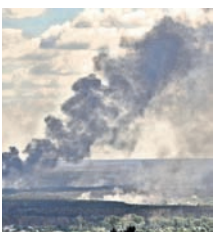




### SONALI'S CONFESSION

Actor Sonali Bendre regrets that she did not learn from co-star Aamir Khan while shooting for 'Sarfarosh'

LEISURE P2



### FIERCE FIGHTING CONTINUES

Russian troops have taken control over 80 per cent of the city of Sieverodonetsk even though fierce fighting rages

INTERNATIONAL P10



### INDIA WIN EASILY

India defeat South Africa by 48 runs in the 3rd T20I to stay alive in the five-match series against the Proteas

SPORTS P12

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

Boy rescued from well after 100 hrs



**RAIPUR:** Rahul Sahu, the hearing and speech-impaired kid who had fallen into an abandoned borewell at Pihrid village in Chhattisgarh's Janjgir-Champa district Friday was rescued few minutes before midnight Tuesday. Teams from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Indian Army, local police and state disaster response force (SDRF), battled for more than 100 hours, to rescue the 11-year-old Rahul. Immediately after Rahul was brought out, officials said that the kid was breathing but not showing any discernible movement. He was immediately rushed to a hospital in Bilaspur for treatment. Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel had been personally monitoring the rescue operations.

Woman, son found dead in Keonjhar



**KEONJHAR:** Police in this district recovered Monday the dead bodies of a 55-year old woman and her 35-year old son on a farmland near Jabinipur under Hataadihi block about 80 kms from the district headquarters, Tuesday. The deceased were identified as Jema Das and her son Santa Das of Manoharpur village under Anandpur block of this district. Sources said that the deceased belonged to a poor family and were into pig rearing to earn their living. Police are yet to ascertain how the two died. A probe has been initiated in this regard. They were staying in a temporary labour camp set up in the locality for the past few weeks.

### IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Save dharma. Donate in dollars

MARKET WATCH			
INDEX		VARIATION	
BOURSES	SENSEX	52693.57	↓ 153.13
	NIFTY	15732.10	↓ 42.30
	DOLLAR	77.98	↓ ₹0.05
	EURO	81.24	↓ ₹0.01
	GOLD	₹50,240	↓ ₹424
CURRENCY	SILVER	₹59,574	↓ ₹737

WEATHER			
		BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX	38.0°C	38.4°C
	MIN	28.6°C	28.0°C
Humidity		78%	75%
Rainfall		Nil	Nil
		Forecast Light to Moderate Rain	

# Devotees return for Snana Yatra



ON LORDS' DUTY: Srimandir servitors perform the Snana Yatra rituals in Puri, Tuesday as devotees watch

OP PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Puri, June 14:** It was a momentous and memorable occasion for thousands of devotees Tuesday when they got the opportunity to witness the Snana Yatra – the grand bathing of Lord Balabhadra, Devi Subhadra, Lord Jagannath and Lord Sudarshan – after a gap of two years. No doubt they were excited as the rituals began.

The rituals are conducted on the full moon day of 'Jyestha' (mid May-mid June).

Over two lakh devotees have al-

ready assembled in the pilgrim town to witness the bathing rituals, an official of the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) had earlier said.

The 'Pahandi' ritual of the deities began at around 4.00am as servitors took the Trinity and Lord Sudarshan to the 'Snana Mandap' in a ceremonial procession. Lord Sudarshan was the first to be placed at the 'Snana Mandap', followed by Lord Balabhadra, Goddess Subhadra and Lord Jagannath. The Pahandi concluded at around 6.00am.

As per rituals, the deities were

bathed with 108 pitchers of aromatic water by a group of servitors. The water was drawn from Suna Kua (golden well) situated inside Srimandir precincts. Then the servitors added herbal and aromatic essence to the water before performing what is known as 'Jalabhishek'.

The servitors first bathed Lord Jagannath with 35 pots of water, Lord Balabhadra was showered with 33 pots, Devi Subhadra with 22 pots while Lord Sudarshan took bath with 18 pots of water.

Devotees believe that a glimpse

of the deities on this day will help them get rid of all their sins. Some even observe this festival as the birthday of Lord Jagannath.

After the bathing rituals, the Srimandir deities were adorned with 'Hati Besha' (elephant headgear, representing a form of Lord Ganesha)

As it is believed that the deities catch cold and develop fever after the ritualistic bath, they were then taken to 'Anasara Ghara' (an asylum for the sick) where they will remain ensconced for the next 15 days. This period is known as

'Anasara'. The deities will again give darshan to the public with rejuvenated youth hood, a ritual called 'Nabajouban Darshan', a day before the Rath Yatra festival, which falls July 1 this year.

Elaborate security arrangements were made to control the huge turnout that was present to witness the Snana Yatra. A total of 52 platoons of police force, three commandants, 11 deputy commandants or ASPs, 21 DSPs, 50 inspectors, 270 Sis/ASIs, 1,000 constables and home guards were deployed to maintain law and order.

## Mamata, CPI(M) fail to convince Pawar

Sources said that the NCP chief is not keen to contest as he doesn't want to lose at his age

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, June 14:** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Left leaders including general secretary met NCP chief Sharad Pawar separately here Tuesday. They tried to convince the veteran leader to be the joint opposition nominee for the presidential election.

Pawar, however, refused, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said after his meeting with him. Other than Yechury, Pawar also met CPI general secretary D Raja and NCP leaders Praful Patel and PC Chacko here and conveyed to them his decision to not contest the election.

"I have been informed that Pawar will not be the opposition face for the presidential poll. Now we will have to think about other names," Yechury said.

Banerjee is in Delhi for a meeting of non-BJP parties she has convened to formulate a joint strategy for the upcoming presidential poll. She however, refused to make any comments after her meeting with Pawar.

### BJD non-committal

**New Delhi:** The BJD remained non-committal whether it the party would participate in the meeting called by West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee regarding the presidential polls. Banerjee had written to BJD supremo Naveen Patnaik on this issue. The meeting is scheduled to take place Wednesday. According to a senior BJD leader, the party hasn't held any discussion on the invitation sent by Banerjee.

The NCP meanwhile said that at no point, Pawar was keen to contest the presidential polls. A senior party leader said that Pawar still wants to be a part of national politics.

Pawar is not keen to keep himself confined to the Rashtrapati Bhavan. "But, I don't think he is keen on it (contesting polls). Saheb (Pawar) is a people's man. He will not restrict himself to the Rashtrapati Bhavan. His main target is to bring together the opposition for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections," a minister from NCP said.



West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee held discussions with Sharad Pawar in New Delhi, Tuesday regarding the presidential polls

PTI PHOTO

## Jumbo deaths continue unabated

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Athagarh/Dhenkanal June 14:** There is no let-up in jumbo deaths in the state as two elephants died in quick succession in separate incidents in Narasinghpur of Cuttack district and in Kapilas zoo in Dhenkanal district, Tuesday.

In the first case a tusker that was battling for life for eight days near a rivulet at Jaipur jungle under Narasinghpur range and Athagarh forest division in Cuttack district after being shot at by poachers succumbed to its injuries. This was stated in Athagarh by ranger Prafulla Kumar Dehuri.

Veterinarians from Satkosia Tiger Reserve, Nandankanan Zoological Park and OUAU were treating the ailing pachyderm inside the forest. However, their efforts to revive it failed as the animal stopped eating for the last couple of days.



Officials said that the tusker had six bullet injuries and had developed septicaemia on its right leg.

In the second case, a newborn jumbo calf which had been rehabilitated at the elephant rescue centre of Kapilas zoo following its rescue from Kunua area under Hindol forest range died while undergoing treatment, Tuesday afternoon. The

calf died despite forest officials and veterinarians putting their best efforts for its revival.

Reports said that an elephant herd had strayed into Sabarsahi of Kunua village June 11 when a female elephant gave birth to the calf. However, the female elephant abandoned the calf after the delivery and went back to the jungle.

## Centre clears 'Agnipath' for Armed Forces

Now short-time contracts of 4 years will be offered to the new recruits that may be made permanent depending on the requirement of the Armed Forces

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 14:** The government Tuesday unveiled a 'transformative' scheme called 'Agnipath' for the recruitment of soldiers into the Army, the Navy and the Air Force largely on a short-term contractual basis with an aim to cut the ballooning salary and pension bills and enable a youthful profile of the Armed Forces.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh provided details of the new initiative at a media briefing shortly after the Prime Minister-led Cabinet Committee on Security approved the scheme which the government said would allow 'patriotic and motivated' youth to serve in the Armed

Forces for a period of four years.

"Under the 'Agnipath' scheme, Indian youth will be provided an opportunity to serve in the Armed Forces as 'Agniveer'. This scheme has been brought to strengthen the security of the country. It is a transformative scheme," Singh said in the presence of the three Armed Forces chiefs at a press conference here Tuesday.

Describing it a major defence policy reform to usher in a 'new era' in the human resource policy of the three services, the Defence Ministry said the scheme comes into immediate effect. It also said the Armed Forces will recruit 46,000 'Agniveers' in 2022.

The monthly salary of an



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh briefing the media in presence of the chiefs of the Army, Navy and Air Force in New Delhi, Tuesday

PTI PHOTO

'Agniveer' in the first year would be ₹30,000 and the in-hand amount would be ₹21,000 as ₹9,000 would go to a corpus with an equal contribution of the government. Subsequently, the monthly salary

in the second, third and fourth year will be ₹33,000, ₹36,500 and ₹40,000 respectively. Each 'Agniveer' will get an amount of ₹11.71 lakh as 'Seva Nidhi Package' and it will be exempted from income tax.



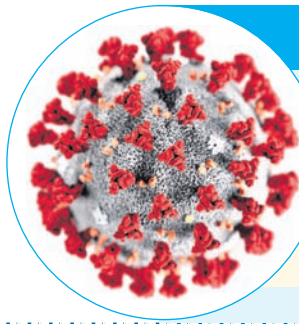






## FESTIVE MOOD

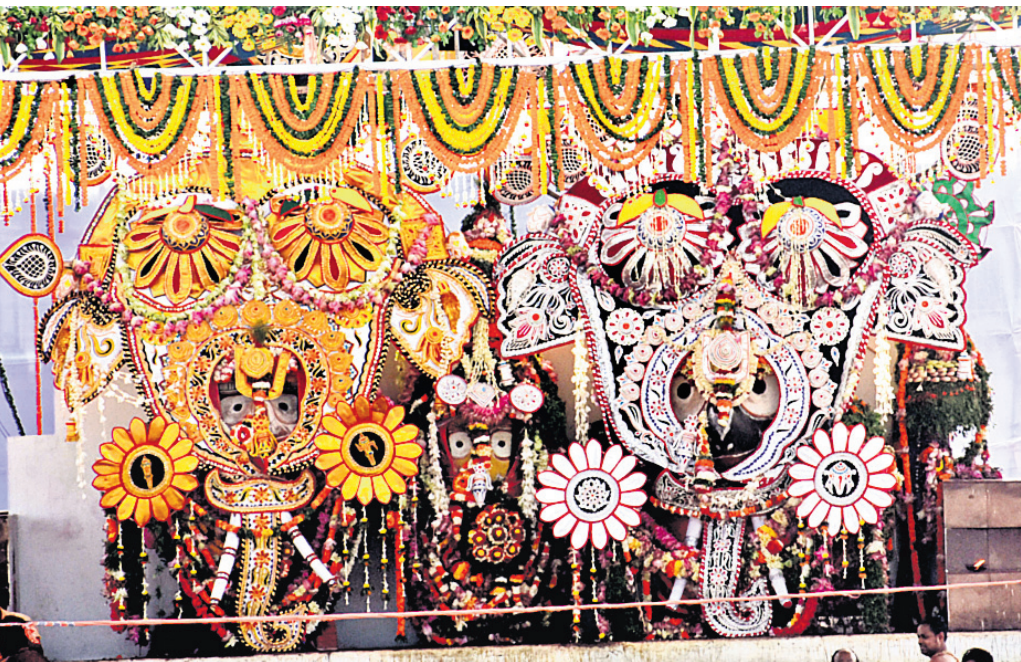
People enjoying a game of dice during celebration of Raja festival by Masal at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	54,12,39,672	51,64,90,025	63,32,906
India	4,32,36,695	4,26,61,370	5,24,777
Odisha	12,88,674	12,79,351	9,126

## DEITIES' ELEPHANT ATTIRE



Deities adorned with *Hati Beshha* after the completion of bathing rituals at Srimandir in Puri, Tuesday. (Bottom) Devotees gathered near the 12th century shrine to witness the rituals

# Drones may soon monitor mining ops

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 14:** The state government is planning to use drone and remote sensing technology in mining operations to ensure better governance and transparency in the sector.

The Steel & Mines department of the state government has floated a tender to hire an agency for development and implementation of an intelligent drone platform in Odisha, sources said.

The platform will analyse drone-captured data pertaining to the various operations and compliance aspects of the mining lessees and report the same in relevant visual format. The platform will be integrated with the current i3MS (Integrated Mines and Mineral



Management System). Besides, it would become a part of the existing IT ecosystem, sources added. Through the drone system, the government can do boundary inspection, land use pattern assessment, production pit status check, stockpile detection and volume calculations, sources informed.

The Steel & Mines department has floated a tender to hire an agency for development and implementation of an intelligent drone platform in Odisha

The platform will analyse drone-captured data pertaining to the various operations and compliance aspects of the mining lessees and report the same in relevant visual format

Through the drone system, the government can do boundary inspection, land use pattern assessment, production pit status check, stockpile detection and volume calculations

"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 terrains while being controlled by a single person remotely," said an official.

For real time monitoring of the mining activities, the state government has already introduced Integrated Mines and Mineral Management System which has been replicated by many states.

Apart from using information technology (IT) in a greater way, the state has successfully implemented all the amended provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act which has led to auctioning of the highest numbers of mines in the country.

## BJD NON-COMMITTAL ON MAMATA'S CALL

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, June 14:** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Tuesday arrived in the national capital to hold a meeting of 22 parties on Presidential elections June 15. She has sent invitation to the party heads but there hasn't been any clarity whether Biju Janata Dal (BJD) will take part in the meeting.

According to a senior BJD leader, the party hasn't yet decided on the invitation of Banerjee in which she requested Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to join the meeting to hold discussions on Presidential elections. In a letter sent to all the party heads, Banerjee wrote as the Presidential elections are round the corner, it is the perfect opportunity for all progressive opposition parties to reconvene and deliberate on the future course of Indian politics. Significantly, the BJD has always maintained equidistance from the national parties and kept the interest of the state above any alliance. However, during the 2017 Presidential elections, BJD had supported President Ram Nath Kovind, who was a NDA candidate, after receiving a call from PM Narendra Modi.

# Fun and fervour mark day one of Raja

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 14:** After two years of restriction on public celebration of festivals due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the annual Raja festival is being celebrated with all fun and fervour by people across the state this year.

The festival is celebrated at the onset of monsoon. It is also observed to celebrate womanhood. The festival is an amalgamation of tradition along with fun, frolic and delicacies. This three-day event marks the period of fertility regeneration of the earth, equivalent to the menstrual cycle which women undergo.

On the occasion, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik greeted people. "My heartfelt greetings to all on the occasion of Raja festival. Let this festi-



Odia Language Literature and Culture department organised Raja festival at Odisha State Museum in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday



Girls enjoying swing rides at Patrapada in Bhubaneswar

val, a symbol of Odia culture and tradition, bring joy and excitement to the society. Wishing everyone a happy and prosperous life on this occasion," Patnaik said.

Due to the pandemic, there were restrictions on public celebration of Raja festival in 2020 and 2021. The people had celebrated the festival indoors due to the pandemic-induced restrictions.

This year, the festival is being celebrated with great enthusiasm as the state has witnessed an improvement in the Covid-19 situation in last several months. Many localities in the capital city have been decked up for Raja celebrations, which began

**My heartfelt greetings to all on the occasion of Raja festival. Let this festival, a symbol of Odia culture and tradition, bring joy and excitement to the society. Wishing everyone a happy and prosperous life on this occasion**

NAVEEN PATNAIK | CHIEF MINISTER

Tuesday and shall continue till Thursday.

The Odisha Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC) in association with Tourism department organised the festival at Panthanivas in the capital city. This apart, 'Pitha on Wheel' initiative was also launched for the residents of the twin cities of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack.

"The OTDC usually makes special arrangements with all varieties of 'pithas' (traditional cakes) and swings to celebrate Raja. However, the festival was celebrated in a low-key manner for last two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This year, we have decided to celebrate the festival in all Panthanivas as there is improvement in the pandemic situation," said Tourism department Director Sachin Ramachandra Yadav.

In the capital city, girls and women were seen celebrating the festival with new clothes and swing rides. Special beetle counters have been put up at several places in the city.

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



## Man bludgeoned to death at Nimapara

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Nimapara, June 14:** A 75-year-old man was bludgeoned to death at Kushabhadra riverbed near Jhampulakuda village under the police limits here Tuesday, an official said.

The deceased was identified as Gobinda Chandra Sahoo of Jhampulakuda village in Bhilligram panchayat under Nimapara police limits here, added the official.

The incident came to the fore in the morning when a few locals found a lifeless Gobinda lying in a pool of blood with deep injuries in his head. On being informed, police reached the spot, recovered the body before sending it to Chari Chhak hospital for autopsy.

Police have recovered a blood-stained crowbar from near the body. "On the basis of a complaint lodged by Gobinda's son Nilamani, a case (206/22) of murder has been registered under Section 302 of the IPC. A local vendor has been detained in connection with the incident," said an official.



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Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts Dept., Govt. of Odisha



## NCC PUNEET SAGAR ABHIYAN (08 - 14 JUN 2022)

**NCC GROUP HEAD QUARTERS, CUTTACK, 15th Jun, 2022.** Enthusiastic cadets belonging to Units under NCC Group Headquarters Cuttack performed selfless service yet again in spreading the message of clean beaches and clean oceans for a week on the occasion of "World Ocean Day" from 08th Jun till 14th June. As reported earlier, in keeping with the vision of our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, National Cadet Corps (NCC) had initiated a nation wide flagship campaign 'Puneet Sagar Abhiyan' to spread awareness about clean sea shores/ beaches and other water bodies. The Second chapter of Puneet Sagar Abhiyan was celebrated concurrently whole over Odisha by NCC Directorate Odisha and NCC Group Head quarters, Cuttack spearheaded the campaign



and UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) have come forward to support the campaign this time. The highlights of the week long campaign were visit of cadets to Material Recovery Facilities, interaction with tourists and shop owners and persuading them to pledge for keep the beaches free of litter. The last day of the campaign was celebrated in a grand

A Blood Donation Campaign was organised by 1(O) Bn at Cuttack and by 1(O) Girls Bn at Bhubaneswar. United Nations Development Programme Coordinators also shared their experiences with the cadets and a community resolve was taken to prevent pollution of beaches, river fronts and water bodies. The Reporter heard useful ideas and quotes



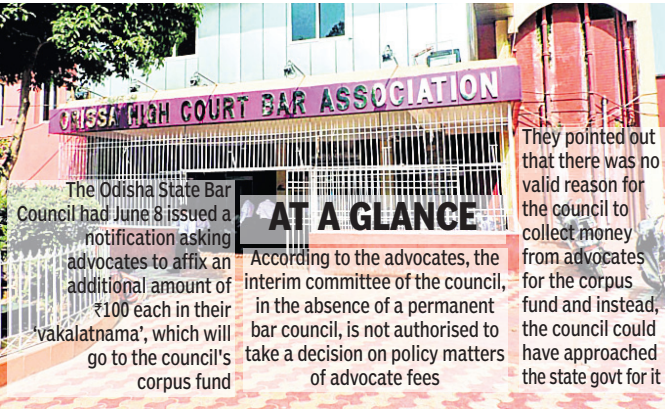
in 13 districts of Central and Northern Odisha for a week covering various activities concurrently at different locations. The focus was on generating novel ideas and spreading awareness using all forms of Social media in order to promote the idea to a whole new audience and make significant contribution towards the Prime Minister's Dream of a Swachh Bharat. NGOs like H.E.L.P (Help To Economically Lower People)

way on 14th Jun 2022 with participation of large number of cadets, dignitaries, Alumni and NGOs. Beach Cleaning activity was conducted at Paradip, Puri while at Cuttack and Bhadrak river banks were targeted. A Cycle rally was also undertaken at Bhadrak while Plog run was carried out at Dhenkanal. Essay, Drawing and Poster making competitions at select schools also helped generate new ideas and slogans for taking the movement further forward.

about clean beaches, clean rivers etc. Twitterati was abuzz with snippets of the event conducted all across the country. NCC Officials present at the venue were also seen sharing plans about sustained campaigns to keep our oceans, seas and water bodies clean. Seeing young children championing the cause of clean oceans, it seemed a clean India revolution in waiting. The noble campaign culminated on 14th Jun 2022. **Adv.**



# Lawyers in Cuttack oppose OSBC move on corpus fund



PNN & AGENCIES

**Cuttack, June 14:** Advocates here, including members of the Orissa High Court Bar Association, Tuesday unanimously passed a resolution opposing the move of Odisha State Bar Council (OSBC) to collect ₹100 each from advocates

**AT A GLANCE**  
The Odisha State Bar Council had June 8 issued a notification asking advocates to affix an additional amount of ₹100 each in their vakalatnama, which will go to the council's corpus fund  
According to the advocates, the interim committee of the council, in the absence of a permanent bar council, is not authorised to take a decision on policy matters of advocate fees  
They pointed out that there was no valid reason for the council to collect money from advocates for the corpus fund and instead, the council could have approached the state govt for it

for its Corpus Welfare Fund. The state bar council had June 8 issued a notification asking advocates to affix an additional amount of ₹100 each in their 'vakalatnama', which will go to the council's corpus fund. The resisting advocates convened a meeting in which repre-

sentatives of the Orissa High Court Bar Association and all other bar associations in the city passed a resolution opposing the council's move. Participants said that in the absence of a permanent bar council, the interim committee of the council is not authorised to take a decision on policy matters of advocate fees. They pointed out that there was no valid reason for the council to collect money from advocates for the corpus fund and instead, the council could have approached the state government for it. "It was unanimously decided not to affix any additional fees in the vakalatnama as notified by the interim committee of the state bar council," the resolution on the letterhead of the High Court Bar Association said. Their decision would be intimidated to other bar associations of the state requesting them to adhere to the decision, it added.



A girl checks handicrafts at Kite Utsav organised by Mission Shakti, ORMAS and Cuttack administration at Barabati Stadium in the Silver City, Tuesday *OP PHOTO*

## Servitors to embark on padayatra June 20 50 volunteers donate blood at AIIMS

*The servitors from Mayurbhanj have planned to meet Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Law minister in Bhubaneswar over multiple issues*

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Baripada, June 14:** Servitors from Mayurbhanj affiliated to Odisha Mathamandira Sevayat Sangh will embark on a padayatra from June 20 to meet Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in Bhubaneswar over multiple issues mostly related to rituals of deities in mutts and temples under the Endowment department. A delegation of servitors led by



FILE PHOTO

Kameswar Tripathy met the Collector and submitted a memorandum in this regard recently. Their demands include immediate reclamation of temple and mutt properties, proper management of rituals, hike in servitors' remunerations, appointment of a special officer for Baripada Endowment department and EPF provision for servitors.

Significantly, rituals of deities in 10 mutts and temples in the district are disrupted due to numerous reasons. The servitors have long been seeking hike in the allowances, but the Endowment department is not taking any step in this regard, it is alleged. The servitors will also meet the Law minister in Bhubaneswar over their demands. The expenses in-

curring owing to rituals at mutts and temples are met from temple incomes. Importantly, thousands of acres of land belonging to mutts and temples are under illegal occupation. The deities are soon going to be landless while their rituals and niti bhogas have been disrupted for fund crunch, they said. Servitors are deprived of their remunerations. The officials are cringing back to reclaim the landed properties of the deities. They alleged that the deities have always been neglected by the Endowment department. "Poor budgetary allocation makes it difficult to meet the daily needs of the deities. Despite several requests, remuneration of servitors is yet to be revised," said a senior servitor.

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 14:** More than 50 volunteers donated blood at a programme organised by Department of Transfusion Medicine at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhubaneswar on the occasion of World Blood Donor Day, Tuesday. An awareness programme was also organised on this occasion where the experts highlighted the importance of blood donation. They maintained that donating blood improves mental health, improves overall cardiovascular health, and lowers the risk of stroke and cancer too. The most important benefit of blood donation is that a single donation can save lives of 3-4 patients.

### WORLD BLOOD DONOR DAY



They were of the opinion that voluntary blood donors, particularly regular donors, are the first line of defense in preventing the transmission of HIV, Hepatitis viruses and other blood-borne infections through the route of transfusion.

Voluntary donors also know the importance of safe blood. They also maintain good health, which is required for optimum dose of blood components for transfusion purposes. Similarly, sufficient number of healthy voluntary donors is required to maintain the balance and ensure that blood is always available whenever and wherever it is needed. Dr Somnath Mukherjee of the Department of Transfusion Medicine and Blood Centre and others were present on the occasion. It may be noted that World Blood Donor Day is celebrated on June 14 every year on the birthday of Karl Landsteiner, who was awarded the Nobel Prize for his discovery of ABO Blood group system.

### Puri-Rangapara North Spl services extended

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 14:** In view of convenience of passengers, the East Coast Railway (ECOR) has decided to extend the services of Rangapara North (Assam)-Puri-Rangapara North Special till the last week of July this year. The 05870/05869 Rangapara North-Puri Special will run till July 25, 2022 every Monday and from Puri to Rangapara North every Wednesday till July 27. The scheduled stoppages at various stations and timings will remain unchanged.



**The scheduled stoppages at various stations and timings will remain unchanged**

## IN A FIRST, STATE HOSTS FILM FESTIVAL ON ROAD SAFETY

230 ENTRIES FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 14:** In order to create awareness about road safety, a national level film contest has been recently organised in Odisha. A first-of-its-kind contest titled National Road Safety Short Film Festival witnessed overwhelming response from participants from across the country. A total of 230 participants made their entries for the festival submitting their films in documentary, experimental, narrative, fiction, non-fiction and animation formats. The festival offers an unbiased and democratic space to storytellers, who are willing to share their ideas about road safety through the audio-visual medium. There are entries in several languages including Hindi, Telugu, Malayalam and



English. Besides films in Odia language, there are quite a few entries in Santali language as well from tribal belts of the state. The shortlisted movies will be screened June 18 and 19 at Rourkela. The festival will culminate at Puri where shortlisted films will be screened June 24 and 25. The winners will be selected by a panel of film industry professionals and per-

sonalities from other walks of life. The best film will carry a prize money of ₹1 lakh while the two runners-up will get ₹80, 000 and ₹60, 000 respectively. The best director will get ₹25, 000, best screenplay ₹25, 000 and best cinematography ₹25, 000. Likewise, the best actor and actress will receive a cash award of ₹25, 000.

### 14 fresh Covid cases in state

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, June 14:** Odisha's Covid-19 tally rose to 12,88,674 Tuesday as 14 more people tested positive for the infection, two more than the previous day, a Health bulletin said. **The state's coronavirus death toll remained unchanged at 9,126 as no fresh fatality was reported**

The state's coronavirus death toll remained unchanged at 9,126 as no fresh fatality was reported. Odisha now has 144 active cases, while 12,79,351 people have recovered from the disease thus far, including 14 in the last 24 hours. A total of 53 patients have died due to comorbidities to date. The daily positivity rate stood at 0.13 per cent as 10,415 samples were tested for Covid-19, it added.

### 'REGULAR BLOOD DONATION LOWERS HEART ATTACK RISK'

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 14:** Donating blood regularly goes a long way lowering the risk of a heart attack, said Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) Blood Centre head Sukanta Tripathy on the occasion of World Blood Donor Day, Tuesday. Tripathy appealed to the people to come forward and donate blood as there is a pressing need to increase the voluntary donor base in Odisha. "Even if only one per cent of the population donates, there will be no scarcity for blood," he underlined. As many as 4,87,022 units of blood were collected in 2021. Out of it, 3,25,139 units—66.76 per cent—were donated from voluntary donors and the rest were by replacement donors, he said. "We need to create greater awareness among the people to come in more numbers and voluntarily do-



mate blood to meet the increasing demand. This act of charity will not only give you a sense of pride but also help you maintain a healthy life," added Tripathy. Regular blood donation is linked to lower risk of heart attack, maintaining normal blood pressure and iron level. "A donor can also keep the cholesterol level under control as well. And above all, the donor also gets the benefit of free check-up before blood donation," Tripathy said listing out the advantages of blood donation. The KIMS Blood Centre, rechristened as the Department of Transfusion Medicine, began its operations in 2006. In 2020, it got the nod to operate the Apheresis machine, added Tripathy.

## Human brains are hotter than thought, particularly women's: Study

Average human brain temperature is 38.5 degrees Celsius, with deeper brain regions often exceeding 40 degrees Celsius, particularly in women during the daytime, finds a study. Normal human brain temperature varies much more than previously thought, and this could be a sign of healthy brain function, said researchers at the Medical Research Council (MRC) Laboratory for Molecular Biology, in the UK who produced the first 4D map of healthy human brain temperature. The map overturns several previous assumptions and shows the remarkable extent to which brain temperature varies by brain region, age, sex, and time of day. Importantly, these findings also challenge a widely held belief that human brain and body temperature

are the same. The research, published in the journal Brain, also included analysis of data from patients with traumatic brain injury, showing that the presence of daily brain temperature cycles strongly correlates with survival. These findings could be used to improve understanding, prognosis, and treatment of brain injury. "To me, the most surprising finding from our study is that the healthy human brain can reach temperatures that would be diagnosed as fever anywhere else in the body. Such high temperatures have been measured in people with brain injuries in the past, but had been assumed to result from the injury," said Dr. John O'Neill, Group Leader at the MRC Lab. To study the healthy brain, the



researchers recruited 40 volunteers, aged 20-40 years, to be scanned in the morning, afternoon, and late evening over one day. In healthy participants, the average brain temperature was 38.5

degrees Celsius, more than two degrees warmer than that measured under the tongue. The study also found that brain temperature varied depending on: time of day; brain region, sex and men-

strual cycle, and age. While the brain surface was generally cooler; deeper brain structures were frequently warmer than 40 degrees Celsius; with the highest observed brain temperature being 40.9 degrees Celsius. Across all individuals, brain temperature showed consistent time-of-day variation by nearly 1 degree Celsius, with highest brain temperatures observed in the afternoon, and the lowest at night. "We found that brain temperature drops at night before you go to sleep and rises during the day. There is good reason to believe this daily variation is associated with long-term brain health a" something we hope to investigate next," O'Neill said. On average, female brains were around 0.4 degrees Celsius warmer

than male brains. This sex difference was most likely driven by the menstrual cycle, since most females were scanned in the post-ovulation phase of their cycle, and their brain temperature was around 0.4 degrees Celsius warmer than that of females scanned in their pre-ovulation phase. The results also showed that brain temperature increased with age over the 20-year range of the participants, most notably in deep brain regions, where the average increase was 0.6 degrees Celsius. The researchers propose that the brain's capacity to cool down may deteriorate with age and further work is needed to investigate whether it is linked with the development of age-related brain disorders.

IANS

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# Riddled with scams, Lower Suktel in limbo



Over 20 years have passed since the work for the project began but it is yet to get completed

Following several controversies and opposition, the project work has resumed after the state government and senior administrators intervened

THE FRESH DEADLINE OF THE PROJECT IS MARCH 2023

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bolangir, June 14:** Controversies continue to plague Lower Suktel Irrigation Project which is termed as the lifeline of farmers and residents of Bolangir district, a report said.

Over 20 years have passed since the work for the project began but it is yet to get completed. Meanwhile, after several controversies and objections, the project work has resumed after the state government and senior administrators intervened.

The fresh deadline of the project is March 2023. In its bid to meet the deadline, the consultancy agency is now hastily carrying out the dam work and other miscellaneous works of the project.

The initial outlay for the project was ₹217 crore but it has now reached a staggering ₹4,000 crore. It is alleged that engineers have splurged money under the cover of senior administrators without actually doing any work during last

20 years. Nobody is mustering courage to oppose them as they enjoy the patronage of senior administrators.

Moreover, locals have alleged that standard soil is being used in construction of the embankment, raising questions about the durability of the dyke. They have alleged that the consultancy agency is not using the soil tested for the purpose but laying soil on the embankment by lifting it from other sites. Locals have alleged that the engineers are encouraging such a move to complete the work within the fresh deadline.

In the meantime, 90 per cent of the spillway work and 70 per cent of the soil embankment work have been completed. Reports said the initial outlay was only ₹217.13 crore when it received administrative approval in 1999.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik laid the foundation stone for the project in November 2001 which was planned for completion by 2005. However, the project failed

to make any headway due to stiff opposition from the residents of likely submerged areas.

People intensified their agitation after they noticed severe irregularities in the social survey conducted for the project. The project got mired in controversy after they found illegal purchase of land for outside people other than the project affected.

The project work got stalled and resumed after the district administration started distributing compensation for rehabilitation of the oustees.

However, within a few days, irregularities of ₹100 crore and fund embezzlement again pushed the project to the backburner. Preliminary inquiries indicated involvement of some senior officers, engineers and zone officers in the irregularities. As a result, the project work failed to get completed by 2005.

Later, the anti-project agitation got intensified following which the project work again came to a halt and the fate of the project was pushed into uncertainty. The work resumed after the pro-project people launched an agitation in 2012-2013. However, the project supporters started opposing the project after they found some engineers and officers cheating them and misappropriating the funds sanctioned in their names. During this period, the engineers also neglected the work and failed to complete the construction of Lower Suktel Rehabilitation Colony.

Meanwhile, works for construction of the colony has started under the direct supervision of Bolangir Collector Chanchal Rana.

Attempt to contact project chief engineer Niranjan Rout on his phone on the corruption allegations failed as the call went unanswered.

## HOME TO WINGED BEAUTIES



Bhitarkanika National Park is abuzz with the chirping of birds as the winged guests flocked to the scenic site under Rajnagar block in Kendrapara district

## Sambalpur man killed in Khandapara

*During the investigation, police found that 10 to 12 people called Surya Kondh to Nayagarh on pretext of buying him land, but killed him before absconding*

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Khandapara, June 14:** A person who was looking for a vast patch of land to set up his farmhouse here in Nayagarh district was killed by miscreants, who had called him from Sambalpur Monday.

The deceased was identified as Surya Kondh, 38, a native of Shaktinagar at Hirakud in Sambalpur. Besides, the miscreants also brutally attacked his nephew and his car driver. The injured were identified as Raja Sahu,



26, and driver Ajay. Meanwhile, a police team comprising ASP Bidyut Panda, Khandapara IIC Biswajit Routray and Fatehgarh IIC Girija Nandan, along with a scientific team, visited the crime spot Tuesday and started an investigation into the incident. During the investigation, the police found that 10 to 12 people have committed the crime and absconded.

Police also learnt that a particular gang is active in the area that lures customers from far off places

and loot them on the pretext of selling land and Hanuman coins through social media.

However, none of the accused has been arrested so far. A manhunt was started to nab the culprits.

According to police, Surya was looking for a vast patch of land for farmhouse. A person of Khandapara area had contacted Surya to buy him land. The three were called to Bhanrpalli under Khandapara police limits. They reached there at 4pm, Monday. From Bhanrpalli, the three were taken to Kuanria river bank.

As they reached, a group of 10/12 people armed with weapons attacked them. The attackers snatched away their mobile phones and ₹25,000 in cash. Surya was killed in the attack while the critically injured duo managed to reach Ragadisahi police outpost with help of other people.

## Gujarat job agency dupes youths of lakhs

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhampur, June 14:** A gang of fraudsters has been active in Berhampur town, fleeing people of lakhs of rupees on the plea of providing them with jobs abroad. Many youths have become victims of this fraud gang.

The fraud came to the fore after a complaint was filed at Cyber police station here Sunday.

**Agency failed to provide jobs to the youths who demanded their money back. An FIR was filed at Cyber police station**

A Gujarat-based company with help of another agency at Lochapada in Berhampur has taken away ₹13 lakh from many youths on the promise of ensuring them VISA, passports and then giving them jobs abroad. The Lochapada based employment agency had collected money from youths on behalf of the Gujarat-based agency.

However, the agency could not provide jobs to the youths who demanded their money back. Upset, the Lochapada-based agency with one Ritarani Pradhan as its director tried to contact the Gujarat agency about the jobs and money. But she could not get any assurance thereafter. Then, she filed an FIR at Cyber police station against the Gujarat-based company. Meanwhile, Cyber police has started an investigation into the matter.

## WOMAN HELD FOR BRANDING STEPDAUGHTER WITH IRON ROD

AGENCIES

**Berhampur, June 14:** A 30-year-old woman was arrested for allegedly branding her eight-year-old stepdaughter with a hot iron rod when she asked her for ₹5 for buying chocolates and biscuits in Ganjam district, police said Tuesday.

The incident took place on Laxmi Nursing Street in Bada Bazar Police Station area here Friday.

**The accused tried to cover the girl's injuries with face powder and warned her against disclosing it to anyone**

It came to light Sunday when locals informed the police after seeing multiple injury marks on the body of the Class IV student when she was going to tuition.

“We have arrested the woman following a complaint lodged by the girl's uncle. He alleged that the woman tried to kill the girl by branding her with a hot iron rod,” IIC Prasant Bhupati said.

After being rescued and treated at MKCG Medical College and Hospital, the girl was housed in a child care institution as per the direction of the district child welfare committee. The girl has injury marks on her cheek, back and shoulder, he said. The accused had allegedly tried to cover the girl's injuries with face powder and warned her against disclosing the incident before anyone.

## BeMC's rainwater harvesting projects still a pipedream

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhampur, June 14:** The Berhampur Municipal Corporation's (BeMC) ambitious plan for construction of 2,000 rainwater harvesting projects in the Silk city here is set to miss the deadline as works for only 20 to 30 projects are in progress, a report said.

The plan is aimed at addressing the depleting water table in the city amidst growing drinking water crisis. The structures are constructed in open spaces or on rooftops under the state sponsored Mukhyamantri Karma Tatpara Abhiyan that would help create ecologically sustainable and climate resilient community assets.

**THE CIVIC BODY HAS PLANNED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF 50 RAINWATER HARVESTING PROJECTS IN EACH WARD OF THE CITY AS WELL AS IN OPEN SPACES, GOVERNMENT OFFICES, PUBLIC LIBRARIES, PARKS AND KALYAN MANDAPS IN THE CITY**

**THE PROJECTS HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO WOMEN SHGs THAT WERE ASKED TO COMPLETE THE WORKS BY JUNE 15**

**WITH WORKS MOVING AT SNAIL'S PACE AND THE SHGS ONLY WORKING ON 20 TO 30 PROJECTS, THE CIVIC BODY IS SET TO MISS THE DEADLINE**

The civic body has planned for construction of 50 rainwater harvesting projects in each ward of the city as well as in open spaces, government offices, public libraries, parks and Kalyan Mandaps (community centres) in the city. The projects have been assigned to women self-help groups (SHGs)



that were asked to complete the works by June 15.

However, with works moving at snail's pace and the SHGs only working on 20 to 30 projects, the civic body is set to miss the deadline. Reports said that not a single project has been completed so far.

Sources said the civic body has sanctioned ₹38,700 each for the rooftop projects and ₹30,000 each for projects in open spaces. The civic body has entrusted the women SHGs with the work which will help them earn a livelihood and make them self-reliant.

However, not a single project has been completed.

On the other hand, the civic body had constructed 500 such projects including those on government offices by spending around ₹20,000 to 25,000

on each project. However, several such projects have allegedly become destroyed and are lying defunct now.


Locals have demanded early completion of the projects and revival of the defunct ones. Observers claimed burial of several water bodies and construction of high-rises is the reason behind the depleting groundwater level in the city.

When contacted, Smita Dash, Nodal CEO of BeMC, said work is going on in several projects and they will be completed and made operational very soon.



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R-5103



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NUAGAON ADB, RBO, PHULBANI, KANDHAMAL

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(For Immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the State Bank of India, Nuagaon ADB, RBO, Phulbani, Dist.: Kandhamal under the 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 Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower to repay the amount mentioned in the notice plus interest and other expenses thereon within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower & the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the Act read with rule 8 of the said rules. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the State Bank of India for an amount stated below and further interest, cost and incidental expenses thereon.

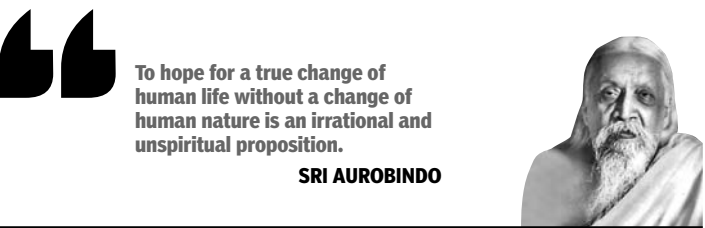
A/c. No. / Name and Address of the Borrower	Description of the Immovable Property	Liabilities Specified as on date	Demand / Possession Notice Date
A/c No.: 37446507248 / Borrower: Sri Jogendra Mahakud, S/o.: Basudev Mahakud, At/PO/ P.S.: K Nuagaon, Dist.: Kandhamal- 762102	All that parts and parcel of the property consisting of Land & Building situated at Khata No.: 307/59, Plot No.: 745/1920, Area: HC0.024R in the name of Jogendra Mahakud, S/o.: Basudev Mahakud, Bounded by East: Niranjan Panda, West: Nalini Mahakud, North: PWD Road, South: Jogendra Mahakud	₹6,85,625.00 as on 04.08.2021 with further interest, incidental expenses and costs thereon.	05.08.2021 / 07.06.2022

Place: K Nuagaon, Date: 13.06.2022

Sd/- Authorised Officer, State Bank of India

UTKAL GRAMEEN BANK			
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AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE YEAR 2021-22			
BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31.03.2022 (Amount in 000)			
Particulars	Schedule	As on 31.03.2022	As on 31.03.2021
<b>EQUITY &amp; LIABILITIES</b>			
Equity Capital	1	97,03,731	97,03,731
Perpetual Bond	1(A)	81,383	81,383
Share Capital Deposit	1(B)	47,83,185	0
Reserves & Surplus	2	0	0
Deposits	3	7,64,30,695	7,48,72,500
Borrowings	4	44,65,920	35,30,296
Other Liabilities & Provisions	5	42,56,983	36,84,777
<b>TOTAL EQUITY &amp; LIABILITIES</b>		<b>9,97,21,897</b>	<b>9,18,72,687</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash and Balances with Reserve Bank of India	6	35,91,497	30,91,187
Balances with Banks and Money at Call and Short Notice	7	71,57,395	62,72,909
Investments	8	4,71,26,086	4,19,54,003
Loans & Advances	9	2,64,60,524	2,41,85,410
Fixed Assets	10	49,332	61,017
Other Assets	11	1,53,37,063	1,63,08,161
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>9,97,21,897</b>	<b>9,18,72,687</b>
Contingent Liabilities	12	5,47,214	5,41,701
Bills for Collection		NIL	NIL
Principal Accounting Policies and Notes on Accounts	17 & 18		
<b>PROFIT &amp; LOSS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR 31.03.2022 (Amt in 000)</b>			
<b>Particulars</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>As on 31.03.2022</b>	<b>As on 31.03.2021</b>
<b>I. INCOME</b>			
Interest earned	13	63,04,886	47,46,110
Other income	14	9,17,094	7,09,910
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>72,21,980</b>	<b>54,56,020</b>
<b>II. EXPENDITURE</b>			
Interest expended	15	32,04,030	31,98,963
Operating expenses	16(A)	18,17,196	16,05,867
Provisions & contingencies	16(B)	21,77,342	47,67,469
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>71,98,568</b>	<b>95,72,299</b>
<b>III. PROFIT &amp; LOSS</b>		<b>23,412</b>	<b>-41,16,279</b>
Profit before tax		23,412	-41,16,279
Less : Tax Provision		0	0
Provision for Income Tax For the Financial Year		4,820	NIL
Provision to Tax Credit Entitlement		(-4820)	NIL
Profit after Tax		23,412	-41,16,279
Loss brought forward		-1,37,50,947	-96,34,668
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>-1,37,27,535</b>	<b>-1,37,50,947</b>
Balance carried over to Balance Sheet		-1,37,27,535	-1,37,50,947
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>-1,37,27,535</b>	<b>-1,37,50,947</b>
(1) Above financial results have been audited by the Statutory Central Auditors M/s Tej Raj & Pal BBSR in line with the guidelines issued by NABARD and signed by the SCA on 20.04.2022 and approved by the Board of Directors of the Bank			
(2) The Financial results have been arrived at as per the standard accounting principles and after considering provisions for Non Performing Assets/Standard Assets as per prudential norms issued by NABARD and other required provisions.			
Place: Bolangir	(Manmohan Sahoo)	(Alekhya Chandra Beura)	
Date:- 20.04.22	(General Manager I)	(Chairman)	





# The Zuptas

The arrest in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) of the two brothers – Atul and Rajesh - belonging to the wealthy Gupta family, has sparked jubilation in the entire South Africa as the family has earned notoriety for virtually holding the state captive for about a decade to advance its multi-billion dollar family businesses. The infamous story has a striking parallel to cases of bank fraud and use of political clout by business magnates in India fleecing public exchequer: Interestingly, criminals of such nature have mastered the art of looting the resources of the countries they live in and then flying away to foreign soils to escape the law of the land. While India and South Africa share a common glorious history of the non-violent movement experimented and perfected by Mahatma Gandhi, the Guptas hailing from India have besmirched the reputation of India with their shady deals worth 25 per cent of South Africa's GDP, according to an estimate. Their influence on the then President of South Africa Jacob Zuma in using the state machinery for personal gains was such that a new epithet – 'Zuptas' - was coined in the country to derisively indicate the alleged nexus between the Guptas and Zuma.

The Gupta brothers fled South Africa after a judicial commission began probing their alleged involvement in corruption in 2018. They are accused of paying bribes to bag lucrative state contracts and having a hand in powerful government appointments. Of course, both the family and Zuma persistently deny any wrongdoing. A statement from Dubai Police said the two men were being held "in connection with money laundering and criminal charges in South Africa." The force had acted after receiving an Interpol red notice which enjoins on government agencies to provisionally arrest a wanted person pending extradition. A third brother, Ajay, is also wanted by the South African authorities, but it is yet to be confirmed whether he too has been arrested.

The Gupta family's rise is spectacular: In a way, one can find some common elements between them and the Nirav Modis and the Vijay Mallyas. The Guptas moved from India to South Africa in 1993 after facing accusations of money laundering in India. Indian tax officials raided properties belonging to them in 2018 in several cities, including their company office in Delhi. Most of the serious corruption allegations levelled against the Gupta brothers revolve round their relationship with Zuma, who was President of South Africa from 2009 till he was forced to step down in the wake of corruption allegations in 2018. The Gupta family is accused of using their close links with Zuma to wield political power extensively across all levels of South African government. They won business contracts allegedly influencing high-profile government appointments and misappropriating state funds. After the brothers fled the country, the South African government initially could not do anything to nab them since it had no extradition treaty with the UAE. But in 2021, the treaty was negotiated and the new President Cyril Ramaphosa's government began efforts to get the Gupta Brothers extradited. However, it is not yet clear whether the two brothers will be immediately extradited to South Africa following the arrests.

The list of public bodies accused of having been captured by the Guptas is long. Included in this list are the ministries of Finance, Natural Resources and Public Enterprises, as well as agencies responsible for tax collection and communications, the national broadcaster SABC, the national carrier South African Airways, the state-owned rail-freight operator and the energy giant Eskom - one of the largest utility companies in the world.

A four-year investigation later published by the country's top judge concluded that the brothers had become deeply embedded in the highest levels of government and Zuma's ruling African National Congress (ANC) party. Reports published this year by investigators accused the brothers of being linked to racketeering activity through the procurement of rail, ports and pipeline infrastructure. Its authors said Zuma "would do anything that the Guptas wanted him to do for them." Last year, Zuma was imprisoned for 15 months for refusing to testify before the same investigators. He was released on parole after serving two months of his sentence in jail.

A protracted legal battle is on the cards in South Africa as the cash-rich Gupta family will use their resources to defeat the prosecution case. South Africa's economy is in shambles and the government is known to be begging lawyers to fight its cases. It is imaginable how such lawyers will fare against the battery of eminent and efficient lawyers the Guptas will engage. The new President is also accused of indulging in corruption and using the cases against the Guptas, Zuma and other big fish as a witch-hunt.

Whatever the fate of South Africa's investigation and prosecution, the case of the Guptas will stand out as a great indicator of how Indians can excel in being corrupt themselves and succeeding in corrupting the best anywhere the sun shines.

## WISDOM CORNER

- “The ability to observe without evaluating is the highest form of intelligence.”

JIDDU KRISHNAMURTI
- “Drop the idea of becoming someone, because you are already a masterpiece. You cannot be improved. You have only to come to it, to know it, to realize it.”

OSHO
- “No amount of anxiety makes any difference to anything that is going to happen.”

ALAN WATTS

## WORDSWORTH

### Theodolite

There's an intriguing story behind the word, but in essence it boils down to what Chambers says. The portable surveying instrument that we call a theodolite was invented in the middle of the sixteenth century by Leonard Digges of Kent, who gave it a name that was expressed in the common Latinate form of the time: theodolitus. (The name changed to an Anglicised form later, and at that time the e in the middle shifted to o for no very good reason anybody can discover.) His theodolite, by the way, was not quite the same as the modern device, since it consisted of a circle for measuring horizontal angles only. It was described in a book that was published posthumously by his son Thomas in 1571: A Geometrical Practise, named Pantometria, divided into Three Bookes, Longimetria, Planimetria, and Stereometria, containing Rules manifolde for Mensuration of all Lines, Superficies, and Solides (but then you knew that). The problem for those seeking the true origin of the word is that Mr Digges never recorded how he invented it. The suspicion is that he was a better surveyor and inventor than he was a scholar. The word looks Greek, as is theos, the word meaning “god” that we have in English words such as theology. It may be — this is only an educated guess, mind you — that he derived it from the Greek stem thea-, sight or view, which is also, through Greek compounds, the root of theorem (from theorein, to look at or be a spectator), and theatre (from theasthai, to see or to look at). If he did, we shall never know.

## LOL

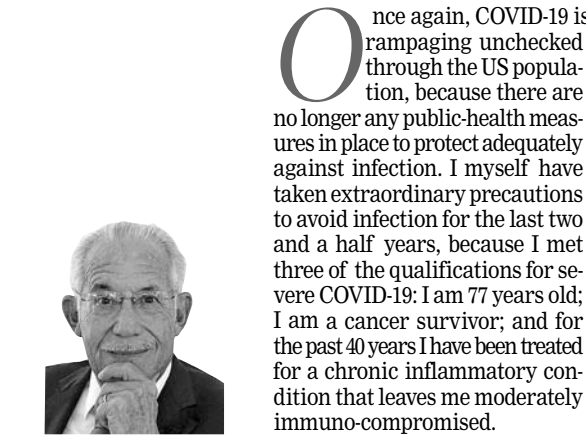
### Safe to swim here?

While sports fishing off the Florida coast, a tourist capsized his boat. He could swim, but his fear of alligators kept him clinging to the overturned craft. Spotting an old beachcomber standing on the shore, the tourist shouted, “Are there any

gators around here?”  
“Naw,” the man hollered back, “they ain’t been around for years!”  
Feeling safe, the tourist started swimming leisurely toward the shore. About halfway there he asked the guy, “How’d you get rid of the gators?”  
“We didn’t do nothin’,” the beachcomber said.  
“The sharks got ‘em.”

# THE VIRUS IS STILL WINNING

## FOCUS PANDEMIC



William A. Haseltine

UNLESS WE FIND POWERFUL WAYS TO ELIMINATE THE SARS-COV-2 VIRUS, IT WILL REMAIN A SCOURGE

Once again, COVID-19 is rampaging unchecked through the US population, because there are no longer any public-health measures in place to protect adequately against infection. I myself have taken extraordinary precautions to avoid infection for the last two and a half years, because I met three of the qualifications for severe COVID-19: I am 77 years old; I am a cancer survivor; and for the past 40 years I have been treated for a chronic inflammatory condition that leaves me moderately immuno-compromised.

Luckily, I had the privilege of being able to sequester myself in my country home, where I could control my personal interactions. I was vaccinated within weeks of vaccines becoming available, and I have received boosters every three to four months since. Moreover, I was given Evusheld, a monoclonal antibody treatment, four weeks ago.

Yet, toward the end of May, after many months of seclusion, I permitted myself one social occasion – a fundraising event with about 100 people in attendance. Four days later, in bed with a fever, cough, and malaise, I tested positive for COVID-19. Even with multiple vaccinations and Evusheld, I was not protected.

My experience has underscored a sad truth. In the race to return to some semblance of normalcy, the needs of the vulnerable have been forgotten.

Given that infection by SARS-CoV2, the virus that causes COVID-19, has now become almost inevitable for most people, the least we could do is develop drug treatments to alleviate disease symptoms and prevent death and long-term consequences. But we have not done so. Pharmaceutical companies designed and manufactured COVID-19 vaccines on an unprecedentedly accelerated timeline, but drug development has not proceeded apace.

There are three main treatment options for those who develop COVID-19 and are at risk for long-term effects and disability. All three have limitations that prevent wider use. The first is remdesivir, which requires an IV-administered infusion and is thus available only in clinical settings. The second is Evusheld, which its developer,



Despite the rapid development of COVID-19 vaccines and treatments to reduce mortality, the elderly, the immuno-compromised, and other vulnerable populations remain at risk of severe infection. Worse, some SARS-CoV-2 strains are only a mutation or two away from a leap in lethality

AstraZeneca, claims is effective at preventing infection from the latest Omicron sub-variants. However, in my case at least, the treatment failed to work as it should.

The third is Paxlovid, an antiviral drug developed by Pfizer that targets the SARS-CoV-2 protease. Paxlovid gained popularity as a COVID-19 treatment when studies showed that it reduced the risk of serious illness and death by up to 90 per cent. But research into its prophylactic potential has turned up empty, and new evidence suggests that some who take it experience rebound infections, meaning they might unwittingly transmit the virus to others.

What is to be done? Since the start of the pandemic, I have argued that vaccination alone will not be sufficient to prevent repeated COVID-19 infections. The literature on cold-causing coronaviruses demonstrates that they can reappear like clockwork. And with SARS-CoV-2, waves of infection occur not annually, as I would have expected based on previous data, but rather at much shorter intervals – every four to six months.

In addition to recognising the limitations of vaccination as a form of pandemic control, we are becoming more aware of the seriousness of “long COVID,” which describes a broad range of symptoms – respiratory, gastrointesti-

nal, neurological – that persist after an initial COVID-19 infection has cleared.

While more than one-third of COVID-19 patients will develop long-term symptoms of some kind, 2-4 per cent will experience consequences severe enough to be disabling for many months, if not years. These include intense fatigue, persistent pain, and damage to vital organs, such as the heart, lungs, pancreas, and possibly others. Millions of people around the world have long COVID, and millions more will end up with it. Recent data suggest that the vaccines reduce its impact by a mere 15 per cent.

While our path out of the pandemic is not as straightforward as when I was working as an HIV researcher, the overarching direction of travel is still clear. We must develop strong antiviral drugs targeted at SARS-CoV-2 specifically. Though only six drugs targeting HIV have been identified, we have several treatments that are effective at clearing the virus.

Given the technological advances made in the last 30-35 years, and the speed with which these advances led to a COVID-19 vaccine, I had expected that we would have numerous antivirals for COVID-19 by now. And yet, of the treatments that have been approved, all are retreats or drugs developed for other

viruses, not SARS-CoV-2.

What we need now is to repeat the approach that worked during the HIV/AIDS epidemic. That effort involved a multiyear drug-development programme to guide government- and industry-sponsored research. As a member of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Council, I proposed an intensive, cooperative programme whereby universities with industrial partners would receive large grants to fund basic research and practical drug development. The potential for a payoff attracted the interest of large pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies and spurred the formation of several public-private partnerships.

The programme was a resounding success, but it didn't come cheap. Each year, the National Institutes of Health set aside \$2-3 billion in a special HIV/AIDS research budget. The same level of investment is needed again. My colleagues around the world who have the skills required for intensive COVID-19 research are desperate for additional funding.

To its credit, the NIH recently awarded \$108 million in grants to the Metropolitan AntiViral Drug Accelerator, a collaborative initiative by world-class research institutions in New Jersey and New York that will investigate the potential for small-molecule drugs to treat and prevent coronaviruses. Combinations of small-molecule antiviral drugs have proved effective at preventing and treating HIV, and can be manufactured and sold cost-effectively. A year's treatment with HIV drugs now costs well under \$100 in many places around the world. A protocol to prevent and treat COVID-19, lasting two to three weeks at most, should cost far less.

Unless we find powerful ways to eliminate the SARS-CoV-2 virus, it will remain a scourge. Some strains are only a mutation or two away from a leap in lethality. To prevent that, we must learn from pandemics past.

*The writer, a scientist, biotech entrepreneur, and infectious disease expert, is Chair and President of the global health think tank ACCESS Health International.*

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## IN JEST THIS

# Ride a bicycle & make a statement



Melvin Durai

IF YOU'RE A BACHELOR WHO'S PLANNING TO GET MARRIED SOON, PLEASE CONSIDER RIDING A BICYCLE TO YOUR WEDDING

Drivers all over the world are unhappy about rising fuel prices. Some have found interesting ways to protest the prices, but none more uniquely than Subhranshu Samal did at his recent wedding in Bhubaneswar.

As widely reported, the 47-year-old grocery shop owner rode a bicycle to the wedding venue, while wearing an elegant sherwani, head-dress and garland. No cars or loud DJs were part of the wedding procession, which gained plenty of attention from passersby, because it's not every day that you see a groom dashing on a bicycle. I mean, a dashing groom on a bicycle.

Samal told The Telegraph that he didn't just want to protest fuel prices, but also promote environmentally friendly modes of transportation.

“By going on a bicycle, I have also been able to send a message about the need to maintain a good environment and good physique by avoiding to travel in cars and other motorable vehicles,” he said. “My wife Supra was also happy with my decision.”

Yes, you've got to make Supra happy. As the old saying goes, “Happy wife, happy life.” In this case, it might be: “Happy ride, happy bride.”

It's worth noting that other Indian grooms have promoted bicycle transportation at their weddings. Last November, Dinesh Sale, a member of a cycling group in Hyderabad called Happy Hyderabad, biked to his wedding, accompanied by friends on their cycles. After the wedding, he and his bride rode away on a tandem bicycle adorned with balloons and a “Just Married” sign.

“We don't have to always opt for a car to make an entry at the wedding,” Sale told Telangana Today. “With this, I wanted to encourage people towards cycling and overall well-being and good health.”

Two years earlier, in November 2019, Gurbakhshish Singh Gaggi rode a bicycle to his wedding in Bathinda, Punjab, and rode away with Ramandeep Kaur seated on the crossbar. Gaggi was also making a statement, but not about petrol prices or good health. He was showing

his disapproval for expensive weddings and dowry (which he refused to accept).

Men like these should be applauded because they're willing to go against social norms. They're willing to stand up for their beliefs, even if it means potentially displeasing their in-laws. Just picture three middle-aged men, Ram, Ashok and Salil, talking about each of their daughters' recent weddings.

Ram: “My son-in-law arrived at the wedding venue in a Mercedes S-Class.”

Ashok: “Is that so? Well, my son-in-law came to the wedding in a Porsche Panamera. What about yours, Salil?”

Salil: “He is a hero. I mean, he used a Hero.”

Ashok: “Hero makes cars now?”  
Salil: “No, it was a bicycle. A statement bicycle.”

Ram: “Statement bicycle?”

Salil: “Yes, he was making a statement. He was saying that petrol prices are too high, and because of that, he prefers to ride his bicycle and leave his Lamborghini in his

garage.” Riding a bicycle isn't always practical, but it's a great way to get exercise, reduce your carbon footprint and ensure that you don't empty your bank account at the petrol station.

My wife, Malathi, often rides her bicycle to work. We made a decision, when we bought our house, to be close enough to her office that she didn't need to rely on a car. (Unfortunately we couldn't find a home that would enable her ride to be downhill both ways.)

If you can't find a house or apartment near your workplace, it's wise to be near a bus stop or train station. Using public transportation helps keep fuel prices from affecting us much. There are many reasons why prices keep rising, and we really can't do much about them, except change our habits.

If you're a bachelor who's planning to get married soon, please consider riding a bicycle to your wedding. Subhranshu and Dinesh will be pleased, and Gurbakhshish might be too, especially if you're giving up the car as well as dowry.

## Censure from abroad

Sir, This refers to the article “Diplomatic Imperative,” **Orissa POST**, June 14. India learnt that its domestic politics does not exist in a silo separate and disconnected from its relations with the international community. Not only have the remarks against the Prophet by two BJP leaders made it difficult to sweep under the carpet, the fallout is also bringing home to Delhi that they can create problems for some of its best friends in the world, to the detriment of those friendships. What someone says in a television studio in India can fast turn into a political hot potato in another country, putting governments well disposed towards India on the defensive in their home turf. Pakistan, of course, may need no excuse to have a go at India. But it was hoped that the United Arab Emirates, with whom India has excellent ties, would not follow its brother Islamic nations in upping the ante on the issue. The more hardline sections of the BJP are making a case for standing up to the censure coming in from India's allies and friends abroad. Meanwhile, at home, the protests that erupted in several cities last Friday run the risk of leading domestic politics into the polarisation trap. After this episode, the responsibility of sobriety and restraint and course correction rests on the BJP government, of course. India is going to be watched by other countries, even and especially by its friends. But the larger imperative of keeping the calm also devolves on non-BJP groups and parties.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

## Wilting before blooming

Sir, Economic compulsion forces many poor parents to send their children to work at traffic signals to supplement the family's meagre income. When traffic signal turns red, one finds poor children knocking on car windows to sell children's books about birds, flowers and fruits, but little do they realise that they themselves, engaged in child labour are like a caged bird. Without education these flower like children will wilt before blooming. But who will rescue them and sow the seeds of education in them, which will bear fruit in their later years? If those smart children can target a prospect and sell in those 30 vital seconds (when the signal turns red), they are intelligent enough to be imparted education and integrated into the societal mainstream. But when will signal turn green in their lives?

TS Karthik, CHENNAI



Congress and corruption are made for each other

**MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI** | UNION MINISTER

Delhi depends on neighbouring states for raw water. We want to make it self-sustainable by significantly increasing the water table by recharging groundwater

**ARVIND KEJRIWAL** | DELHI CM

Water and fodder augmentation in jungle areas is the next mission of the government and will lead to the development of the country's circular economy

**Prakash JAVADEKAR** | BJP LEADER

**SHORT TAKES**

**New PCI chief**

**New Delhi:** Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, a former judge of the Supreme Court, is understood to have been selected for the post of the Press Council of India (PCI) chairperson. Justice Desai had recently headed the Delimitation Commission on Jammu and Kashmir which was set up to redraw the assembly constituencies of the Union Territory. A committee comprising Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and PCI member Prakash Dubey approved her appointment as the PCI chairperson at a meeting held Tuesday, sources said.

**Cops get transit remand of Bishnoi**

**New Delhi:** In the latest development in connection with Sidhu Moosewala murder case, Punjab Police Tuesday got the transit remand of gangster Lawrence Bishnoi from Delhi's Patiala House court. The Special Cell briefed the Punjab Police about the death threat being faced by Bishnoi. The sources have said that Punjab Police is taking it seriously as Bishnoi through his counsel had also raised the questions of his possible encounter. The Punjab police will take him by a bulletproof car which will be escorted by a dozen cars full of cops. More than 50 police personnel will escort the vehicles to make sure no untoward incident takes place.

**Truck runs amok in Hyd, two killed**

**Hyderabad:** Two persons were killed and two others were injured when a truck ran amok in Vanasthalipuram area on the outskirts of Hyderabad. The incident occurred near Sushma Theatre when a milk-laden truck ran over few two-wheelers in front of it before ramming into a roadside shop. Two persons died on the spot while two others were injured in the incident. The injured were shifted to a hospital.

**Telangana BJP chief served notice**

**Hyderabad:** Telangana police Tuesday arrested two more BJP leaders and issued notice to party's state chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar for allegedly insulting Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao by organising a skit. Rani Rudramma and Daruvu Yellanna were arrested by police, which also issued a notice to Sanjay Kumar. The state BJP president has been asked to appear before a police officer in connection with the case booked against him. Sanjay, who is also a Member of Parliament, has been served notice under Section 41 A of Criminal Procedure Act. June 10, the police had arrested BJP leader Jitta Balakrishna Reddy.



“Unemployment today is the country's most burning issue, and leaders from across the country should draw the government's attention to this. Unemployed youths should be given justice. Only then the country will grow strong

**VARUN GANDHI** | BJP MP

**PREZ POLLS: CELL SET UP**

With the nomination process for the Presidential election set to begin from Wednesday, the Rajya Sabha Secretariat has set up a special cell for the poll



**NATIONAL HERALD CASE**  
**ED SUMMONS RAHUL AGAIN**



Police detain Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi during a protest march outside the AICC headquarters ahead of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's second appearance before the Enforcement Directorate in the National Herald case, in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 14:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was questioned for over eight hours by the Enforcement Directorate for the second consecutive day in the National Herald money-laundering probe and was again summoned Wednesday, even as the opposition party continued its protests and sparred with the BJP, accusing it of conspiring to defame the Gandhi family through the "false" case. Rahul Gandhi, 51, who was quizzed for over 10 hours a day earlier, arrived Tuesday at the ED headquarters on APJ Abdul Kalam Road in central Delhi accompanied by his sister and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and his questioning began at 11:30 am. After a session of about four

hours, Rahul took a break for about an hour at around 3:30 pm and went home. He rejoined the questioning and was still at the ED office at 9 pm. The former Congress president had left the federal agency's office at 11.10 pm on Monday after being questioned over multiple sessions and recording his statement under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Earlier in the day, Rahul Gandhi joined senior party leaders at a "dharma" at the Congress headquarters, where the chief ministers of Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, Ashok Gehlot and Bhupesh Baghel, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and party MPs were also present. Hundreds of Congress leaders and supporters were detained outside the party headquarters at 24, Akbar Road and around central

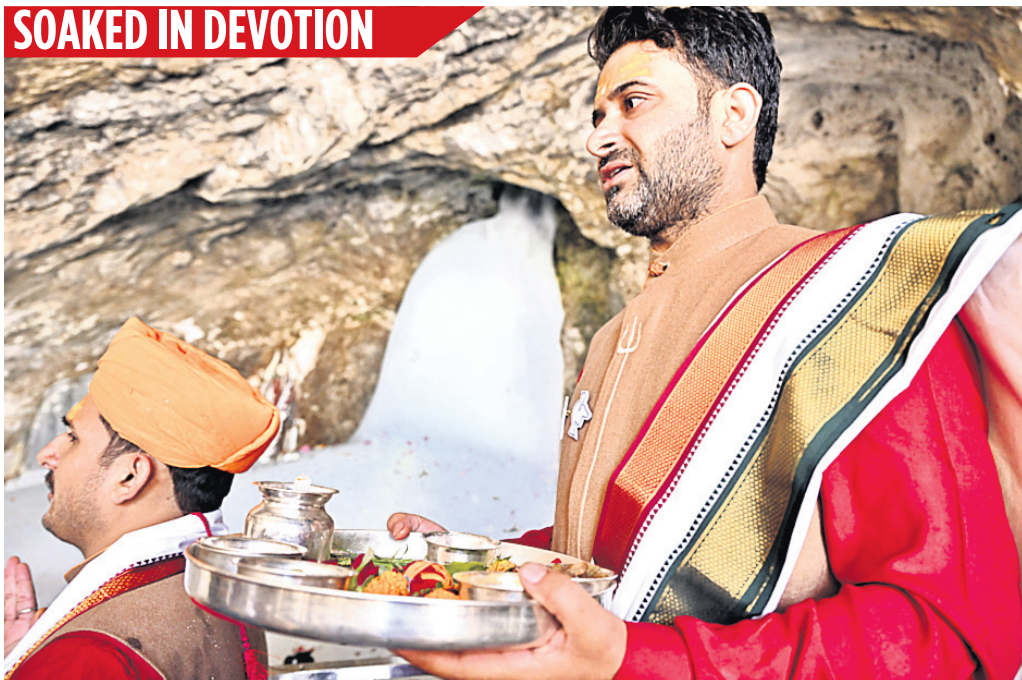
**SUSHANT'S 2ND DEATH ANNIV**  
**Congress slams BJP, CBI for probe delays**



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Mumbai, June 14:** As family, fans and Bollywood personalities remembered Sushant Singh Rajput on his 2nd death anniversary Tuesday, the Maharashtra Congress again slammed the delays in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe. Congress General Secretary Sachin Sawant said here it has been two years now since the unfortunate demise of Rajput, 675 days since the CBI started investigations and 615 days since an AIIMS panel ruled out murder. "The question still remains as to

when will the CBI declare the final conclusion? The dirty politics of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) using someone's tragedy for settling political scores is abhorrent," said Sawant. He said all still remember how the BJP used Rajput's death as an opportunity to defame the Maha Vikas Aghadi government of Maharashtra and the Mumbai Police, which is "very sad for India's democracy". Earlier, social media platforms were flooded with messages in memoriam to Rajput who was found dead on June 14, 2020 at his rental Bandra flat. Many also demanded justice for the late actor who acted in Bollywood films like *M.S. Dhoni: The Untold Story* (2016), *Kedarnath* (2018), *Chhichore* (2019), etc. Rajput, is survived by his father Krishna Kishore Singh, sisters Nitu Singh, Meetu Singh, Priyanka Singh and Shweta Singh-Kirti. "2 years Of Injustice To Sushant- Hello Dear SSRians! The TL for tomorrow for the whole day is 2 years Of Injustice To Sushant," tweeted sister Priyanka Singh.



Devotees offer prayers at the holy cave shrine of Amarnath during Pratham Pooja in Anantnag district

PTI PHOTO

**WB bans bags below 75 microns of thickness**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, June 14:** The West Bengal government has decided to ban the use of plastic bags below 75 microns of thickness in the state from July 1, Urban Development and Municipal Affairs Minister Firhad Hakim said Tuesday. He said that a total of 1,026 plas-

tic carry bag manufacturing companies in the state have been given this instruction. "The use of plastic bags below 75 microns of thickness will be banned from July 1. Nobody using plastic below that level will be fined," Hakim said. He said that the Central Pollution Control Board has set a guideline on the thickness of plastic packets,

banning the use of plastic carry bags and wrappers having thickness below 75 microns from July 1. "We have circulated the notification across departments," the minister said. From July 1, sellers will be fined Rs 500 while purchasers need to cough up Rs 50 if they are found using plastic packets with a thickness below 75 microns, he said.

**BENGAL PASSES BILL**  
**Minister to replace Guv as visitor of pvt varsities**



*The state government has already said that if the Governor refuses to give consent to the Bills, they will be implemented through an ordinance*

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Kolkata, June 14:** A Bill to replace the state governor with the Education Minister as the visitor of private universities was passed on the floor of the West Bengal assembly Tuesday afternoon. The Bill was passed by a simple voice vote on the floor of the House as the BJP legislators staged a walkout. Soon after state Education Minister Bratya Basu rose to explain the state government's logic behind passing the Bill, the BJP legislators started protesting. Basu asked them to occupy their seats. But they kept on protesting and shouting 'shame, shame' slogans and then staged a walkout. On

Monday only, a bill to replace Governor with the Chief Minister as chancellor in the 31 state universities under the West Bengal education department was passed in the House. The state government also proposes to pass another bill where state universities under departments other than education like health, agriculture, animal husbandry and fisheries sciences will also get the chief minister as the chancellor replacing Governor. All these bills that get passed on the floor of the House will be sent to the Governor for his consent. The state government has already said that if the Governor refuses to give consent to the Bills, they will be implemented through an ordinance. Meanwhile, leader of the opposition in West Bengal, Suwendu Adhikari has already vowed to stop West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee from being the chancellor of the state universities. "I will request the Governor to send the Bill to Delhi since education is in the concurrent list," he said.

**Jain to remain in jail till June 18**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, June 14:** A court here Tuesday reserved order on the bail plea of Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain, who is under the custody of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) since May 31, in an alleged money laundering case. The special CBI court in the national capital reserved the order on the bail application of Jain after hearing the argument of the ED and defence counsel in the alleged money laundering case. The order is likely to be delivered on Saturday. On Monday, Satyendar Jain's custody to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has been extended by two weeks. On May 31, a day after the arrest of Jain in the money laundering case, a Special CBI Court Judge Geetanjali Goel sent him to the agency's custody till June 9 which was further extended to five days ending on Monday. He was rushed to a nearby hospital after he complained of uneasiness while leaving the Rouse Avenue Court, just after the court hearing on June 9. The Minister was taken to the ED headquarters when he felt uneasy outside the court and was taken to the hospital. The CBI has accused Jain, his wife, and others of commission of offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act. On March 31, the ED provisionally attached immovable properties worth Rs 4.81 crore belonging to companies beneficially owned and controlled by Jain. The ED on June 6 also recently conducted raids at multiple locations belonging to Jain, his wife, and accomplices who had either directly or indirectly assisted him or participated in the processes of money laundering. A recovery of cash worth Rs 2.85 crore and 133 gold coins was made during the raid.

**Four dead in Assam landslide**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Guwahati, June 14:** Four people were killed in a massive landslide in Guwahati amid heavy rains that flooded the city, officials said Tuesday. A huge mass of land buried a house, in which there were four people, on a hillside in Nijarapur in Boragaon area, an official of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said. "The landslide happened around 1 am mainly due to incessant rains. No other person is trapped as of now," ASDMA District Project Officer (Kamrup Metropolitan) Kaustav Talukdar said. With this, the total number of persons losing their lives in this year's flood and landslides has gone up to 42. Talukdar said that landslides have been reported from another half a dozen places in the city, including Kamakhya, Kharghuli, Hengerabari, Silpukhuri and Chandmari Colony, but there were no casualties. Incessant rains since Monday night led to knee-deep water on all major roads across the city, while at some places water levels have crossed the waist. The approach road of the Guwahati railway station was also submerged.

**40% elderly want to be employed for as long as possible: Study**  
*HelpAge India said its report is a dip-stick study to understand the overarching gaps in income employment at old age, health and well-being, elder abuse and safety and social and digital inclusion of elderly*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 14:** About 40 per cent of elderly nationally want to be employed for "as long as possible" while an alarming 13 per cent elders experienced physical abuse in the form of beating and slapping, according to a new study. HelpAge India said its report is a dip-stick study to understand the overarching gaps in income employment at old age, health and well-being, elder abuse and safety and social and digital inclusion of elderly. It is based on a sample size of 4,399 elder respondents and 2,200 young adult caregivers across 22 cities in India. The study found that about 40 per cent of elderly na-



tionally want to be employed for "as long as possible". Nationally, the study found that 59 per cent elders feel that elder abuse is prevalent in society, while only 10 per cent elders admitted

to being a victim of elder abuse, with relatives (36 per cent), son (35 per cent) and daughter-in-law (21 per cent) being the top three perpetrators. Disrespect (57 per cent), verbal

abuse (38 per cent), neglect (33 per cent), economic exploitation (24 per cent) and an alarming 13 per cent elders experienced physical abuse, in the form of beating and slapping. In Delhi, 74 per cent elderly feel that such abuse is prevalent in society while 12 per cent were themselves victims. Elders attribute the abuse to their sons' (35 per cent) and daughters' in law (44 per cent) as the biggest perpetrators of abuse. Nationally, 47 per cent of those abused stated they 'stopped talking to family' as a response to the abused faced. Again family here becomes a key role player. In Delhi, 83 per cent of elderly stated they 'stopped talking to family'. Also, nationally 47 per cent eld-

ers are dependent on family for source of income while 34 per cent are dependent on pension and cash transfers. "Meanwhile in Delhi, 57 per cent of elderly are dependent on family, while 63 per cent depend upon pensions and cash transfers. It means that a large number of elders in Delhi have both - family as well as pension support," the report said. However, when asked about the adequacy of income, nationally 52 per cent elders reported it was inadequate. Meanwhile, a substantial 40 per cent elders said they do not feel financially secure, citing their 'incurred expenses are more than savings/income' (57 per cent) and pension not being enough (45 per cent) as the top reasons.

This suggests both financial planning for later years and social security needs much greater attention. Meanwhile in Delhi, 52 per cent of elderly say that their income is adequate, while 48 per cent say it is inadequate, it said. About 36 per cent elders are willing to work and 40 per cent of them want to work 'as long as possible', 61 per cent elders feel they aren't 'adequate and accessible employment opportunities' for elderly available. In Delhi, 87 per cent of elders are not working, even as 40 per cent say they have access to employment opportunities. The study further finds out that 44 per cent of Delhi elders are willing to work after their retirement.



# Pollution shortening lives by almost 10 yrs in Delhi, says study



AGNCIES

**Chicago, June 14:** Air pollution can shorten lives by almost 10 years in Delhi, the world's most polluted city, says a report by a US research group.

The Air Quality Life Index by the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC) notes that some 510 million people who live in northern India, nearly 40 per cent of India's population, are "on track" to lose 7.6 years of their lives on average, given the current pollution levels, the BBC reported.

The study adds that the average Indian life expectancy is shortened by five years at current air quality levels. India's 1.3 billion people live in areas where the "annual average particulate pollution level" exceeds the WHO safe limit.

However, reducing pollution levels to WHO standards would mean that an estimated 240 million people in Uttar Pradesh would gain 10 years in life expectancy.

EPIC says that since 2013, about 44 per cent of the global pollution has come from India, currently the second most polluted country in the world, the BBC reported.

"It would be a global emergency if Martians came to Earth and sprayed a substance that caused the average person on the planet to lose more than two years of life expectancy," the BBC quoted Michael Greenstone, one of the authors of the report, as saying. "This is similar to that situation that prevails in many parts of the world, except we are spraying the substance, not some invaders from outer space," he added.

**B**ad air kills millions in India every year

The smog-filled air, which usually covers Indian cities during the winter months, contains dangerously high levels of fine particulate matter called PM2.5, tiny particles that can clog lungs and cause a host of diseases

Measured in terms of life expectancy, the AQI shows that ambient particulate pollution is consistently the world's greatest risk to human health

EPIC says that particulate pollution is the "greatest threat to human life" in India in terms of life expectancy and since 1998, this particulate pollution has increased by 61.4 per cent.

This makes it more lethal than smoking which reduces life expectancy by about 2.5 years, BBC reported.

The increase in air pollution over the past two decades in India has been primarily due to industrialisation, economic development and the skyrocketing use of fossil fuel. The number of vehicles on the country's roads has increased about four-fold, the report added.

Globally, air pollution reduces 2.2 years of life expectancy, relative to a world that follows the WHO guidelines. This impact on life expectancy is comparable to that of smoking, more than three times that of alcohol use and unsafe water, six times that of HIV/AIDS and 89 times that of conflict and terrorism.

# Delhi reports 126 dengue, 21 malaria cases this year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 14:** A total of 126 dengue cases have been reported in the national capital so far this year, according to a civic report released Monday.

Till June 6, 118 dengue cases had been recorded in the city, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) said in the report. No death has been reported due to the vector-borne disease so far, it said.

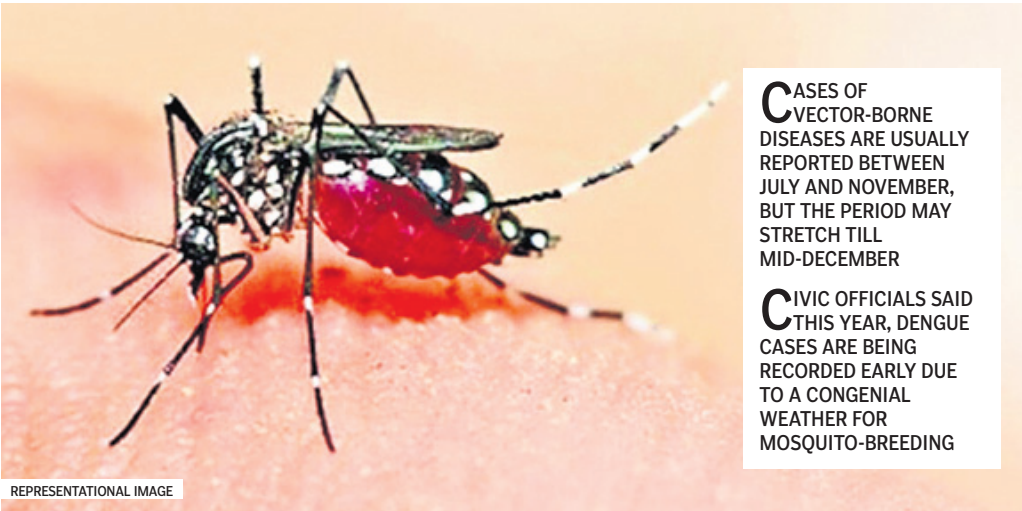
Delhi had recorded 23 dengue cases in January, 16 in February, 22 in March, 20 in April and 30 in May, the report said.

Fifteen cases have been reported this month till June 11.

From January 1 to June 4, 31 cases were logged in 2021, 19 in 2020, 13 in 2019, 24 in 2018 and 50 in 2017, it said.

Cases of vector-borne diseases are usually reported between July and November, but the period may stretch till mid-December.

Civic officials said this year, dengue cases are being recorded



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

early due to a congenial weather for mosquito-breeding.

Last year, 9,613 dengue cases were recorded in the national capital, the highest since 2015, along with 23 deaths, the highest since 2016. In 2016, 10 deaths due to dengue were reported.

Delhi had recorded two deaths due to dengue in 2019, four in 2018, and 10 in 2017.

According to official data, 4,431 dengue cases were recorded in Delhi in 2016, 4,726 in 2017, 2,798 in 2018, 2,036 in 2019, and 1,072 in 2020.

In 2015, the city had witnessed

**C**ASES OF VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES ARE USUALLY REPORTED BETWEEN JULY AND NOVEMBER, BUT THE PERIOD MAY STRETCH TILL MID-DECEMBER

**C**IVIC OFFICIALS SAID THIS YEAR, DENGUE CASES ARE BEING RECORDED EARLY DUE TO A CONGENIAL WEATHER FOR MOSQUITO-BREEDING

a massive outbreak of dengue with the number of cases crossing 10,600 in October alone. It was Delhi's worst dengue outbreak since 1996.

Delhi also has reported 21 cases of malaria and eight cases of chikungunya so far this year, the report said.

# Mercury dips below 40° Celsius in Delhi after 13 days

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 14:** A cloud cover cocooned Delhi Tuesday, causing the maximum temperature at the Safdarjung Observatory, the city's base station, to drop below 40 degrees Celsius for the first time this month, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). The observatory recorded a maximum temperature of 39.6 degrees Celsius as against 43.7 degrees Celsius Monday. The minimum



temperature settled at 31.2 degrees Celsius, three notches above normal. All weather stations in the national capital recorded maximum temperatures between 38 degrees Celsius and 42 degrees Celsius.

Consecutive western disturbances and lower-level easterlies predicted in the coming days are likely to keep the heat at bay.

The IMD has issued a yellow alert, warning of thundershowers or light rain over the next six days. The mercury is predicted to drop to 35 degrees Celsius by Sunday.

Since June 1, when the monsoon season starts, the capital has not recorded any rainfall. Usually, it receives 13.8 mm of rainfall in the first 13 days of the month.

Mahesh Palawat, vice-president (climate change and meteorology), Skymet Weather said the monsoon is expected to arrive in Delhi around the usual date - June 27 - or a day or two in advance. Last year, the IMD had forecast that the monsoon would arrive in Delhi nearly two weeks before its usual date.

However, it reached the capital only July 13, making it the most delayed in 19 years. The capital has recorded a maximum temperature of 42 degrees Celsius and above on 26 days so far this summer season, the highest number of such days since 2012, according to IMD data. In 2012, the city recorded a maximum temperature of 42 degrees Celsius or above on 30 days.

The number of such days was 35 in 2010, the highest in the 1951-2022 period, the data showed.

# Post Cov, UP hospitality sector sees improvement

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Lucknow, June 14:** The tourism and hospitality sector in Uttar Pradesh is witnessing a rapid recovery in the post-Covid scenario leading to a surge in demand for hotel rooms and allied hospitality services.

This sector was among the worst-hit by pandemic as extended lockdown and restrictions of large gatherings had caused a severe blow to hotel and tourism activities.

According to the government spokesman, travel for pilgrimage and tourism has also picked up, leading to good bookings in hotels and other hospitality-related establishments such as travel agencies, transport etc. An indication of the confidence of the investors in the hospitality sector in Uttar Pradesh is visible in the submission of proposals in the recently-concluded ground breaking ceremony



**A** large number of hotels in UP, as elsewhere in India, were forced to remain closed for months during lockdowns

**H**owever, the present year has seen a revival of business and commercial activities in UP, leading to a large volume of travel

(GBC-3) for industrial investments in UP. In the tourism and hospitality sector, 23 projects worth a cumulative investment of Rs 680 crores have been launched in the state. The new proposals clearly indicate a

robust upturn in the sector as well as the potential in this sector.

The new investments in this sector are from all over the state, including in Gorakhpur, Bareilly, Ayodhya, Lucknow, Muzaffarnagar, Agra, Mathura, Meerut, Prayagraj and Varanasi.

Rising interest is seen in setting up small hotels and hospitality related establishments in and around tourism attractions, medical and wellness tourism spots, hospitality-related establishments in different districts.

# Spoken English course for teachers in capital

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 14:** The Delhi government is set to launch the "project teacher empowerment", an intensive English-speaking training course for the teachers of its schools, according to officials.

Under the programme, which will be open to all regular teachers, vice-principals and principals, the participants will undergo two hours of face-to-face training every day for a total of 160 hours.

"The Directorate of Education (DoE) provides opportunity for English as a medium of instruction for students in its schools. Hence, acquisition of communication skills in English is widely critical for teachers for prolific and engaging interactions with students. Teachers are responsible



for comprehending and breaking down complex information themselves, conveying this information clearly to their students (both verbally and in written form), presenting it in a manner that sustains their attention, improving their listening skills and resolves their problems," read an official notification.

The classes will be held for two hours a day either before or after the regular classes at designated centres within the districts.

# SHOs to act against noise pollution in Delhi

*A committee set up by the National Green Tribunal to monitor compliance of the noise rules felt that noise pollution cannot be effectively controlled in Delhi without active participation of local bodies*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 14:** Aiming to effectively control and curb noise pollution in Delhi, the city government has proposed to empower officials of civic bodies to take action against violators, according to officials.

The Delhi Environment Department has also submitted a proposal to the Union Environment Ministry to designate SHOs as an authority to prosecute violators under noise pollution rules.

Under the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000, deputy commissioners, subdivisional magistrates, assistant commissioners of police (traffic), subdivisional police officers - including of railways and airports - and member secretary and chairman of the Delhi Pollution Control

from November 12 to December 2, 2021. The results were declared in April and document verification was done in May," he said.

"For the first time, we have got SIs who are qualified in the technical field and are very young. Around 60 per cent of those recruited are in the age group of 21-25 years." "We have also started the recruitment of 829 SIs in civil police and of 1,329 clerical posts. The selection process for 40,000 other posts is also under way," he added.

Uttar Pradesh Police have recruited 1.75 lakh cops in all its wings on different ranks since Yogi first took office in 2017.

As many as 46 defunct PAC units were restored on the Chief Minister's directives and all the required resources were arranged for its efficient working.

# 1,477 TECHIES TURN COPS IN UP

*In its biggest drive to recruit sub-inspectors and officers of equivalent ranks, the state government has selected 9,534 candidates, of which 1,477 are techies*

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Lucknow, June 14:** As many as 1,477 engineering graduates have turned cops in Uttar Pradesh.

This is the first time when so many candidates from technical background have been selected in the police force.

Significantly, 125 selected candidates are BCA degree holders,

while 43 have done BBA.

In its biggest drive to recruit sub-inspectors and officers of equivalent ranks, the state government has selected 9,534 candidates, of which 1,477 are techies.

Of the total posts, 9,027 will join as sub-inspectors in civil police, 484 as platoon commanders in PAC, and 23 as fire sub-station officers in the Fire department.

Additional Chief Secretary (Home), Avانش Awasthi said: "In keeping with Yogi Adityanath's 100-day campaign to provide employment to the youth in the police department, the target of recruitment to 10,000 posts has been completed before the scheduled time."

He added that the state would also get 1,805 women sub-inspectors which would be a historic achievement in terms of women empow-



erment as well as women's safety and interests. "Recruitment of a total of 500 candidates on compassionate grounds has also been made," he added. Director General of the Uttar Pradesh Police Recruitment and Promotion Board

(UPPRPB), RK Vishwakarma said that earlier a maximum of 1,000 or 1,500 posts of sub-inspectors were created, but for the first time 9,534 posts had been filled. "As many as 12.5 lakh candidates had appeared for the online examination held



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE



**of the day quote**

The controversial statement made by Nupur Sharma was done strategically to divert the attention from the sufferings of Kashmiri Pandits and their killings which they (the BJP government) failed to prevent

MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP CHIEF

The Delhi government is working towards bridging the learning gap induced by COVID-19 for students of state-run schools

MANISH SISODIA | DELHI DEPUTY CM

'Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission' is a very important programme that aims to provide the best health care to even the last person in the global context, and it will bridge the gaps in the health sector and make way to create a sustainable health ecosystem

K SUDHAKAR | KARNATAKA HEALTH MINISTER

**SHORT TAKES**

**Terrorist killed**

**Srinagar:** Of the two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists killed in an encounter in Srinagar's Bemina area, one was a Pakistani national, police said Tuesday. "As per the documents and other incriminating materials found, one of the killed terrorist has been identified as Abdullah Goujri, resident of Faisalabad, Pakistan. A big success," J&K Police quoting Inspector General Police Kashmir Zone Vijay Kumar tweeted. "This was the same group of terrorists who escaped from Sopore encounter. We have been tracking their movement."

**Over 24 injured**

**Patna:** More than 24 people were injured after a balcony collapsed in Hari Bari village of Bihar's Aurangabad district. The incident occurred Monday night when people were watching 'jaimala' ceremony (part of marriage function) from the balcony of the bride's house, which was quite old.

**Rohingya held**

**Lucknow:** The Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) has arrested a Rohingya from Aligarh on charges of residing on forged Indian documents. The accused, identified as Khalique Ahmed, allegedly entered the Indian territory and became an Imam in Rashideen mosque in Aligarh, the ATS said. ADG, ATS, Naveen Arora said that preliminary investigation revealed that Khalique had gone to Jammu after the campaign against Rohingya citizens living illegally in Uttar Pradesh intensified.

**Five arrested**

**New Delhi:** The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Monday arrested five people, including two officers of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), in connection with a case of bribery of ₹4 lakh in Guwahati. The accused NHAI officers were identified as Dipak Das, Accounts Officer, Manoj Kumar, Junior Accounts Officer. Both are posted at NHAI's Regional Office in Dispur, Guwahati.

**Man held**

**New Delhi:** A man with a "katta" (country-made pistol) and a live round at was held from Escort Mujesar Metro Station in neighbouring Faridabad (Haryana) on Monday, the CISF said. The accused was identified as Dinesh Mandal, a resident of Bihar. A senior Central Industrial Security Force official said that the man was held at around 4.50 p.m.

# Oppn slams Centre's move to recruit 10 lakh people

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 14:** The BJP Tuesday hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's directive to various government departments and ministries to undertake recruitment of 10 lakh people in the next year and a half, even as the Opposition dubbed it as "jumblebaazi (rhetoric)" and reminded him that the promise was to provide two crore jobs every year.

The direction from Modi came following a review of the status of human resource in all government departments and ministries, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said.

Reacting to the announcement, BJP chief J P Nadda said, "We are grateful to our Hon. PM Shri @narendramodi for this new mission of recruiting 10 lakh people into different government departments and ministries in 1.5 years."

Describing it as a farsighted decision, Home Minister Amit Shah said this will make India's young population disciplined, skilled, fit and financially empowered so as to make them self-reliant.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, however, took a swipe at the Centre over the announcement, saying this is a government of not 'jumlas' but 'maha jumlas'.

Rahul Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi, "Just like eight years ago the youth were deceived with a promise of 2 crore jobs every year; in the same manner it is now the turn of 10 lakh government jobs."

"This is a government of not 'jumlas' (rhetoric) but 'maha jumlas'," the former Congress chief said. The prime minister is not an expert at creating jobs, but in cre-



**We are grateful to our Hon. PM Shri @narendramodi for this new mission of recruiting 10 lakh people into different government departments and ministries in 1.5 years**  
JP NADDA | BJP CHIEF



**Modi had promised to provide two crore jobs every year and that going by the promise, 16 crore jobs should have been provided in the last eight years**  
RANDEEP SURJEWALA | CONGRESS LEADER

ating "news" over jobs, Rahul Gandhi alleged.

BJP MP Varun Gandhi said that meaningful efforts will have to be made to create new employment opportunities and to fill up over one crore "sanctioned but vacant" posts. He said more fast-paced initiatives will have to be taken to fulfill the pledge of giving employment to two crore persons.

Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said Modi had promised to provide two crore jobs every year and that going by the promise, 16 crore jobs should have been provided in the last eight years.

"The promise was to provide two crore jobs every year and 16 crore jobs were to be given in eight years. Now they are saying they will only provide 10 lakh jobs by year 2024. Sixty lakh posts are lying vacant in governments. Thirty lakh posts are lying vacant in the central government," he said in a tweet. In a tweet, the CPI(M) said that



**An atmosphere of fear and terror has been created and the courts should take cognisance of it**  
MAYAWATI | BSP CHIEF

**RELIEF FOR LALU**

A CBI court in Patna Tuesday released RJD national president Lalu Prasad Yadav's passport which was seized by the central probe agency due to cases related to fodder scam



## DGCA imposes ₹10L fine on AI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 14:** Aviation regulator DGCA Tuesday said it has imposed a fine of ₹10 lakh on Air India for denying boarding to passengers holding valid tickets and thereafter not providing mandatory compensation to them.

"After that a series of checks were carried out by DGCA and during our surveillance at Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Delhi, there were specific instances, in the case of Air India - where the regulation (regarding compensation to passengers) is not being followed and therefore, a show cause notice was issued to the airline and also a personal hearing was afforded," the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said in a statement.

According to the regulator, Air India may not have a policy in this regard and does not pay compensation to the passengers. "To say the least, it is a matter of serious concern and unacceptable. In the specific cases detailed in the show cause notice, after going through AI submissions, as part of enforcement action, the competent authority has levied a penalty of ₹10 lakh," it noted.

"In addition, the Airline has been advised to immediately put the systems in place to resolve the issue - failing which further action shall be taken by DGCA," it added.

If a passenger is denied boarding despite having a valid ticket and has reported at the airport on time, certain regulations have to be followed by the airline concerned, as per the DGCA.

In case the airline concerned is able to arrange an alternative flight for the affected passenger within an hour, no compensation is to be paid, the DGCA regulations state.

## NCPCR questions use of banned PUBG app



*In 2020, the government blocked popular gaming app PUBG and others, terming them prejudicial to the sovereignty, integrity and defence of the nation*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 14:** The apex child rights body NCPCR Tuesday sought explanation from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology on how the banned PUBG game was still available to be used by minors, days after a 16-year-old boy allegedly shot dead his mother after she stopped him from playing the online game.

In 2020, the government blocked popular gaming app PUBG and others, terming them prejudicial to the sovereignty, integrity and defence of the nation. Last week a boy allegedly shot dead his mother as she stopped him from playing the online game in Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh.

"In view of this incident, it is beyond the understanding of the commission how a banned game... Which has been blocked by the government, is still avail-

able for use by minors. Therefore, the Commission requests your good offices to inform reasons for availability of such blocked applications over the internet," the NCPCR wrote to the ministry secretary.

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights also requested that it may be informed regarding action taken in such incidents and be provided with a list of such games which are being used by minors along with their regulating bodies and their regulating mechanism within 10 days of receipt of this letter.

In another letter to the president of the Indian Olympic Association, the commission said it has been observed that PUBG has been recognised a part of e-sports and has further received recognition from the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA).

"In the said regard it is requested that the commission may be informed regarding the current status as to whether PUBG or any other similar e-game has been recognised by your organisation. It is requested that the commission may be informed regarding such games which are being used by minors along with their recognition status within 10 days of receipt of this letter," it said.

## HONOUR KILLING IN TN

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, June 14:** In another case of honour killing in Tamil Nadu, a person hacked to death his sister and her husband.

The dastardly act took place at Kumbakonam in Thanjavur district of Tamil Nadu on Monday evening. The deceased is Saranya (24) and her husband Mohan (31). Saranya who is a Dalit married Mohan, of Naicker caste five days ago after a love affair of five months. Saranya, a nurse, took her ailing mother to a Chennai hospital where she was working and met Mohan who was at the hospital as an attendant to his relative. The friendship turned into a love affair and they decided to marry amid strict opposition from both the families.

Saryanya's brother Sakthivel (31) wanted her to be married off to his friend, Ranjith (28) of Devanagiri. However, Saranya insisted on marrying Mohan which infuriated her brother.

However, police said that Sakthivel invited them for dinner at the family residence and after the feast hacked both of them to death. Ranjith was also an accomplice in the murder of the duo.

Thanjavur Superintendent of Police, G. Ravali Priya said that both the accused, Sakthivel and Ranjith are in police custody and further investigation is on.



Women perform rituals by tying ceremonial threads to a banyan tree on the occasion of 'Vat Purnima' in Mumbai PTI PHOTO

## MONSOON SESSION LIKELY FROM JULY 18

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 14:** The Monsoon session of Parliament is likely to commence from July 18, the day presidential poll will be held, and could conclude August 12.

Besides the presidential poll, the election for vice-president's post, will also be held during the session. The term of the vice president,

who is also Chairman of Rajya Sabha, ends on August 10.

This time Secretary General of Rajya Sabha is the returning officer for the president's election, while Secretary General Lok Sabha will be the returning officer for the vice president's election.

The counting for both constitutional posts will also be held in Parliament during the session. The

monsoon session usually starts in the third week of July and concludes by the end of the second week of August.

The Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs (CCPA) has recommended that the monsoon session of parliament be held from July 18 to August 12, sources said. This could be the last session in the existing Parliament building.

# River linking projects may adversely impact monsoon: Experts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 14:** Interlinking of rivers may have far-reaching adverse impact on monsoon cycles and biodiversity and pose socio-economic challenges, several experts have said, as the government embarks on an ambitious project to link the Ken and Betwa rivers to tackle water crisis in the parched Bundelkhand region.

The Ken-Betwa scheme, the first being implemented under the National River Linking Project (NRLP), seeks to bring nearly 11 lakh hectares of land under irrigation in the parched Bundelkhand region straddling Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

The NRLP proposes transfer of water from water-surplus basins where there is flooding to water-

deficit basins where there is drought and scarcity through inter-basin water transfer projects. Cautioning against river linking projects, the experts said these can lead to disturbance of very complex nature cycles that can have far-reaching adverse impact on monsoon cycles, biodiversity and socio-economic issues.

Manoj Misra, convenor of Yamuna Jiye Abhiyan, a collective fighting to preserve the Yamuna river and its floodplains, said the long-term adverse impacts of the river-linking projects cannot be visualised as they would be very far reaching.

"For example, in Ken-Betwa, their origins are very different. Ken has a very unique fish which has medicinal value and it is very specific to Ken and that is not found



in Betwa currently. If Ken's water is diverted to Betwa then fish and other biodiversity will also move and when it moves then you do not know what impact it will have on the local fish," he said. He said river-linking projects can also lead to adverse impacts on the monsoon cycle.

"When water of a river is diverted and it merges in sea, it takes all its sediments with it to the sea. It is a hypothesis that the kind of inter-linking we have planned is that for all we know the monsoonal systems may get impacted," he said.

Himanshu Thakkar, working as coordinator of South Asia

Network on Dams, Rivers and People (SANDRP), agrees with Misra and says sea's thermal and salinity gradient are two drivers of monsoon which can get disturbed by river-linking projects.

"By river-linking, you are stopping flow of fresh water to sea and the salinity gradient is also reduced and the silt component which creates the Gangetic plain is also impacted. So that creates a different dynamic and all these are drivers of monsoon. So when you are disturbing these factors driving monsoon you are disrupting the monsoon season," he said. Speaking about other issues that the river linking projects can pose, he said there can be environment, social, climate-related impact. "It will have biodiversity impact, impact on disasters, hydrological effects, a big im-

pact is 23 lakh big trees will be cut for the Ken-Betwa inter-linking," Thakkar said.

He said a credible assessment must be made on the impact of Ken-Betwa river linking project on the environment, as none exists today. "The current EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment), the public hearing and the scrutiny by the Expert Appraisal Committee for the Ken Betwa project are all seriously flawed," he said.

Manshi Asher, a researcher-activist associated with Himachal Pradesh-based Himdhara Collective, said river linking is not a novel concept and was implemented way back in 1960s when the Beas-Sutlej were inter-linked for large-scale provision of water for irrigation and electricity.



# international

## of the day quote

It is also true that the Russians thought it would all be over in a week. But they miscalculated. They encountered brave people, people who are struggling to survive and who have a history of struggle



POPE FRANCIS | HEAD OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

The army has killed the leader of the dissident faction of the former guerrilla group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC)



IVAN DUQUE | COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT

Prices in Egypt could have been higher in the past five or six months had the country not embarked on development projects, which provide many products and services



ABDEL-FATTAH EL-SISI | EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT

## SHORT TAKES

### Justin shares health update

**Los Angeles:** Justin Bieber has shared an update about his health condition with his fans, days after the musician revealed that he was diagnosed with Ramsay Hunt Syndrome. In a statement posted on his Instagram Story, the 28-year-old singer said he is gradually recovering from the rare medical condition, which has resulted in one side of his face being paralysed.

### Poland changes judiciary law

**Warsaw:** Poland has replaced a controversial body that disciplined judges with a new accountability panel — the latest twist in a long-running dispute with the European Union over the country's judicial independence — and Poland's leading politician said Tuesday he hoped the EU would have a "proper" reaction to the move. The EU has frozen billions of euros of pandemic funds for Poland over criticism of its rule of law record.

### Musk to address Twitter employees

**San Francisco:** Elon Musk will address Twitter employees Thursday for the first time since the billionaire and Tesla CEO offered \$44 billion to buy the social media platform, the company said Tuesday. Twitter CEO Parag Agrawal announced an all-hands meeting to employees in an email Monday, saying they'd be able to submit questions in advance, according to The Wall Street Journal.

### Striking truckers in SK end strike

**Seoul:** Truckers in South Korea ended an eight-day strike that caused major disruptions to domestic production and cargo transport, their union and the government announced after negotiations Tuesday. Thousands of truckers joined the nationwide strike, calling for an extension of temporary guarantees of minimum wages amid soaring fuel prices. The strike triggered delays in the shipment and delivery of steel, cement, petrochemicals, tires and other items, with some factories forced to halt production.

### UN cuts food aid to South Sudan

**Juba (South Sudan):** At least 1.7 million hungry people in South Sudan are losing humanitarian food aid "at the worst possible time" as the United Nations World Food Program suspends the help, blaming critical funding shortages.

## Russians control 80% of contested city in eastern Ukr



Ukraine seeks howitzers, tanks and drones from West

About 12,000 people remain in Sievierodonetsk compared to its pre-war population of 100,000

Reports gains against Russian forces in south

More than 500 civilians are sheltering in the Azot chemical plant, which is being relentlessly pounded by the Russians

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Lviv, June 14:** Russian troops control about 80% of the fiercely contested eastern Ukrainian city of Sievierodonetsk and have destroyed all three bridges leading out of the city but Ukrainian authorities are still trying to evacuate more wounded residents, a regional official said Tuesday.

Serhiy Haidai, governor of the eastern Luhansk region, acknowledged that a mass evacuation of civilians from Sievierodonetsk now is "simply not possible" due to the relentless shelling and fighting in the city.

Ukrainian forces have been pushed to the industrial outskirts of the city because of "the scorched earth method and heavy artillery the Russians are using," he said.

"There is still an opportunity for the evacuation of the wounded, communication with the Ukrainian military and local residents," he told The Associated Press by telephone, adding that Russian forces have not yet blocked off the strategic city. In all, 70 civilians were evacuated from the Luhansk region in the last day, the governor said. A Russian general, meanwhile, says a humanitarian corridor will be opened Wednesday to evacuate

civilians from the besieged Azot chemical plant in Sievierodonetsk. Col-Gen. Mkhail Mizintsev said evacuees would be taken to the town of Svatovo, 60 kilometers to the north in territory under the control of Russian and separatist forces. He said the plan was made after Ukraine called for establishing an evacuation corridor leading to Ukrainian-controlled territory.

Mizintsev, head of the National Defense Management Centre, is accused by Ukraine of human rights violations while commanding troops during the long siege of Mariupol, Ukraine's key port on the Sea of Azov that has been taken over by the Russians.

Russian forces in the last few weeks have pressed hard to capture Ukraine's eastern industrial Donbas area, which borders Russia and is made up of the regions of Luhansk and Donetsk. "The situation is difficult," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a news conference Tuesday with Danish media. "Our task is to fight back." Jan Egeland, the Secretary-General of the Norwegian Refugee Council, one of the aid organisations supplying food to the people in the Donbas, said fighting in the past few weeks has made regular food distributions impossible.

## Biden to visit Israel and 'pariah' Saudi



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Washington, June 14:** President Joe Biden will make his first trip to the Middle East next month with visits to Israel, the occupied West Bank and Saudi Arabia, the White House announced Tuesday.

The decision to pay a call on Saudi leaders during the July 13-16 trip comes after Biden as a

Democratic presidential candidate branded the kingdom a "pariah" because of its human rights record and pledged to recalibrate the US-Saudi relationship.

Biden plans to meet with the Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the de facto ruler of the kingdom, according to a senior administration official who briefed reporters on the condition of anonymity.

US Intelligence officials determined Prince Mohammed likely ordered the brutal 2018 killing of US-based journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

After Biden took office, his administration made clear the president would avoid direct engagement with the crown prince and instead focus his engagements with King Salman.

Human rights advocates and some Democratic allies cautioned Biden about visiting the oil-rich kingdom, saying such a visit with-out first getting human rights commitments would send a message to Saudi leaders that there are no consequences for egregious rights violations.

## Chilean lake turns into desert, sounding climate alarm

*A huge expanse of dried and cracked earth that was once the lake bed is littered with fish skeletons and desperate animals searching for water*

REUTERS

**Penuelas, Chile, June 14:** The Penuelas reservoir in central Chile was until twenty years ago the main source of water for the city of Valparaiso, holding enough water for 38,000 Olympic-size swimming pools. Water for only two pools now remains. Amid an historic 13-year drought, rainfall lev-

els have slumped in this South American nation that hugs the continent's Pacific coast. Higher air temperatures have meant snow in the Andes, once a key store of meltwater for spring and summer, is not compacting, melts faster, or turns straight to vapor.

The drought has hit mine output in the world's largest copper producer, stoked tensions over water



Over the next 100 days and beyond, let us work to safeguard the human rights of all people and build peaceful and inclusive societies

ANTONIO GUTERRES | UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

## 'HAPPY THE ELEPHANT IS NOT A PERSON'

New York's top court Tuesday rejected an effort to free Happy the elephant from the Bronx Zoo, ruling that she does not meet the definition of 'person' who is being illegally confined



## China lifts 2-yr Covid visa ban on Indians

*China is processing requests of thousands of Indian students studying in Chinese universities who have conveyed their interest to re-join their colleges and universities*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Beijing, June 14 :** China has announced plans to provide visas to Indian professionals and their families stranded in India for over two years following the strict visa restrictions imposed by Beijing due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

On Monday the Chinese Embassy in India updated its Covid-19 visa policy after over two years to accept visa applications of foreign nationals and their accompanying family members wanting to go to China for resumption of work in all fields. It is a big relief for hundreds of Indian professionals and their families who are stuck back home since 2020.

Last month, a number of Indian professionals based in China urged

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to press Beijing to allow their stranded families to return.

Besides the Indians, the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi said family members of Chinese citizens and foreigners with Chinese permanent residence permits going to China for family reunions or visiting relatives can apply for visas. Besides Indians some of whom have Chinese spouses, many Chinese employees working for various companies were also stranded in India due to Beijing's blanket visa bans and flight cancellations.

However, visas for tourism and private purposes remain suspended, the Chinese Embassy announcement said. In April, after prolonged representations from India, China agreed to permit the return of



"some" stranded Indian students and asked the Indian Embassy here to collect the details of the students wanting to return.

As per earlier reports, over 23,000 Indian students, mostly studying medicine in Chinese colleges, are stuck in India after they returned home as the coronavirus broke out in China in December 2019. They could not return to China due to the restrictions imposed by the Chinese government to arrest the spread of the contagion. Over 12,000 Indian

students have reportedly expressed their wish to return and their details have been forwarded to the Chinese government for processing. China is yet to come up with a criterion to permit the return of the students as Beijing is reluctant to allow such large number of people to return at once in view of the recent spike in Covid-19 cases in the country. While opening visa services to Indians, China is yet to announce plans to open flight facilities between the two countries.

Currently, only diplomats between the two countries travel through the expensive third-country flight routes.

However, China's visa announcement has created hope that flight services too may be resumed between the two countries soon.

In recent months, China has been permitting students from some friendly countries like Pakistan, Thailand, Solomon Islands and recently Sri Lanka to return.

## SL approves measures to ease economic recovery

*Sri Lanka is currently facing its worst economic crisis since independence from Britain in 1948*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Colombo, June 14:** Sri Lanka's cash-strapped government has approved several measures, including imposing a 2.5 per cent social contribution tax on companies based on their turnover and declaring Fridays as holidays for most public sector employees, to facilitate the economic recovery and mitigate energy and food crisis.

The economic crisis has prompted an acute shortage of essential items like food, medicine, cooking gas and other fuel, toilet paper, and even matches, with Sri Lankans being forced to wait in lines lasting hours outside stores to buy fuel and cooking gas.

The Cabinet at a meeting held on Monday approved a bill to im-



pose a 2.5 per cent tax on companies with an annual turnover of Rs 120 million. The new tax named the social contribution levy will be applicable to businesses in imports, manufacturing, service providers, wholesalers and retailers, according to an official statement. In another measure aimed at mitigating the ongoing energy crisis, the Cabinet has approved to declare Fridays as holidays for the public sector employees.

This, however, would not be applicable to the employees in the health, power and energy, education and defence sectors. The

Cabinet also approved a move to grant government officials one leave per week for the next three months to engage in agriculture to mitigate the approaching food crisis. Minister of Home affairs and Public Administration Dinesh Gunawardena said that fuel consumption will be reduced because of this move.

"We have decided to make Fridays a holiday for all public servants because of the transportation issues that have popped up as a result of the fuel scarcity. Public servants can stay at home and focus on growing food crops on Fridays," he said.

## POSING FOR PICTURE



Racegoers Maria, left, and Anastasia pose for a photo wearing headwear with a Ukrainian flag motif after arriving for day one of the Royal Ascot horse racing meeting, at Ascot Racecourse, in Ascot, England

would give it the same designation as the Covid-19 pandemic and mean that WHO considers the normally rare disease a continuing threat to countries globally. The UK said Monday it had 470 cases of monkeypox across the country, with the vast majority in gay or bisexual men. British scientists said last week they could not tell if the spread of the disease in the UK had peaked.

The meeting of outside experts could also help improve understanding and knowledge about the virus, Tedros said, as WHO released new guidelines about vaccinating against monkeypox.

The UN health agency does not recommend mass vaccination, but advises the "judicious" use of vaccines. It said controlling the disease relies primarily on measures like surveillance, tracking cases and isolating patients.

Last month, a leading adviser to the World Health Organisation said the outbreak in Europe and beyond was likely spread by sex at two recent raves in Spain and Belgium. Scientists warn that anyone, regardless of sexual orientation, is susceptible to catching monkeypox if they are in close, physical contact with an infected person or their clothing or bed sheets.

## 'WATER TOWERS'

Analysis of tree rings going back 400 years shows how rare the current drought is, said Duncan Christie, a researcher at the Center for Climate and Resilience in Chile. It is totally unrivalled for duration or intensity. He said that meant the Andes - which he called the country's "water towers" - were not getting a chance to replenish, which in turn meant that as snow melted in spring there was far less water to fill rivers, reservoirs and aquifers.



A dead fish lies on the dried-up Penuelas lake in Valparaiso, Chile

with water. Normally, low-pressure storms from the Pacific unload

precipitation over Chile in winter, recharging aquifers and packing the Andes mountains with snow.

But naturally occurring warming of the sea off Chile's coast, which blocks storms from arriving, has been intensified by rising global sea temperature, according to a global study on sea temperature and rainfall deficits. Ozone depletion and greenhouse gasses in the Antarctic, meanwhile, exacerbate weather patterns that draw storms away from Chile, according to a study on variables affecting Antarctic weather.



# business

## of the day quote

While products are our heroes, INDIA 2.0 is also about being closer to our customers on all fronts. By rapidly increasing our customer touchpoints and expanding our network, we have the largest ever presence of the Skodabrand in India

**ZAC HOLLIS** | SKODA AUTO INDIA BRAND DIRECTOR

The industrial ecosystem and its requirements have changed significantly over the last few years with a digital first approach

**SUBRAMANIAN RAMADORAJ** | CHAIRMAN, TATA TECHNOLOGIES LTD.

The launch of our next generation electric bus platform in India is an important milestone for Switch Mobility. Our aspiration is to make electric products more accessible in India, the United Kingdom, Europe and many global markets

**DHEERAJ HINDUA** | CHAIRMAN, ASHOK LEYLAND

## SHORT TAKES

### Multiplex in metaverse

**New Delhi:** Bharti Airtel Tuesday announced Xstream multiplex, which the telco said is India's first multiplex in the metaverse. The Xstream multiplex is an extension of Airtel's Xstream Premium offering, which recently achieved a two million subscriber milestone within 100 days of its launch, the company said in a statement. "Airtel launches India's first multiplex in the metaverse," the statement said. Airtel's Xstream multiplex will be a 20-screen platform with access to content portfolios from leading OTT partners available on the application. The multiplex will enable sampling of top original shows and movies with content pieces such as the first episode of an OTT original or initial minutes of a movie in regional languages, besides English and Hindi. Viewers can get complete access upon subscription of a plan.

### IDBI Bank hikes interest rates

**Mumbai:** IDBI Bank Tuesday said it has raised interest rates by up to 25 basis points (bps) on retail term deposits of less than ₹2 crore. The revised rates would be applicable across various tenors for domestic term deposits, non-resident ordinary (NRO) and non-resident external (NRE) term deposits, effective June 15, a release said. The lender has increased the interest rate by 25 basis points to 4 per cent from 3.75 per cent on retail term deposits maturing between 91 days and six months. For fixed deposits maturing in 3 years to less than 5 years, the rate has been hiked by 10 bps to 5.60 per cent, compared to 5.50 per cent earlier.

### Indian Bank's KCC Digital renewal

**Chennai:** Public sector Indian Bank has unveiled KCC Digital Renewal Scheme enabling customers to renew their Kisan Credit Card accounts through the digital platform, the city-based bank said Tuesday. Under the project WAVE - World of Advanced Virtual Experience initiative, Indian Bank Managing Director and CEO, S L Jain launched the scheme which eliminates the need to visit a branch or submit added physical documents. The scheme would be beneficial to customers who are not able to renew their Kisan Credit Card accounts due to paucity of time during the harvest season, the bank said.



**GDP is the worst measure of economic activities but for all others. Because everything else you take, comes with their own limitations and serious subjectivity**  
**V ANANTHA NAGESWARAN** | CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISER

## 'WORLD'S STRONGEST HOTEL BRAND'

The Tata group hospitality firm Indian Hotels Company Ltd's iconic brand Taj has been rated as the 'world's strongest hotel brand' by Brand Finance, a global leading brand valuation consultancy.



# WPI at 30-yr high makes rate hikes more likely

*The high rate was primarily due to rising prices for crude petroleum and natural gas, food items, basic metals and chemical products*

REUTERS

**New Delhi, June 14:** High global energy and raw material prices combined with a weak rupee fueled the fastest annual rise in India's wholesale prices in more than 30 years, raising expectations for the central bank to order more interest rate hikes.

A surge in crude oil and commodity prices since Russia invaded Ukraine in February has set inflation alight in many countries, forcing central banks to raise interest rates.

Wholesale prices, akin to producer prices, climbed 15.88% in May from year ago levels, staying in double-digits for a 14th straight month, and was, according to economists, India's highest since September 1991.

The high rate was primarily due to rising prices for crude petroleum and natural gas, food items, basic metals and chemical products, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said in a statement Tuesday.

Prices for manufactured products, contributing around 64% to the wholesale price index (WPI), rose 10.11%, compared to 10.85% in



the previous month, while fuel and power costs increased 40.62% from a year ago period.

Monday, India reported retail prices had risen 7.04% in May from year ago levels, moderating slightly from the eight-year high of 7.79% posted in April.

The dismal reports for the two main measures of inflation led economists to expect the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to raise key interest rates at its next policy meeting in August.

Aditi Nayar, economist at ICRA, the Indian arm of Moody's credit rating agency, said WPI inflation was likely to stay between 15%-16% in June, largely as a result of soaring global crude oil prices. And she predicted a response from the RBI.

"We continue to expect 60 basis points of repo hikes over the next two policy reviews," Nayar said.

The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) raised its bench-

mark repo rate by 50 basis points to 4.90% last week, after a 40 basis points hike in April, while hinting at more rate hikes to come.

Food prices, contributing about a quarter of the WPI index, climbed 10.89% in May, though vegetable prices rose 18.26% in May year-on-year, compared to 23.24% in the previous month.

An uptick in wholesale food and energy prices is likely to feed into retail prices as the companies increasingly pass on high input costs to consumers.

Adam Hoyes, economist at Capital Economics Singapore said May's WPI figures suggested upside risk to consumer food inflation, which is politically sensitive in India.

"That will all be a cause for concern for the RBI,

and suggests to us that the MPC will continue to frontload policy tightening with a 50 basis points hike in August."

# Markets extend losing streak to third day

*Lacklustre macroeconomic data and the rupee staying near its lifetime low further dampened buying appetite, traders said*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, June 14:** Benchmark indices stayed on the backfoot Tuesday after the previous session's rout as risk-off sentiment prevailed amid weak global cues and persistent foreign fund outflows.

Lacklustre macroeconomic data and the rupee staying near its lifetime low further dampened buying appetite, traders said.

Global investors were in wait-and-watch mode ahead of the US Federal Reserve's policy decision Wednesday amid expectations of accelerated rate hikes to cool scorching inflation, they added.

Sliding for the third straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 153.13 points or 0.29 per cent to settle at 52,693.57 -- its lowest since July 30, 2021.

On similar lines, the NSE Nifty declined by 42.30 points or 0.27 per cent to end at 15,732.10.

IndusInd Bank was the top loser among Sensex constituents, losing 2.12 per cent, followed by Tech Mahindra, Reliance Industries, Maruti, HDFC twins, Asian Paints and HUL.

In value terms, Reliance Industries and the HDFC duo accounted for the most of the benchmark's losses.

On the other hand, Bharti Airtel topped the gainers' list with a jump of 1.63 per cent. NTPC, UltraTech Cement, M&M, Infosys, Dr Reddy's and L&T were among the other



gainers, climbing as much as 1.61 per cent.

"Domestic market restrained from heavy sell-off as CPI data moderated on a month-on-month basis and this had a calming down effect amidst global volatility. However, elevated WPI data continued to dominate the broad market, which is cautious awaiting tomorrow's outcome of Fed policy," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Seoul and Tokyo ended lower, while Hong Kong and Shanghai bounced back and settled in the green.

Markets in Europe were trading mostly lower in mid-session deals. Wall Street had ended sharply lower on Monday.

Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude gained 0.68 per cent to USD 123.1 per barrel.

Staging a marginal recovery from its lifetime low, the rupee inched up 1 paise to close at 78.03 (provisional) against the US dollar Tuesday amid a weak greenback overseas.

# Vedanta conducts Safety Mock Drill

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jharsuguda, June 14:** Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, conducted an on-site Safety Mock Drill in association with National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), at its aluminium smelter in Jharsuguda. The mock drill saw the plant's emergency management team and NDRF officials collaborate to reinforce safety awareness among all employees and business partners associated with the company. Udit Kumar Dixit, NDRF Inspector, Ramesh Mohanty, District Fire Officer, Manoj Mishra, District Assistant Director of Factories and Boiler (ADFB), Susanta Mishra, District Project Officer (Odisha State Disaster Management Authority), and representatives from other companies participated in the mock drill. Mock drills are a useful tool in Vedanta Aluminium's safety arsenal. Conducted at regular intervals, they serve to test and bolster em-

ployees' emergency preparedness as well as gauge the co-ordination between various teams in simulated conditions. Speaking on Vedanta Aluminium's safety-first culture, Sunil Gupta, CEO - Vedanta Ltd., Jharsuguda said, "At Vedanta Aluminium, safety of our people and partners is our foremost priority. The ethos of Zero Harm, Zero Waste and Zero Discharge are instilled in our DNA and therefore our aluminium operations are governed by the highest safety standards, creating a safe working environment for our employees and business partners. We have extensively deployed safety technologies and behaviour-based initiatives to further strengthen our safety performance. Mock drills with emergency simulations, help us assess our response mechanism, so that we can be more agile and effective in case of emergencies. We also work closely with the government and the community to bolster the safety quotient at our operations as well as beyond."



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 14:** ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India), a joint venture between ArcelorMittal and Nippon Steel, announces that more than 92% per cent of its workforce in its plants in Odisha is from the local population.

The company's efforts to recruit and retain local people illustrate AM/NS India's commitment to creating long-term employment and economic value in the state. AM/NS India's Odisha plant operations currently employ a total of 2371 people across both permanent and contract categories. At present locals make up 92 per cent of unskilled or semiskilled workers, 98 per cent of skilled workers and 79 per cent in supervisor or managerial roles. This far surpasses the Government of Odisha's mandate for companies to employ



90%, 60% and 30% in these three categories respectively. In Odisha, AM/NS India's manufacturing operations include a 12 MTPA pellet plant and a 30x2 MW power plant at Paradeep, a 9 MTPA Beneficiation Plant at Dabuna in Keonjhar, with a 253 km dedicated Slurry Pipeline from Dabuna to Paradeep.

"Giving employment opportu-

nity to local talents is crucial to and a priority for our business in Odisha. AM/NS India is keen to expand its footprint in the state and stands committed to play an active role in investing in Odisha's growth and the wellbeing of its citizens," says Suresha G, Executive Director, AM/NS India, Odisha Facility.

# CCI nod for AI's proposed acquisition of AirAsia India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 14:** Competition Commission of India Tuesday said it has approved the proposed acquisition of the entire shareholding of AirAsia India Ltd by Air India Ltd.

The proposed combination envisages the acquisition of the entire equity share capital of AirAsia (India) Pvt Ltd by Air India Ltd (AIL), an indirect wholly-owned



subsidiary of Tata Sons Pvt Ltd (TSPL), a notice issued by the fair trade regulator said.

AirAsia India is a joint venture between TSPL and Air Asia Investment Limited (AAIL), with

TSPL presently holding 83.67 per cent and AAIL owning a 16.33 per cent stake.

AAIL, along with its wholly-owned subsidiary Air India Express Limited (AIXL), is primarily engaged in the business of providing domestic scheduled air passenger transport service, international scheduled air passenger transport service, air cargo transport services, and charter flight services in India.

# Most young workers reluctant to return to workplace full-time: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, June 14:** Even as organisations are gradually opening offices after the pandemic, a report has revealed that most workers between 25-34 years of age globally are likely to look for a new job if employers insist on going into the workplace everyday.

Younger workers are more reluctant than their older colleagues to return to the workplace full-time as employers seek to encourage staff back into the office, according to the ADP Research Institute's 'People at Work 2022: A Global Workforce View'.

According to the report, more than seven in 10 (71 per cent) of 18-24 year-olds and two-third (66 per cent) of 25-34 year-olds would consider looking for another job if their employer insisted on a full-time return to the workplace, compared to 56 per cent of the 45-54 age bracket.

Overall, two-third of the global workforce (64 per cent) have already, or would consider, looking for another job if their employer stipulated that they must come in to work on the premises every day.

In India, 76.38 per cent of workers interviewed said they would contemplate quitting if this hap-



pened, said the report. The report is based on a survey among 32,924 workers in 17 coun-

tries around the world, including 1,600 in India, between 1 November and 24 November 2021.

"Lockdowns have been eased and raise the question of whether workers can be asked or compelled to return to work. For many, this could be a deciding factor in their decision to leave. These findings contradict some people's beliefs that younger people are desperate to return to the workforce for social and career advancement reasons," ADP India MD Rahul Goyal noted.

In India, the report found that 75 per cent of workers felt that they have continued to collaborate with their teams perfectly while working remotely, thus a lot of them are reluctant to return to the office full-time.

# SBI hikes deposit, lending rates

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 14:** The country's largest lender SBI has raised its deposit and lending rates following the Reserve Bank's repo rate hike last week.

SBI said interest rates have been raised by 0.20 per cent on domestic term deposits of below ₹2 crore for select tenors.

The revised interest rates on retail domestic term deposits (below ₹2 crore) come into effect from June 14, 2022, State Bank of India (SBI) said on its website.

For deposits of 211 days to less than 1 year, the lender will offer interest rate at 4.60 per cent, as against 4.40 per cent earlier. Senior citizens will be offered an interest of 5.10 per cent as against 4.90 per cent earlier.



Likewise, for domestic term deposits of 1 year to less than 2 years, customers can earn interest of 5.30 per cent, up by 0.20 per cent. For senior citizens, the interest rate will be higher by similar margin at 5.80 per cent.

On tenor of 2 years to less than 3 years, SBI has raised the interest rate to 5.35 per cent from 5.20 per cent, while senior citizens can earn 5.85 per cent as against 5.70 per cent earlier.

The lender has also revised the interest rates on domestic bulk term deposits of ₹2 crore and above for select tenors by up to 0.75 per cent.

# LIC ups its stake in Hero MotoCorp, HUL, Capri Global

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 14:** LIC has increased its stake in Hindustan Unilever Ltd, Hero MotoCorp and non-banking finance company Capri Global Capital through open market purchases over the last few months, the life insurer said Tuesday.

The corporation's shareholding in Hero MotoCorp has increased from 1,83,10,233 to 2,24,91,571 equity shares, or from 9.163 per cent to 11.256 per cent of the paid-up capital of the company. Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) said in a regulatory filing.

The change in holding was during the period from January 4, 2021 to June 13, 2022, it said, adding the stocks were bought through open market purchases at an average cost of ₹3,050.14.

Hero MotoCorp is a leading manufacturer of motorcycles and scooters.

In a separate filing, it said LIC's shareholding in Hindustan Unilever (HUL) has increased from 11,73,80,500 to 11,76,90,500 equity shares, aggregating to 5.008 per cent of the paid-up capital of the company.

"Holding (in Hindustan Unilever) increased from 4.995 per cent to 5.008 per cent as on 13th June 2022 at an average cost of ₹2206.93," it said.

The FMCG major is into home care, beauty and personal care; and foods and refreshment segments. Besides, LIC's shareholding in Capri Global Capital has increased from 88,58,348 equity shares to 1,24,00,000 equity shares or from 5.043 per cent to 7.059 per cent.

"It is important for young people to be surrounded by peers and superiors to learn and gain experience and create networks early on in their careers and they need to find new ways to encourage them back to an in-person environment, engage them once there and help rebuild lost confidence and skills," Goyal added.

For example, having accessible human capital management data to create visibility around individuals and teams could help to inform decision-making, build a more connected internal culture and enhance trust and loyalty between employers and staff, he added.



# OPENERS, BOWLERS LIFT INDIA



IMPRESSIVE STAND: Ruturaj Gaikwad and Ishan Kishan during their partnership

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Visakhapatnam, June 14:** India ticked all the boxes when it mattered the most and crushed South Africa by 48 runs in the must-win third T20I to stay alive in the five-match series here Tuesday.

Yuzvendra Chahal (3/20) and Harshal Patel (4/25) led the way with the ball after sizzling half centuries from Ruturaj Gaikwad (57, 35b, 7x4, 2x6) and Ishan Kishan (54, 35b, 5x4, 2x6) powered India to 179/5.

The bowlers came good after opener Gaikwad turned things around with a scintillating knock and Ishan scored his second fifty of the series.

Defending the total, skipper Rishabh Pant introduced the spinners early and Axar Patel (1/28) produced the first breakthrough with a fuller delivery as Temba Bavuma (8) holed out to Avesh Khan in the 4th over.

Chahal was rewarded for bowling quick as he got extra bounce from the wicket to get the better of Rassie van der Dussen (1), Dwaine Pretorius (20) and Heinrich Klaasen (29).

Harshal mixed his deliveries well to first remove Reeza Hendricks (23) and David Miller (3) and then returned to finish things off with the wickets of Kagiso Rabada (9) and Tabraiz Shamsi (0) as South Africa were bundled out for 131.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar (1/21) too bowled with a lot of heart.

Earlier, Gaikwad and Ishan set the platform with a 97-run stand inside 10 overs but South Africa tightened the screws in the second half to keep India inside 180.

It was Gaikwad, who turned aggressor after a watchful start and exploded in the fifth over, slamming five successive boundaries, including one off his helmet grill, off Anrich Nortje. The Maharashtra batter also deposited Pretorius (2/29) over deep backward square for his second six as India posted 57 for no loss in six overs, their best powerplay in the series.

Ishan, who was playing second fiddle, got into the act in the ninth over, smacking Shamsi's (1/36) overpitched ball for a maximum before sweeping him for another four as 13 runs came from the over.

Gaikwad completed his fifty in 30 balls and then welcomed Keshav Maharaj (1/24) with an inside out lift for a four; but the spinner had him

caught off his own bowling with India on 97/1 at the halfway stage.

Ishan then gave a special treatment to Maharaj, picking up two fours and a six en route a 31-ball fifty, his second of the series. New-man Shreyas Iyer looked in good touch as he blasted a six each off Nortje and Shamsi, but the spinner dismissed him with Nortje timing his jump to perfection for a nice catch.

Pretorius pegged India further back by getting rid of Ishan, who was caught by Hendricks. The hosts managed just 20 runs while losing two wickets from over 13 to 17 before Pandya took them close to 180 with some lusty blows in the final stages.

## BRIEF SCORES

India 179/5 (Ruturaj Gaikwad 57, Ishan Kishan 54, Hardik Pandya 31 n o; Dwaine Pretorius 2/29) beat South Africa 131 (Heinrich Klaasen 29, Reeza Hendricks 23, Wayne Parnell 22 n o; Harshal Patel 4/25, Yuzvendra Chahal 3/20) by 48 runs.



SPLENDID SPELLS: Harshal Patel and Yuzvendra Chahal (inset) react after getting a wicket each against South Africa, Tuesday



## INDIA ROUT HONG KONG 4-0 TO TOP GROUP CAPPING OFF THEIR HISTORIC QUALIFICATION CAMPAIGN IN STYLE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, June 14:** Told to hang up his boots after a medical condition, Anwar Ali's persistence and optimism in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds paid rich dividends here Tuesday.

Thanks to goals from Anwar, Sunil Chhetri – he does that almost every other day – Manvir Singh and Ishan Pandita, India capped off their historic AFC Asian Cup qualification campaign in style, sweeping aside a strong Hong Kong side 4-0 under heavy rains at the Salt Lake Stadium.

Igor Stimac's side brought out its A game on a stormy night and started off with a blitz as Anwar (second minute) and Chhetri (45th) gave India a 2-0 lead.

It was then a tale of super subs as Manvir (85th) and Pandita (90+3rd) came off the bench to complete the rout and help India (nine points) top group D with three wins on the trot, ahead of

Hong Kong (six).

The Blue Tigers raced to a 1-0 lead with the 21-year-old centreback Anwar scoring his maiden international goal four years after his career nearly ended on health grounds.

The 2017 U-17 World Cup star, whose career had been put on hold after being diagnosed with a rare heart disease (Hypertrophic Myocardiopathy), scored from a short Ashique Kuruniyan corner with his right-footed strike into the top corner.

The versatile defender, playing alongside Sandesh Jhingan, not only made his presence felt in the backline but also made some fluid moves up front.

The talismanic Chhetri doubled the lead just before the break from a 30-yard free-kick to bring up his fourth goal of the tournament. Jeakson Singh floated in a brilliant free-kick as the skipper controlled it brilliantly with a deft first touch before calmly slotting it

home to notch his 84th international strike that saw him go level with Hungarian great Ferenc Puskas in the chart for the all-time leading international scorers.

He also entered the top-five international goal-scorers' list. The Indian icon is just two goals behind Argentine maestro Lionel Messi among active players listed by Portuguese superstar Cristiano Ronaldo (117).

Late into the second-half it was Brandon Fernandes who initiated the move from the right and played a quick 1-2 with Roshan Singh before Manvir found the target. On song, India attacked on the counter and a cross from the right from Manvir was converted by Pandita.

More than eight hours before their face-off, both the teams confirmed the Asian Cup Finals berth, courtesy Palestine's 4-0 win over Philippines who were eliminated after finishing as the worst runners-up from the six groups.

# IPL media rights deal fetches ₹48,390 crore revenue for BCCI

## VIACOM18 ENDS DISNEY STAR'S MONOPOLY IN CASH-RICH CRICKET LEAGUE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 14:** The BCCI Tuesday reaffirmed its status as a cricketing behemoth by securing one of the biggest broadcast deals in the history of the sport, fetching an eye-popping 48,390 crore (USD 6.20 billion) through IPL media rights for a five-year period, starting 2023.

While Disney Star retained their Indian sub-continent TV rights by paying Rs 23,575 crore (Rs 57.5 crore/game), the most sought-after India digital rights deal was acquired for Rs 20,500 crore by the Reliance backed Viacom18, which also won the non-exclusive Package C by paying Rs 2991 crore more.

The deal for package A and B is for 410 matches across five years with 74 matches each in 2023 and 2024 and 84 each in 2025 and 2026. The 2027 edition will have 94 games. The Package 'D' for overseas rights for various regions was bagged by Viacom and Times Internet.

Viacom18 entered the fray through a consortium which has former Star India head Uday Shankar (Bodhi Tree) and James Murdoch (Lupa Systems) in it.

"I am thrilled to announce that STAR INDIA wins India TV rights with their bid of Rs 23,575 crores. The bid is a direct testimony to

the BCCI's organisational capabilities despite two pandemic years," BCCI secretary Jay Shah tweeted.

"Viacom18 bags digital rights with its winning bid of Rs 23,758 cr. India has seen a digital revolution & the sector has endless potential. The digital landscape has changed the way cricket is watched. It has been a big factor in the growth of the game & the Digital India vision," the BCCI secretary added.

"Since its inception, the IPL has been synonymous with growth & today is a red-letter day for India Cricket, with Brand IPL touching a new high with e-auction resulting in INR 48,390 cr value. IPL is now the 2nd most valued sporting league in the world in terms of per match value."

The IPL, in terms of sheer valuation, will now be bracketed in the top-most sporting properties alongside National Football League (USA), National Basketball Association (USA) and English Premier League (England), the most watched sporting event in the world.

The value of per IPL match made more than a 100 per cent jump from previous Rs 54.5 crore to above Rs 114 crore (approx). Globally, the per-match value (USD 14.61 million) in IPL is second only to NFL

where every match is worth USD 17 million.

The new deal also ends the monopoly of a single broadcaster. Sony had acquired the rights by paying Rs 8200 crore for the first 10 years (2008-17) while Star with a bid price of 16347.50 won it for the next five years.

There was a also a Package C, where digital rights of 18 non-exclusive marquee games per season were up for grabs and Viacom18 won it with a winning bid of Rs 2991.6 crore at the rate of Rs 33.24 crore per match. There are 90 matches in this package.

Package D with a base price of Rs 3 crore per game with overseas TV and Digital Rights on offer was sold for more than 1300 crore to Viacom18 and Times Internet.

Having lost the digital rights to Viacom18, Walt Disney's Head of International Content and Operations, Rebecca Campbell in a statement hinted that Star will be vying for other multi-platform cricket rights.

"We will be exploring other multi-platform cricket rights, including future rights for International Cricket Council (ICC) and Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), which we currently hold through the 2023 and 2024 seasons, respectively," Campbell said.

ASSOCIATED PRES

**Paris, June 14:** Defending champion France lost their Nations League title and faced the dim prospect of relegation after losing at home to Croatia 1-0. Meanwhile, while their group leader Denmark beat Austria 2-0 to boost their Final Four bid Monday.

Denmark has nine points, two more than second-placed Croatia with only the group winner going through. Austria was third with four points and rock-bottom France had two after a fourth game without a win. The team in last place is relegated.

Croatia scored with a fifth-minute penalty from standout midfielder Luka Modric at the Stade de France. It is where he played so commandingly for Champions League winner Real Madrid in the final just over two weeks ago, and he belied his advancing years with a display full of astute passing and clever movement into space.

Croatia's fans chanted, 'Luka, Luka', to their inspirational captain as he gave them a thumbs up after the game. In Copenhagen, wide forwards Jonas Older Wind and Andreas Skov Olsen got Denmark's goals in the first half. Croatia hosts Denmark in a table-topping clash September 22.

France coach Didier Deschamps finally dropped first-choice forward Antoine Griezmann, who has not scored for the team since



LEADING FROM FRONT: Luka Modric is delighted after scoring Croatia's winner against France, Monday

early January, and instead selected Christopher Nkunku in attack alongside Karim Benzema and Kylian Mbappe.

It was Nkunku's astute pass which set up Mbappe's late equal-

izer in a 1-1 draw in Austria Friday. Perhaps to rouse the players, the band stopped playing at the start of the 'La Marseillaise' and most of the 77,400 crowd at Stade de France sang it A cappella style.

The home fans fell quiet when Croatia won a penalty after Ibrahima Konate fouled Josip Brekalo for the penalty. Mike Maignan started in goal ahead of long-standing No. 1 Hugo Lloris, and guessed the right way but he could not stop Modric's powerful strike arrowing into the left corner.

France beat Croatia 4-2 in the 2018 World Cup final but the Croats were better on the night against a French side lacking intensity in midfield. Led by the craft of 36-year-old Modric, Croatia's midfield expertly cut the supply line to star forwards Benzema and Mbappe.

Benzema went close midway through the second half as France found more space and Griezmann received a loud ovation when he came on for the last 10 minutes. Benzema had an injury-time header well saved by goalkeeper Ivica Ivusic as French hopes evaporated.

A youth ran onto the field at the final whistle and sprinted to Benzema, forcing security to intervene, but Benzema hugged the boy, removed his jersey and handed it to him.

**OTHER GAMES**

In League B, Group 2 leader Israel twice came from behind to draw in Iceland 2-2. In League C, Kazakhstan took control of Group 3 after beating Slovakia 2-1 at home to move onto 10 points, four ahead of the Slovaks in second spot. Azerbaijan beat Belarus 2-0 at home in the other game.

## Sindhu, Praneeth bow out of Indonesia Open

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jakarta, June 14:** Two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu made a shock first round exit from the Indonesia Open Super 1000 event after suffering a straight-game defeat against China's He Bing Jiao, here Tuesday.

Seventh seed Sindhu lost 14-21, 18-21 to Bing Jiao in the women's singles. By virtue of this win, World No.9 Bing Jiao, whom Sindhu had defeated at the Badminton Asia Championship, lead the Indian 10-8 on head-to-head record.

Also bowling out was B Sai Praneeth, who lost 16-21, 19-21 to Hans-Kristian Solberg Vittinghus of Denmark in the men's singles.

The mixed doubles pair of Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Crasto faced similar fate, crashing out in the opening round after losing 14-21 11-21 to Hong Kong combination of Chang Tak Ching and NG Wing Yung Hong in just 32 minutes.



# When batting captains decide to take their bowling seriously

## WEST INDIES' POORAN JOINS AN ELITE LIST OF CRICKETERS TO ACHIEVE SOMETHING SPECIAL AS SKIPPERS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Multan, June 14:** Batting captains donning the role of bowlers is rare in international cricket but there have been occasions when they have taken the matters into their hands and made an impact.

West Indies skipper Nicholas Pooran got added to the list recently when he returned amazing figures of 4/48 in 10 overs to emerge the most successful bowler for his side in the third and final ODI against Pakistan at Multan.

Till that game June 12, he had bowled just three deliveries in ODIs. The ICC Tuesday highlighted five instances when batting captains took bowling matters into their hands.

**Sourav Ganguly (IND): 5/34 (10) v Zimbabwe, Kanpur, 2000**

While the former Indian skipper may have taken 100 ODI wick-

ets, Ganguly only bowled 760 overs across 311 ODI with his more than useful medium pace. At 91/2, Zimbabwe had set themselves a decent platform in Kanpur, with Andy Flower and Stuart Carlisle setting a platform for the tourists.

Bowling his full allotment for first time in 25 ODIs, and the only Indian bowler to do so on this particular day, Ganguly put the side on his back, dismissing the set pair either side of Grant Flower on a slow and low track. From their strong start, Zimbabwe crumbled to 141/6 after Ganguly claimed his fourth scalp, opposite number Heath Streak for just three.

Ganguly picked up his fifth when Travis Friend was adjudged lbw for six. India went on to win by nine wickets, with Ganguly's unbeaten 71 (68) confirming Player of the Match honours.

**Graham Gooch (ENG): 3/19**

**(10) v Pakistan, Cuttack, 1989**

It wasn't often England's Gooch bowled his full quota, though a 10-over stint in the 1989 MRF World Series earned him Player of the Match honours in a win over Pakistan in Cuttack. The victims were no tail-enders either, with his seamers too good for Javed Miandad (14), Saleem Yousuf (6) and Wasim Akram first ball, trapped lbw.

**Mike Gatting (ENG): 3/59 (9) v Australia, Melbourne, 1987**

Gatting took three of his 10 ODI wickets in one outing, finishing with 3/59 (9) in a luckless day for England at the MCG in 1987. As the five previous bowlers toiled to claim just two wickets between them, a fed up Gatting decided to hand his own cap to the umpire, catching Greg Ritchie

short of his ground with a Bruce French stumping, and dismissing Dirk Wellham soon after. Gatting then went on to deny Dean Jones a century.

**Nawroz Mangal (AFG): 3/35 (6) v The Netherlands, Amstelveen, 2009**

The Afghan's spell of 3/35 from six overs in the sixth-bowler spot arguably turned the match and the two-match series in Amstelveen, with the Blue Tigers hitting back after the first match defeat. The Dutch recovered from 31/3, though Mangal's off-spin broke a 113-run partnership between Eric Swarczynski and Ryan ten Doeschate, and the wicket of Bas Zuiderent two balls later swung momentum in his team's direction. Mangal's third wicket, this time of Daan van

Bunge, stifled a late charge.

**Nicholas Pooran (WI): 4/48 (10) v Pakistan, Multan, 2022**

Pooran lived up to his instinctive style of captaincy in the third Super League ODI against Pakistan. With both Hosein and Walsh Jr turning the ball into the left-handed opening pair, Pooran brought himself on for the 13th over, replacing Romario Shepherd. Pooran struggled to find his length early. In his third over, Pooran struck. Sneaking under Fakhar's bat on the sweep, the skipper's delivery dipped and crashed into the off-stump. Pooran doubled his tally with the wicket of Imam. He then got rid of Mohammad Haris before completing his four-wicket set in his seventh over firing a quicker one from around the wicket to Mohammad Rizwan (11).