencos and IPPs through import of dry-fuel at a time when the demand for coal is high.

The firm's board had last week given its go-ahead for the public sector unit to proceed ahead with the issuance of two international tenders - a short-term and a medium-term - for sourcing coal from overseas.

# Cryptos akin to 'a world of Caribbean pirates' sans regulation: CEA

Nageswaran also noted that unlike fiat money, cryptocurrencies cannot satisfy basic requirements such as having store value, widespread acceptability and unit of account

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 9:** Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran Thursday said cryptocurrencies are akin to 'a world of Caribbean pirates' in the absence of a centralised regulatory au-

thority and are yet to pass the test of a fiat currency.

He said that the government is pursuing a 'high-wire balancing act' to ensure that the gains in growth, inflation, and rupee stability of the last four years are not frittered away. He said the recent development in Terra-Luna cryptocurrency, which witnessed a massive meltdown last month, is a "very important cautionary tale".

"I wouldn't be very excited by them (cryptocurrency) because sometimes we may not be fully aware or comprehend the kind of forces we are unleashing ourselves. So I would be somewhat guarded in my welcome of some of these



FinTech-based disruptions like Decentralised Finance (DeFi) and crypto etc," Nageswaran said. Nageswaran said that he agreed

with RBI Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar who had been saying that as of now there appeared to be a case of 'regulatory arbitrage' with regard

The more decentralised they become and the absence of a watchdog or a centralised regulatory authority also means that there is a world of Caribbean pirates or a world of winners take all in terms of being able to really, taking it all from somebody else," he noted.

The government is working on a consultation paper on cryptocurrencies and is taking inputs from various stakeholders and institutions, including World Bank and IMF. The Reserve Bank, which is planning to launch its own central bank digital currency, has on many occasions expressed its reservation over private cryptocurrencies, citing concerns over macroeconomic stability.

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# MILLER MAGIC STUNS INDIA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 9:** David Miller (64 n o, 31b, 4x4, 5x6) carried his sensational IPL form to international cricket as South Africa made a mockery of the Indian bowling attack to gun down their highest ever run-chase and race to a seven wicket win in the opening T20 here Thursday.

Rassie Van der Dussen (71 n o, 46b, 7x4, 5x6) and Miller shared an unbeaten 131-run stand to chase down a stiff 212-run target with ridiculous ease and five balls to spare.

India had posted an imposing 211/4 with the help of Ishan Kishan (76, 48b, 11x4, 3x6), new skipper Rishabh Pant (29, 16b, 2x4, 2x6) and Hardik Pandya (31 n o, 12b, 2x4, 3x6).

However, it was not meant to be as the Indians were outdone by the brilliance of Miller and Van der Dussen, who toyed with the opposition attack. The loss also ended India's 12-match winning streak.

South Africa skipper Temba Bavuma (10) and Quinton de Kock (22) were off to a flyer as they raced to 22/0 in the first two overs. However, the ever-reliable Bhuvneshwar Kumar (1/43) bowled a brilliant leg-cutter to dismiss Bavuma.

Dwayne Pretorius (29, 13b, 1x4, 4x6) and De Kock then took leg spinner Yuzvendra Chahal and Hardik to the cleaners. While Chahal gave away 16 runs, Hardik, whose return to bowling was highly anticipated ahead of the series, leaked 18 runs and was slammed for three sixes by Pretorius, including one that was 91m long.

Harshal Patel (1/43) finally broke the partnership as he bamboozled Pretorius with a slow full toss. The Indian bowlers kept striking at regular intervals and limit the boundaries, slowing the proceedings. But



**KILLER COMBO:** David Miller (without helmet) and Rassie van der Dussen walk off the field after their win over India

'Killer Miller' had different ideas.

Continuing his stellar run from the IPL, the Southpaw smashed a total of three sixes and a couple of fours in the 12th and 13th over to get South Africa back in the game, while Van der Dussen played the perfect second fiddle.

With 80 needed off the last six, Miller brought up his fifth T20 half

century. India had the opportunity to break the dangerous partnership between Miller and Van der Dussen but Shreyas was guilty of dropping the latter at deep midwicket on 29.

The drop cost India dearly as Van der Dussen pummelled Harshal to submission. The South African hit three sixes and a four. After that, it was a six-hitting fest as both

the batters hit five maximums each.

Earlier, India were off to a bright start after being asked to bat. The hosts plundered 13 runs off the first over with Kishan hitting back-to-back fours as Bavuma opted to open with spinner Keshav Maharaj.

Rectifying his mistake, Bavuma bought pace spearhead Kagiso Rabada into the attack, who re-

stricted the scoring giving away two runs in the following over.

Kishan seemed to be struggling with Anrich Nortje's pace but alongside Rituraj Gaikwad (23) kept on stealing boundaries and sixes with ease at the Arun Jaitley Stadium.

Gaikwad was dropped on 17 by Pretorius at the beginning of the seventh over. However, the right-hander couldn't capitalize on the reprieve as he was caught at midwicket by Bavuma off Wayne Parnell, who made a comeback to the South African side for the first time since 2017.

Kishan and new-man Iyer (36, 27b, 1x4, 3x6) continued to score runs at will as India raced to 100 runs in 9.4 overs. The visitors also seemed a tad sloppy on the field, missing catches and a stumping opportunity. Iyer then hit Tabraiz Shamsi for a couple of sixes over long-on.

Kishan brought up his third T20 fifty in style as he whacked Maharaj for a six-over dip midwicket. In the groove, he then took the spinner to the cleaners in his next over launching the ball for back-to-back sixes before hitting two fours.

However, Maharaj finally redeemed himself as Ishan hit the length ball straight in the hands of David Miller at wide long-on. Iyer too departed soon after.

Captain Pant and his deputy Pandya, who returned to the side after leading his side Gujarat Titans to the IPL title, then hit a flurry of fours and sixes to provide the final flourish.

**BRIEF SCORES:** India 211/4 (Ishan Kishan 76, Shreyas Iyer 36, Hardik Pandya 31 n o, Rishabh Pant 29, Rituraj Gaikwad 23; Wayne Parnell 1/32) lost to South Africa 212/3 (Rassie van der Dussen 71 n o, David Miller 64 n o; Axar Patel 1/40) by 7 wickets.

# Belgium rout Poland, Netherlands win late



**STAMPING AUTHORITY:** Belgian players regroup in celebration after a goal against Poland during their Nations League match, Wednesday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Brussels, June 9:** So much for Belgium not caring about the Nations League. By coming from behind to rout Poland 6-1 Wednesday, Belgium's players gave an emphatic riposte to those questioning the team's commitment to the competition at the end of a long season and, in particular, after a 1-4 loss to the Netherlands Friday.

Belgium coach Roberto Martinez had been quick to dismiss accusations of his players lacking desire, and they backed up that support by recovering from going behind to Robert Lewandowski's 76th goal for Poland.

Axel Witsel launched Belgium's comeback with the equalizer in the 42nd, Kevin De Bruyne added a second in the 59th, before a double from Leandro Trossard — in the 73rd and 80th — a long-range effort from Leander Dendoncker in the

83rd and a first international goal by Lois Openda to wrap up the win here.

Trossard's second goal was spectacular, with the Brighton playmaker collecting a short corner and curling a shot into the far top corner from the edge of the area.

The Netherlands stayed in front in the group, though, by scoring in the fourth minute of stoppage time through Wout Weghorst's diving header to beat Wales 2-1.

Wales, which qualified for the World Cup last weekend for the first time in 64 years, had equalized two minutes earlier after falling behind to Teun Koopmeiners' 50th-minute strike from the edge of the area.

In Group B, Ukraine bounced back from losing to Wales in that World Cup playoff by winning 1-0 at Ireland and was joined on three points by Scotland, a 2-0 winner over Armenia.

# Mumbai eclipse 92-yr-old WR Sindhu, Sen sail into quarterfinals



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bangalore, June 9:** Domestic giants Mumbai Thursday broke the world record (WR) for highest margin of victory in the history of first-class cricket as they crushed minnows Uttarakhand by a staggering 725 runs on the fourth day of their Ranji Trophy quarterfinal here and stormed into the semifinals.

Mumbai broke New South Wales' 92-year-old Sheffield Shield record when they beat Queensland by 685 runs.

In the Ranji Trophy, the previous record for highest margin for victory was held by Bengal, who had defeated Odisha by 540 runs in 1953-54.

Mumbai's world record comes a day after Bengal broke a 129-year-old one with all their nine batters scoring half-century in a single in-

nings against Jharkhand in another quarterfinal.

Mumbai will now meet Uttar Pradesh in the semifinal of the prestigious domestic competition.

The 41-time Ranji Trophy champions, who dominated right from the first-day, declared their second innings at 261/3 and thus set Uttarakhand an improbable 794-run target.

They had piled up 647/8 declared in their first essay riding on maiden double hundred from debutant Suvad Parkar (252).

Uttarakhand who were bundled out for partly 114 in their first essay, once again capitulated in front of the Mumbai bowlers, as they were bundled out for just 69 in the second innings.

Mumbai bowlers led by experienced pacer Dhawal Kulkarni run riot. Kulkarni (3/11) along with in-form left-arm spinner Shams

Mulani (3/15) and off-spinner Tanush Kotian (3/13) grabbed three wickets apiece as none of the Uttarakhand batters showed any spine.

Kulkarni wreaked havoc as he first castled opener Kamal Singh (0) and then trapped rival skipper Jay Bista (0) in front of the wickets, with the opposition tottering at 1/2. He then cleaned up Robin Bist (3) with a delivery that jagged backed in as Uttarakhand was staring at a huge defeat.

In-form Mulani, who had grabbed a fiver in the first innings, got into the act and ran through the middle-order. His victims included Kunal Chandela (21), Dikshanshu Negi (5) and Mayank Mishra (0).

For Uttarakhand, such was the collapse that only wicket-keeper Shivam Khurana (25 not out) and Chandela could reach the double-figure mark.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jakarta, June 9:** Two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu and World Championship bronze winner Lakshya Sen progressed to the quarterfinals of the Indonesia Masters Super 500 badminton tournament with contrasting wins here Thursday.

Sen, who was part of the Indian team that claimed a historic Thomas Cup title triumph in Bangkok, registered a 21-18, 21-15 win over World No.13 Rasmus Gemke of Denmark in 54 minutes in the men's singles.

In the women's singles, Sindhu was made to toil hard for over an hour by Gregoria Mariska Tunjung of Indonesia before winning 23-21, 20-22, 21-11 in the second round.

Sen, seeded seventh, will next be pitted against Chinese Taipei's third seed Chou Tien Chen, who had defeated the Indian in a three-game thriller during the Thomas Cup last month in their only meeting.

A tough quarterfinal awaits fourth seeded Sindhu as she will take on the winner of the match between Thailand's fifth seed Ratchanon Intanon and Kirsty Gilmour of Scotland.

Against the unseeded Tunjung, Sindhu started on a bright note and played aggressively to surge to a 10-5 lead. She used her experience and reach to engage her opponents in long rallies initially.



But the Indonesian, whom Sidhu had defeated six times earlier, made a remarkable fight-back to claw her way back into the contest to level the scores at 15 apiece.

From there on, it was a neck-and-neck fight between the two players as they traded points till 21 before Sindhu raised her level to pocket the first game.

The second game was a complete contrast as it was Tunjung who started on an attacking note



and raced to a 10-5 lead before Sindhu fought back to draw parity at 15-15.

Thereafter, the players continued their battle for points till 20 points before determined the Indonesian won the game to take the match into the decider.

The decider, however, was a lopsided affair as after a few initial exchanges, to be precise till seven points, Sindhu didn't allow her opponent an inch and used her big match experience to run

away with the game and the match. Earlier in the day playing Gemke for the first time in his international career, World No.9 Sen showed better nerves as he limited his errors and fought his way to a fine win.

Sindhu will face Indonesia's Gregoria Mariska Tunjung, while the mixed doubles pairing of Ashwini Ponnappa and B Sumeeth Reddy will take on second seeds Chinese Zheng Si Wei and Huang Ya Qiong later in the day.

# After cyclist, female sailor accuses coach of indecency

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 9:** Days after a renowned cyclist accused her coach of sexual harassment, a national level female sailor has alleged that a coach made her "uncomfortable" during a foreign exposure trip to Germany.

According to a source, the complainant reached out to the Yachting Federation of India (YFI) several times but when she did not get any response, she sought Sports Authority of India's intervention last night.

SAI has now sought a report from the Federation by the end of the day, asking if the sailor had approached them earlier, and if so why the matter was not taken seriously.

"The SAI has received a complaint from a female sailor that a coach is making her uncomfortable during a foreign exposure tour of Germany. The sailor claimed that she had ear-

lier approached the federation but after getting no response from them, she knocked on SAI's doors," a SAI source told this agency.

"SAI has sought a report from the federation from the Yachting Federation of India on this serious matter. The camp was proposed and organised by the Yachting Association of India and funded by SAI through ACTC, as is the norm.

"The coach in question has been appointed by the federation and was included in the contingent as per the proposal of the Federation," the source added.

SAI has also reached out to the athlete, who claimed that "mental pressure" was being created by the coach during training. The sailor did not mention any sexual harassment by the coach.

The coach in question is a three-time Olympian and is a coach of the Indian Navy team.

# Savita confident of good show on foreign soil

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Brussels, June 9:** Indian women's team skipper Savita says her side has what it takes to win on foreign soil as it faces hosts Belgium in a double-header of the FIH Women's Hockey Pro League this weekend.

The Indian team is currently placed at the third position with 22 points in eight games, just behind Argentina and the Netherlands. Belgium, on the other hand, are placed in the seventh place on the table with 12 points in eight matches.

The women's side will play Belgium June 11 and 12 at the Sportcentrum Wilrijkse Plein Stadium in Antwerp, hoping to improve their overall standing.

"We are prepared for Belgium. We have a number of seasoned players in our squad who know what it takes to win on foreign soil," Savita said in a release issued by Hockey India.

"We have been consistently performing well in recent months, and we are confident that we have what it takes to win big games away from home."



India had stunned stunned Olympic champions Netherlands 2-1 in the first match of their double header but lost the second match 1-3 in a shootout in April.

"We have worked on the mistakes we made against the Netherlands in our previous two games and are confident that we will not repeat the same mistakes in

the upcoming games," Savita said. "We have talked about the areas where we need to improve and worked hard in those areas and are confident that we will succeed here."

Deep Grace Ekka, who has been named the vice-captain, said that the team has a lot of self belief and winning the next ties will boost its confidence ahead of the world Cup.

"I believe we are prepared. We have faith in ourselves, in our team, and, most importantly, in one another. We are aware that we must maintain our performance as we prepare for the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup, which will take place in July of this year," Ekka said.

"We must maintain possession of the ball against Belgium, and we must be active and apply pressure to gain possession of the ball when we do not have it.

"Our immediate goal is to win these games, as well as the next matches against Argentina and the United States, in order to boost our morale ahead of the World Cup," she added.

# EXCLUSION FROM COMMONWEALTH GAMES SQUAD Swastika third paddler to move to Delhi High Court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 9:** Swastika Ghosh Thursday became the third table tennis player to approach the Delhi High Court over exclusion from India's Commonwealth Games squad.

Her father and coach Sandeep Ghosh told this agency that they have filed a writ petition in the Delhi High Court and the matter will be heard Friday. "She is number four as per the selection criteria and should be in the team," said the father.

Diya Chitale and Manush Shah had also sought the HC's intervention in the matter. Chitale has now been included in the squad at the expense of Archana Kamath but the selectors did not include Manush, who too is in the top-four as per the criteria, in the men's team when the Committee of Administrators running the TTFI

announced the final squad on Tuesday. Manush's case will also be heard Friday.

Swastika, 19, was named as a standby with the revised squad comprising Manika Batra, Chitale, Reeth Rishya and Sreeja Akula. The men's squad includes veteran Sharath Kamal, G Sathiyam, Harmeet Desai, Sanil Shetty with Manush on standby.

The selection criteria, which factors in domestic performances (50 per cent), international performances (30 per cent) and selectors' discretion (20 per cent), has attracted a lot of attention with the players moving court for 'justice'.

The CoA has made it 40-40-20 from next season with a player ranked in the top-32 getting an automatic entry. A former India player requesting anonymity said a selection criteria has to be in place for big events like the Olympics and Commonwealth Games.