



## INSPIRING TALK

Actor Shilpa Shetty Kundra says every woman, no matter which profession she belongs to, is a superhero

LEISURE P2



## DIAMOND INDUSTRY HIT

The Russia-Ukraine war has adversely affected the livelihood of lakhs of workers of the diamond industry in Gujarat

TWO STATES P8



## BIG ESCALATION

Russian forces fire cruise missiles to destroy a large depot containing weapons in Ukraine's Ternopil region

INTERNATIONAL P10

# Klaasen show sinks India

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, June 12:** Comeback man Heinrich Klaasen followed Rassie Van der Dussen's suit in turning out to be an unlikely hero with a career-best 81 as South Africa once again outwitted India by four wickets on a tricky pitch to take a 2-0 lead in the five-match T20I series at Barabati Stadium here Sunday.

On a two-paced track where most of the batters struggled, Klaasen made it look ridiculously easy as he smashed seven fours and five towering sixes in his 46-ball knock to help his team knock off a target of 149 with 10 balls to spare.

The wicketkeeper-batter, who was included into the side as a forced change for injured Quinton de Kock, completed his fourth T20I fifty in 32 balls before he smashed three sixes off Yuzvendra Chahal to virtually seal the chase.

Looking to finish it off with a six, he fell victim to Harshal Patel and in the very next over, Bhuvneshwar Kumar dismissed Wayne Parnell to finish with a superb 4-0-13-4.

But it was not enough as they just needed three runs from the last two overs and the in-form David Miller (20 not out) completed the

win to give the Proteas a commanding 2-0 lead going into the Vizag T20I June 14.

The visitors seek their first ever bilateral T20 series win in India.

Making a comeback after more than seven months, Klaasen never took his foot off the pedal and got his team out of the woods after Bhuvneshwar pegged them back to 29/3 inside the powerplay overs.

Klaasen first shared a match-turning 64 run partnership from 41 balls with skipper Temba Bavuma (35) before in-form David Miller joined him in the middle.

Defending a modest 149, the Rishabh Pant-led India got off to a superb start thanks to 'Swing King' Bhuvneshwar's triple blow in successive overs.

Bhuvneshwar, who looked out of sorts in the Kotla T20I, was back in his element as he sharply swung the ball back in to clean up Reeza Hendricks in his first over. He then dismissed Dwaine Pretorius with a knuckle ball before casting the in-form Rassie van der Dussen (1).

Earlier, Indian batters found it tough to get going against some tight bowling display by South Africa to be restricted to a modest 148 for 6.



**CELEBRATION TIME:** Keshav Maharaj runs towards Anrich Nortje after the dismissal of Ishan Kishan in the India-South Africa T20I at Barabati Stadium in Cuttack, Sunday (More P3 & P12) OP PHOTO

# Over 400 held for violence

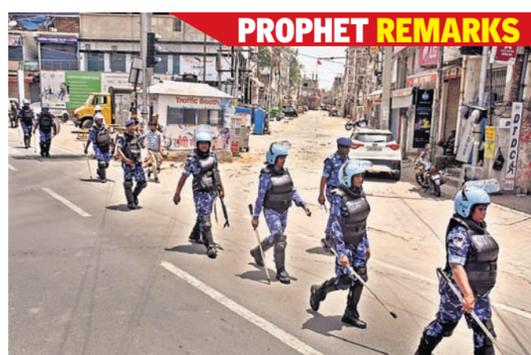
There were a few sporadic incidents of violence, with a group of people damaging a train at Bethuadahari railway station in WB's Nadia

AGENCIES

**Lucknow/Kolkata/Ranchi, June 12:** Over 400 people have been arrested so far in a clampdown on those involved in the violent protests Friday in several states against the controversial remarks on Prophet Mohammad by two now-sacked BJP functionaries, with authorities in Uttar Pradesh razing 'illegal' houses of the accused for the second day.

There were a few sporadic incidents of violence and protests, with a group of people attacking and damaging a local train at Bethuadahari railway station in West Bengal's Nadia district Sunday evening.

Among those arrested, 304 were held in eight districts in Uttar Pradesh and 100 in Howrah and Murshidabad districts in West Bengal, while the Ranchi police registered 25 FIRs against 'thousands' of people for the clashes



Rapid Action Force personnel conduct a flag march in Ranchi, Sunday

that left two dead and scores of others injured in the Jharkhand capital, and stepped up security in other parts of the state also.

Political parties, including the Samajwadi Party, and activists have accused authorities of high-handedness in the aftermath of the protests. Senior Congress leader and former home minister P Chidambaram said the prime minister should have spoken and acted immediately after the offensive utterances. Authorities had strengthened security and clamped prohibitory orders in many districts after people took to the streets following Friday prayers, indulged

in stone-pelting and clashed with security personnel, demanding the arrest of Nupur Sharma and Naveen Kumar Jindal.

The Bhiwandi police in Maharashtra has summoned Naveen Kumar Jindal to record a statement Monday, while Jindal has also been summoned June 15 in the case registered against them on a complaint lodged by a representative of the Raza Academy May 30.

Earlier, the police in Thane asked Sharma to appear before them June 22 while the Mumbai Police had summoned her June 25.

In Uttar Pradesh, where Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has vowed

to act tough on rioters, Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar said 13 cases have been registered and 304 people have been arrested in eight districts.

"91 persons have been arrested in Prayagraj, followed by 71 in Saharanpur, 51 in Hathras, 34 each in Ambedkar Nagar and Moradabad, 15 in Firozabad, six in Aligarh and two in Jalaun," he said. In Prayagraj, where mobs went on a rampage, the civic body Sunday demolished the house of the alleged mastermind of Friday's violence amid heavy police deployment. In Ranchi, internet services were restored in the district after nearly 33 hours even as Rapid Action Force, anti-terrorism squad, special task force and district police remained deployed at strategic locations, including 38 identified vulnerable pockets.

Meanwhile, the West Bengal Leader of Opposition, Suwendu Adhikari, was prevented by police from visiting violence-hit areas in Howrah, where several BJP offices were also targeted by mobs.

He was later allowed to proceed after a two-hour-long stand-off on the condition that he would go straight to Kolkata, without making any pit stop in violence-hit areas in the adjoining Howrah district.

# War of words over CM's tour

PNN & AGENCIES

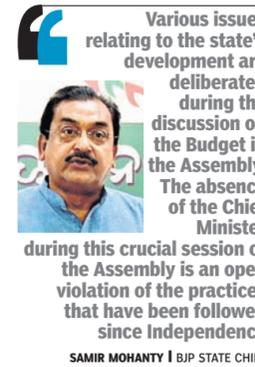
**Bhubaneswar, June 12:** The BJP and BJD Sunday crossed swords over Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's proposed foreign tour during the Budget session of the Assembly.

BJP state chief Samir Mohanty said Patnaik should have planned his foreign tour either before or after the Budget session of the Assembly beginning July 2.

Reacting to media reports that Patnaik will go on a foreign tour in the last week of June and is likely to attend the upcoming Assembly session through virtual mode, Mohanty said it would be disappointing if the Chief Minister attends the Monsoon session of the House virtually.

The state government was yet to make any formal announcement on the Chief Minister's proposed visit to Dubai and Rome. BJD spokesperson Lenin Mohanty hit back at the saffron party, saying it was not proper on part of the state BJP president to give his opinion on the Chief Minister's foreign tour, which is not yet finalised.

Noting that state Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari will present the full-fledged budget for 2022-23 fiscal on the opening day of the session, the BJP leader said in a statement and a series of tweets that it would have been better if the Chief Minister had planned his foreign tour before or after the



SAMIR MOHANTY | BJP STATE CHIEF



LENIN MOHANTY | BJD SPOKESPERSON

Various issues relating to the state's development are deliberated during the discussion on the Budget in the Assembly. The absence of the Chief Minister during this crucial session of the Assembly is an open violation of the practices that have been followed since Independence

It is unfortunate that the state BJP president issues statements based on a newspaper report. The Chief Minister has been relentlessly working for the welfare of Odisha's 4.5 crore people and occupies a place in their hearts. No leader should doubt his intentions

presentation of the Budget.

Stating that it is not acceptable that the CM will not be physically present during the presentation of the Budget, the state BJP president said attending the Assembly session on a virtual platform is not a good sign for democratic traditions. He said that the state Assembly is a temple of democracy for the 4.5 crore people of Odisha. "Various issues relating to the state's development are deliberated during the discussion on the Budget in the Assembly. The absence of the chief minister during this crucial session of the Assembly is an open violation of the practices that have been followed since Independence," the BJP leader said.

The ruling BJD sharply reacted to the BJP leader's criticism of the Chief Minister's foreign visit at the time of the presentation of the Budget in the Assembly, saying no leader should indulge in doing politics over the matter. "It is unfortunate that the state BJP president issues statements based on a newspaper report. The Chief Minister has been relentlessly working for the welfare of Odisha's 4.5 crore people and occupies a place in their hearts. No leader should doubt his intentions," the BJD spokesperson said.

BJD leader and MP Amar Patnaik said that a CM goes on foreign tours only in the interest of the state like the PM and any Union minister.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



It's not about ideology. I can't join Opposition as govt agencies are hell-bent on making them honest!

WEATHER	
	BHUB CTK
MAX	37.6° 38.6°
MIN	25.7° 26.0°
Humidity	89% 73%
Rainfall	NIL NIL
Forecast	Partly cloudy sky

# 2,000-YEAR-OLD ARTEFACTS FOUND IN BARGARH

Excavations at Barpali in Bargarh district have unearthed 2,000-year-old artefacts, uncovering a civilisation dating back to the post-Mauryan period

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bargarh, June 12:** Excavations at Barpali in Bargarh district have unearthed 2,000-year-old artefacts, uncovering a civilisation dating back to the post-Mauryan period.

With an objective to ascertain the cultural sequence of Asurgarh in Barpali, the excavation was started at the site by the history department of Gangadhar Meher University (GMU) May 31. Around 60 students took part in the excavation.

Extended over 17 hectares, the site has two moats and two forts



The recovered artefacts and students of the history department of Gangadhar Meher University at the site OP PHOTOS

with three gateways, assistant professor Atul Pradhan said.

From the excavations and recovered artefacts, it could be concluded that the habitation was an



urban settlement belonging to the post-Mauryan period, which was about 2,000 years ago, he said.

During excavations, ancient artefacts such as coins, seals, iron

weapons, fragmented terracotta figurines, black slipped ware and red slipped ware were found.

There were large numbers of knobbed ware pottery, which is a

unique feature of early urbanisation and a sign of trade and commerce. The excavation also yielded an iron smelting hearth.

Other important antiquities such as saddle querns, arrowheads, a fragmented crucible, microliths, polished stones and beads of semi-precious stones were also recovered.

"The structures and habitation remains are still visible in sections of the mound. Other important antiquities found at the site include hoppers and fragmented part of terracotta ring wells. The findings clearly indicate that it was an early trade centre. We have sent some samples to a laboratory in Nasik," Pradhan said.

The things were found during excavation of only a metre from the surface, he said.

"We stopped the excavation today (Sunday). However, we have planned to dig more after the monsoon. We are hopeful to get links beyond the post-Mauryan period," he added.

# 5 LeT terrorists killed in J&K

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Srinagar, June 12:** Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist Adil Parrray, who was involved in the recent killings of two police personnel, was killed in a 'chance' encounter with a 'small team' of police here Sunday, taking the number of ultras killed in Jammu and Kashmir in the last 24 hours to five.

"LeT #terrorist Adil Parrray of #Ganderbal who was involved in #killing of 02 JKP personnel Gh Hassan Dar in Sangam and Saifulla Qadri in Anchar Soura and injuring a 9 year old girl, killed in a chance #encounter with a small team of police," Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir Vijay Kumar wrote on Twitter. The encounter took place in the Kreesbal Palpora Sangam area here.

Parrray's killing took the number of terrorists killed in the last 24 hours to five.

# leisure



## SIMON PEGG SAYS REHAB SAVED HIS LIFE

Actor Simon Pegg became an alcoholic after writing about his difficult childhood in his 2009 memoir, *Nerd Do Well*, and he now thinks that his time at the rehabilitation centre actually saved him from death. "I just didn't know how to escape it," said the actor.

## INSTAGRAM MAKES KRIEPS FEEL SAD

Actress Vicky Krieps only joined Instagram to stop fake accounts from claiming to be her, but she feels sad by some of the things she sees online. "Most of the pictures are trying to say, 'Look at me. I'm OK, am I not? Please accept me,'" said the 38-year-old.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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

#### ARIES

You are very sensitive, and some people will disturb your peace of mind today. However, getting irritated will only make matters worse. Reflect in isolation what may be at the root of the problem. Ganesh says it is closer to you than you think.

#### TAURUS

There is a strong likelihood of some dispute or misunderstanding cropping up between you and your parents. This, Ganesh assures, could easily be resolved through a positive, meaningful dialogue. You will be clear, coherent and persuasive in your communications. Your ideas and intentions will be easily understood and accepted by others.

#### GEMINI

Bosses will assign new responsibilities to you, predicts Ganesh. Your daytime distress, however, will transform into jubilation by the end of the day's work, as you will be able to produce brilliant results. Ganesh advises you to delay bidding for tenders by a few days.

#### CANCER

Today, it is quite possible that you have a presentiment of things that are about to happen. Scarily enough, the premonition may not be too far off the mark. All your senses, especially your sixth sense, are likely to remain highly active today. It is best for you to keep your eyes and ears open to avoid any misunderstanding at work or home, says Ganesh.

#### LEO

Always dependable, that is what you are. And today, you will just underline this fact in bold strokes through your fine display of commitment to work, and your dedication to your family, says Ganesh. Your company may never find a better person for the job that you are assigned to do.

#### VIRGO

Ganesh sees you keeping away from a joint venture. You are capable enough to handle big projects yourself. You are most likely to lead and coordinate large teams and extract work from them as you will.

#### LIBRA

Expect some annoyance from the 'man in the chair', or people in charge who may be looking towards throwing a wench in your way. But know that it is just a blip on the radar. Your fortune is too powerful for anyone to affect it negatively. Stick to your task and dig into your imagination to find a way around the blips.

#### SCORPIO

The crown jewel of your character will be your supreme confidence today. Try to pick up tasks that require Herculean efforts, and you shall come close to achieving them, predicts Ganesh. Your nerves and buoyant nature will be infective and also leave people awestruck.

#### SAGITTARIUS

Your business may bring you faster growth rates than bacteria today. Moreover, banking transactions will fetch returns exceeding your expectation. Management institutes will value your expertise and experience, predicts Ganesh.

#### CAPRICORN

At times you are very direct in your approach and often end up hurting your near ones badly. Today, you'll bandage some old wounds and make efforts to restore old relationships, says Ganesh. But, your struggle to improve rapport may not be as successful as you want it to be. Stay away from those neighbours who just want to add fuel to the fire in your family conflicts, advises Ganesh.

#### AQUARIUS

Money is on your mind today! If you want to sort out financial matters, today is the day. You may have a good time with friends in the evening. You will also realise how much your friends value you and the respect you command in your wider social circle.

#### PISCES

Today, you will find yourself partitioning your time equally, and more importantly, excelling, at work as well as at home. So, while you will prove to be the right man for the job assigned to you at the office, at home you will establish yourself as the perfect family man, says Ganesh.

## Gangs of Puri trailer out

The original Odia web series showcases how the gangs operate in the coastal town of Odisha, claims the director

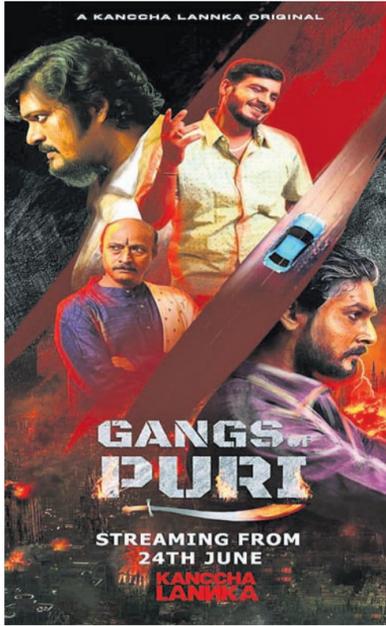
**Bhubaneswar:** The trailer of upcoming web series *Gangs of Puri*, which will be streamed from June 24 on local OTT platform Kanocha Lannka, was released here Sunday. The plot is based on an old rivalry between two gangsters, Babu Jena and Loka Nana that leads to the creation of a new Nana (gangster) in the Holy City.

Talking to Orissa POST director Anupam Patnaik said, "Puri is known for Jagannath temple and its golden beach. But we have tried to showcase the underbelly of the city and how the gangs operate here. It was set in the 1990s and we shot the project at actual locations of Puri and Bhubaneswar. This is the first season of the series comprising seven episodes."

Kanocha Lannka chairman Akshay Parija said, "Amidst the ongoing debate over copy-paste culture, we have attempted something original for the viewers."

Set in the 1990s and shot at actual locations of Puri and Bhubaneswar, *Gangs of Puri* boasts an ensemble cast that includes Krishna Kar, Aman, Choudhury Jayprakash Das, Rabi Mishra, Hara Rath and

Ankita Mohanty. Jagadish Mishra is the co-director of the series produced by Anupam Patnaik and Barsha Patnaik under the TechnoArt Productions banner while Pranab Rath, Amit Dash and Jagdish Mishra have written the story. PNN



## Kids belong to schools, not factories: Ayushmann

**Mumbai:** On World Day Against Child Labour, actor Ayushmann Khurrana, who is roped in by the UNICEF as their Celebrity Advocate for the global campaign Ending Violence Against Children (EVAC), has set the agenda for eradication of child labour in our country.

Ayushmann says, "Children belong to schools and playgrounds, not workshops, factories, agricultural fields or as domestic labourers. Child labour violates their rights and deprives them of their education, growth and opportunities." He added: "Children who have the opportunity to go to school regularly, have a better earning potential in the future, helping end the inter-generational cycle of poverty."

"Each one of us has a role to play to end child labour. We can take action to end child labour from our businesses, our homes and our communities."

Ayushmann feels children at risk need to be protected at any cost.

## SHILPA calls every woman a superhero

**New Delhi:** Shilpa Shetty Kundra is all excited for her comeback on the big screen with *Nikamma*. While talking about the film, the seasoned actress spoke about balancing her work, life and motherhood.

"Yeah totally (mother's are superheroes)," Shilpa said in a conversation with IANS.

She added: "Every woman out there, whether they are housewives, or balancing their profession with their homes, single mums, is a superhero."

"They don't even wear a cape. I just think that there is a hero in each one of us, even the *Nikamma* who is the protagonist of the movie. I think the film talks about the fact that you are useless or even think you are useless there is a hero within you."

The actress shared: "And it is only that moment which makes you realise that there is a thin line in being *Nikamma* and coming to the rescue and becoming a hero. So what is that moment in your life?"

Based on the Telugu film *Middle Class Abbayi*, the film *Nikamma* is directed by Sabbir Khan, and also stars Shilpa Shetty, Abhimanyu Dassani, Samir Soni, Shirley Setia and Abhimanyu Singh among others. IANS

### FROM ABU SALEM TO CHHOTA SHAKEEL

## How SRK talked his way out of ganglord threats

### THE MUMBAI POLICE GAVE THE ACTOR A BODYGUARD AND ADVISED HIM TO LIMIT HIS MOVEMENTS; HE WAS MADE TO CHANGE CARS AND HIS ROUTES TO WORK EVERY DAY

**Mumbai:** Back in January 1997, Rakesh Maria, former Maharashtra DGP dialled up Bhatt to pass on the

information that a sharpshooter hired by dreaded gangster Abu Salem was on the prowl looking for an opportunity to kill Shah Rukh Khan.

The reason? SRK had not signed a film being made by a producer close to Abu Salem.

The Mumbai Police gave Shah Rukh a bodyguard and advised the actor to limit his movements; he was made to change cars and his routes to work every day.

One day, when Shah Rukh was returning from Khandala after shooting for *Dil To Pagal Hai*, he got a call from Abu Salem, who first abused him in Hindi. The actor did not lose his cool. He kept up a polite tone, but spoke

only in English. Salem then said he was angry because SRK had refused to do a film being made by a Muslim producer. He said SRK should have shown his own community some support.

Shah Rukh calmly replied that he was already working with Mansoor Khan, Abbas-Mustan and Aziz Mirza. Moreover, Mahesh Bhatt's mother was also a Muslim. Maria, incidentally, had coached SRK about how to handle the gangster.

In Shah Rukh's own words, he told Salem: "I don't tell you who to shoot so don't tell me which film to do." Hearing this, the gangster backtracked.

Film journalist Anupama Chopra recounted all these in her book,

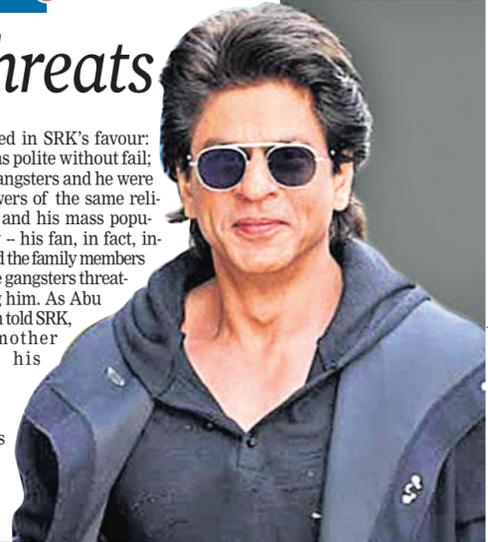
*King of Bollywood: Shah Rukh Khan and the Seductive World of Indian Cinema*

Soon, members of the Chhota Rajan gang also started calling SRK, but, in the words of Chopra, "they withdrew with surprising decency."

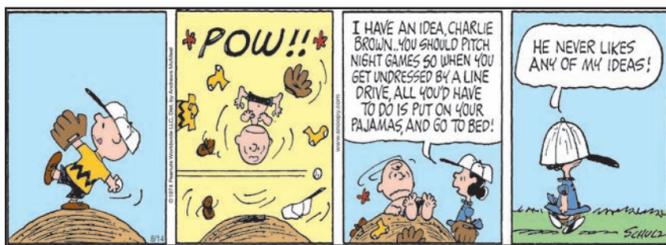
Finally, it was Chhota Shakeel who called because he was offended by the line 'Paun jannat tale' in the song *Chaiyya Chaiyya* from *Dil Se*. The gangster said he considered the line, which translates in English to heaven is beneath my feet, as being un-Islamic. SRK replied calmly that the line actually was *Paun jannat chale* (My feet are going to heaven!)

According to Chopra, three things

worked in SRK's favour: he was polite without fail; the gangsters and he were followers of the same religion; and his mass popularity - his fan, in fact, included the family members of the gangsters threatening him. As Abu Salem told SRK, his mother and his wife were the star's big fans. IANS



### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

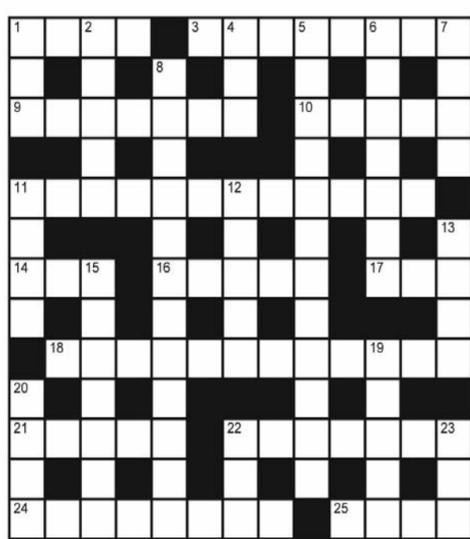


### BREVITY



### FUN post

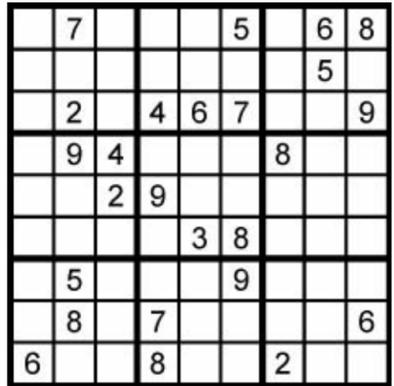
### CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Panache
  - 3 Apparitions
  - 9 Patella
  - 10 Pigeon's perch
  - 11 Type of scheme (3-4-5)
  - 14 Nile viper
  - 16 Exploding stars
  - 17 Race unit
  - 18 Like some beer (3-9)
  - 21 Derisive look
  - 22 Found in a teapot?
  - 24 Knuckling under
  - 25 Wildcat
- Down**
- 1 Antlered animal
  - 2 Highly skilled
  - 4 Part of a litter
  - 5 Designer's aim (6,6)
  - 6 Not of the norm
  - 7 Tallow source
  - 8 Like many movies (6-6)
  - 11 Unit of fat
  - 12 Mayhem
  - 13 Sweeping story
  - 15 Oath
  - 19 Skeptical
  - 20 Notice
  - 22 Bolivian export
  - 23 Levy

### SUDOKU

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

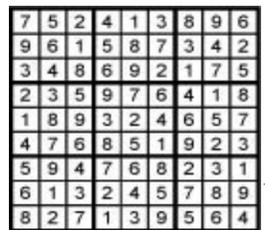


### SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



# CRICKET LOVERS' DAY OUT

Thousands gathered at Barabati stadium in Cuttack to watch the T20 International match between India and South Africa, Sunday. This was the biggest sports event in Odisha since the onset of Covid-19 pandemic two years ago. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, BCCI president Sourav Ganguly, Odisha Cricket Association president Pankaj Lochan Mohanty and many other dignitaries enjoyed the contest with great enthusiasm



PHOTOS: RAJKISHORE MOHANTY

WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR

# Naveen reaffirms commitment to abolish child labour in state



ing age, social marginalisation, discrimination, the lack of universal quality education, the prevalence of the informal economy and weak social dialogue.

## 'Say no to child labour' signature campaign

Aiming to sensitise the people to "Say no to child labour" on the occasion of World Day Against Child Labour, City based voluntary organisation 'Centre for Child and Women Development' (CCWD) in collaboration with ActionAid Association conducted a human chain and a signature campaign in front of Buddha Park. Addressing the august gathering, Sadasiv Swain, Secretary of CCWD said, "Children are the future of the nation. They need proper care and protection as well as education."



and sensitisation programmes are being taken up at the district level to create awareness on Child & Adolescent Labour (P&R) Act, 1986 and other rules against child labour. As per reports, many children were forced to work as labourers during the Covid-19 pandemic due to their families' poor financial condition. "But, we must understand that child labour will affect the future of our state. The root causes of child labour and forced labour - including poverty, limited access to decent work opportunities for those of legal work-

## State-level consultation held

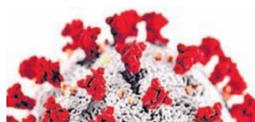
A state level consultation for elimination of child labour was organised on the occasion of "World Day Against Child Labour" Sunday by Labour & ESI Department, Government of Odisha in association with Unicef. Minister of Labour & ESI, Odisha, Srikanta Sahu graced the occasion as the chief guest and stressed on strict implementation of labour laws with concrete steps for rehabilitation of children who are rescued. He elaborated the model education system of Government of Odisha which can benefit even the poorest of the poor children of the state. He mentioned that the Chief Minister has a vision to make Odisha child labour free by 2025. Before the inaugural function, a gallery containing photos of different awareness activities at state and district levels during the fortnight campaign was inaugurated by the minister. To broaden the awareness against child labour in the state, posters, stickers and a film on child labour were also released by the minister. The key note speech in the state-level consultation was delivered by Chithra Arumugam, IAS, Principal Secretary, Labour & ESI Department. She emphasised on the need of identification and tracking of child labour with proper education curriculum for the rescued children. She also mentioned about discussing the issue of child labour at the Gram Sabha / Panchayat Sabha and involvement of SHG members to facilitate educational activities. Rescued children who have achieved success in life were also invited from the districts of Keonjhar, Dhenkanal, Mayurbhanj, Khurda and Cuttack who shared their experiences and mentioned the need of education in life.



COURTESY CALL: Newly-appointed Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee president Sarat Pattanayak paid a courtesy visit to the offices of Orissa POST and Dharitri in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

## State records 19 new cases

Bhubaneswar, June 12: Odisha reported 19 new Covid-19 cases Sunday, taking the tally to 12,88,639, the health department said. The toll remained at 9,126 as no new deaths were reported in the last 24 hours.



Odisha now has 153 active cases. So far, 12,79,307 patients have recovered from the disease, including 15 since Saturday. The state's positivity rate was at 0.21 per cent as the new cases were detected after testing 9,176 samples.

## Finance Min holds pre-Budget consultation with stakeholders

Bhubaneswar, June 12: Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari Sunday held a pre-Budget consultation with various stakeholders. Pujari virtually consulted a cross section of experts and representatives of civil society, trade & industries, labour unions, producers' organisations to make the Budget making process broad based and participative.

The consultation was held in two sessions from 11:00am to 1:30pm. In the first session, former finance ministers and finance secretaries, senior officers of RBI and NABARD, and economists took part in the discussions and put forth their views on various aspects, ranging from resource mobilisation to improving quality of expenditure. In the second session, specialists from various sectors, trade and industry representatives, agriculture experts, labour union representatives, columnists and NGO representatives put forth their sector-specific suggestions.



The suggestions received during the consultation process were noted down by the officials of Finance department and scholars of Centre of Excellence in Fiscal Policy & Taxation (CEFT). All the suggestions would be examined and sent to respective departments for consideration while formulating the full-fledged Annual Budget for 2022-23 fiscal.

## PwDs in 5 dists to get unique disability ID cards

Bhubaneswar, June 12: The state government is making all-out effort to provide unique disability identity (UDID) cards to all persons with disabilities (PwDs) in five districts identified under Centre's Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) campaign.

The Centre had launched 'Azadi Se Antyodaya Tak', a 90-day campaign, with a mission to saturate 75 districts across 28 states/UTs with beneficiary schemes of nine central ministries. Odisha's Koraput, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Sambalpur and Sundargarh districts have been included under the programme. Celebrating the spirit of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the identified districts are aligned with the birthplaces of 99 freedom fighters, who made the ultimate sacrifice for the nation during India's struggle for independence. In Odisha, Koraput has been selected for freedom fighter Laxman Nayak, Mayurbhanj for Kanka, Kalia,



THE CENTRE HAD LAUNCHED 'AZADI SE ANTYODAYA TAK', A 90-DAY CAMPAIGN, WITH A MISSION TO SATURATE 75 DISTRICTS ACROSS 28 STATES/UTS WITH BENEFICIARY SCHEMES OF NINE CENTRAL MINISTRIES

CELEBRATING THE SPIRIT OF THE AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV, THE IDENTIFIED DISTRICTS ARE ALIGNED WITH THE BIRTHPLACES OF 99 FREEDOM FIGHTERS

ODISHA'S KORAPUT, KEONJHAR, MAYURBHANJ, SAMBALPUR AND SUNDARGARH DISTRICTS HAVE BEEN INCLUDED UNDER THE PROGRAMME

Sundargarh for Nirmal Munda, Keonjhar for Dharanidhar Naik and Sambalpur for Chandra Sekhar Behera and Veer Surendra Sai. As part of the campaign, the state government has asked the concerned CDMOs to clear the pendency of applications for fresh certification received in UDID portal by the District Medical Authorities,

official sources said. As there is a high pendency seen in Koraput, Sambalpur and Sundargarh districts, the CDMOs and district social security officers have been asked to clear the pending applications within three weeks, the source said. Mayurbhanj district officials were directed to clear the pending

applications within 7 days. Registration of cases in Keonjhar was too low compared to other districts. The Keonjhar Collector has been asked to prepare a roadmap with deliverables to complete UDID generation of all pending cases within the next four weeks, they said.

## SAI Int'l School launches internship programme

Bhubaneswar, June 12: SAI International School in City has started its innovative SAI Internship Programme for students from Class IX to XII. It is the first-ever school level internship programme in Eastern India, initiated by the SAI International Education Group. As part of the programme, at least 103 students have been placed at various organisations for a 10-day internship, school sources said. Students have been placed at organisations like National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER), UNICEF, Institute of Life Sciences (ILS), PECUC, iServeU, YOYANT, BANGLABS, SPARC and BATOI for the internship programme, sources added. Students have been assigned short-term projects based on their field of interest by the organisations of their choice and they will compile a project report within 10 days. These projects will help the students to develop leadership quality, critical



thinking and problem-solving skills, communication, teamwork and creativity. SAI Internship Programme, a brainchild of late Dr. Bijaya Kumar Sahoo, founder-chairman of SAI International Education Group, is a beyond school programme for shaping the future of the students. SAI International Education Group has tied up with the leading institutions, IT companies, banks

and Finetech companies for the internship programme. "SAI Internship Programme will enable our students to be the trailblazers in various fields. This programme will foster critical thinking and creativity among students. This apart, they will learn teamwork in a corporate structure", said SAI International Education Group chairperson Silpi Sahoo.

## 12-yr-old Tisya dives 70 feet into Gulf of Oman

Bhubaneswar, June 12: In a rare feat, Sambalpur-born girl Tisya Panigrahi, who is based in Dubai, dived 70 feet into the Gulf of Oman recently on her 12th birthday June 8 and became Odisha's youngest junior advanced open water scuba diver. This advanced license can be attempted only after turning 12 years old and Tisya went for the license on the very day she attained this age. She celebrated her birthday by going to a depth of 70 feet in the sea at the Martini Rock dive site, on the east coast of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). In this dive, she was accompanied by her father Priyadarshree Panigrahi who is a certified scuba diver since 2012. PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) gave out the Junior Advanced Open Water Scuba Diver license to Tisya June 9 after the successful completion



of the stipulated 5 dives this course demands. Tisya said, "I enjoy scuba diving and the underwater world fascinates me. Being a junior open water diver, I was allowed to dive up to 12 meters/40 feet. However, I was very

keen to explore further and dive like adults who could dive up to 18 meters/60 feet. I was looking forward to turning 12 years old so that I could do the Junior Advanced Course and

dive up to 21 meters/70 feet." Tisya's scuba diving father Priyadarshree expressed his happiness on her pursuits. He said, "I am glad that Tisya has taken a liking to diving and pursues it with a lot of passion. It is a great feeling to dive with her and explore and admire the underwater world together." Odisha's pioneering scuba diver Sabir Bux also sent out a congratulatory message and said, "Tisya has made us proud by doing such a remarkable job. I congratulate her and family members. God bless her."

## MINOR FIRE AT KESHARI MALL

Bhubaneswar, June 12: Fire broke out again in Keshari Mall near Market Building area here Sunday. Sources claimed that the fire started due to a short circuit in a showroom of the mall. However, the alert staff of the showroom managed to douse the fire using the fire extinguishers.

Upon informed, the fire services personnel reached the spot immediately but by then the fire had already been extinguished. Later, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Mayor Sulochana Das also visited the mall and held discussions with the owner of the showroom. She later told the media that there was a minor spark in the

showroom and the panicked staff used excessive fire extinguisher emitting smoke. She also informed about carrying out a detailed inquiry into the mishap. Notably, a major fire had broken out at the Keshari Mall late April 15 night in which goods worth over several lakhs in two shops were gutted.

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-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladi 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.

SHORT TAKES

**Maoist materials seized in Kandhamal**

**Phulbani:** In a joint anti-Naxalite operation, the Special Operations Group (SOG) and District Voluntary Force (DVF) recovered a huge cache of Maoist articles in Kandhamal district, police said Sunday. Kandhamal police have said that the operation was launched in an area under Gochhapada police station in the district after they received specific inputs from a reliable source regarding the presence of Maoists in that particular locality. During the search operation, the forces found the articles dumped in a cave near Sasiketa village in Gochhapada. Among materials seized were several sophisticated types of arms and ammunitions, explosives including gelatin sticks, a handmade INSAS magazine, knives, unprepared magazines, Solar plates, Electric wires and Maoist literature. Further investigation is underway, police added. Efforts are also being made to flush out the Maoists from their hideouts, sources said.

# 498 fake teachers detected in state

Scores of fake teachers are still out of scanner as document verification gets delayed

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jajpur, June 12:** Teachers who have got jobs by furnishing forged BEd/CT certificates and fraudulently obtaining ST documents are being exposed due verification by the School and Mass Education department. Till date, 498 fake teachers have been caught in 25 districts in Odisha.

However, the number of 'fake' teachers could be higher than what has been stated so far. A serious allegation has come out that some 'fake' teachers who have been identified, have managed to strike off their names from the list by using the clout of political leaders.

It is an irony that these fake teachers have been enjoying all kinds of government facilities, putting a pressure on the state exchequer. On the other hand, scores of educated and trained youths are being deprived of teaching jobs.

Meanwhile, joint director of the Directorate of Elementary



A case in point is Korei block in Jajpur district where over 50 teachers have been accused of doing service on forged certificates. However, the district has reported about only 10 fake teachers

Education, Gourairani Nayak has directed the district education officers (DEO), the district project officers (DPO) and block education officers (BEO) of 25 districts to investigate reports about 498 fake teachers.

Besides, the collectors of 25 districts have been requested to initiate action against the fake teachers.

The DEE has also sought report about teachers who have managed to get their names struck off the list.

Notably, in the last five years, DEOs have been sent reminders for over 100 times to submit re-

ports about fake teachers. Due to political pressure, the verification of documents has been deliberately delayed while documents of score of fake teachers have not been verified, it was alleged.

As per sources, 163 fake teachers were identified in Bolangir district; 96 in Ganjam; 54 in Bhadrak; 36 in Khurda; 15 in Sundargarh; 13 in Kalahandi; 12 each in Rayagada, Mayurbhanj, Koraput; 10 each in Jajpur and Gajapati; eight each in Jharsuguda and Malkangiri; seven each in Nayagarh, Kandhamal and

Balasure; six in Nabarangpur; five in Dhenkanal; four each in Cuttack and Kendrapara; three in Puri and one each in Nuapada and Sambalpur.

In some cases, names of many teachers against whom locals had made allegations for using fake certificates have not been identified till date.

A case in point is Korei block in Jajpur district where over 50 teachers have been accused of doing service on forged certificates. However, the district has reported about only 10 fake teachers.

# Tenant kills shop owner over rent in Bhadrak dist

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhadrak, June 12:** In a shocking incident, a man brutally killed a shop owner at Uparadumuka village under Pirahat police limits in Bhadrak district. The deceased shop owner has been identified as Dharanidhar Kuanr. The accused Subhendu Panda who is a tenant, was also a close friend of Kuanr.

According to sources, Dharanidhar owned a shop in Kolkata and had rented it out to his friend Subhendu. However Subhendu was not paying the rent regularly which created a rift between the two. In the meantime, Dharanidhar started looking for a new tenant. This did not go well with Subhendu who decided to eliminate Dharanidhar.

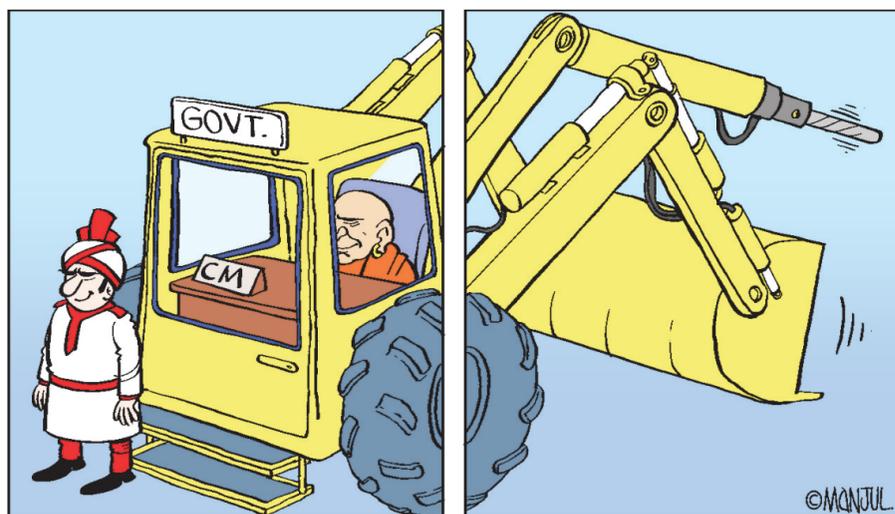
Subhendu called Dharanidhar back from Kolkata promising him to clear the rent due. Then he took Dharanidhar to a river bank near Uparadumuka village and allegedly strangled the latter. Subsequently, he disposed the body



after wrapping it with a sack. The matter came to the fore after locals spotted the body June 3 and informed the cops. Since then, police had registered a case and were investigating the case. During investigation, police got a lead and nabbed Subhendu from Tamil Nadu who later confessed to the crime. Later, police took Subhendu to the crime spot to recreate the crime scene before he was produced in the court, Sunday.

Subhendu was remanded to judicial custody after his bail plea was rejected. The investigating team has also recovered the rope used to strangle Dharanidhar.

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



**6 injured as car rams into tree**

**Padmapur:** In a freak mishap, six people were injured Sunday after a car they were travelling in ramed into a tree near Sulia village under Padmapur block in Bargarh district. Sources said the mishap occurred while the car carrying six persons was en route to Harishankar from Chhattisgarh. The vehicle ramed into a tree after the driver lost control over the wheels. It was indeed a close shave for the passengers. Following the incident, locals swung into action and helped the passengers to come out of the mangled car and rushed them to a nearby hospital. The conditions of all the six are stated to be stable. On being alerted, local police reached the spot and recovered the vehicle. They are waiting for the driver to recover so that they can talk to him and ascertain the real cause regarding the accident.

**Elephant calf abandoned by mom**

**Dhenkanal:** Officials of the Forest department Sunday rescued a newborn elephant and gave it a new lease of life after it was abandoned by its mother soon after birth at a jungle near Sabarsahi of Kunua village under Hindol Range in this district. The condition of the jumbo calf was stated to be stable. It is being administered with saline and injections, reports said. While the exact reason that prompted the mother pachyderm to disown its new baby is yet to be known, it is suspected that it might have done so as the newborn elephant could not stand up after its birth. The matter came to the fore after locals spotted the calf. On being alerted, the Rangers of Dhenkanal accompanied by a team of Forest officials reached the spot and rescued the baby elephant. "We will get its health check-up at a temporary shelter before it is taken into the wild for reunion with its herd," officials said.

# Farmers get training in cold room management

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sundargarh, June 12:** Cold rooms play a vital role in enhancement of sustainable livelihood of farmers with tonnes of vegetables and farm produce getting wasted every year in the country, a report said.

One of the important reasons behind the wastage is the lack of storage facilities for agricultural produce for which it becomes all the more important to take care of the farm produce and minimise wastage as much as possible. And cold rooms will play a vital role in safeguarding the interests of farmers.

The matter came to the fore at a workshop on cold room management for the enhancement of sustainable livelihood of farmers held at the regional resources centre, Friday.

The workshop was held under the aegis of Koel Fresh Pvt Ltd, PCFPC, a consortium of farmers' producer organisation (FPO) and voluntary outfit 'Sewak' in the town

Farmers, agri-preneurs, representatives from FPOs, NGOs, etc. from various districts and neigh-



bouring state participated in the workshop. Experts from BASE and EMPA (Switzerland) interacted with the participants and shared their expertise with them.

The event was inaugurated by District Collector Nikhil Pavan Kalyan while MLA Kusum Tete graced the occasion in the valedictory session

The workshop focused on familiarising the stakeholders with the proper way of operating a cold room where the participants were taught on operation and maintenance of cold room, capacity building of operators, CaaS (Cooling as a Service) around the world, importance of digitalization of farmers' data and cold room, sensors and shelf-life prediction of agricultural produce, best practices of cold room and government schemes for cold room.

# Cyber criminals defraud Ganjam couple of ₹1.25L

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhampur, June 12:** Cyber criminals have struck again and defrauded ₹1.25 lakh from the bank account of a couple in Patrapur area of Ganjam district, police said Sunday. The fraudsters also opened several fake accounts in various banks in the name of the woman and daughter to carry out the transactions.

The couple was identified as Kalia Kanhu Pradhan and his wife Runu Pradhan, residents of Patrapur and native of Sapang village under Jarada police limits in Ganjam district. The matter came to the fore after the victim woman lodged a complaint at the Cyber Police Station in the town. Police launched an investigation into the case.

Police said that Kalia had deposited ₹1.25 lakh in a joint account held in the name of the couple in April last week. The next day the Runu received a call and answered it. However, she did not give out any details regarding her bank account. However, she became suspicious after receiving the call.

Later, Runu visited her bank branch in Patrapur and was stunned to find ₹1.25 lakh missing from her account. The couple also found several fake accounts in the name of Runu and her daughter Uma Pradhan. They found that fraudulent transactions were being carried out through those accounts.

# Firms call the shots on poultry prices

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kendrapara, June 12:** Poultry farming in this district has slipped into the hands of big companies who own or control everything except the farms, a report said.

It is alleged that farmers who have set up farms to earn a livelihood are earning only peanuts while the companies are making huge profits by exploiting the former.

Ninety-seven per cent of the poultry meat consumed by people is produced by a farmer under contract with a big company. These poultry farmers are the last independent link in the company-owned supply chain.

In this scenario, a company owns every link of a product's supply chain from start to finish. This has happened as the Odisha government has failed to regulate the big companies.

Reports said that the Odisha government is providing loans to women of self-help groups and youths to run poultry farms for their livelihood.

The loans are provided through banks under its ambitious Mission



Farmers have failed to reap any profit from the business despite an increase in price of poultry meat. This has disappointed youths who had started poultry farms to earn a livelihood

Shakti scheme. This has encouraged women and youths to start a poultry farms as it will help them earn a livelihood for their family.

The poultry farmers have been trapped by the big companies supplying them with poultry feeds, chicks and medicines. As a result, the farmers are facing losses instead of making profits.

The situation has remained unchanged despite a rise in price of poultry meat all over the state. Recently, poultry meat was being sold around ₹250-Rs 270 per kilogram in urban as well as

rural areas of Odisha. Farmers have failed to reap any profit from the business despite an increase in price of poultry meat. This has disappointed youths who had started poultry farms to earn a livelihood.

Poultry farmers Kalia Samantary of Indupur, Subhasis Jena of Kansar village, Ramakant Mallick of Pakhar village and Sheik Hassan of Barimula village alleged that the government has no role in regulating the market price of poultry products for which the big companies are calling the shots in the business.

They alleged that big traders from Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and two to three local firms have invested in the poultry trade in Odisha. The big companies sign a contract with the independent farmers while the latter spend only on construction of farms, houses, water, power supply and manpower required to run a farm.

In exchange they supply them with poultry feeds, chicks and medicines on time. The farmers raise the chicks and in exchange get only ₹3 to ₹5 per kg of poultry meat notwithstanding the market price at that time.

The farmers cannot directly sell their products in the market. Staff of the company with who the farmers have signed the contracts, collect the fully-grown chicken and they sell them both outside and inside Odisha.

These companies charge exorbitant prices for their products if the farmers are unwilling to sign an agreement with them. In such a situation, poultry farmers have asked the Odisha government to intervene and bail them out of this situation.

**HDFC** Branch: Bhubaneswar, Plot No.: 98, Third Floor, Keshari Talkies Complex, Kharavela Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751001, Ph: 0674-6633300, CIN-L70100MH1977PLC019916, Website: www.hdfc.com

**POSSESSION NOTICE**

Whereas, the Authorised Officer/s of Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited, under Securitisation 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 Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s) to repay the amounts mentioned against their respective names together with interest thereon at the applicable rates as mentioned in the said notices, within 60 days from the date of the said Notice/s, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. till the date of payment and/or realisation.

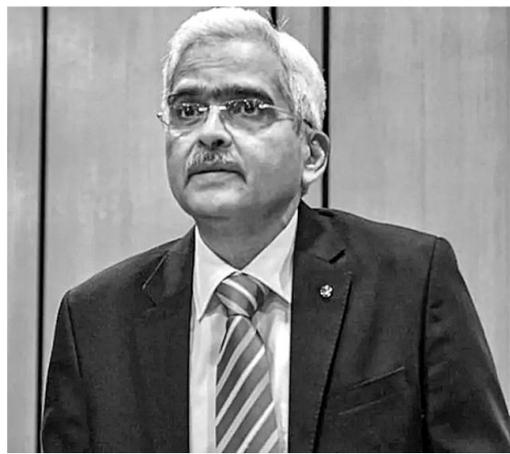
Name of Borrower(s), Co-Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s)	Outstanding Dues as on /Loan A/c No.	Demand Notice Date	Date of Possession	Description of Immovable Property(ies) / Secured Asset(s)
Borrower: Susanta Kumar Das, Co-Borrower: Amita Das	₹26,51,240/- as on 30.06.2021 / L/A No.: 604694314	31.08.2021	07.06.2022 (Symbolic Possession)	Flat No.: 104 (3BR), 1st Floor, including one car parking space, Area: 1474 Sqft. in the apartment "Parbati Enclave" situated over Plot No.: 883, Khata No.: 349, Settlement Plot No.: 426/3396, Khata No.: 796, at Mouza: Shankarpur, Tehsil: Bhubaneswar, P.S.: Chandaka No.-55, Hal P.S.: Khandagiri, SRO: Khandagiri, Dist.: Khurda
Borrower: Pradeep Kumar Routray	₹34,06,697/- as on 30.06.2019 / L/A No.: 618292940	02.08.2019	07.06.2022 (Symbolic Possession)	Flat No.: 6/C, 6th Floor, measuring 1103 sqft. Super Built up Area, Block-2, Type-A, including car parking space of the apartment of BMC Bhabani Sahidnagar Enclave, Bouted and Bounded by: North: Commercial Complex and internal road, South: Flat No. 6B and Block-1, East: Internal road and Commercial Complex, West: Lift lobby and stair case with undivided proportionate share Ac.0.00380dec. out of Ac.1.752dec. situated over Plot No.: 482 to 490, 590, 523, 533 to 557, 559 to 563 and portion of Plot No.: 473, 480, 491, 500, 501 to 532, recorded in Khata No.: 1034, 1035, Mouza: Sahidnagar, Unit No. 11, Tahasil: Bhubaneswar, Bouted and Bounded by: North: Commercial complex, South: Road, East: Commercial complex, West: Road.
Borrower: Namrata Mishra, Co-Borrower: Mihir Ranjan Mohapatra	₹12,84,274/- as on 30.11.2021 / L/A No.: 476974866	04.01.2021	07.06.2022 (Physical Possession)	A Plot of Land admeasuring in aggregate Area: Ac.0.00270dec. i.e. 109 Sqmt. approx together with the construction thereon existing and future situated at Sabak Khata No.: 90, Plot No.: 626, corresponding to Conversion Khata No.: 767/392, Plot No.: 626/2180, having Area: Ac.0.600dec. (Total Plot Area Divided in to Sub Plot) having Sub Plot No. 2, under Village/Mouza: Pubasasan, P.S.: Pipili, P.S. No. 53, SRO/Tehsil: Pipili, Bounded by: North: Sub Plot No. 3, South: Road, East: Sujata Sahu and West: Road.
Borrower: P. Dillip Kumar Patro, Co-Borrower: Nirupama Patro	₹23,10,681/- as on 31.06.2021 / L/A No.: 613016813	30.08.2021	07.06.2022 (Symbolic Possession)	A Plot of Land admeasuring in aggregate Area: Ac.0.050dec. approx. together with the construction thereon existing and future situated at Plot No.: 3033/4709, Khata No.: 907, Mouza: Goutam Nagar, Tehsil: Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda.
Borrower: Mutha Sekhar Venkata Surya	₹10,87,206/- as on 31.08.2018 / L/A No.: 477043129	09.10.2018	07.06.2022 (Symbolic Possession)	A Flat admeasuring in aggregate Area: 438.71 sqft. approx. situated at Flat No.: 3100, 3rd Floor, in the Building "Seven Hills Sands" situated at Plot No.: 351, 347(P), Khata No.: 36, Mouza: Sipasrabali, Puri, P.S.: Baliapanda, SRO/Dist.: Puri.
Borrower: Binash Mohanty	₹16,71,795/- as on 31.03.2018 / L/A No.: 601366017	15.05.2018	07.06.2022 (Symbolic Possession)	Flat admeasuring in aggregate Area: 438 sqft. approx. situated at Flat No.: 4068, 4th Floor, in the Building called "Seven Hills Sands" situated at Plot No.: 351, 347, Khata No.: 36, Mouza: Sipasrabali, Puri
Borrower: Surya Prakash Das	₹11,11,385/- as on 31.08.2018 / L/A No.: 477066212	09.10.2018	07.06.2022 (Symbolic Possession)	A Flat admeasuring in aggregate Area: 438.71 sqft. approx. situated at Flat No.: 3101, 3rd Floor, in the Building "Seven Hills Sands" situated at Plot No.: 347(P), Khata No.: 36, Mouza: Sipasrabali, P.S.: Baliapanda, SRO/Dist.: Puri.
Borrower: Jatri Das, Co-Borrower: Pranabandhu Das	₹17,78,840/- as on 30.11.2020 / L/A No.: 613654233	23.12.2020	08.06.2022 (Symbolic Possession)	A Plot of Land admeasuring in aggregate Area: Ac.0.050dec. approx. together with the construction thereon existing and future situated at Plot No.: 3033/4709, Khata No.: 907, Tehsil: Bhubaneswar, Mouza: Goutam Nagar, Dist.: Khurda, Plot of Land admeasuring in aggregate Area: Ac.0.030dec. approx. together with the construction thereon existing and future situated at Hal Plot No.: 181/1991/1, Hal Khata No.: 347/466, corresponding to Shiliban Mutation Khata No.: 89 and Plot No.: 181, Area: Ac.0.030dec. out of Total Area: Ac.2.300dec., towards south east corner at Mouza: Mallikapur, Ward No. 24, SR: Balasore, P.S.: Balasore Town, P.S. No. 16, SRO: Balasore, Dist.: Balasore. Bounded By: North: Road and Rest of Land, South: Shasanka Sekhar Samal, East: Madhusudan Kar, West: Jayanta Kumar Bose, Plot-2: A Plot of Land admeasuring in aggregate Area: Ac.0.011dec. approx. together with the construction thereon existing and future situated at Hal Plot No.: 180/1150/2070, Hal Khata No.: 574/194, corresponding to Shiliban Mutation Khata No.: 288 and Plot No.: 180/1150, Area: Ac.0.011dec. out of Total Area Ac.0.530dec., towards North East Corner at Mouza: Mallikapur, Ward No. 24, SR: Balasore, P.S.: Balasore Town P.S. No. 16, SRO: Balasore, Dist.: Balasore. Bounded By: North : Land of Vendee, South: Road and Rest of Land, East: Plot No. 190, West: Madhusudan Pathnayak.
Borrower: Gourahari Satua	₹17,64,796/- / L/A No.: 628326936 / ₹1,71,266/- / L/A No.: 628300481 / ₹6,71,013/- / L/A No.: 626327092 as on 30.11.2020	26.12.2020	08.06.2022 (Symbolic Possession)	A Plot of Land admeasuring in aggregate Area: Ac.0.002500dec. approx. together with the construction thereon existing and future situated at Plot No.: 547/1202, Khata No.: 331/747, Mouza: Balarampur, Baripada Town Unit No. 17, P.S.: Baripada No. 90, P.O.: Baripada, Dist.: Mayurbhanj, Bounded by: East: Govt. Road, West: S.K. Sabiruddin, North: S.K. Wardalli, South: Govt. Road.
Borrower: Rabindra Kumar Patra, Co-Borrower: Praphulla Patra	₹4,54,668/- as on 31.03.2018 / L/A No.: 616755498	15.05.2018	08.06.2022 (Symbolic Possession)	Khata No.: 499, Plot No.: 384/3039, Area: Ac.0.10dec., having Colony Plot No.: 8/46, Mutation Khata No.: 384/3146, Mutation Khata No.: 497/703, Mouza: Tnjanga, P.S.: Sukinda, Tahasil: Vyasanagar, Dist.: Jajpur
Borrower: Gouri Prasad Das, Co-Borrower: Sujata Das	₹7,45,291/- as on 31.10.2018 / L/A No.: 473628629	19.12.2018	08.06.2022 (Symbolic Possession)	A Plot of Land of LIG Category, bearing No. 43, measuring 1500 sqft., Length 50 ft. and Breadth 30 ft. of Sites and Service Scheme at Chorda and Umapada, Jajpur Road, SRO: Jajpur, SRO: Dolipur, Dist.: Jajpur, Bounded by- North: LIG-41, South: 20 ft. Road, East: LIG-42, West: LIG-44.
Borrower: Arindam Kar, Co-Borrower: Soumita Kar	₹4,84,067/- / L/A No.: 618061155 & ₹27,33,450/- / L/A No.: 608392750 as on 30.06.2021	31.08.2021	08.06.2022 (Physical Possession)	A Flat admeasuring in aggregate 1550 sqft. approx. SBUA situated at Flat No.: 315, 3rd Floor, in the Building named "Kirtan Enclave" Block-B, Plot No.: 1250/2703, Khata No.: 95, Mouza: Vatia, Jajpur Road.
Borrower: Anupama Das, Co-Borrower: Srinivas Samal	₹12,50,690/- as on 31.03.2017 / L/A No.: 470843638	03.05.2017	09.06.2022 (Symbolic Possession)	Property situated at Dist.: Kendrapada, P.S.: Pattamundal, Mouza: Narsinghpur, SRO: Pattamundal, Plot No.: 1841, Khata No.: 903, Area: Ac.0.030dec., Bounded by: North: Batamangaola Deity, South: Road, East: West: Road.
Borrower: Parnaswar Sen	₹17,39,937/- as on 31.03.2018 / L/A No.: 615578663	13.12.2018	09.06.2022 (Symbolic Possession)	A Plot of Land of admeasuring Area: Ac.0.210 dec. approx. situated on Sabik Khata No.: 823, Plot No.: 1655, Khata No.: 1239/261, Dist./Tahasil: Kendrapada, Mouza: Purusottampur, Bouted and Bounded by- North: Madan Mohan Mohanty, South: Hatia, East: Sellar, West: Banambara Sen.
Borrower: Niranjan Mallick, Guarantor: Rabindra Nath Lenka	₹4,98,613/- as on 31.08.2017 / L/A No.: 470851028	26.09.2017	09.06.2022 (Symbolic Possession)	A Plot of Land of admeasuring in aggregate Area: Ac.0.020dec. approx. together within the construction thereon existing and future situated at Mouza: Baulanga, Shiliban Khata No.: 19, Plot No.: 186, Area: Ac.0.015dec., Khata No.: 20, Plot No.: 187, Area: Ac.0.005dec., Mouza: Tirtol, Dist.: Jagatsinghpur.

\* With further interest as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. incurred till the date of payment and/or realisation. However, since the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s) mentioned herein above have failed to repay the amounts due, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s) mentioned herein above in particular and to the public in general that the Authorised Officer/s of HDFC have taken POSSESSION of the immovable property(ies) / secured asset(s) described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him/them under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned above. The Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s) mentioned herein above in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the aforesaid Immovable Property(ies) / Secured Asset(s) and any dealings with the said Immovable Property(ies) / Secured Asset(s) will be subject to the mortgage of Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd. Borrower's attention are invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of the section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset(s). Copies of Panchnama drawn are available with the undersigned, and the said Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s) are requested to collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 11.06.2022  
Sd/- Authorized Officer, HDFC Limited  
Regd. Office: Ramon House, H.T. Parekh Marg, 169, Backbay Reclamation, Churchgate, Mumbai-400020

FOCUS ECONOMY

# STAGFLATION LOOMS LARGE



Monetary tightening has its aftermath too. It can ripple out faster and act as a drag on private consumption that is already at a low for over a year

panied by yet another high CPI means the actual inflation level is around 20%.

No wonder the MPC considers stagflation now a greater possibility as does the World Bank. In the prevailing situation it should have come out with detailed reports on the market functioning in India. It has a contrast. While high profits are being cornered by only select companies, most others are going into severe losses.

In its latest global economic forecast, the World Bank says even something worse is possible as growth is expected to slow down. It is dismayed by growing income gaps, thawing of poverty alleviation measures and the war-induced soaring fuel prices and disruption of international trade. In such a situation, the RBI looks more optimistic in its growth forecast.

Monetary tightening has its aftermath too. It can ripple out faster and act as a drag on private consumption that is already at a low for over a year. RBI has to listen to World Bank President David Malpass, who says: "For many countries, recession will be hard to avoid." The World Bank predicts "several years of above-average inflation and below average growth with potentially destabilising consequences for low and middle income economies. It's a phenomenon - stagflation - that the world has not seen since the 1970s."

The warning is severe and grim. The RBI must take a note of it to attune Indian economy to a low price regime and impress upon the government to desist from investing on infrastructure like roads, railways, cosmetic architecture that are adding to severe inflation and the woes of the poor. It has to be tough, but the flip side would be the higher rates to help the poor hedging savings and help in future growth.

INFA

The Monetary Policy Committee of the RBI raising key policy interest rates by 0.5% to 4.9, the second in five weeks, indicates further tightening of the economy and also raises the question how it overlooked the inflation control for the last over two years. It woke up at a critical juncture when the MPC itself hints at stagflationary trends - growth stagnation and continued price rises - and the World Bank almost confirms it citing investors, bankers, and entrepreneurs discussing chances of recession.

Was the RBI overlooking a ticking bomb or was it too accommodative under COVID and other pressures? It has been speaking about inflationary trends since 2020, but was apparently being industry-friendly in keeping the rates low, ignoring the concern for safeguarding the interests of depositors and severe profiteering. Since most central banks were following the same policy, including in the US, the RBI escaped scrutiny.

The RBI has woken up late even as the US inflation that used to remain low around 2% has shot up to 8.5% and has become a problem for President Biden and the world economy. It may be pointed out that the MPC in July 2021 had discussed stagflationary trends but desisted rate rise despite a dissent note on the price front and cut on taxes. Then RBI Deputy Governor Michael Patra accepting that inflation was prime concern of the RBI, added, "It is important to bring that down."

But till May, it did not act. The RBI has similarly ignored it in 2008 right after the global financial crisis or the Lehman Brothers meltdown. Then too it appeared accommodative before it resorted to the control mechanism and raised the rates. The large lenders benefited immensely from it as they took huge credit at low rates.

At this juncture the first signs of inflation were noticed in January-March quarter of 2020 when inflation touched 6%.

As consumer price index (CPI) touches 7.9% and wholesale price index (WPI) 15.1%, the highest in three decades, the RBI has remained complacent and even now it pegging inflation at around 6.7% by end of 2022-23 is unreal. It is a bit surprising that despite noticing malignant trends the RBI remained quiet till May 2022. Now it takes swift action to raise repo rate by 0.9% between May 4 and June 8. Some more quick steps are likely to increase repo rates.

The RBI again is optimistic on growth to remain at 7.2% though World Bank predicts global growth to come down to 2.9% from 5.7% in 2021. The RBI seems still cushy

and not using the MPC power. Except in 2021, the dissent has not been there despite uncertainty over economic situation most poignantly pointed out by its Consumer Confidence Survey 2021. It revealed weakness in the bargaining powers of the working class and high prices squeezing the spending pattern.

For quite some time low-cost borrowing had been priority of the RBI despite it affecting the health of the banking sector and yielding low gains for the common man, senior citizens and women. Inflation harms the poor the most. RBI has to target bringing down CPI inflation to 4% but now it also warrants targeting run-away WPI, a trend that needs deeper study of the changing market dynamics. High WPI accom-



Shivaji Sarkar

WAS THE RBI OVERLOOKING A TICKING BOMB OR WAS IT TOO ACCOMMODATIVE UNDER COVID AND OTHER PRESSURES?

## India's Silence

China is building infrastructure along the border with India - a second bridge in an area held by it around the strategically key Pangong Tso lake in eastern Ladakh which it occupied in 2020 during the pandemic. The Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has, in an official statement, said that it is closely 'monitoring' the development. Some may find MEA's communiqué to be kind of funny. The Union government has been constantly bashing past Congress led governments for supposedly giving up vast tracts of Indian territory to the Chinese since the 1960s. Today, the BJP led government admittedly stands as a mute spectator to the developmental activities being taken up by China on recently annexed Indian territory.

There have been 15 rounds of diplomatic and military talks between India and China which have, as yet, yielded no results. No one is aware of who the negotiators from the Indian side are nor does anyone care what arguments or historical proofs are being put forth by the bureaucracy of New Delhi. The new construction is expected to help the Chinese military quickly mobilise its troops in the region. China has also been establishing other infrastructure such as roads and residential buildings in the border areas with India. It probably aims to populate that high altitude terrain with Han Chinese so that the rear of the military will be safe during operations.

Unfortunately, it took a US general to inform the Indian public about the fresh Chinese build-up which he called an "eye-opener" and "alarming." It is very possible that Indian intelligence had known all along about these Chinese activities but preferred to keep the public in the dark. The reason, most likely, could be that they did not want to expose their own failings. Unfortunately the Americans exposed the Indian government through their public declaration. The US Pacific Area Commanding General Charles A Flynn termed China's build-up near Ladakh and strengthening of its military infrastructure as part of Beijing's "corrosive and destabilising behaviour." The General has been part of the Pacific Command since 2014 under various ranks and his assessment does carry weight.

The Government of India owes an explanation to the people of this country as to why it is keeping quiet and not registering protest publicly nor raising the issue with the Chinese authorities, both bilaterally and at international forums. The moot point is the behaviour and the manner in which China is acting should be a matter of great concern for India and other countries as well.

A day after the US General articulated his views of the situation, an MEA spokesperson indulged in diplomatic obfuscation. He merely said the government "carefully monitors developments along our border areas, including construction of infrastructure by the Chinese side in the Western Sector, as well as that being undertaken further in-depth areas." While the government, according to the spokesperson was "committed to, and takes all adequate and appropriate measures to safeguard territorial integrity and sovereignty," he forgot to mention what are the tangible measures that the government has taken to safeguard territorial integrity. This means China can get away with doing whatever it likes, treating the border talks in a cavalier manner and India would only dance to its tune.

China, of course, sought to discredit the US General for spilling the beans about its build-up. Its foreign affairs spokesman said that the US was playing a dangerous game by commenting on matters that India and China are trying to resolve through negotiations. It is only natural that China would not brook any adverse reactions from the US when it can continue playing its own game without any protests from India.

### WISDOM CORNER

- Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony. **MAHATMA GANDHI**
- Until you are happy with who you are, you will never be happy with what you have. **ZIG ZIGLAR**
- If you spend your whole life waiting for the storm, you'll never enjoy the sunshine. **MORRIS L. WEST**

### WORDSWORTH

#### Tergiversate

If you've ever spotted somebody wriggling and being evasive, trying to avoid giving a straight answer to a straight question, then you have observed tergiversation. The Romans observed this phenomenon as often as we do, and already had the word for it, tergiversari, to turn one's back, shuffle, or practise evasion, from tergum, back, and vertere, to turn. One of its English senses, in older dictionaries often given as the main one, is of a deserter from a party, a renegade or apostate. An example in that sense appeared in Blackwood's Magazine in 1831: "I am liberal in my politics," says some twenty-times tergiversated turncoat." Dickens seems to be using it in the more modern sense in A Tale of Two Cities: "He knew ... that flight was impossible; that he was tied fast under the shadow of the axe; and that in spite of his utmost tergiversation and treachery in furtherance of the reigning terror, a word might bring it down upon him." As those who tergiversate in either sense usually show similar symptoms of ducking and weaving, as John Barsad was doing in Dickens's book, the link between the two senses is clear enough, and in fact it's sometimes difficult to decide which sense was meant. The turncoat sense is still sometimes encountered, but the main one is now of someone trying to weasel out of an untenable position.

#### Tetraplyoctomy

Tetraplyoctomy is the art or skill of splitting a hair four ways. Don't be a mere two-way hair-splitter; grasp your pedantry firmly in both hands and split your hair crosswise into four. This word has found a secure if niche existence in the lexicons of academics with a sense of humour since it was invented by Umberto Eco in his novel Foucault's Pendulum, published in English in 1989. In a mocking attempt to reform higher education, one character proposes a School of Comparative Irrelevance, whose aim would be to turn out scholars capable of endlessly increasing the number of unnecessary topics. In it would be a Department of Tetraplyoctomy, whose function would be to inculcate a sense of irrelevance in its students. Another department would study useless techniques, such as Assyrio-Babylonian philately and Aztec EQUITATION. The word combines tetra, four, with pilus, hair (as in depilatory), and the ending -tomy, a cutting. As the component parts come respectively from Greek, Latin and Greek it's a miscegenated linguistic sandwich that no self-respecting scholar would invent, which is no doubt why Umberto Eco found it to be appropriate.

### LOL

#### You're back again?

The judge said to the defendant: "I thought I told you I never wanted to see you in here again."



"that's what I tried to tell the police, but they wouldn't listen."

### SPECTRUM ELECTORAL REFORM

# How Oz revived the political middle

Like many other democracies, Australia has experienced growing political polarisation in recent years, particularly during the last nine years of conservative government, led by the Liberal Party, in coalition with the smaller, rural-based National Party. That is why the result of the federal election in May could hold important lessons for other polarised polities.

Consider the outcome in Kooyong, the safest of all Liberal seats. The electorate covers some of Melbourne's most affluent suburbs and, since its creation in 1901, has always elected a Liberal or a representative of its conservative predecessors. In the recent election, the sitting member for Kooyong, Josh Frydenberg, served as federal treasurer and deputy leader of the Liberal Party and was widely talked about as a future prime minister.

No one gave the main opposition Australian Labor Party any chance of winning Kooyong - and they were right about that. But Frydenberg also faced a more unusual opponent this year: Monique Ryan, a paediatric neurologist who ran the neurology department of Melbourne's leading children's hospital. Ryan stepped away from that role to campaign as an independent candidate in the electorate where she lived because she was bitterly disappointed with the Liberal government's failure to tackle climate change. She also campaigned for an independent body to investigate corruption in politics, and for

equality and respect for women.

Australia's lower house consists of single-member electorates, with members elected by preferential voting, also known as ranked-choice voting, or instant run-off, which is not to be confused with proportional representation. After the distribution of preferences was tallied, Ryan defeated Frydenberg, 53%-47%.

Similarly, in three Sydney electorates that were almost as safely conservative as Kooyong, the incumbent Liberals were defeated by local professional women campaigning for stronger action on climate change. The same thing happened in Perth, and in another Liberal stronghold in Melbourne. Altogether, six new teal independents, all women, and all focused on climate change, were elected to the House of Representatives. With three independents who were re-elected to seats they had held previously, and another new independent who is not aligned with the teal group, the Australian parliament will have ten independents.

The Australian Greens, which prior to the election had never held more than a single seat in the lower house, will have four in the new parliament. In a lower house of 151 members, 14 for whom climate change is an issue of supreme importance will be unaligned with the major parties.

Several factors made this remarkable result possible. The independents who campaigned on

the need for stronger action on climate change were supported by Climate 200, a fund-raising body that distributed AUD\$12 million (\$8.7 million) to 23 climate-focused independents. Its practical campaign advice was also important for candidates who had never run for office. Each independent ran in their own community, supported by local volunteers who knocked on a lot of doors.

Preferential voting was essential to the victories of the teal independents, because it meant that they could win without receiving the most first preference votes. The six new teal independents who won did so by finishing ahead of the Labor candidate in the electorate they were contesting and keeping the Liberal candidate below 50% of the vote. The candidates with fewer votes were then progressively eliminated, starting with the candidates who received fewest votes, and the preferences of voters for these candidates were distributed. Predictably, both the Greens and Labor recommended that their voters give their preferences to the independents ahead of the Liberals. Those preferences were then enough to put the independent candidate ahead of the Liberal.

Labor won a narrow majority of two seats in the lower house, so, strictly speaking, it will not need the support of the Greens and independents there. But Labor will need support from the Greens and at least one independent in

the Senate. The new Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, will almost certainly receive it, having signaled a shift in climate policy by saying that he wants to make Australia "a renewable energy superpower."

In countries in which politics is becoming increasingly polarised, the Australian election should increase support for voting reform. Outside Australia, preferential voting is used nationally in Ireland, Malta, Nauru, and Slovenia. In the US, it is used in Alaska and Maine, and in many cities, including New York, and there is support for introducing it in several other jurisdictions.

Extremism flourishes in voting systems in which the candidate with the most votes wins, even if the winner has the support of a minority of voters. None of the six new teal independents received the most first preference votes in their constituency; but in each case, a majority of voters preferred them to the Liberal candidates who did receive the most first preferences. Allowing voters to express their second or third preferences helps moderate defeat extremists.

If community-based independents could make a dent in the major party duopoly in Australia, then, with the right voting system, they can do so elsewhere as well.

The writer is Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

## 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, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

### Social malady

Sir, Child labour is the act of employment of children in any work that deprives them of their childhood, interferes with their ability to attend regular school, and that is mentally, physically, socially or morally harmful. In India, there are around 12.9 million children engaged in work between the ages of 7 to 17. Various causes of child labour like the curse of poverty, lack of educational resources, social and economic backwardness, addiction, disease or disability are in fact the products of the present decadent system. Child labour deprives children of their right to go to school and reinforces intergenerational cycles of poverty. According to data from Census 2011, the number of child labourers in India is 10.1 million of which 5.6 million are boys and 4.5 million girls. The consequences are staggering. Child labour can result in extreme bodily and mental harm, and even death. It can lead to slavery and sexual or economic exploitation. And in nearly every case, it cuts children off from schooling and healthcare, restricting their fundamental rights and threatening their futures. Change the system to prevent the social malady.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

### Glorious career ends

Sir, Whenever Indian women's cricket is spoken of the name of Mithali Raj will always stand out. The Test and ODI skipper has called it quits. She had earlier changed her boots from Twenty20. Mithali has had an eventful 22-year career. Not surprisingly, she was the most capped international cricketer. Also, eight hundreds and 85 fifties in international cricket bear testimony to her consistency and class. The 39-year-old led India in two women's 50-over world cup finals - 2005 and 2017 - though she couldn't lead India to world cup glory. As the highest run-getter in international cricket, Mithali always focused on her game. The most successful Indian women's captain was a stylish batter. A gifted technique, of course honed through hours of work at the nets, immensely aided her in scoring runs in tons. Cover drives and lofted shots were her trademark. Former Indian captain Shantha Rangaswamy has described Mithali as the "best women's batter ever." At her best, Mithali was "poetry in motion," Shantha has said. The "lady Tendulkar" will be a hard player to replace in the team. However, Mithali can offer much more to Indian women's cricket by way of coaching. She has been a batting consultant already; she may be destined for more.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

# national

## of the day quote

**BJP wants the massacre of Kashmiri Pandits that is happening today. It doesn't want discussion on rising unemployment and inflation and farmers' problems. It only wants to debate religion, temple, and mosque. But the public is intelligent and will take the right decision when the time comes**

**SACHIN PILOT** | FORMER DEPUTY CM OF RAJASTHAN

**On one hand, the Bengal government boosts the morale of criminals and protects antisocial elements, on the other it suppresses the voice of those who fight for people in a democratic manner**

**J P NADDA** | BJP PRESIDENT

**We are keeping a watch on law and order, and also ensuring that communal harmony is maintained**

**HIMANTA BISWA SARMA** | ASSAM CM

## SHORT TAKES

### Grenade found

**New Delhi:** A hand grenade was found submerged in a canal in the national capital, triggering panic in the area, officials said Sunday. "Around 8.15 p.m. on Saturday, a sack with a hand grenade inside it was found submerged in water in the Hindon canal under the DND flyover in Mayur Vihar police station area," the official said.

### 3 dead in accident

**Hyderabad:** Three persons were killed and five others injured in a road accident in Telangana's Siddipet district Sunday, police said. The accident occurred when a truck hit a car coming from the opposite direction near Mallaram Stage in Chinnakoduru mandal. The truck crashed into the road divider and rolled on to the other side of the road, ramming into the car.

### Man killed in Hyd

**Hyderabad:** A person was killed while another injured in a chemical explosion in Hyderabad Sunday. The incident occurred in Gowliguda in Afzalgunj police station limits when they were dumping chemicals in a manhole. According to eyewitnesses, a man and his father who deal in chemicals were dumping a chemical as its validity had expired.

### 2 soldiers injured

**Jammu:** Two Army personnel were injured on Sunday in a landmine explosion near the Line of Control (LOC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. The landmine, part of an anti-infiltration obstacle system, went off when the soldiers were busy extinguishing a forest fire in Balakote area, they said.

### PM to visit Maha June 14

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Maharashtra to inaugurate the Jal Bhushan Building and Gallery of Revolutionaries at Raj Bhavan in Mumbai on June 14, said the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). During his visit, the Prime Minister will inaugurate Jagadguru Shri Sant Tukaram Maharaj Temple in Dehu, Pune, and Jal Bhushan Building and Gallery of Revolutionaries at Raj Bhavan in Mumbai. In the evening, the Prime Minister will participate in Dwishatabdi Mahotsav (200 years' celebration) of 'Bombay Samachar' (now Mumbai Samachar) at Bandra Kurla Complex in Mumbai.



**India has always set an example of truth, non-violence and brotherhood before the world and hate and unrest is not our way**

**RAHUL GANDHI** | FORMER CONGRESS CHIEF

## WELCOME MOVE

Jammu and Kashmir administration will provide subsidised timber for repairs and maintenance of houseboats and taxi shikaras, an official said Sunday. The decision was taken during a meeting of the administrative council



# Drones set to take flight but concerns remain: Experts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 12:** With a growing indigenous base of manufacturers, India's drone industry may play an instrumental role in public services such as agriculture, defence, healthcare and infrastructure maintenance in the future, say experts while also highlighting some concerns around the safety and privacy of these unmanned aerial vehicles.

Drones are mini pilotless aircraft operated by remote control and can be accessed through simple devices like a smartphone app. These unmanned vehicles require far less effort, time and energy, and can reach far and difficult ter-

rains while being controlled by a single person remotely.

Popularity and adoption of drone technology is catching up across regions and sectors and India is no exception to it. Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said last month that India will need approximately one lakh drone pilots in the coming years.

In order to showcase the potential of the indigenous drone industry, India recently organised its biggest drone festival in the national capital. Bharat Drone Mahotsav, a two-day event held on May 27 and 28 in the capital saw over 1,600 delegates, including government officials, foreign diplomats, PSUs, private companies



and drone startups etc.

The companies exhibited unmanned vehicles ready for fields such as defence, agriculture, survey mapping while also showcasing futuristic cutting edge proj-

ects that will entail the drones taking bigger roles such as carrying patients in emergencies to delivering goods and essentials at a mass level.

New-Delhi based drone maker

Theta Enerlytics along with Vega Aviation Products showcased their endurance & hard body drones at the festival.

"These drones can be used for various purposes like agriculture, forest management services, town and city planning services, revenue and planning departments, police services, smart cities within the public sector and industries, power plants, mining companies, construction companies to name a few," said Karan Dhau, Chairman and co-founder, Theta Enerlytics.

"Our drones are made with complete composite materials which enable a higher-flying time than any other drones in their

class. Our Theta Falcon can fly up to 150 minutes in a single flight and can carry up to 1kilogramme of sensors and payloads," Dhau said.

He noted that 'Theta Falcon' is ideal for mapping applications, surveillance and border security. The drone takes off vertically like a helicopter and then transitions into horizontal flight like an airplane. Another drone showcased at the festival, 'Hexacopter Theta Lotus', can carry a payload of up to 10 kg in ideal conditions and can be also used for stringing guidewires for transmission lines, ropeway bridges and cable cars. "The Lotus can fly up to 70 minutes on a single charge," said Dhau.

## Heatwave abates in central, east India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 12:** A few areas in northwest India braved intense heat on Sunday, though heatwave conditions have abated in most places in central and the adjoining eastern parts of the country, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

Heatwave conditions prevailed in parts of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Delhi, it said. At least 22 towns and cities in these states reported maximum temperatures above 44 degrees Celsius, the IMD said.

"Heatwave conditions have abated from most parts of central and adjoining east India," the IMD said in a statement. However, the heatwave spell in isolated areas of Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand will continue till Monday, it said.

Northwest India is reeling under a heatwave spell since June 2 due to an onslaught of hot and dry



westerly winds. Weather experts said a major relief is likely from June 15-16. Under the influence of a fresh Western Disturbance and lower level easterlies, scattered to fairly widespread rainfall and thunderstorms are predicted in Jammu and Kashmir; Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, east Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Delhi on June 15-16, the IMD said.

The Met Office predicted maximum temperatures to dip by two to three degrees Celsius in northwest India starting Tuesday. Between June 16 and June 22, the maximum temperatures are likely to remain "below-normal to near-normal", it said in an extended range forecast.

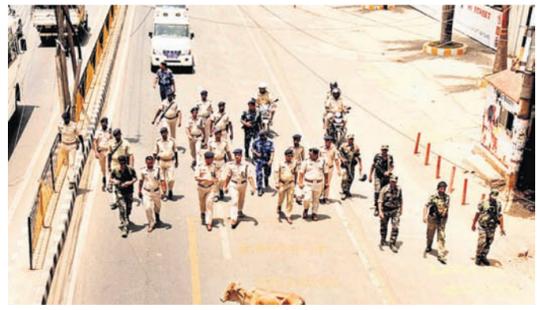
## Deceased were not part of protest, claim families

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Ranchi, June 12:** Family members of the two persons who succumbed to gunshot wounds during Friday's protests here against controversial remarks on Prophet Mohammad, have claimed they were not a part of the procession that was taken out to condemn the comments.

Two persons identified as Mohammad Mudassar Alam who was also known as Kaifi, and Mohammad Sahil died while over two dozen people were injured in protests and subsequent clashes that rocked the state capital on Friday over the remarks made by two suspended BJP functionaries against Prophet Mohammad, officials said.

Mohammad Parvez Alam, the father of Mudassar, said he had no idea how his "minor" son received bullet injuries as he was not a part of the procession. "Why did they kill my only son? How can I live without him? He just took his matriculation examination this year and his result was to be declared this week," Mudassar's inconsolable mother Nikhat Parveen, a resident of Ranchi's Hindpadi area near



Security personnel conduct a flag march to maintain law and order following clashes during protest against now-suspended BJP leaders' remarks on Prophet Mohammad in Ranchi

Daily Market, said.

Claiming that Mudassar was barely 16 years old, his uncle Md Sahil Ayubi demanded a compensation of Rs 25 lakh and a government job for the family. Ayubi said, "Mudassar was helping his father in his fruit business. Now he is dead. Who will look after my brother and his wife in their old age?"

State-run Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) PRO D K Sinha said as per hospital records, Mudassar was 22 and Sahil 24. They

died during treatment at the medical facility. Shabik Ansari, the brother of Sahil, claimed he did not participate in Friday's protest march.

"My brother Md Sahil had gone to Ranchi Main Road for some work after the Friday Namaz. He was not part of the procession, but he received bullet injuries and died," Ansari said. Eight of the critically injured people are now undergoing treatment at RIMS.

## Search operations on for 2 soldiers in Arunachal

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Guwahati, June 12:** Intensive search operations are underway in forward areas of Arunachal Pradesh's Anjaw district to trace two Indian Army personnel missing since May 28, defence officials said Sunday.

A defence spokesman said that Naik Prakash Singh and Lance Naik Harendra Singh were presumed to have accidentally fallen into a fast-flowing river in close proximity to their post. Despite immediate and extensive searches, including aerial reconnaissance and tracker dogs being pressed into action, no success has been achieved yet.



A court of inquiry to investigate the incident has been convened by the Army. The family members of the two soldiers, who belong to Uttarakhand, have been informed of the unfortunate incident and are being regularly updated, the spokesman said. The Anjaw district in northeast Arunachal Pradesh shares borders with China and Myanmar.



People take a bath in the Ranbir Canal on a hot day in Jammu

## Post Covid, elderly return to workforce

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 12:** This, too, is a Covid effect. Pushed out of their comfort zones by a pandemic that took away their financial security, many people in the twilight of their lives or recently retired are returning to the workforce – be it taking tuitions, applying for office assistant posts or setting up a hawkker cart.

The reasons for seeking financial independence are varied as is the income bracket. It could be somebody whose son lost his job, another whose savings dwindled in the long months of lockdown or an elderly person who may have seen an earning child die of Covid and is forced to again support the family.



"Many elderly no longer have the concept of tomorrow and this is creating many uncertainties in the minds of people," said Himanshu Rath, founder and chairperson of Agewell Foundation. The number of job applications received at the Foundation's employment exchange portal, which provides employment opportunities to the elderly, has jumped since the pandemic.

"We would receive about 400 to 450 applications every month before the pandemic. In the last couple of months, the numbers have jumped to almost 550. The number

of enquiries on phone either from new job seekers or those who have already applied has gone up from five to six a day to over 10 calls per day. So there is an increase of at least 30-35 per cent," Rath said.

According to a recent Agewell Foundation survey based on interactions with 5,000 older persons, more than 61 per cent retired older persons (81.5 per cent in the 60-75 age group) are in search of gainful work. Among those seeking employment is 79-year-old Gunn Shivdasani. It has been nearly 20 years since he retired from his job in the garment industry but the vicissitudes of the lockdown have left him with little option but to look for work.

"My son lost his job in this pandemic and now he is earning much less than before. I want to help him so I am thinking of working again," the Delhi-based Shivdasani said. He has one son, one daughter, a daughter-in-law and four grandchildren. Shivdasani is willing to do anything but would prefer taking tuitions. "My grasp on English is good and it can help students. Any amount of money would actually help," he said. At 62, Sattar Khan is 17 years younger and in the same predicament. After his retirement as an office assistant at a private firm, he was looking forward to spending time with his family. But that was not to be. "I worked as an office assistant at a private firm all my life. When I retired I thought I would spend some time with my family but now there is so much uncertainty that I want to earn money. It should be enough for my needs so I am not dependent on my sons for anything," Khan, who also lives in Delhi, said.

## Cong to show strength as Rahul to appear before ED

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Ahmedabad, June 12:** In protest of the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) summoning Congress president Sonia Gandhi and her son Rahul Gandhi to appear before it, Congress leaders and workers Monday will stage dharna in front of ED office in Ahmedabad.

Both the leaders have been issued summons in connection with the National Herald issue. Rahul Gandhi will appear before the ED officials on Monday.

Party's national spokesperson Pawan Khera said, "National Herald was passing through financial crisis, so from 2002 to 2011, Congress party used Rs 90 crore

fund for the payment of salaries of employees, retired employees, electricity bills, and taxes, which BJP and its associates and followers are terming it as an offence. Even the Election Commission has given it clean chit."

"Allegations against Sonia and Rahul Gandhi are baseless, ED

action is nothing but political revenge by the ruling party. The paper was founded by Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Patel, Purshottam Tandon, Acharya Narendra Dave, and Rafi Mohammad Kidwai, it is a historical heritage and pride for the party and nation, and at any cost, the pride will never be compromised," the Congress said.

UCO BANK		Zonal Office, UCO Bank Building, 2nd Floor, C-2, Ashok Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751009, Tel: 0674-2620423		POSSESSION NOTICE For Immovable Property	
<b>(Under Section 13(4) of the Securitization &amp; Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 for Immovable Property)</b>					
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the UCO Bank, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrowers/Guarantors to repay the amount with interest at the contractual rate together with incidental expenses and costs within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken POSSESSION of the properties described here-in below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules. The Borrowers/ Guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the UCO Bank for an amount plus interest & expenses thereon.					
<b>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.</b>					
BRANCH / Name and Address of Borrowers/Guarantors	Amount Outstanding as on Specified Date	Date of Demand / Possession Notice	Description of the Immovable Properties		
<b>KAKATPUR BRANCH/ Borrower : M/s. Maa Associates, Prop.: Mr. Dillip Kumar Nayak, S/o.: Mr. Nabaghana Nayak, At: Patasundarpur, PO.: Patasundarpur, Via: Kakatpur, Dist.: Puri - 752108/ Guarantors: 1) Mr. Dillip Kumar Nayak, 2) Mr. Nabaghana Nayak, 3) Mr. Dushasan Nayak, At: Patasundarpur, PO.: Patasundarpur, Via: Kakatpur, Dist.: Puri - 752108</b>	<b>₹ 3,15,118.31 as on 09.06.2022</b> + Interest and other expenses thereon	<b>28.01.2022 / 09.06.2022</b>	1) All that part and parcel of Immovable property situated over Mouza: Balara, P.S.: Kakatpur, Tahasil: Kakatpur, Dist.: Puri, Khata No.: 441, Plot No.: 3711, Area: Ac.0.04 Dec, Khata No.: 558, Plot No.: 3746, Area: Ac.0.19 Dec, KISSAM: Bagayat, in the name of <b>Mr. Dillip Kumar Nayak, Mr. Pradipta Kumar Nayak &amp; Mr. Nabaghana Nayak</b> , Bounded by North: Road, South: Laxmidhar Biswal, East: Ramachandra Rout, West: Ashok Senapati, 2) All that part and parcel of Immovable property situated over Mouza: Mahadebabasta, P.S.: Kakatpur, Tahasil: Kakatpur, Dist.: Puri, Khata No.: 707, Plot No.: 2290, 2293, 2388, 2386, 2381, 2372, 2374, Area: Ac.1.04 Dec, KISSAM: Patita, in the name of <b>Mr. Dillip Kumar Nayak, Mr. Pradipta Kumar Nayak &amp; Mr. Nabaghana Nayak</b> , Bounded by North: Road, South: Maheswar Nayak, East: Sudarsan Pradhan, West: Govt. Land		
<b>BHANJANAGAR BRANCH/ Borrower : Mr. Prabhjanjan Tripathy, S/o.: Mr. Radha Mohan Tripathy, At: Dalaka, Balisahi, PO.: Lambhai, P.S.: Tarasingi, Dist.: Ganjam, Odisha, PIN - 761131 / Guarantor: Mr. Radha Mohan Tripathy, S/o.: Late Khali Tripathy, At: Dalaka, Balisahi, PO.: Lambhai, P.S.: Tarasingi, Dist.: Ganjam, Odisha, PIN - 761131</b>	<b>₹ 2,17,170/- as on 10.11.2021</b> + Interest and other expenses thereon	<b>10.11.2021 / 07.06.2022</b>	All that part and parcel of Immovable property situated over Khata No.: 95, Plot No.: 965, Sale Deed No.: 95/1983, dt.25.03.1983, KISSAM: Gharabari, Extent of the site- Area: Ac.0.016 Dec i.e 697 sq.ft at Dalaka, Balisahi, PO.: Lambhai, Dist.: Ganjam, Odisha, PIN - 761131, <b>Total Area: 697 sq.ft.</b> , in the name of <b>Mr. Radha Mohan Tripathy</b> , Bounded by North: Road, East: House of Kandha Nayak, South: Land of Krushna Chandra Rout, West: House of Banchna Rout		
<b>BADAKHOLI BRANCH/ Borrower : Mr. Trilochan Badatya, S/o.: Shyamghan Badatya, At/PO.: Bhetanai, P.S.: Aska, Ganjam, Odisha-761116 / Guarantor: Mr. Shyamghan Badatya, At/PO.: Bhetanai, P.S.: Aska, Ganjam, Odisha-761116</b>	<b>₹ 7,02,341.71 as on 15.11.2021</b> + Interest and other expenses thereon	<b>07.12.2021 / 07.06.2022</b>	All that part and parcel of Immovable property situated over Mouza: Bhetanai, Tahasil: Aska, Dist.: Ganjam, Khata No.: 1904/162, Plot No.: 3851/10256, Plot No.: 4004/10257, in the name of <b>Mr. Shyamghan Badatya, S/o.: Mr. Govind Badatya, Plot No.: 3851/10256 is Bounded by North: Road, East: House of Bhaskar Mohanty, South: Land of Uttam Sahu, West: House of Keshab Badatya, Plot No.: 4004/10257 is Bounded by North: Road, East: House of Saiba Badatya, South: Land of Uttam Sahu, West: House of Niranjana Nahak</b>		
<b>BALIGUDA BRANCH/ Borrowers : 1) Mrs. Sanjukta Sahu, W/o.: Binod Kumar Sahu, 2) Mr. Binod Kumar Sahu, S/o.: Mr. Purna Chandra Sahu, At: Main Road, Dandapadar, Dist.: Kandhamal, PIN-762103</b>	<b>₹ 1,35,298.64 as on 31.03.2021</b> + Interest and other expenses thereon	<b>18.11.2021 / 08.06.2022</b>	All that part and parcel of Immovable property situated over Mouza: Baliguda, Thana: Baliguda, Tahasil: Baliguda, Khata No.: 769/1807, Plot No.: 3233/5016, Area: H0.008R, standing in the name of <b>Sanjukta Sahu</b> , Bounded by North: Bhima Dalabehra, East: Ghadei Sahu, South: P.W.D Road, West: Parsuram Panda		
<b>Place : Bhubaneswar, Date: 10.06.2022</b>					
<b>Authorised Officer, UCO Bank</b>					

RAGING ANGER



Police personnel detain people during their protest demanding arrest of former BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma over her remarks against Prophet Muhammad, in Ahmedabad, Sunday.

Guj's diamond industry hit hard by Russia-Ukraine war

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, June 12: The Russia-Ukraine war has adversely affected the livelihood of lakhs of workers of the diamond industry in Gujarat, especially in rural parts of Saurashtra region where many units import small-size diamonds from Russia for processing and polishing, according to industry representatives.

The state's diamond industry employs nearly 15 lakh workers, the Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council's regional chairman, Dinesh Navadiya, told PTI. Due to the shortage of supply of small-size rough diamonds from Russia, businessmen in Gujarat are forced to buy the raw material from African countries and other places, affecting their profits.

Hence, the diamond units in the state have curtailed the working hours of their workers and polishers, thus impacting their livelihood, he said.

The processing of big-size diamonds is mainly carried out at units in the state's Surat city.

The US, where 70 per cent of the cut and polished diamonds are exported from India, has imposed a ban on Russian companies.

Navadiya said a few large companies in the US have already sent them emails, saying they will not purchase goods of Russian origin.

Hence, this has adversely affected the diamond industry workers in Gujarat, mainly in Bhavnagar, Rajkot, Amreli and Junagadh districts of Saurashtra as well as in some northern parts of the state, the industry stakeholders said.

"We had been importing nearly 27 per cent of rough diamonds from Russia. But, due to the war, now that much quantity is not reaching the processing units in Gujarat, affecting the work there," Navadiya said.

Nearly 50 per cent of the entire workforce involved in diamond



LIVELIHOOD LOSS

The state's diamond industry employs nearly 15 lakh workers

Due to shortage of supply of small-size rough diamonds from Russia, businessmen in Gujarat are forced to buy the raw material from African countries, affecting their profits

The diamond units in the state have curtailed the working hours of their workers and polishers, thus impacting their livelihood

processing in Gujarat works on small-size diamonds, locally known as 'patli', he said.

Before the war, about 30 per cent of the total rough diamonds imported to Gujarat for polishing were brought from Alrosa, the Russian diamond mining company, he said.

Out of all the cut and polished diamonds processed in Gujarat, 60 per cent are of Russian-origin, most of them being small-size diamonds, said Navadiya.

"There is a shortage of rough diamonds due to the Russia-Ukraine war; hence we are procuring the raw material from African countries at a higher price. This has affected our profit margins by around 25 per cent," said Lalit Thummar, a diamond trader from Amreli district.

Some diamond units have also cut the working hours of polishers employed there by 5-10 per cent, he said. Thummar said the diamond units are trying their best to ensure continuous supply of 'patli' diamonds from other sources, like small miners in African countries and lab-grown small-size diamonds

in China, but the price of such stones has also gone up, affecting their profits.

"The diamond units are providing jobs to workers, but not on a scale seen before the war. They are being given six hours of work instead of eight hours earlier, and two weekly offs as against one day earlier," Navadiya said.

"As of now, manufacturers are sustaining despite facing losses. The production cost has increased and ready goods are not fetching the right price. Hence, the diamond units are providing limited jobs by trimming down the working hours of employees," he said.

Vithal Mendapara, who owns a diamond unit in Bhavnagar, said smaller units are the most affected due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war. "There is a shortage of rough diamonds, but traders are using stocks lying with them to keep the polishers engaged. Workers in smaller units are affected due to the short supply of rough diamonds," said Mendapara, the former president of the Bhavnagar Diamond Association.

Prophet remarks: 2 held over Jama Masjid protest

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 12: Delhi Police have identified and arrested two people who were part of a large gathering that protested outside the Jama Masjid in the national capital two days ago, an official said Sunday.

The accused, identified as Mohd Nadeem (43) and Faheem (37), both residents of Delhi, were arrested late Saturday.

DCP (Central) Shweta Chauhan said a case was registered on June 10 under section 188 (Disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) of the Indian Penal Code against the protesters.

However, the police has now added section 153 A (Promoting enmity between different groups on



grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony) to the FIR.

The people of the minority community, in large numbers, had gathered outside the Jama Masjid to register their protest against the

controversial remarks made by former Bharatiya Janata Party leaders Nupur Sharma and Naveen Jindal.

The agitators were demanding immediate arrest of Sharma and Jindal. Jama Masjid's Shahi Imam Ahmed Bukhari said no call was

given for the protest. "I didn't know who the protesters were," he said.

An FIR was also previously lodged against Sharma and several others for their alleged hate remarks during a debate on a TV news channel.

"We have lodged the FIR against those who were spreading messages of hate, inciting various groups and creating situations which are detrimental to the maintenance of public tranquility. One case has been registered against Nupur Sharma and another one has been registered against multiple social media entities based on the analysis. Notices will be sent to the social media intermediaries for the details," Delhi Police PRO Suman

Nalwa had said earlier.

At half-time, only 20% of waste at Delhi's landfill sites processed



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 12: Less than a fifth of the legacy waste at the three landfill sites -- Ghazipur, Okhla and Bhalswa -- in Delhi has been processed since the project flattened the mountains of garbage started in October 2019, while the deadline is just two and a half years away, government data showed.

According to the data gathered from several reports of the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), a total of 21 lakh tonnes of legacy waste is being bio-mined at the three landfill sites per year (since October 2019).

Ironically, around 20 lakh tonnes of fresh municipal solid waste found its way to the dump sites every year during this period.

The National Green Tribunal had in July 2019 directed the erstwhile municipal corporations to bio-mine the legacy waste using trommels instead of capping of the dump sites.

According to an action plan submitted to the green court by the three municipal corporations, the Ghazipur landfill site, the largest among the three dump sites, stores 140 lakh tonnes of legacy waste. Okhla has 60 lakh tonnes of old waste and Bhalswa 80 lakh tonnes.

Ghazipur, Okhla and Bhalswa landfill sites are spread over 70 acres, 46 acres and 70 acres, respectively.

While the legacy waste at the Okhla landfill has to be processed

**WASTE MANAGEMENT**

DELHI GENERATES AROUND 11,000 TONNES OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE PER DAY

OF THIS, AROUND 5,000 TONNES IS PROCESSED AND THE REST (6,000 TONNES PER DAY OR 21.6 LAKH TONNES PER YEAR) ENDS UP IN LANDFILL SITES

THE BIOMINING OF LEGACY WASTE IS A CONTINUOUS PROCESS WHICH ONLY STOPS IF THERE IS HEAVY RAINFALL OR A MASSIVE FIRE AT THE LANDFILL SITES

by December 2023, the deadline for Ghazipur and Bhalswa dumpsites is December 2024.

According to the latest DPCC report, only 52.5 lakh tonnes of the legacy waste has been processed so far at the three sites.

The Ghazipur landfill site has seen the slowest progress. Only 11 lakh tonnes (7.86 per cent) of the legacy waste has been processed by May-end at the dump site in east Delhi.

It processed 3 lakh tonnes of the old waste in the first year of the project (from October, 2019 to October, 2020), 4.81 lakh tonnes in the second year (from October 2020 to October 2021) and around 3.2 lakh tonnes in the third year so far.

The data showed the erstwhile East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) bio-mined 4.4 lakh tonnes of waste per year on an average. At this pace, it will take the authorities around 29 more years to process the entire legacy waste there.

At the Okhla dumpsite, 16.5 lakh tonnes of the 60 lakh tonnes waste has been processed. The erstwhile SDMC bio-mined around 1.6 lakh

tonnes of waste in the first year, 5.84 lakh tonnes in the second year and 8.66 lakh tonnes in the third year so far.

On an average, 6.6 lakh tonnes of legacy waste is being processed at the Okhla landfill, which means another 6.5 years are needed to deal with the old waste.

The erstwhile North MCD has bio-mined 25 lakh tonnes (31.25 per cent) of legacy waste since the project started -- 10 lakh tonnes every year on an average. At this rate, it will take the authorities another 5.5 years to complete the work. The data showed 12, 8 and 15 trommel machines, respectively, were operational at Ghazipur, Okhla and Bhalswa landfill sites in October 2019. While the number of machines reduced to eight at Ghazipur, it jumped to 26 at Okhla and 44 at Bhalswa during this period.

The increase in the number of machines at Okhla and Bhalswa explains the increase in the rate of processing there.

Apart from the legacy waste, the three dumpsites receive a lot of fresh waste every day.

AAP may split Oppn votes in Guj polls

The Congress claims that the Arvind Kejriwal-led party was the 'B-team' of the BJP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, June 12: Even as the Aam Aadmi Party sees itself the main contender to the ruling BJP in Gujarat, where the Assembly polls are due later this year, political experts and the Congress feel the AAP will split the Opposition votes, benefiting the BJP.

The Congress also claimed that the Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP was the 'B-team' of the BJP in Gujarat.

Elections to the 182-member in Gujarat, which has been ruled by the BJP for over two decades, are due in December this year.

The main opposition Congress has so far not been able to emerge an alternative to the BJP.

Kejriwal visited Gujarat four times in the last three months since his party won the Punjab Assembly polls, while the Congress leadership is not really visible as Rahul Gandhi visited Gujarat just once in the last two months.

The AAP's state in-charge, Dr Sandeep Pathak, said, "Wherever we fight elections, we do it scientifically. We have done it in other states and we have carried out a sci-



entific survey in Gujarat too. As per our internal survey, we will win 58 seats as on date."

However, political observer Hari Desai said the AAP will "divide the Opposition votes", and this will ultimately benefit the BJP against the Congress.

Gujarat Congress spokesperson Manish Doshi claimed the AAP was the 'B-team' of the BJP.

"The BJP now knows it cannot win Gujarat as people have come to know its reality. The BJP is promoting AAP in Gujarat so that the opposition votes can be divided and they (BJP) can win the polls," he further claimed.

He also said the people of Gujarat have never approved of a 'third alternative', be it the Kisan Mazdoor Lok Paksh (KIMLOP) of Chimanbhai Patel, BJP rebel Shankarsinh Vaghela's Rashtriya Janta Party (RJP) or Keshubhai Patel's Gujarat Parivartan Party (GPP).

The AAP will also be rejected by the people of Gujarat, Doshi claimed.

However, political analyst Dilip Gohil said the "AAP is a party with an alternate agenda."

In the civic elections in Surat and Gandhinagar and in some other municipalities held in the

recent past, the AAP got around 18 to 20 per cent votes, which indicates its support base, he said.

"The AAP has a real chance of emerging as a political force in the Gujarat Assembly elections this year. The AAP has been able to build a tempo in its campaign so far," Gohil said.

AAP leader Sandeep Pathak, currently the Rajya Sabha member from Punjab, said as per the party's survey, people of rural Gujarat are of the opinion that the Congress cannot defeat the BJP.

"The Congress voters of rural Gujarat are supporting us. In the same way, the urban lower middle-class and middle-class voters also want a change and are supporting us," he claimed.

AAP state spokesperson Yogesh Jadwani said the Opposition Congress has 'no vision' for Gujarat.

"The Congress is controlled by five-six leaders, each of them having their groups and fighting among themselves. They also do not allow fresh faces to come up. So, the people will vote for us as the main contender to the BJP in Gujarat," he claimed.

DELHI WATER WOES

BJP leaders meet Haryana CM seeking water supply

The ruling AAP has been accusing the BJP-ruled Haryana of not releasing enough water to Delhi during the summer season

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jun 12: With the national capital facing water shortage, Delhi BJP leaders Sunday met Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar here and urged him to supply water to the city from his state.

State BJP president Adesh Gupta, who was part of the Delhi BJP delegation, said Khattar as-

sured them of full cooperation in the issue.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal also Friday had urged Haryana to release water in the Yamuna River that had dried up.

After the meeting with Khattar, the Delhi BJP president tweeted, "In a meeting with Haryana CM ML Khattar along with Delhi BJP, urged him for supply of water due to growing shortage in Delhi during intense heat. Haryana has been for years supplying water to Delhi and Haryana government has also assured full cooperation on our request."

In a memorandum submitted to Khattar, the Delhi BJP expressed gratitude to the neighbouring state for supplying water to Bawana and Haiderpur water treatment plants during summer.



Haryana supplied 84,000 MGD water in 2015, 88,000 MGD in 2016, 88,500 MGD in 2017, 88,000 in 2018, 89,500 MGD in 2019, 92,000 MGD in 2020, 92,500 MGD in 2021 and 85,500 MGD so far this year, said the memorandum.

"I urge you in the behalf of Delhi people to provide some more water to Delhi so that they can go about their lives normally,"

said the memorandum signed by Gupta. The ruling AAP has been accusing the BJP-ruled Haryana of not releasing enough water to Delhi during the summer season.

AAP MLA and Delhi Jal Board vice chairman Saurabh Bhardwaj Friday demanded that Haryana release Delhi's share of water, claiming only six inches of water was left in the Yamuna.

## of the day quote

If you want the 8.5 lakh students studying in Himachal Pradesh government schools to have a bright future, give a chance to the AAP

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CM

Vehicular pollution is a challenge in Delhi. We had earlier introduced CNG and now taken a conscious decision to move towards electric vehicles. All industrial units in the city have shifted to PNG

GOPAL RAI | DELHI ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

Maximum governance is arrived at only when people ask the right questions and the government can remove the deadwood and the undergrowth

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | UNION FINANCE MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### Sonia hospitalised

New Delhi: Congress president Sonia Gandhi was admitted to the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital here Sunday owing to post-Covid issues. Congress general secretary and chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said Sonia Gandhi is stable and will be in the hospital for a few days. "Congress President, Smt. Sonia Gandhi was admitted to Ganga Ram Hospital today owing to Covid related issues. She is stable and will be kept at the hospital for observation," Surjewala wrote on Twitter. "We thank all the Congress men and women as well as all well wishers for their concern," he added.

### MP shocker

Bhopal: The police Sunday, referring to a shocking incident in which three members of a family were found dead at their home in Madhya Pradesh's Bhand district, claimed it was a murder and suicide case. Dharmendra Gurjar and his wife killed their 12-year-old son and also tried to kill their 10-year-old daughter. Later, they hanged themselves. They were found dead Saturday.

### Charas recovered

Ahmedabad: A patrolling team of the Border Security Force (BSF) recovered 10 packets containing charas, likely to have washed ashore from Pakistan, from an island off Jakhau coast near Gujarat's Kutch district Sunday, officials said. The charas, which was found in packets with 'Cobra brand Kohinoor basmati rice' written on them, was recovered from Varaya Thar Bet in Karmatha off Jakhau coast, the BSF said in a release.

### Three sisters held

Thane: Three sisters from Mankhurd in neighbouring Mumbai have been arrested for allegedly breaking into a house in Dombivli in Thane district and stealing jewellery, a police official said Sunday. The trio, who had left for a pilgrimage in Jejuri after the house breaking theft incident on June 2, were held on Saturday and 221 grams of gold worth Rs 10.98 lakh were recovered, Crime Branch Unit III Senior Inspector Kishore Shirsat said.

### Bizman robbed

Jabalpur: Two persons allegedly robbed a businessman of Rs 20 lakh cash and some electronic items while he was returning after collecting money from retailers in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur city, police said Sunday. The police arrested five people within 24 hours of the incident, which took on Friday, he said.

# Concerned over uncertain future, parents knock at govt's door

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 12: It's been more than two months since the Indian students studying in Ukraine returned home from the war-torn country, but they are still worried about their studies and future. The only question on the minds of the parents and students is 'What next?' The students are feeling cheated by the government.

Kamal, who returned home from Ivano city of Ukraine, is currently completing his first year studies in Varanasi. "The government is not listening to us; it has been more than two months. What will happen next? I am unable to understand anything. Medical education cannot be done online, while teach-

ers are going through the formalities to collect fees. We have reached a point from where we cannot go back to study and we cannot study from here as well," he added.

Kamal claimed that "Some students have even left their studies. They include three or four of my friends." Ritika Nigam, a third-year student who returned from the city of Ternopil in Ukraine said, "No specific instructions have come from the government regarding our studies, but a couple of states have provided practical and other education-related assistance in government colleges. We want to be accommodated in a government college. The Madhya Pradesh government is not helping as compared to the



Karnataka and West Bengal governments. "We have got assurances so far

that something can happen by July, so we are just waiting. My exam is still going on but I do not understand what will happen next, how to complete my studies," she said.

The Parents Association of Ukraine MBBS Students had written a letter to the Uttar Pradesh government on the issue on June 10, in which it said that there are 2400 medical students in Uttar Pradesh alone while there are about 16,000 students across the country, most of them are now in depression.

Under Operation Ganga, the students and their parents who have returned home are demanding arrangements for further education in the medical colleges of the state itself. They are also demanding that

arrangements should be made for the medical students of UP in the nearest medical colleges only till the next orders of the Central Government.

Apart from this, the parents have also sought time to meet the Chief Minister on this issue. Harsha Singhal, Coordinator of the Parents Association of Ukraine MBBS Students said, "Our applications for the education of the students have been sent to all the places from the PMO to the district level, we are making every effort from our side. From the government side, it was said that they will get the students admitted in Hungary. Studying in Hungary is very expensive. The second problem will be about the language and how

will thousands of students study in places where only 10 children can be admitted?"

"It is only because they don't get admission in India that we have sent them abroad to study. We are not begging, we are suffering from war. If the government is not able to help, we will approach the Supreme Court," she stated.

The Association's national general secretary Pankaj Dheeraj said, "There are 596 medical colleges in India. No authentic statement has been given by the government regarding thousands of students. However, the students whose studies are almost complete, they are allowed to do internship by NMC. But the children from the first year to the fourth year are in depression."



## Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister

Yogi Adityanath seems to be presiding over a "kangaroo court" where minorities are "bulldozed" on a regular basis

MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP CHIEF

## 99 MILITANTS KILLED THIS YEAR

Jammu and Kashmir police said Sunday that so far this year, 99 militants have been killed in the Valley in different encounters

## PRESIDENTIAL POLLS

# Nadda, Rajnath to hold talks with parties

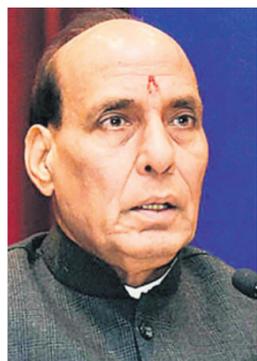
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 12: The BJP Sunday authorised its president J P Nadda and Union minister Rajnath Singh to hold consultations with different political parties, including those in the opposition, on the president's election, in what is being seen as an outreach by the ruling party to arrive at a consensus on the choice for the top constitutional post.

The two senior leaders will talk to both ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and opposition United Progressive Alliance (UPA) constituents, besides other political parties as well as independent members, the BJP said in a statement issued by its general secretary Arun Singh.

Nadda and Singh will start holding these consultations soon, it added. The election for the next President will be held July 18, in which 4,809 electors, including MPs and MLAs, will vote to elect incumbent Ram Nath Kovind's successor.

Going by its strength in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha as well as in many state assemblies, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is



in a comfortable position to ensure the victory of the candidate nominated by it in the upcoming election. Singh, who enjoys a good rapport with leaders across the political spectrum, was also part of the BJP's committee during the 2017 presidential polls to deliberate with opposition parties.

In 2017, then BJP president Amit Shah had constituted a three-member panel of then senior Union ministers Singh, Arun Jaitley and M Venkaiah Naidu to hold talks with all the political parties over



the presidential polls. The BJP had fielded then Bihar governor Kovind as its candidate in the polls.

Kovind went on to become the president after defeating opposition-backed Meira Kumar.

With relatively less numbers on its side this time, the BJP-led NDA's nominee will require the support of one of the two fence-sitters -- the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and the YSR Congress Party. In the last presidential polls, both parties had supported Kovind.

THE ELECTION FOR THE NEXT PRESIDENT WILL BE HELD JULY 18, IN WHICH 4,809 ELECTORS, INCLUDING MPs AND MLAs, WILL VOTE TO ELECT INCUMBENT RAM NATH KOVIND'S SUCCESSOR

IN 2017, THEN BJP PRESIDENT AMIT SHAH HAD CONSTITUTED A THREE-MEMBER PANEL OF THEN SENIOR UNION MINISTERS SINGH, ARUN JAITLEY AND M VENKAIAH NAIDU TO HOLD TALKS WITH ALL THE POLITICAL PARTIES OVER THE PRESIDENTIAL POLLS

Meanwhile, Congress president Sonia Gandhi has also reached out to several opposition leaders, including Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar and Trinamool Congress (TMC) supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, for the presidential polls.

Banerjee has called a meeting of opposition parties in Delhi on June 15 in the backdrop of the presidential election. The presidential polls will be held July 18 and the counting of votes, if needed, will be taken up on July 21.

# Bhopal woman attacked for objecting to lewd remarks



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, June 12: A woman has received as many as 118 stitches on her face during a surgery after she was attacked with a paper-cutter here for objecting to sexual remarks during an altercation, the police said Sunday.

On June 10, the woman had gone to a hotel in the TT Nagar area to meet her husband. Suddenly, an altercation over bike parking broke out between

her and some men.

One of the accused made a sexual remark which made her furious and she slapped him, the police said.

After slapping one of them, the woman went inside the hotel to meet her husband.

Later, when the couple came out of the hotel, the men, who were reportedly irked with her, attacked her with a paper-cutter, the police said.

Her husband then rushed her to the hospital where the doctors conducted a surgery to treat her injuries.

Meanwhile, the police said that two accused -- Badshah Beg and Ajay a.k.a. Bitti Sibde -- have been arrested, and the search is on to nab the third accused. Sunday, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan met the woman at hospital and praised her for resistance against the sexual remark. Chouhan also announced financial assistance of Rs 1 lakh to the woman.



## Who will be the next President?

Instead of names, one will have to see what are the issues before the nation and how it will help Modi who wants to further consolidate BJP's strength in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. A close look at the 21

candidates that the BJP has fielded for the Rajya Sabha polls showed OBC is the flavour as majority of them are OBCs. Nitish Kumar and other Chief Ministers have already upped the ante demanding caste census. The BJP tried to initially show its resistance but has fallen in line now. It indicates that the next President will be from the weaker section preferably from the backward classes and if possible from South India. If Modi can get a backward class woman from South India, it's a win-win. In 2017, Dalit was the flavour of the season as the BJP wanted to send a message to the Dalits.

## Why KCR fronting for third front?

Nitish Kumar is not the only leader who has an eye on the Prime Minister's post. There are many in the list beginning with Delhi Chief Minister and AAP president Arvind Kejriwal and West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC leader Mamata Banerjee.

Then there is a new player on the scene-Telangana Chief Minister and TRS chief K Chandrashekar Rao. The AAP is most ambitious and Kejriwal is targeting to grab 50 Lok Sabha seats during the 2024 Lok Sabha polls riding on anti-incumbency of BJP and Congress. But Kejriwal knows the emergence of Nitish Kumar on the national scene will dent his prospects in North India. K Chandrashekar Rao is floating a third front largely to stop the growth of the Congress in any anti-BJP alliance. The Congress is the main rival of the TRS in his state and that's why he wants a third front of BJD, Janata Dal (S), AAP and others. He wants to prevent Congress' growth.

## Modi's talent hunt

All Prime Ministers resort to talent hunting and bring in subject experts to help their governments to deliver better. Nehru brought the concept of lateral entrants in the bureaucracy outside the all India services. Indira Gandhi was not behind either. Rajiv

Gandhi set up ten technological missions and brought talent from outside to head some of these missions to take India to 21st century. Their successors also did talent hunting but were too bogged down in managing the seat of power or faced one controversy or the other or global challenges. But PM Modi is made of a different mettle and always hunting for hidden talent. His talent hunting percolates down to giving Padma awards and now he wants a centralized unit for all government awards for talent hunting. He devotes a lot of time to go into the details waits for the right time. He has now opened floodgates to bring in talent from outside the government on contract basis to head institutions, corporations and even secretary rank officers. In his Cabinet also, there are many ministers who were not active in politics like S Jaishankar, R K Singh, Hardeep Puri, Ashwani Vaishnav to name a few. But Modi does nothing without a purpose and it is difficult to comprehend immediately why he did it.

## YOUNG GUNS



Female NCC cadets being trained to operate guns during a Combined Army Training Camp at Nagrota on the outskirts of Jammu

# Second scrub typhus death in Kerala

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, June 12: A 39-year-old woman, Sabitha died of Scrub Typhus disease in Parassal, Thiruvananthapuram district. She had been suffering from the disease for the past 15 days and passed away Sunday morning.

Earlier on Thursday, Ashwathi, a 15-year-old girl, died at Varkala in Thiruvananthapuram district due to Scrub Typhus. She was awaiting the results of her 10th standard board examination when she contracted the disease and passed away.

State health minister Veena George has directed a special medical team to visit the native place where Ashwathi was admitted. However, even after the state health department took precautions, the second death has increased the worries of the health workers and the department.

Scrub Typhus is an infectious disease caused by the Orientia tsutsugamushi, a mite-borne bacterium. It may be noted that chigger mites, the larval stage of mites, transmit the disease from rats, squirrels, rabbits and dogs.

# Three devotees die of heat in Bengal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, June 12: Three elderly devotees died due to "heat and humidity" at a religious gathering in Panihati in North 24 Parganas district, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said Sunday.

She said that senior officials have rushed to the spot and all assistance is being provided. "Distressed to know of 3 old devotees' death due to heat and humidity in Danda Mahotsav at ISKCON temple at Panihati. CP and DM have rushed, all help being provided. My condolences to the bereaved families, solidarity to devotees," she tweeted.

# international



**US sanctions have adversely affected the healthcare system of Iran**  
ZAHRA ERSHADI | IRAN'S DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN

## THOUSANDS OF SHEEP DROWN AS SHIP SINKS

An overladen ship crammed with thousands of sheep sank Sunday in Sudan's Red Sea port of Suakin drowning the animals on board but with all crew surviving, port officials said



### of the day quote

All you have played a very significant role in transforming the India-US relationship, especially in the last two-and-a-half decades. Your achievements are actually a reflection of the India-US relationship today

TARANJIT SINGH SANDHU | INDIA'S AMBASSADOR TO THE US

Sanctions are also needed against companies that are helping the Russian state in one way or another, whether in the military sphere or in suppressing democracy

VOLODYMYR ZELENKY | UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT

The fatigue from recent successive international security engagements may have taken its toll on me. The temperature was scorching this morning

DELFIN LORENZANA | PHILIPPINE DEFENCE SECY

### SHORT TAKES

#### Egypt calls for peace in Yemen

**Cairo:** Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi has urged for a peaceful solution to the Yemeni crisis, expressing his country's support for the legitimate Yemen government. Sisi's remark came during a joint press conference with Rashad al-Alimi, Head of the Yemeni Presidential Leadership Council (PLC), following their talks in Cairo. "I affirmed our full support for the unity, independence, and territorial integrity of the Yemeni state," stressed the Egyptian President.

#### Eight killed in landmine blast

**Damascus:** Eight people lost their lives and 27 others were injured in a leftover landmine explosion in the southern Syrian province of Daraa, SANA reported. The explosion took place Saturday. The landmine was part of the leftovers of rebel groups who used to rule the town of Deir Adas in the northern countryside of Daraa.

#### Monkeypox cases rise to 31 in Nigeria

**Lagos:** Confirmed cases of monkeypox in Nigeria have risen to 31 as more cases were reported across the most populous African country, a report by health authorities said. In its latest monkeypox situation report, the Nigeria Center for Disease Control said Saturday that the country has recorded since January 110 suspected cases in total and 31 confirmed cases from 12 states.

#### Oz reports record flu cases in May

**Canberra:** Australia has reported a record 65,770 flu cases in May, which marked an increase of more than 100 per cent from the previous record set in May 2019, authorities said Sunday. As of June 5, 87,989 total influenza cases have been logged in Australia in 2022, according to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS).

#### HK to distribute about 40K RAT kits

**Hong Kong:** The Hong Kong government announced that it will distribute around 40,000 sets of Covid-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) kits as part of a follow-up on the recent detection of the virus in sewage samples. The test kits will be distributed to residents, cleaning workers and property management staff working in estate in Kwun Tong with positive sewage testing results showing relatively high viral loads, in order to help identify infected persons.

## Destroyed depot with Western weapons in Ukraine: Russia

*Moscow has repeatedly slammed the United States and other nations for supplying Ukraine with weapons*

REUTERS

**Kyiv, June 12:** Russian forces fired cruise missiles to destroy a large depot containing US and European weapons in western Ukraine's Ternopil region, Interfax reported Sunday, as street fighting raged in the eastern city of Sievierodonetsk. The governor of the Ternopil region said a rocket attack on the city of Chortkiv fired from the Black Sea had partly destroyed a military facility, injuring 22 people. A local official said there were no weapons stored there.

President Vladimir Putin said earlier this month that Russia would strike new targets if the West supplied longer-range missiles to Ukraine for use in high-precision mobile rocket systems. Ukrainian leaders have renewed pleas to Western countries in recent days to speed up deliveries of heavy weapons as Russian forces pounce the east of the country with artillery. Sievierodonetsk has become epicentre of the battle for control over the industrialised Donbas region in the east, made up of Luhansk and Donetsk provinces. Parts of the city have been pulverised in some of the bloodiest fighting since Moscow began its invasion February 24.



A view of a damaged Nika-Tera grain terminal, as Russia's attack on Ukraine continues, in Mykolaiv, Ukraine

- Russia targets Sievierodonetsk in eastern advance
- Shelling causes fire at chemical plant, governor says
- Ukraine urges West to deliver more heavy arms swiftly

Luhansk Governor Serhiy Gaidai said Sunday that Ukrainian and Russian forces were still fighting street by street in Sievierodonetsk. He said that while Russian forces have taken most of the city, Ukrainian troops remain in control of an industrial area and chemical plant where hundreds of civilians are sheltering.

After being forced to scale back its initial campaign goals Moscow has turned to expanding control in the Donbas, where pro-Russian separatists have held a swath of territory since 2014.

Ukraine has said some 800 people were hiding in bomb shelters under the Azot plant, including employees and city residents. In Lysychansk - Sievierodonetsk's twin city across the Donets River - a woman was killed in Russian shelling while four houses and a shopping centre were destroyed, Gaidai said.

To the south and southwest of Sievierodonetsk, Russian forces were firing mortars and artillery around a number of settlements, according to a daily update from Ukraine's general staff. But it said Ukrainian forces had repulsed Russian attempts to advance towards some communities.

## Senate bargainers announce outline of gun violence pact

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Washington, June 12:** Senate bargainers announced a bipartisan framework Sunday responding to last month's mass shootings, a modest breakthrough offering measured gun curbs and bolstered efforts to improve school safety and mental health programmes.

The proposal falls far short of tougher steps long sought by President Joe Biden and many Democrats.

Even so, if the accord leads to the enactment of legislation, it would signal a turn from years of gun massacres that have yielded little but stalemate in Congress.

Leaders hope to push any agreement into law quickly — they hope this month — before the political momentum fades that has been stirred by the recent mass shootings in Buffalo, New York, and Uvalde, Texas.

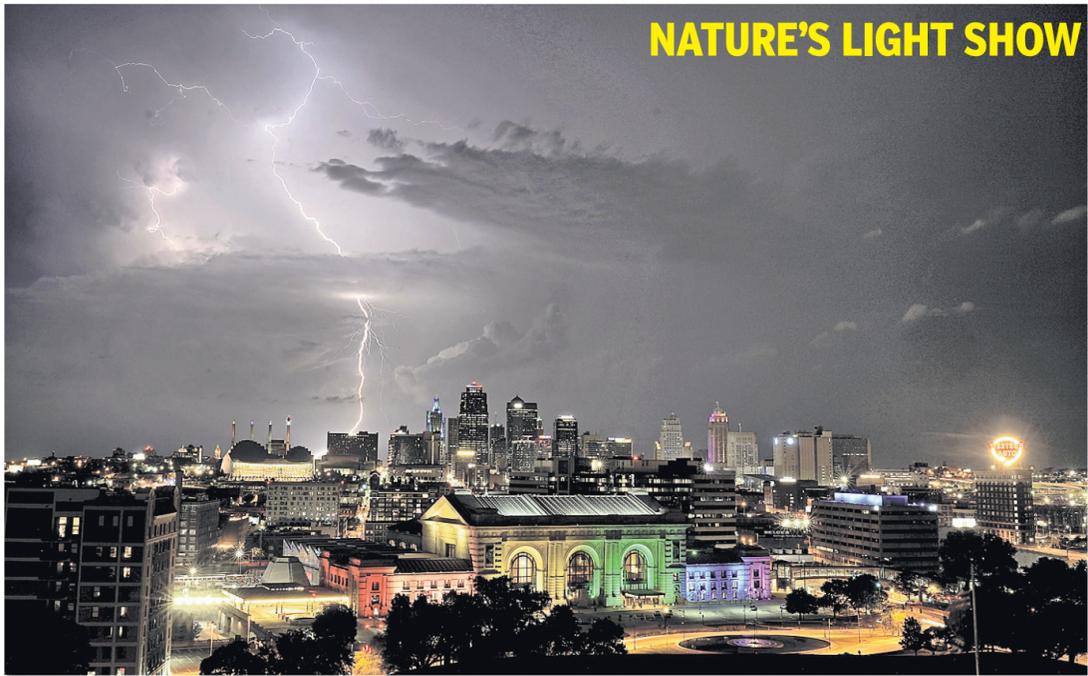
## SL PM says he's open to Russian oil

*Western nations largely have cut off energy imports from Russia in line with sanctions over its war on Ukraine*

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Colombo, June 12:** Sri Lanka may be compelled to buy more oil from Russia as the island nation hunts desperately for fuel amid an unprecedented economic crisis, the newly appointed Prime Minister said.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said he would first look to other sources, but would be open to buying more crude from Moscow. In a wide-ranging interview with The Associated Press Saturday, Wickremesinghe also indicated he would be willing to accept more financial help from China, despite his country's mounting debt. And while he acknowledged that



Lightning flashes beyond downtown buildings as a thunderstorm passes in the distance in Kansas City, in Missouri

## NATURE'S LIGHT SHOW

## Working for peace along LAC: China

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Singapore, June 12:** China and India are neighbours and maintaining a good relationship meets the interests of both countries, Chinese Defence Minister General Wei Fenghe said Sunday, stressing that the two nations are working together for peace along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Addressing the Shangri-La Dialogue here, Wei also called for peaceful means for settling territorial disputes including those in the South China Sea.

On a question about conflict on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with India, Wei said: "We have had 15 rounds of talks at commander level with the Indians and we are working together for peace in this area." Wei was responding to a question by Dr Tanvi Madan, director of The India Project at the Brookings Institution, a US think tank. Madan had asked the minister to explain why the People's Liberation Army (PLA) two years ago had unilaterally moved to change the status quo at multiple



points at the LAC with India, reasons that led to a military clash, the first in 45 years between the two countries, and steps that were in violation of agreements that Beijing-Delhi had carefully negotiated over 25 years.

The Indian and Chinese troops have been locked in a tense border standoff in eastern Ladakh since May 5, 2020, when a violent clash between the two sides erupted in the Pangong lake area.

China has also been building

**China and India are neighbours and maintaining a good relationship meets the interests of both countries. And that is what we are working on**

GENERAL WEI FENGHE | CHINESE DEFENCE MINISTER

bridges and constructing other infrastructure such as roads and residential units in the border areas with India.

India and China have held 15 rounds of military talks so far to resolve the Ladakh standoff.

As a result of the talks, the two sides completed the disengagement process last year on the north and south banks of the Pangong lake and in the Gogra area.

However, each side currently has around 50,000 to 60,000 troops along the LAC in the sensitive sector. India has been consistently maintaining that peace and tranquillity along the LAC were key for the overall development of the bilateral ties.

## France holds Parl poll in vital test for Macron

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Paris, June 12:** French voters are choosing lawmakers in a parliamentary election Sunday as President Emmanuel Macron seeks to secure his majority while under growing threat from a left-list coalition.

More than 6,000 candidates, ranging in age from 18 to 92, are running for 577 seats in the National Assembly in the first round of the election. Those who receive the most votes will advance to the decisive second round June 19.

While candidates have sought to address consumer concerns about inflation, which was a key campaign issue, voter enthusiasm has been generally low. That was reflected in Sunday's early turnout figures, which showed just 18% of France's 48.7 million voters had cast ballots by noon.

Hard-left leader Jean-Luc Mélenchon, who hopes the election may vault him to the Prime Minister's post, was among only a trickle of voters as he cast his ballot in a diverse neighborhood of Marseille, a southern port city.

## China accuses US of trying to 'hijack' support in Asia

AGENCIES

**Singapore, June 12:** China's defence minister accused the United States Sunday of trying to "hijack" the support of countries in the Asia-Pacific region to turn them against Beijing, saying Washington is seeking to advance its own interests "under the guise of multilateralism."

Defense Minister Gen. Wei Fenghe lashed out at US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, rejecting his "smeared accusation" the day before at the Shangri-La Dialogue that China was causing instability with its claim to the self-governing island of Taiwan and its increased military activity in the area.

Austin had stressed the need for multilateral partnerships with nations in the Indo-Pacific, which Wei suggested was an attempt to back China into a corner.

"No country should impose its will on others or bully others

under the guise of multilateralism," he said. "The strategy is an attempt to build an exclusive small group in the name of a free and open Indo-Pacific to hijack countries in our region and target one specific country — it is a strategy to create conflict and confrontation to contain and encircle others."

China has been rapidly modernizing its military and seeking to expand its influence and ambitions in the region, recently signing a security agreement with the Solomon Islands that many fear could lead to a Chinese naval base in the Pacific, and breaking ground this past week on a naval port expansion project in Cambodia that could give Beijing a foothold in the Gulf of Thailand.

Last year US Officials accused China of testing a hypersonic missile, a weapon harder for missile defense systems to counter, but China insisted it had been a "routine test of a spacecraft."

## Fear for Pak's democracy as ISI takes over civil service

*Pakistan's powerful military, which ruled the country directly for three decades, and its premier intelligence agency have a long history of meddling in politics and controlling politicians*

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Islamabad, June 12:** Pakistani politicians and activists have raised fears about the military increasing its control over the country's public life after the new Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif, gave the ISI spy agency vetting power over civil service appointments.

The move has placed the veri-

fication and screening of government officials in charge of postings, appointments and promotions in ISI hands, leading to concerns of a shrunken civilian space.

Pakistan's powerful military, which ruled the country directly for three decades, and its premier intelligence agency have a long history of meddling in politics and controlling politicians.



It is widely perceived in Pakistan that politicians need the military's backing to come to power; but many now fear that bureaucrats could

also need the same support for their appointment and postings. "If we keep in mind Pakistan's history of takeovers and the sway

that military has over our politics, this decision will weaken civil bureaucracy and compromise their independence," said senator Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar. "We have shot ourselves in the foot and it's a decision worth reconsidering," The Guardian reported.

Raza Rabbani, the former chair of the senate, called Sharif's decision an attack on the constitution. "The concept of civilian supremacy is tarnishing," he said.

Before ousting the former Prime Minister, Imran Khan, in a no-confidence vote in April, opposition parties now in power had criticised the military for its meddling in poli-

tics, rigging elections and bringing Khan into office.

Ayesha Siddiqi, an author and expert on military affairs of Pakistan, said it was depressing that none of the senior leadership of the major political parties had condemned Sharif's move, The Guardian reported.

"The government's notification has legalised military intelligence's power over other institutions," she said. "At the same time [it has] sown seeds for a long-term disempowerment of the political class to strengthen their position and that of the parliament to weaken the military's control over politics."



**“**The goal of a \$5 trillion GDP appears to be a case of shifting goalposts. We are nowhere near that goalpost. Now, the Chief Economic Adviser has said we will achieve the goal by 2027  
**”**  
P CHIDAMBARAM | CONGRESS LEADER

## TENCENT ACQUIRES STAKE WORTH \$264MN IN FLIPKART

Chinese technology conglomerate Tencent has bought stake worth \$264 million (about ₹2,060 crore) in Flipkart from its co-founder Binny Bansal through its European subsidiary, according to official documents



## of the day quote

**“**Coking coal prices is something, which is impacting the industry drastically and the production cost is impacted, affecting the steel prices  
**”**  
ALOK SAHAY | SECRETARY-GENERAL, INDIAN STEEL ASSOCIATION



**“**This new move by IRDAI will empower customers to customize their own coverage as per their needs and encourage insurers to address those requirements quickly. No more fit for all product solutions; the power of choice will now lie with the customers  
**”**  
RAKESH JAIN | CEO, RELIANCE GENERAL INSURANCE



**“**Our digital business is growing too, and overall, we are growing at an unprecedented rate. This is due to our value proposition, track record based on results, mix of technology, delivery and content, as well as geographical reach  
**”**  
ABHISHEK MAHESHWARI | CEO, AAKASH EDUCATIONAL SERVICES



## SHORT TAKES

### Iran currency dips to lowest value

**Tehran:** Iran's currency Sunday dropped to its lowest value ever as talks to revive the country's tattered nuclear deal with world powers remained deadlocked. Traders in Tehran exchanged the rial at 332,000 to the US Dollar, up from 327,500 Saturday. That marked more than a 4.4% change compared to June 1 when it traded at 318,000 to the dollar. Iran's currency was trading at 32,000 rials to the dollar at the time of Tehran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

### Zara logs over 61% growth in FY22

**New Delhi:** Spain's Inditex, which owns luxury fashion brand Zara, posted a net profit of ₹148.76 crore and revenue of ₹1,815 crore for the financial year ended March 31, 2022, according to the latest annual report of Trent Ltd. In FY21, Inditex Trent Retail India Private Ltd (ITRPL), a JV which is engaged in the operation of Zara stores in India, had reported a net loss of ₹41 crore and its revenue fell 28.3 per cent to ₹1,126 crore in the pandemic impacted year. The entity for Zara currently operates 21 stores across 11 cities. There has been no increase in the number of stores in the last two years.

### Netflix frontrunner to buy rival Roku

**San Francisco:** Streaming giant Netflix that is struggling to retain long-term paid subscribers may acquire rival platform Roku, the media reported. According to a report in Insider citing sources, Roku employees have long been speculating about the company being sold to Netflix. The buyout would reportedly cost around \$13 billion (based on its current valuation) and will give Netflix a foothold in the hardware market.

### BharatPe sees more high-profile exits

**New Delhi:** After facing the months-long Ashneer Grover saga, fintech platform BharatPe is witnessing some high-profile exits and now, its founding member Satyam Nathani has resigned. Earlier, BharatPe's chief revenue officer Nishit Sharma and head of institutional debt partnerships, Chandrima Dhar, had quit citing personal reasons.

## APPLE LEADS THE RACE

# Top 100 global firms' m-cap tops \$31.7tn

The United States continues to dominate the 'Global Top 100' list in terms of market capitalisation and number of companies, with 59 firms accounting for 65% of total market capitalisation

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, June 12:** The market capitalisation of the top 100 companies globally increased from \$10.3 trillion to \$31.7 trillion, an increase of 48 per cent, from March 2020 till March 2021, a new report said Sunday.

Apple topped the list with \$2.85 trillion in market cap, followed by Saudi Aramco, Microsoft, Alphabet and Amazon, according to the data provided by London-based accounting company PwC.

Apple regained its crown as the world's largest company by market capitalisation with a valuation 6 per cent and 13 per cent ahead of Saudi Aramco and Microsoft, respectively. Elon Musk-run Tesla's market capitalisation increased from \$96 billion in March 2020 to \$641 billion in March 2021, an astonishing 565 per cent increase and a clear outlier in the top 10 risers.

Amazon's market capitalisation increased by 61 per cent in the year to March 2021, supported by the growing "stay-at-home economy" seen throughout 2020 and into 2021, although Amazon did not move up from fourth position.

Samsung Electronics Co was the world's 22nd-largest company

in terms of market capitalisation, down seven notches from a year earlier. The tech giant was the only South Korean company on the list with a market value of \$342 billion, as of March.

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co came in 10th, with its market cap reaching \$541 billion, up by one notch from a year earlier. Global Top 100 Technology companies saw a 71% increase as compared to their value as at March 2020, in-line with the wider industry index performance.

"As a point of comparison, in the private company domain, half of the Top 100 unicorns valued at \$1 billion and above (at 31 March 2021) were from the US, broadly in line with the 'Global Top 100' of public companies," the report noted. The value of the top 100 unicorns grew by 30 per cent to \$1.1 trillion in the year to March 2021, behind the public companies' market capitalisation increase in the same period (49 per cent).

There were no direct entrants to the 'Global Top 100' companies via IPO despite a buoyant IPO market. "The threshold to enter the list is now \$129 billion, potentially creating a barrier to future entrants via IPO," the report noted.



- M-cap of top 100 companies globally rose from \$10.3 trillion to \$31.7 trillion, an increase of 48% YoY
- Apple followed by Saudi Aramco, Microsoft, Alphabet and Amazon
- Tesla m-cap jumped a staggering 565% increase and a clear outlier in the top 10 risers
- Technology continues to be the largest sector in terms of market capitalisation (\$10.5 trillion)
- Reliance Industries (at 58th position) and Tata Consultancy Services (69th spot) were the only two companies from India

## Stocks' fall wipes ₹2.3L cr off top-10 valued Indian firms

**New Delhi:** The market capitalisation (m-cap) of the top-10 most valued companies eroded by over ₹2.29 lakh crore last week, with Life Insurance Corporation taking the biggest hit.

On a weekly basis, the domestic equity benchmarks witnessed heavy selling. The Sensex tumbled 1,465.79 points or 2.63 per cent, while the Nifty lost 382.50 points or 2.31 per cent as investors rushed to safer assets because elevated crude oil prices triggered inflation fears.

Corporate major Reliance Industries' m-cap fell by ₹44,311.19 crore to ₹18,36,039.28 crore. IT bellwethers TCS and Infosys

lost ₹45,746.13 crore from their cumulative market cap. The valuation of TCS stood at ₹12,31,398.85 crore, while that of Infosys was ₹6,21,502.63 crore.

The country's top lenders HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and SBI saw a cumulative erosion of ₹34,970.26 crore in their market capitalisation. HDFC Bank's valuation dipped by ₹16,433.92 crore to ₹7,49,880.79 crore.

The m-cap of State Bank of India (SBI) plunged by ₹2,231.15 crore to ₹4,12,138.56 crore, and that of ICICI Bank slumped by ₹16,305.19 crore to ₹5,00,744.27 crore. The valuation of Hindustan

Unilever Ltd (HUL) tanked by ₹21,674.98 crore to ₹5,16,886.58 crore, while Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) declined by Rs 57,272.85 crore to ₹4,48,885.09 crore.

HDFC's valuation slipped by ₹17,879.22 crore to ₹3,95,420.14 crore. Telecom major Bharti Airtel also witnessed a decline of Rs 7,359.31 crore from its market valuation, which stood at Rs 3,69,613.44 crore.

In the ranking of top-10 firms, Reliance Industries retained the title of the most valued firm, followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, Infosys, HUL, ICICI Bank, LIC, SBI, HDFC and Bharti Airtel.

## Govt loses \$111mn gas field fight to RIL, Shell



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 12:** The government has lost its appeal in the English High Court against a \$111 million arbitration award in favour of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) and Shell in a cost recovery dispute in the western offshore Panna-Mukta and Tapti oil and gas fields.

High Court judge Ross Cranston June 9, 2022 ruled that the government should have brought its objections over the arbitration tribunal not meeting the required thresholds, when issuing the 2021 award earlier, two sources with knowledge of the matter said.

Reliance and Shell-owned BG Exploration & Production India December 16, 2010, dragged the government to arbitration over cost recovery provisions, profit due to the State and amount of statutory dues including royalty payable. They wanted to raise the limit of cost that could be recovered from sale of oil and gas before profits are shared with the government.

The government of India also raised counter claims over expenditure incurred, inflated sales, excess cost recovery, and short accounting.

A three-member arbitration panel headed by Singapore-based lawyer Christopher Lau by majority issued a final partial award (FPA) October 12, 2016. It upheld the government view that the profit from the fields should be calculated after deducting the prevailing tax of 33 per cent and not the 50 per cent rate that existed earlier.

It also upheld that the cost recovery in the contract is fixed at \$545 million in Tapti gas field and \$577.5 million in Panna-Mukta oil and gas field. The two firms wanted that cost provision be raised by \$365 million in Tapti and \$62.5 million in Panna-Mukta.

Royalty, it said, had to be calculated after inclusion of marketing margin charged over and above the wellhead price of natural gas. The government used this award to seek \$3.85 billion in dues from Reliance and BG Exploration & Production India Ltd (BGEPIIL).

The government had used the 2016 partial award not just to raise a \$3.85 billion demand on Reliance and Shell but also sought to block Reliance's proposed \$15 billion deal with Saudi Aramco on grounds that the company owed money to it.

## HEATWAVE HORROR

# India's power demand jumps by 45,000 MW in a year: Govt

INDIA'S ELECTRICITY DEMAND JUNE 9 WAS RECORDED AT AN ALL-TIME HIGH OF 2,10,792 MEGAWATTS, AND 4,712 MILLION UNITS OF ELECTRICITY WERE CONSUMED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 12:** India's power demand this year has jumped by a record 40,000-45,000 MW per day as an intense heat wave sweeps through northern parts of the country, the economy expands, and electricity reaches millions of un-electrified homes, Power Minister RK Singh has said.

Power plants are operating at full throttle to meet this demand, and the government has ordered coal import to meet the shortfall in domestic supplies.

"The whole power sector has changed (in last 8 years)," Singh said. "Before (2014), we were power deficit, load shedding was endemic". According to a survey by an NGO, the average availability of power in rural areas was about 12.5 hours at the national level. "Today it is 22.5 hours," he said.

A power deficit nation with an average shortage of anywhere be-



**“**A massive addition in the generation capacity, integrating the country into one transmission grid and strengthening of the distribution system during eight years of the government is ensuring the 23 to 23.5 hours of electricity supply  
**”**  
RK SINGH | POWER MINISTER

tween 17 and 20 per cent, India has been transformed into a power surplus country.

Power plants operate at run rates much lower than their capacity. This in the case of renewable energy units, such as solar power, is just one-fifth of the rated capacity.

However, local production of coal - the feedstock for most of the power generated in the country - has kept

pace with the spurt in demand. Coal India Ltd has already floated tenders for the import of coal, he said.

Singh said the government was working to move domestic coal to power plants, as well as imported one to prepare for the monsoon season when output from local mines comes down.

In addition to fossil fuel-based power generation capacity, renewable capacity addition has soared.

"India pledged that by 2030, 40 per cent of our capacity will be non-fossil fuel-based. We achieved this target 9 years in advance in November 2021," he said. "Today, established renewable capacity is 1,58,000 MW and another 54,000 MW is under construction".

Added to that 6,000 MW of nuclear capacity, the total renewable capacity comes to 1,65,000 MW - which is 41 per cent of established capacity, he said.

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

# Russia unveils 'tasty' McDonald's substitute

THE REBRANDING OF THE OUTLETS, THREE DECADES AFTER THE US BURGER GIANT FIRST OPENED IN MOSCOW IN A SYMBOLIC THAW BETWEEN EAST AND WEST, IS ONCE AGAIN A STARK SIGN OF A NEW WORLD ORDER

REUTERS

**Moscow, June 12:** It might look and smell like McDonald's but now it's Vkusno & tochka. The golden arches are gone, the file-of-fish is simply a fish burger. The Big Mac has left Russia.

A new era for Russia's fast-food and economic scene dawned Sunday as McDonald's restaurants flung open their doors in Moscow under new Russian ownership and with the new name, which translates as "Tasty and that's it".

The fortunes of the revamped chain, which McDonald's sold when it exited the country over the conflict in Ukraine, could provide a test of how successfully

Russia's economy can become more self-sufficient and withstand Western sanctions.

Sunday, scores of people queued outside what was once McDonald's flagship restaurant in central Moscow. The outlet sported a new logo - a stylised burger with two fries - plus a slogan reading: "The name changes, love stays".

The queue was significantly smaller than the thousands of people who thronged to the original McDonald's opening there in 1990 during the Soviet era.

Vkusno & tochka's menu was smaller and did not offer the Big Mac and some other burgers. A double cheeseburger was going for 129 roubles (\$2.31) compared with



roughly 160 under McDonald's and a fish burger for 169 roubles, compared with about 190 previously.

Sergei, a 15-year-old customer, saw little difference. "The taste has stayed the same," he said as tucked

into a chicken burger and fries. "The cola is different, but there really is no change to the burger."

The flagship Moscow restaurant is among 15 rebranded outlets that will initially open in and around the

**The American fast-food giant has been renamed 'Vkusno & Tochka', which translates to 'tasty and that's it'**

capital Sunday. Oleg Paroev, chief executive of Vkusno & tochka, said the company was planning to reopen 200 restaurants in Russia by the end of June and all 850 by the end of the summer.

McDonald's closed its restaurants in Russia March 14 and said in mid-May it decided to leave the market.

## FPIs pull out ₹14K cr from Indian equities in June so far

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 12:** Wary of the scenario on the global and domestic fronts, foreign investors continued to withdraw from Indian equity markets and pulled out close to ₹14,000 crore in this month so far.

With this, net outflow by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) from equities reached ₹1.81 lakh crore so far in 2022, data with depositories showed.

Going forward, the FPIs' selling may continue in the near-term, however, a moderation in sell-off is expected during short to medium-term, Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

**“**Global markets witnessed selling pressure in anticipation of record high inflation numbers in the US, which could force the Fed to accelerate increasing interest rates. At 8.6 per cent, the US inflation is at a 40-year high  
**”**  
VIJAY SINGHANIA | CHAIRMAN, TRADESMART

According to the data, foreign investors withdrew a net amount of ₹13,888 crore from equities during June 1-10. FPIs have been incessantly withdrawing money from Indian equities since October 2021.

Nair attributed the latest FPI outflow to anticipation of a hawkish Federal Reserve meeting.

In addition, RBI also increased repo rate by 50 basis points and revised upwards its inflation projection. The central bank expects inflation to remain above 6 per cent for three quarters which will add pressure on bond yields. These factors encouraged foreign investors to continue their walk out of the door, he added.

## Facing 'polycrisis', WTO chief warns of rocky road to deals

REUTERS

**Geneva, June 12:** World Trade Organization chief Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala expressed cautious optimism Sunday that more than 100 trade ministers meeting in Geneva would achieve one or two global deals this week, but warned the path there would be bumpy and rocky.

The director-general from Nigeria said the world had changed since the WTO's last ministerial conference nearly five years ago.

"I wish I could say for better: It has certainly become more complex," she told a news conference before the meeting, listing the lingering Covid-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and major food and energy crises as pieces of a "polycrisis".

She urged trade ministers to go the extra mile over the coming days to achieve agreements such as to reduce fishing subsidies, boost access to Covid-19 vaccines, address food security and to set a course for reform of the WTO itself.

"Let me be clear, even landing one or two will not be an easy road. The road will be bumpy and rocky. There may be a landmine along the way," Okonjo-Iweala said, adding she was "cautiously optimistic" that the meeting would conclude with one or two deals.

Alexander Govor, the new owner of the chain, said up to 7 billion roubles (\$125.56 million) would be invested this year in the business, which employs 51,000 people.

"The corporation asked me to, first of all, keep the headcount, to provide people with work. That's what I'm going to do," he added.

Govor said the company was looking for new suppliers of soft drinks as Coca Cola, which has said it was suspending its business in Russia.

Moments after the press conference finished a man stood up in front of the cameras holding a sign that read "Bring back the Big Mac". He was swiftly escorted out by restaurant staff.

# Klaasen outclasses India

MEN IN BLUE LOSE THE 2ND T20 INTERNATIONAL AS SPINNERS FAIL TO DELIVER AT CRUCIAL JUNCTURE

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, June 12:** Sports is all about seizing the moment. Wicketkeeper-batter Heinrich Klaasen (81, 46b, 7x4, 5x6) did just that to propel South Africa to a four-wicket victory over India in the second of the five T20 Internationals at the Barabati Stadium here Sunday. The win helped the visitors take a commanding 2-0 lead in the series.

Chasing a target of 149, South Africa were rocked early on by Bhuvneshwar Kumar's (4/13) seam and swing. Klaasen coming into bat at 29 for three knew he had to strike back. And he did just that. Such was his assault that Axar Patel bowled only one over in which the left-arm spinner gave away 19 runs. Yuzvendra Chahal (1/49 off four) also faced the wrath of Klaasen and was hit for two huge sixes in the leg-spinner's fourth over.

Klaasen steadied the ship putting on 64 runs for the fourth wicket with skipper Temba Bavuma (35, 30b, 4x4, 1x6) first to steady the ship. He then put on 51 runs for the fifth wicket with David Miller (20 n o, 15b, 1x4, 1x6) to completely turn the match in South Africa's favour. When he finally fell caught in the deep off Harshal Patel (1/17) the visitors were only five runs away from winning the game. Miller then finished the game off.

Defending 148 was always going to be tough irrespective of the 'slowness' of the pitch. It was only the brilliance of Kumar that enabled India to have a sniff. However, the spinners and Hardik Pandya (0/31 off 3) failed to keep things under check. South Africa had managed only 57 runs in their first 10 overs. But in the next 8.2 overs they scored 92 runs to romp home. It just goes to show the number of loose deliveries that their batters got to hit. Yes, some good deliveries were also tonked, but both Patel and Chahal were guilty of bowling too many drag down deliveries which helped the opposition.

Earlier India posted 148 for the loss of six wickets after being put in. Shreyas Iyer (40, 35b, 2x4, 2x6), Ishan Kishan (34, 21b, 2x4, 3x6) looked in sublime touch before they got out.



**EXHILARATING KNOCK:** Heinrich Klaasen raised his bat after reaching his half century at the Barabati Stadium, Sunday

OP & AGENCY PHOTOS

However, had it not been for eternal comeback man Dinesh Karthik (30 n o, 21b, 2x4, 2x6), India would not have inched closer to the 150-run mark. Karthik hit two sixes in the last over off Dwaine Pretorius and that helped India put up some useful runs on the board.

For the visitors Anrich Nortje (2/36) was the most successful bowler. However, it was the duo of Kagiso Rabada (1/15 off 4) and Wayne Parnell (1/23 off 4) who did not allow the Indian batters break the shackles. They hit the deck hard and with the pitch offering uneven bounce, they made life difficult for the Indian batters.

Ruturaj Gaikwad (1) was the first to depart, caught by Keshav Maharaj at backward-point while trying to drive Rabada. He did not get to the pitch of the ball and could not keep it down.

Kishan and Iyer then added 45 runs for the second wicket. Kishan was the more aggressive of the



**GREAT SPELL:** Teammates congratulate Bhuvneshwar Kumar after he had dismissed a South African batter

two. He was particularly harsh on Nortje hitting the bowler for two

towering sixes. However, the South African had the last laugh when

Kishan could not time a pull and holed out to Rassie Van der Dussen at deep square-leg.

The two most aggressive batters of the team, Rishabh Pant (5) and Hardik Pandya (9) also failed to get going and India were suddenly looking down the barrel at 90 for the loss of four wickets. And once Iyer departed, India's backs were truly back to the wall.

That all changed due to Karthik as he and Harshal Patel (12 n o) put on 36 runs in the last three overs with the former leading the charge.

### BRIEF SCORES

**India** 148 for 6 (Shreyas Iyer 40, Ishan Kishan 34, Dinesh Karthik 30 n o, Anrich Nortje 2/36, Kagiso Rabada 1/15, Wayne Parnell 1/23) lost to **South Africa** 149 for 6 in 18.2 overs (Heinrich Klaasen 81, Bhuvneshwar Kumar 4/13) by four wickets.

# IPL TV, digital rights bid crosses 42k crore

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, June 12:** The media rights e-auction for the Indian Premier League (IPL) for the 2023 to 2027 cycle began Sunday with sources stating that the combined bid for TV and digital rights has gone past the Rs 42,000 crore mark. There are four specific packages in which e-auction are being conducted for 74 games per season for a five-year period from 2023-2027 with a provision of increasing the number of matches to 94 in the final two years.

The process has been divided into a total of four packages (A, B, C and D). Package A is exclusive for TV for the Indian sub-continent while package B is for digital only grouping for the same region. Package C is for selected games in each season while Package D is for all games combined - TV and digital rights - for overseas markets.

The sources also added that per

match price for TV and digital has gone above Rs 100 crore. Star India had edged out Sony Pictures to secure the Indian Premier League's media rights for the 2017-2022 cycle with a bid of Rs 16,347.50 crore in September 2017. With this deal, the cost of an IPL match had become around Rs 55 crore.

Amazon had pulled out of the Indian Premier League media rights auction race, sources had earlier said Friday. In 2008, Sony Pictures Network won the IPL media rights for a period of 10 years with a bid of Rs 8,200 crore. The global digital rights of IPL for a period of three years were awarded to Novi Digital in 2015 for 302.2 crore.

The tournament was expanded from eight teams to 10 teams this year with Gujarat Titans and Lucknow Super Giants being included from the 2022 season. Gujarat Titans went on to win the tournament in its maiden season last month under the leadership of Hardik Pandya.

### Base prices for each segment

#### BASE PRICES

**Package A: ₹49 crore**

**Package B: ₹33 crore**

**Package C: ₹16 crore**

**Package D: ₹30 lakh per territory; each bid on per game basis**



### SHORT TAKES

#### Weightlifters win 2 silver medals

**New Delhi:** India's Akansha Kishor Vyavhare won the silver medal in 40kg category while Vijay Prajapati finished second in 49kg in 2022 IWF Youth World Weightlifting Championships for men and women in Leon, Mexico. The two silver medals were won Saturday, the opening day of the event. Akansha lifted a total of 127kg (59kg + 68kg), while Vijay managed to lift 175kg (78kg + 97kg). Akansha is a trainee of SAI National Centre of Excellence, Aurangabad and Vijay is a trainee of NCOE Patiala.

#### Mary Kom vows to comeback stronger

**New Delhi:** Boxer MC Mary Kom has sustained an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injury and will need to undergo a reconstructive surgery to recover. She suffered the injury Thursday during the trials for the Commonwealth Games here. The injury ended boxer's bid to defend her crown at Birmingham. "It has never happened to me before and I am struggling to come to terms with it. It's devastating," Mary Kom said about the injury. "I still feel I have one or two years of boxing left in me. I can fight my way out of this. I will make a comeback again," she vowed.

#### Kyrgios complains over racial abuse

**Stuttgart:** Nick Kyrgios said Sunday he faced racist abuse from the crowd during a semifinal loss to Andy Murray at the Stuttgart Open tennis tournament. The Australian posted on Instagram following the 6-7 (5-7), 2-6 loss to Murray that he had heard abusive comments from the stands Saturday. "When is this going to stop? Dealing with racial slurs from the crowd?" Kyrgios wrote on Instagram. "I understand that my behaviour isn't the best all the time - but 'you little black sheep', 'shut up and play' like comments are not acceptable at all to me," Kyrgios said.

# Chhetri banking on home support

BLUE TIGERS JUST 1 WIN AWAY FROM QUALIFYING FOR AFC ASIAN CUP

AGENCIES

**Kolkata, June 12:** Their tails up after two successive wins in front of a strong home crowd, captain of the Indian football team, Sunil Chhetri has backed his team to beat Hong Kong in the last qualifying game and secure a berth in next year's AFC Asian Cup.

India prevailed over Afghanistan 2-1 in a thrilling match that saw three quick goals being scored at the fag end of the game at the Salt Lake Stadium here which had 40,000 spectators in the stands Saturday evening.

The day coincided with talismanic skipper Chhetri completing 17 years in international football. "It feels great to celebrate my 17th year in international football in this fashion. I felt that maybe we will be splitting the points after Afghanistan equalised. But the boys did what they did," Chhetri said after the end of the game.

"But at the same time, such milestones don't mean much to me. I am honoured and privileged to wear the national team jersey for so long. I want to serve India as long as I can," Chhetri added.

Chhetri laughed when reminded about him sprinting like

Usain Bolt to celebrate Abdul Sahal Samad's decisive strike in injury time.

"The GPS will say that that was my fastest sprint of the night. We will rest, recover and have a look at the videos. Hong Kong are a good side, but we are at home, and will be backing ourselves. All of the fans will be there too," Chhetri pointed out.

The win helped India consolidate their position in the group as they seek to make a second straight appearance in the Asian Cup and fifth overall, having been knocked out in the group stage in the last edition in 2019.

Samad, who scored the winner late in the second half, sounded ecstatic. "The victory was earned in front of the fans, and hence, it tastes sweeter. I had to back myself, and placed it (ball) beyond the goalkeeper. And even before I could realise, the entire team was there to celebrate," he stated.

It was Chhetri who had put India ahead with a brilliant free-kick from just over 20 yards. It was the Indian superstar's 83rd goal in international football as he closed in on second-placed Argentine genius Lionel Messi among active players.



Sunil Chhetri trying to control the ball between two defenders of Afghanistan in the Asian Cup Qualifiers game played Saturday

PTI PHOTO

# Heinrich reveals his gameplan

WICKETKEEPER-BATTER DID NOT WANT INDIAN BOWLERS TO DOMINATE



**CELEBRATING SUCCESS:** Kagiso Rabada jumps on to the shoulders of bowler Anrich Nortje in glee after the latter dismissed Ishan Kishan

OP PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, June 12:** While most of the other batters struggled to bat on what can be called a 'slow' pitch at the Barabati Stadium here Sunday, South African batter Heinrich Klaasen (81, 46b, 7x4, 5x6) seemed to have a ball. In fact it was Klaasen's knock that turned the game in South Africa's favour against India after the hosts had threatened to turn the match around.

Coming in to bat, with the visitors tottering at 29 for the loss of three wickets while chasing a victory target of 149, Klaasen took the Indian

bowling by the scruff of its neck. His counter-attack paved the way for another South African victory and the win Sunday, gave the Proteas a 2-0 lead in the five-match series.

Later on talking after the game, Klaasen informed that he had come to know Saturday evening that he would be playing in this game. "Quinton de Kock came and told me that he had not recovered from his wrist injury and that I would be playing," informed the wicketkeeper-batter after the game. "So I was mentally prepared and I had chalked out a plan that how I would bat, especially against the Indian spin-

ners. I am glad that my plan worked out today. T20 is a funny game... sometimes things go your way and sometimes they don't," he added.

Klaasen was the first to admit that keeping wickets had given him a fair idea as to how the pitch was going to behave when he went out to bat. "To be fair, I had an idea, how I would go about it (batting). Yes, the pitch was comparatively difficult to the one in Delhi. I realised that I had to counter-attack, because I did not want the Indian bowlers start dominating the show," he informed.

South African captain Temba Bavuma lamented that they failed to be clinical in the finish. "We had the chance to be ruthless today, but we failed to utilise on the opportunity even though we did win the game. We have to keep that in our head," he stated.

Indian skipper Rishabh Pant lamented said that the spinners had failed to deliver. "Till about the 10th over of the South African innings we were in control," Pant said after the game. "We failed to take wickets at regular intervals during the second half of the innings and that was the problem for us. Our spinners couldn't deliver," Pant added.

# Belgian exact sweet revenge, beat India 3-2

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Antwerp, June 12:** Alexander Hendrickx struck a brace as Belgium notched up a thrilling 3-2 victory over India in the second match of the two-leg FIH Pro Hockey League tournament here Sunday.

Hendrickx (49th, 59th) produced two goals in the fourth quarter to go with a 33rd minute goal from Nicolas de Kerpel as the Olympic champions fought back from a 0-1 deficit to get the better of India, a day after being stunned by the visitors 4-5 in a shootout.

Abhishek (25th) had put India ahead, while Mandeep Singh (60th) scored the other goal just moments before the hooter.

With this win, Belgium moved up to second spot on the points table, while India were at third. India will now take on Netherlands next week.

In the 25th minute, India produced the breakthrough with a superb field goal with Abhishek guiding the ball into the net after set up by Gurjant Singh, who superbly combined with Vivek Sagar Prasad inside the circle.

# Hima not ruling out return to 400m

SPRINTER STILL WORKING ON HER FITNESS AND SAYS THAT SHE IS EYING A GOOD SHOW AT ASIAN GAMES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chennai, June 12:** Star sprinter Hima Das is not ruling out a return to 400m, an event which shot her to fame in 2018. She is hoping to make a comeback to the quarter-mile in the now-postponed Asian Games, which is likely to be held next year.

The 22-year-old 'Dhing Express' last ran a major 400m race during the Asian Championships in Doha in April 2019, but pulled out of that race midway due to a lower back injury.

After returning from the injury lay-off, Hima has been running 100m and 200m. She holds the national record of 50.79 seconds in the 400m. "I have not cut (off) running the 400m. It (recovery from injury) is a long process. During my in-



**STRUGGLING TO RETAIN FITNESS:** Hima Das has been also bothered by a hamstring injury in the recent past

jury time, I was not being able to run 400m because a lot of pres-

sure developed on the right side of my back," Hima said Sunday.

**Sachin (Tendulkar) sir once told me that a sports person and injury are like friends. How to face that (injury) and move ahead and give result is the challenge you have to overcome. His words inspire me**

HIMA DAS

"I may not run the 400m at this point in time, but will surely do it (in near future). It may happen at the end of this year, otherwise I may prepare 400m for the postponed Asian Games because I will get time to prepare," the sprinter added. She also said that she is well off running till 300m, but the last 100 metres are turning out to be a problem