



BRIDGING THE GAP

Actor Alia Bhatt, on North-South debate, says there are no Hindi, Tamil, or Telugu films; only Indian films

LEISURE P2



LEADERS OFFER EU HOPE

Leaders of four EU nations visit Ukraine and they vow to back Kyiv's bid to join the bloc

INTERNATIONAL P10



FOURTH T20I TODAY

Team India look to carry their winning momentum forward and level the series when they face SA in the 4th T20I

SPORTS P12

SIT TO PROBE JUMBO DEATH

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 16: A day after the Centre sought an action-taken report from the state government on the killing of a young tusker allegedly by poachers in Cuttack district, the state forest department Thursday formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the incident.

The SIT would also investigate the recovery of skeletal parts of three other jumbos from Athagarh forest division area in Cuttack district recently, officials said.

The office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) said that a three-member SIT headed by the Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) will comprise a wildlife conservator and a senior officer of the Odisha Crime Branch.

The Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of Athagarh will no longer be a part of the investigation, they said.

The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change in a letter to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife) and Wildlife Warden had sought an action taken report (ATR) from the state forest department on the death of a 10-year-old male elephant due to gunshot wounds in Athagarh forest division of Cuttack.

The Centre had also suggested to the state government to take strict action against the poachers and persons involved in the killing of the jumbo. P3



ON THE BOIL: Smoke billows out after youths set a train on fire in protest against the Agnipath scheme at Chhapra railway station in Bihar, Thursday

PHOTO PTI

'AGNIPATH' SPARKS FIRE

Bihar bore the brunt of the violence with trains set ablaze and passersby, including a ruling BJP MLA, pelted with stones on the second day of the protest against 'Agnipath' scheme

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Patna/Lucknow, June 16: Trains were set afire and blocked, and public vehicles attacked as protests over 'Agnipath' swept across several places in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Haryana Thursday amid partisan political voices in favour and against the new recruitment scheme for the defence forces that has set off a firestorm.

Bihar bore the brunt of the violence with trains set ablaze, window panes of buses smashed and passersby, including a ruling BJP MLA, pelted with stones Thursday, the second day of the protest against the scheme which envisages a short four-year term for soldiers in the three armed forces entailing no gratuity or pension upon retirement.

Police fired teargas shells and used baton to break up protests by angry youngsters who blocked rail-



Protestors stage a demonstration against 'Agnipath' at Chhapra in Saran

way tracks, threw burning tyres on roads, and performed push-ups and other drills on the streets against the new recruitment policy.

In Nawada, the vehicle of BJP MLA Aruna Devi, who was on her way to a court, was attacked by the agitators, leaving five persons, including the legislator, injured. Railway property was vandalised

and protesters set fire to stationary carriages at Bhabhua and Chhapra stations and smashed window panes of coaches at many places.

Over 34 trains were cancelled and eight more partially cancelled due to the protests and delays in the Railway Recruitment Board (RRB) exams, railway sources said in New Delhi. They said 72 trains

UNION MINISTERS DEFEND SCHEME

New Delhi: Amid students' protests over 'Agnipath', Union ministers and chief ministers of the BJP-led states defended the step Thursday, saying it will open new avenues for youngsters, and urged them to keep away from those inciting them. Union minister Ashwini Choubey claimed that some people are using students for their own political gains. Meanwhile, the Defence ministry raised the upper-age limit for recruitment under the Agnipath scheme for 2022 to 23 years.

were also running late due to the agitation.

At Nangloi in the national capital, protesters blocked the railway track and raised slogans against the scheme.

The sources said most armies across the world depend on their youth and the new scheme will bring about a right mix of "50 per cent-50 per cent" youth and experience in the supervisory ranks in the long run.

Political parties, predictably, reacted along partisan lines with the Opposition stepping up its attack on the government and demanding that the scheme be scrapped.

"No rank, no pension, no direct recruitment for 2 years, no stable future after four years, no respect shown by the government for the army," Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi.

"Listen to the voice of unemployed youths of the country, don't take 'agnipareeksha' of their patience by making them walk on 'Agnipath', Mr. Prime minister," the former Congress chief said.

(More P9, Contd... P4)

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Don't forget to take a constitutionally correct option. Talk to some retired person

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	51495.79 ↓ 1045.60
NIFTY	15360.60 ↓ 331.60
DOLLAR	78.57 ↓ ₹0.11
EURO	82.02 ↑ ₹0.42
GOLD	₹50,775 ↑ ₹337
SILVER	₹61,121 ↑ ₹424

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	37.3°C	35.4°C
TEMP MIN	25.6°C	25.2°C
Humidity	73%	74%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Light to Moderate Rain	

Lightning deaths higher in Mayurbhanj: Report

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 16: Gujarat's Kutch is India's most lightning prone district along with Odisha's Mayurbhanj, but the mortality is much higher in the latter, the Annual Lightning Report 2021-22 released on Thursday said.

"The mortality is much higher in Mayurbhanj as compared to Kutch mainly due to socio-economic difference between the two districts. Socio-economic pattern is one of the major factors for lightning fatalities. There is a need for social scientists in lightning risk management," said

the report by the Lightning Resilient India Campaign, a joint initiative of the Climate Resilient Observing Systems Promotion Council (CROPC) and India Meteorological Department (IMD), Ministry of Earth Sciences.

The CROPC report listed 250 most lightning prone districts in India, of which, apart from Kutch and Mayurbhanj, comprise Kendujhar, Puruliya, Chandrapur, Korba, Jaisalmer, Medinipur West and Prakasham.

The main cause of death due to lightning is that the coverage of lightning protection systems (LPS) is just 2 per cent overall. MORE P9

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 16: As many as 11 districts got new Collectors and the municipal corporations of Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Berhampur got new commissioners as the state government effected a major reshuffle among the bureaucrats, Thursday.

The General Administration and Public Grievance (GA&PG) department has issued a notification in this regard.

According to the notification, Vijay Amruta Kulange has been appointed as the new Commissioner

MAJOR BUREAUCRATIC RESHUFFLE IN STATE

New commissioners for 3 municipal corporations



Vijay Amruta Kulange



Nikhil Pavan Kalyan



J Sonal

of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC). Dibya Jyoti Parida replaced Kulange as Collector of Ganjam.

Nikhil Pavan Kalyan, on the other hand, has been appointed as

the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) Commissioner. The incumbent Ananya Das has been transferred as new Collector of Sambalpur. Gavali Parag Harshad replaced Kalyan as new Collector

of Sundargarh.

J Sonal, presently serving as Gunupur sub-collector, has been appointed as the new Commissioner of Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC).

While Swadha Dev Singh will head the administration in Rayagada, Siddeshwar Baliram Bondar has been appointed the Bhadrak Collector.

While Dattatraya Bhausahab Shinde will be new Collector of Balasore, K Sudarshan Ghakravathy has been appointed as the Khurda Collector.

Contd...P4

NEWS IN BRIEF

Similipal National Park shut till Oct

Baripada: Authorities of the Similipal National Park in Mayurbhanj district closed the sanctuary for tourists from Thursday following the onset of monsoon, an official said. The national park will remain closed till the end of October, Similipal Tiger Reserve field director T Ashok Kumar said. The entry of tourists to the reserve forest is prohibited from mid-June to the October-end every year during the rainy season as road connectivity to various locations inside the sanctuary gets disrupted, he said. Considered as a major tourist destination of Odisha, the sanctuary will reopen from the first week of November, he said. P4

State to strengthen Covid surveillance

Bhubaneswar: Amid rising Covid cases in many states, the Odisha government has asked the officials to strengthen surveillance activities, including testing. Health Services Director Bijay Mohapatra said all districts have been asked to enhance testing by 10 to 15 per cent and adopt precautionary measures to contain the disease from further spreading. The Health department has been carrying out surveillance and testing. "We are advising people with Covid symptoms to go for immediate testing. Besides, people must ensure maintaining social distance. People should come forward for testing if they develop any symptom," said Mohapatra.

Authorities must follow due process under law: SC

■ There must be a sense among the citizens that rule of law prevails in the country: Vacation bench of Justices AS Bopanna and Vikram Nath

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 16: Stating that 'everything should be fair' and authorities should strictly follow due procedure under the law, the Supreme Court Thursday gave the Uttar Pradesh government and its authorities three days to respond

to pleas alleging that houses of those accused in last week's violence were illegally demolished.

There must be a sense among the citizens that rule of law prevails in the country, a vacation bench of Justices AS Bopanna and Vikram Nath said, posting the matter for further hearing Tuesday.

"Everything should be fair. We expect the authorities to strictly follow the due procedure under the law," it said.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Uttar Pradesh government, and senior advocate Harish Salve, representing the Kanpur and Prayagraj civic au-



thorities, said due process of law was followed and notice in one instance of a demolition was given way back in August 2020.

Mehta said none of the affected

parties are before the court and a Muslim body, the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, has approached the court seeking a generic order that there should not be any demolition.

Senior advocates CU Singh, Huzefa Ahmadi and Nitya Ramakrishnan, appearing for the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, said statements are being made by the highest constitutional authorities, including the Uttar Pradesh chief minister, and demolitions are subsequently being carried out without giving an opportunity to the alleged riot accused to vacate their houses.

The top court was hearing pleas filed by the Muslim body seeking directions to the Uttar Pradesh government to ensure that no further demolitions of properties of alleged accused of recent violence are carried out in the state.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES

Of late you have been very preoccupied with work and social life. It is about time you gave yourself a break to indulge in something for your own benefit. Your health could be a cause of concern. Ganesh advises you to put everything else on the back-burner if you are feeling stressed out.

TAURUS

This day you are likely to make wasteful expenditure. You will be more reckless, extravagant than you can afford to be. Your expenses are sure to outweigh your income. Be as tightfisted as you can. Not buying anything unnecessary or too costly can help control losses, points out Ganesh.

GEMINI

An occurrence from the past will become a cause of worry for you today. You will also be concerned owing to the deteriorating health of the elders in your family. You will encounter medical expenses.

CANCER

Chances are that your inquisitive nature will put in a difficulty. Others will be angry with you for keeping a secret a vital information. Ganesh counsels you to strengthen ties with friends and give up present attitude.

LEO

You may experience some tension trying to stay ahead of your busy schedule. You will need to maintain your mental and physical health. Important meetings will conclude successfully, but they may leave you fatigued at the end of the day. Find ways to unwind, says Ganesh.

VIRGO

Don't procrastinate matters regarding your health, advises Ganesh. Today you are raring to take on some past wounds. However, peace and quietude are the dominant flavours today. Ganesh suggests that you go ahead and enjoy yourself, if only just to recharge your batteries.

LIBRA

Ganesh says your uniqueness will be the focus of attention and praise today. Your undertaking of various tough tasks and completing them today will showcase your business acumen. You will show your inclination to the finer arts like music and dance. Those of you who may have thoughts about doing varied things may be able to put those thoughts into actions today.

SCORPIO

Suddenly, you become conscious about your looks today, says Ganesh. How you look, how you dress-up and the way you walk, all becomes a matter of concern for you. All prim and proper, you imagine yourself to be the best. Besides makeover, splurging is another activity that you indulge in.

SAGITTARIUS

Dark and gloomy, that's what how you feel today, foresees Ganesh. However, the cloud to worries is likely to burst during the latter half of the day. Good news from abroad or a phone call from a friend is likely to cheer you up.

CAPRICORN

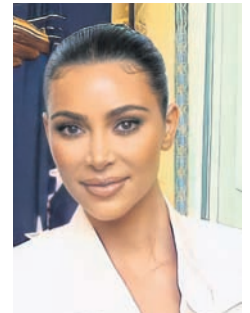
You have taken your personal relationships for granted but some irregularities in them have caught your attention. Now, you will focus upon them and try to get to the heart of the matter, feels Ganesh. Communication is the key when it comes to solving misunderstandings, and with that you will be able to clear out a number of them.

AQUARIUS

You are good with words and with the art of eloquence you manage to get through any situation. Today, thanks to your communication skills, you will be able to crack important deals and make people follow your vision. You, however, need to respect opinions of others' as well, advises Ganesh.

PISCES

Today you will be attracted by the heart and not the mind. This is usual for your star sign. Attempt to understand your emotions today. Ganesh says today you might figure out the way to control both your heart and your mind.



KIM WALKED AWAY FROM MARRIAGE GUILT-FREE

Kim Kardashian walked away from her marriage with Kanye West absolutely guilt-free. She divulged that if people knew exactly what happened between her and Kanye, they would question why they were together for seven long years.

'STRAIGHT ACTORS COULDN'T PLAY GAY PHILADELPHIA ROLE TODAY'

Veteran Hollywood star Tom Hanks bagged his first Oscar for best actor for *Philadelphia*, in which he plays a gay man with HIV who is discriminated against at work. Almost three decades later, Hanks says he or any fellow straight actor would no longer be able to play the openly gay character.



ODISSI NRUTYA NATIKA UTSAV : DAY 2



Paika warriors' heroism wins hearts

Bhubaneswar: The valour of Baji Rout and Paika rebels were showcased on the second day of *Azadi*, the three-day Odissi dance drama festival here at Rabindra Mandap, Thursday.

In the first presentation, the students of City-based Nrutya Naivedya led by Guru Pravat Kumar Swain, performed *Paika Bidroha*. The drama unfolded the heroic tales of martyrs like Jayee Rajguru, Buxi Jagabandhu, Madhav Chandra Routray, Pindiki Bahubalendra and Krutibasa Patsani who initiated the revolt against the British.

The second show was presented by the members of Suravi led by Guru Pitambar Biswal, showcased the life of young Baji Rout who sacrificed his life for the motherland. Born in Dhenkanal, boat boy Rout was the youngest Indian freedom fighter and martyr, having been killed by British police at the age of twelve on the night of October 11, 1938 at Nilakanthapur Ghat

by British police when he refused to ferry them across the Brahmani River. He was an active member of the Banar Sena (composed of young children) of the Prajamandal, and had volunteered to keep watch by the river at night.

The event, a part of 75-week-long celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, is being organised jointly by The Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi (OSNA) and Odia Language, Literature and Culture department, Government of Odisha. It is dedicated to those who have been instrumental in the growth of India as a nation.

Apart from OSNA president Aruna Mohanty, vocalist Gopal Chandra Panda, Pratap Das, President of Indian Performing Art Promotions USA, OSNA vice-president Manmath Kumar Satpathy, secretary Prabodh Rath attended the event as guests. **PNN**

Alia opens up on North-South debate

Mumbai: Alia Bhatt, who is garnering praises after the release of *Brahmastra* trailer, expressed her view on the ongoing North vs South films debate.

She said, "I guess what I've also learned from this experience now that we're sitting here and having this conversation, is that, there is no Hindi film, Tamil film, Telugu film, there are Indian films. And there has to be that feeling, and we need to just give you that, to your audience, to the people that this is a film for you. It's for everyone. Because it genuinely is. Sometimes there is a feeling that's not for you, but that's not true."

month in an intimate ceremony, jetted off to an undisclosed location for the shoot of her Hollywood debut project *Heart of Stone*.

The actress will star alongside some of the distinguished names in Hollywood like *Wonder Woman* star Gal Gadot and *Belfast* star Jamie Dornan.

Coming back to *Brahmastra* trailer, it begins with Big B's voice talking about the five elements that have had their powers stored in 'astras' (weapons) since ancient times and that this is the story of all Astras - the *Brahmastra*.



The actress, who got married to Ranbir Kapoor last

What made Radhika cry post *Vikram Vedha* shoot

Mumbai: Radhika Apte, who is a part of Hrithik Roshan and Saif Ali Khan starrer *Vikram Vedha*, recently revealed that she cried after wrapping up the movie.

"When I watched the film, I really liked the thought behind it. At the time, I was writing something similar - how we see things in white and black and raise fingers. How the world is becoming less tolerant each day. *Vikram Vedha* talks about these things in a very commercial manner," Radhika.

Elaborating further, the actress added, "Also, I had worked with Saif on two other projects but had few scenes with him. I have more scenes with him in this one and I enjoyed doing those." She said that it was a big film and she needed a big commercial film at this point of her career. "Though, I refused a few big films because I did not agree with their sensibilities. This was a big film that matched my sensibilities so I agreed to do it. I enjoyed doing the film so much that I cried after the shoot ended. I cried because it was only a 12-day shoot," reveals the *Anhadhun* actress. **AGENCIES**



Piyush Mishra prefers to play complex characters

Mumbai: Veteran actor Piyush Mishra, who is appearing in a pivotal role in the latest released web series *Salt City*, shares how he only prefers to play a complex character that challenges him creatively.

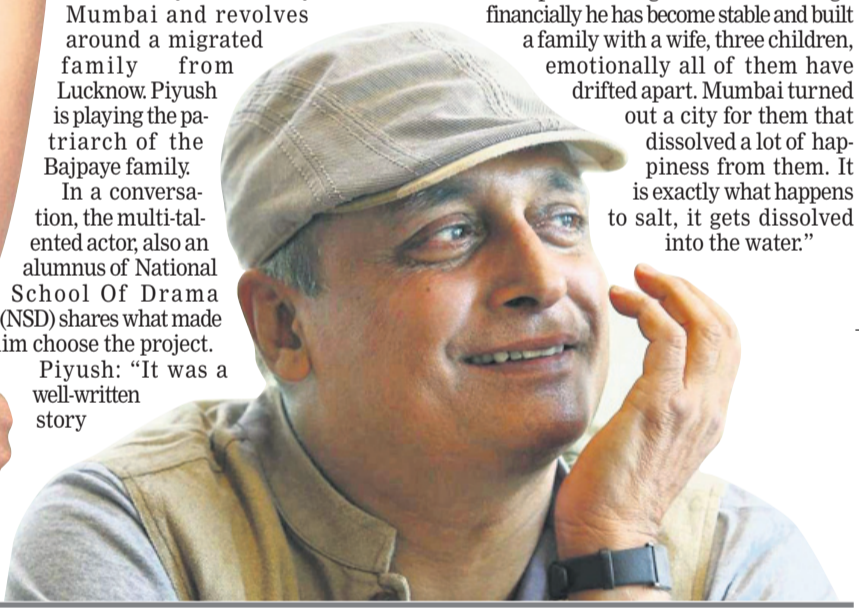
The story of *Salt City* is set in Mumbai and revolves around a migrated family from Lucknow. Piyush is playing the patriarch of the Bajpaye family.

In a conversation, the multi-talented actor, also an alumnus of National School Of Drama (NSD) shares what made him choose the project.

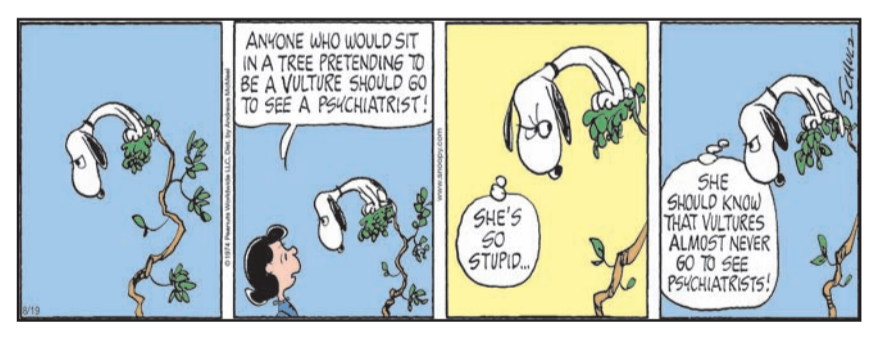
Piyush: "It was a well-written story

and for me writing matters. When it comes to my character, it is quite layered and filled with complexity. I am only interested in playing complex characters."

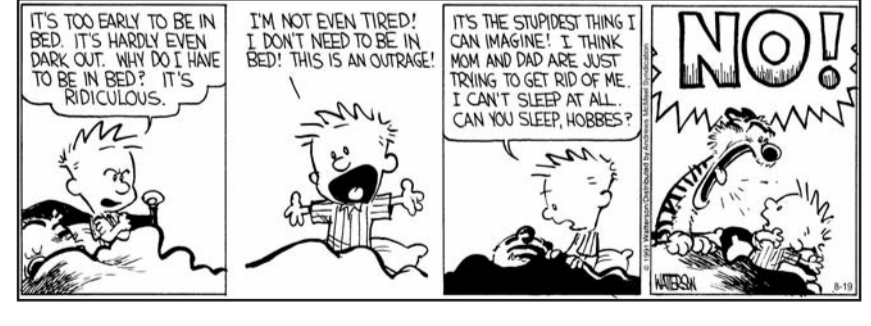
Giving more insight he added, "My character is coming from Lucknow to Mumbai, with the hope to have a good life. Even though financially he has become stable and built a family with a wife, three children, emotionally all of them have drifted apart. Mumbai turned out a city for them that dissolved a lot of happiness from them. It is exactly what happens to salt, it gets dissolved into the water."



PEANUTS



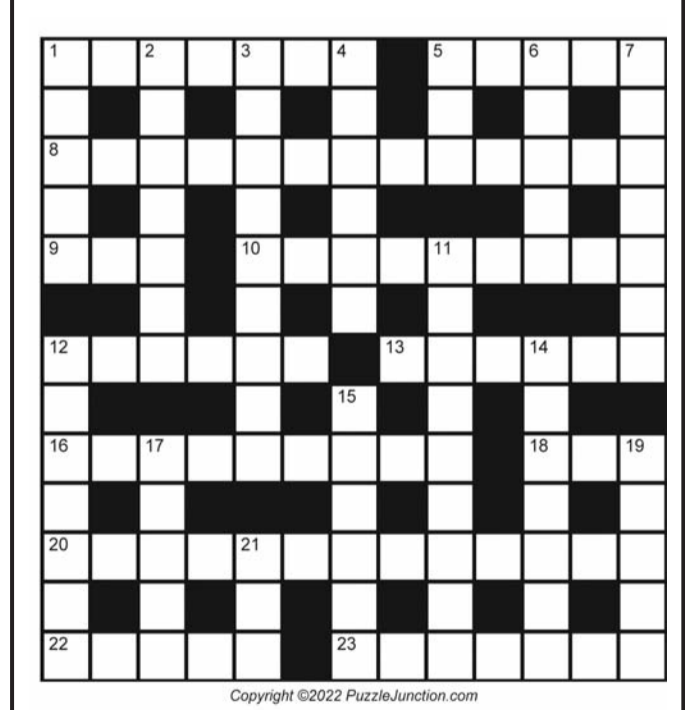
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



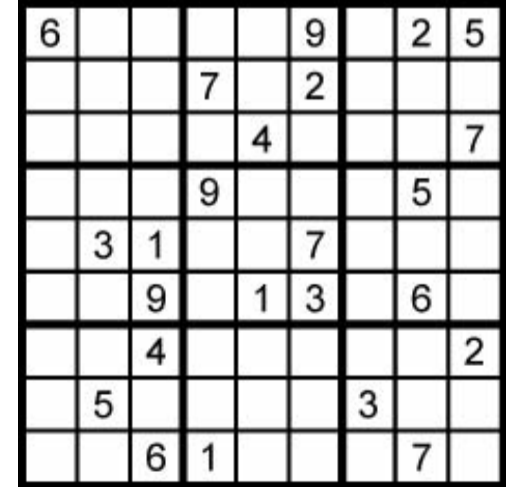
FUN post CROSSWORD



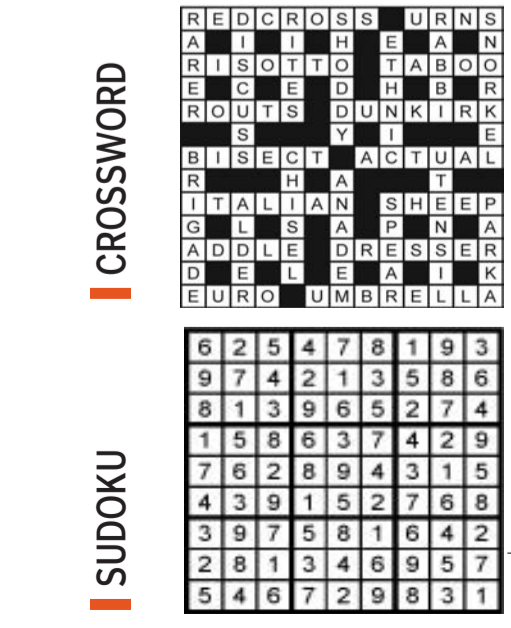
- Copyright ©2022 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Kind of seeds
 - 5 Coffee shop order
 - 8 Deserving of severe rebuke
 - 9 Samurai's sash
 - 10 Long distance runner's forte
 - 12 Spotted wildcat
 - 13 Like some movie stars
 - 16 Some of Shakespeare's plays
 - 18 Flue residue
 - 20 Amusement park game (9,4)
 - 22 Faithful
 - 23 Show off
 - 4 Rates of return
 - 5 Pas' mates
 - 6 Rustic digs
 - 7 Eternal
 - 11 Old runabouts
 - 12 The best
 - 14 Hot, in Vegas (2,1,4)
 - 15 Kind of assets
 - 17 Nettle
 - 19 Substantial
 - 21 Cobbler's tool
- Down**
- 1 Kind of vessel
 - 2 Tortoise, for one
 - 3 Decrepit

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



RAJA FEST

Artistes perform traditional dance during celebration of Raja Bhawan in Puri, Thursday

COVID-19 TRACKER			
	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	54,26,77,962	51,79,94,570	63,37,092
India	4,32,57,730	4,26,74,712	5,24,803
Odisha	12,88,737	12,79,398	9,126

SIT to probe jumbo death at Athagarh

The tusker died Tuesday and it had sustained gunshot wounds on the ear, trunk, neck, and legs June 7

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 16: A day after the Centre sought an action taken report (ATR) from the state government on the killing of a young tusker allegedly by poachers in Cuttack district, the Forest department Thursday formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the incident.

The SIT would also investigate the recovery of skeletal parts of three other jumbos from Athagarh forest division area in Cuttack district recently, officials said.

The office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) said that a three-member SIT headed by the Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) will comprise a wildlife conservator and a senior officer of the Odisha Crime Branch.

The Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of Athagarh will no longer be a part of the investigation, they said.

The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, in a letter to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife)



FILE PHOTO

The office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests said that a three-member SIT headed by the Chief Conservator of Forests will comprise a wildlife conservator and a senior officer of the state Crime Branch

The SIT would also investigate the recovery of skeletal parts of three other jumbos from Athagarh forest division area in Cuttack district recently, officials said

and Wildlife Warden, had sought an ATR from the state forest department on the death of a 10-year-old male elephant due to gunshot wounds in Athagarh forest division of Cuttack district.

The Centre had also suggested to the state government to take strict action against the poachers

and persons involved in the killing of the elephant.

It suggested that legal action be initiated against the culprits under the provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

The tusker died Tuesday and it had sustained gunshot wounds on the ear, trunk, neck, and legs June 7.

Union Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change Bhupendra Yadav pointed out Wednesday that elephant has been given the highest protection under Wild Life Protection Act.

"The Ministry has taken cognizance of the incident and the matter has been taken up with the state government for strict action against the poachers to ensure protection of our wildlife heritage," he tweeted.

Yadav's tweet was in response to Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's tweet on the death of the elephant.

The Forest department officials also Tuesday found skeletal remains of one more elephant from Chandragiri reserve forest under Badamba range of Athagarh forest division.

Earlier this month, a team of the special task force (STF) of state Crime Branch had exhumed the skeletons of two jumbos from a place on the foothills of Chandragiri hills in the Gopinathpur section of the same forest range.

State logs 41 new Cov cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 16: Odisha recorded 41 new Coronavirus cases Thursday, 19 more than the previous day, taking the tally to 12,88,737, the state Health department said in a bulletin.

The toll remained at 9,126 as there was no more death due to the pathogen in the last 24 hours. Fifty-three other Coronavirus patients have died due to comorbidities so far in state. There are 177 active Covid-19 cases and 30 more people recuperated from the disease, taking the total number of recoveries to 12,79,381, the department said.

The coastal state's daily TPR stood at 0.41 per cent as the new infections were detected from 10,556 samples tested, it added.

Cong protest against 'vendetta politics'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 16: Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee leaders and party workers Thursday staged a mass protest in front of the Raj Bhawan in the capital city against the atrocities of Delhi police and vendetta politics of BJP government against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

The party leaders here decried the Enforcement Directorate's interrogation of Gandhi and the imposition of section 144 in front of the Congress headquarters. "We strongly condemn the manner in which Delhi police forcibly entered Congress headquarters at 24 Akbar Road and did not allow party workers to enter it," said OPCS president Sarat Patnaik and added those protesting the police action were



Congress leaders stage a dharna near Raj Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

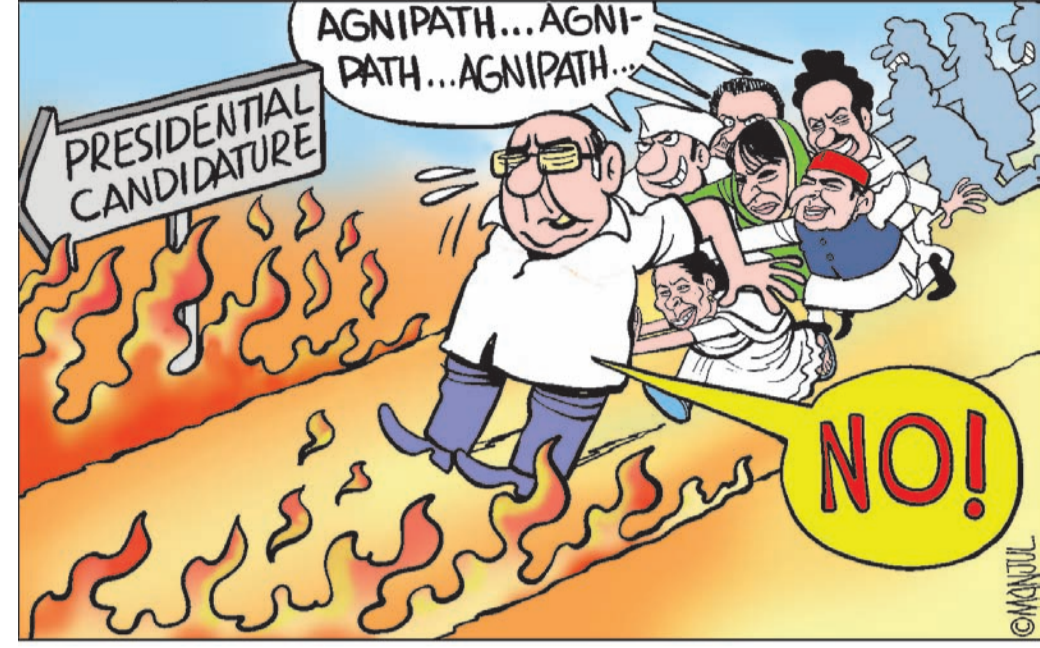
charged with baton.

Patnaik accused the central government of indulging in diversionary tactics by diverting people's attention from real issues like price rise and unemployment and re-

sorting to vendetta politics.

He informed that on June 17, all the district Congress committees will hold peaceful demonstrations in front of Central government offices at district headquarters.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Minor found dead under mysterious circumstances

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 16: A 16-year-old boy was found dead under mysterious circumstances near a pit at Panda Park slum in Niladri Vihar area of the city here Thursday.

The deceased has been identified as Daityaraj Nayak, the youngest child of Judhistir Nayak of the slum. Judhistir works as an auto-rickshaw driver in capital city.

According to sources, Judhistir had Tuesday lodged a complaint at Chandrasekharpur police station about the disappearance of his son. The police had launched a probe into the matter after registering a case (202/22) in this regard.

Some local youths Thursday came across foul smell while playing near the pit in the afternoon. They later found Daityaraj's body. The body was reportedly stuffed in a gunny bag, sources said.

On being informed, the police

THE DECEASED HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS DAITYARAJ NAYAK, THE YOUNGEST CHILD OF JUDHISTIR NAYAK OF THE PANDA PARK SLUM

JUDHISTIR HAD TUESDAY LODGED A COMPLAINT AT CHANDRASEKHARPUR POLICE STATION ABOUT THE DISAPPEARANCE OF HIS SON

SOME LOCAL YOUTHS THURSDAY CAME ACROSS FOUL SMELL WHILE PLAYING NEAR THE PIT IN THE AFTERNOON. THEY LATER FOUND DAITYARAJ'S BODY. THE BODY WAS REPORTEDLY STUFFED IN A GUNNY BAG

reached the spot and recovered the body which was later sent to the Capital Hospital for postmortem. The police officials, however, denied recovering the body from the gunny bag. The autopsy on the body is scheduled to be held Friday, sources

said. The deceased's family members, meanwhile, claimed that one of Daityaraj's friends had handed over his phone to them at 10.30 pm Monday without saying anything regarding the minor boy.

Later, the boy's family informed Daityaraj's mother that her son along with a few others had gone to Puri. The deceased's family members lodged a missing complaint with police after they failed to trace him, sources said.

The family members have alleged that a few of Daityaraj's friends killed the minor boy after kidnapping him Monday night.

"We have sent the body for post-mortem. After receiving the post-mortem report, we can ascertain whether it was a case of murder or not. The deceased's father had lodged a complaint mentioning that the boy left home after giving his phone to one of his friends Monday night," said Chandrasekharpur police station IIC Pradipta Kumar Rout.

SERVICE TO THE LORD



Servitors prepare Pana, a traditional drink, for the Anasara rituals of Srimandir deities in Puri, Thursday

OP PHOTO

BMC rolls up sleeves as dengue cases soar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 16: Observing a gradual rise in dengue cases in state Capital, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Thursday decided to ramp up awareness and fogging activities in the affected areas and other parts of the City.

As per sources, while six cases of dengue were identified until a week ago, the figures doubled with about 12 cases now being detected. While seven of these cases were observed in Chandrasekharpur, other cases have been reported from Damana and Niladri Vihar.

"Thermal fogging has been completed from Ward no. 1 to 14. We have planned to complete the same in ward 15, 16 and 17. Sensitisation programmes will also be increased to make people aware no to keep stagnant water on their terraces, corridors or any place, which can turn into a breeding ground for mos-



quitoes," said Additional District Urban Public Health Officer (ADUPHO) Antaryami Mishra. It can be mentioned that the capital city saw the largest number of dengue cases in the state last year with more than 1,000 cases recorded. As per information provided by

the BMC, about 700 cases were observed between June and August. "BMC's health wing has been destroying mosquito larvae on a daily basis around the affected households, especially in Chandrasekharpur and Damana areas in the north zone. Anti-lar-

While six cases of dengue were identified until a week ago, the figures doubled with about 12 cases now being detected

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It can be mentioned that the capital city saw the largest number of dengue cases in the state last year with more than 1,000 cases recorded

ADR: No criminal case against 3 newly-elected Rajya Sabha MPs

The report stated that **Sulata Deo** has assets over ₹1 crore while **Sasmit Patra** has total assets over ₹2 crore. **Manas Ranjan Mangaraj** has total assets over ₹8 crore



POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, June 16: An analysis by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) stated that there has been no criminal case registered against the three newly-elected Rajya Sabha MPs from Odisha, namely Sulata Deo, Sasmit Patra and Manas Ranjan Mangaraj.

The ADR has analysed the affidavits of all 57 newly-elected Rajya Sabha MPs.

The ADR analysis further stated that all the three newly-elected MPs from Odisha have assets in

crores. The report stated that Sulata Deo has assets over Rs 1 crore while Sasmit Patra has total assets over Rs 2 crore. Manas Ranjan Mangaraj has total assets over Rs 8 crore.

The ADR stated that out of 57 newly-elected MPs, 53 have assets in crores and 23 have criminal cases registered against them.

Notably, the biennial elections to Rajya Sabha were held June 10 to fill 57 seats in the Upper House across 15 states. Of them, 41 candidates belonging to various parties in 11 states, including three BJD candidates, had won unopposed.

Study blames long Covid for acute hepatitis cases in kids

Long Covid may be responsible for the global acute hepatitis in kids that has so far no known cause, suggests a study. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the mysterious case of acute hepatitis in kids has infected over 700 children in 34 countries and has also claimed 10 lives.

First reported in the UK in April, the cause behind the liver disease remains unknown. So far, the five viruses - A, B, C, D and E - that commonly cause hepatitis have not been detected in any of these cases.

Initially, adenovirus - a common family of infections responsible for illnesses from colds to eye infections - was suspected to be causing the condition. But adenovirus 41 was ruled out as the culprit because it has never been known to cause hepatitis in children who do not have weakened immune systems.

The new study, published in the

Journal of Paediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition, suggests some children might develop liver inflammation in the weeks after recovering from a mild Covid-19 infection.

The study, led by Israeli researchers including from the Tel Aviv University, reported five paediatric patients who recovered from Covid-19 and were later diagnosed with liver injury.

Two types of clinical presentation were distinguishable. Two infants aged three and five months, previously healthy, were diagnosed with acute liver failure that rapidly progressed to liver transplantation.

"Their liver explant showed massive necrosis with cholangiolar proliferation and lymphocytic infiltrate," the researchers wrote in the paper.

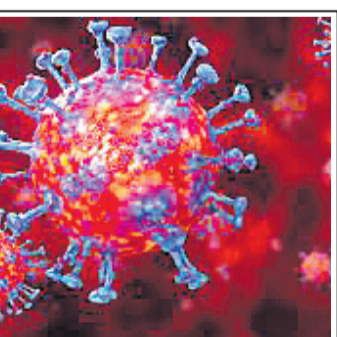
Further, three children - two aged eight years and one aged 13 years - were diagnosed with hepatitis with cholestasis, a type of

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Further, three children - two aged eight years and one aged 13 years - were diagnosed with hepatitis with cholestasis, a type of liver disease

liver disease. All three were started on steroid treatment after which their liver enzymes improved, the team said.

According to the team, liver injury has been commonly recorded in adult patients with severe Covid infections. They noted that chil-

also reported acute hepatitis among children during pandemic. The first study led by a team at the Bundelkhand Medical College (BMC) in Madhya Pradesh and the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Research in Chandigarh examined 475 children who tested positive for Covid in April 2021. The findings posted on a preprint server, meaning not peer-reviewed yet, showed that 37 children (about 8 per cent) had Covid Acquired Hepatitis (CAH).

The second study, published in the Journal of Paediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition, observed a previously healthy three-year-old girl who developed acute liver failure a few weeks after recovering from a mild Covid infection.

Hepatitis is an inflammation and damage of the liver that affects a variety of body functions. It can be detected by the onset of jaundice (yellow eyes), dark urine and/or pale stool.

CONTINUED FROM P1

'Agnipath' sparks fire

CPI general secretary D Raja tweeted, "Finding jobs has become literally a 'Path of Fire' under Modi. Govt is trying to hoodwink the restive youth by #AgnipathScheme. It'll make our army contract based & jeopardise the future of our youth. It should be withdrawn immediately! Youth deserve proper, secure jobs!"

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, BSP leader Mayawati and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal also voiced displeasure over the scheme which the government insists is "transformative". There was the lone voice of disapproval from the BJP-MP Varun Gandhi - who said the new reform will give rise to more disaffection among the youth.

In a letter to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, he said young population has shared their questions and doubts with him about the radical changes in the recruitment which also proposes that 75 per cent of recruits will retire after four years of service without pension.

However, Union minister and BJP leader Ashwini Kumar Choubey urged the youth protesting against the Agnipath scheme to stop their agitation and keep away from those inciting them, as he asserted that the initiative is in their interest and that of the armed forces and the country.

Choubey, a senior party leader from Bihar where protests started first on Wednesday also claimed that some people are using students for their own political gains.

In a statement, he said Prime Minister Narendra Modi always thinks and works for the welfare of the youth and the nation.

"We assure you that this programme is a constructive step to bring in long-term positive results. Lakhs of youngsters will not only benefit from this but nationalistic sentiments within them will also be strengthened," Choubey said.

Three municipal corporations get new commissioners

The new Collectors of other districts include Somesh Kumar Upadhyay (Deogarh), P Anvesha Reddy (Kalahandi), Patil Ashish Ishwar (Kandhamal) and Hema Kanta Say (Nuapada).

Sudhansu Mohan Samal, who was serving as Deogarh Collector, has been shifted to Water Resources department as joint secretary, while Brundha D, who was posted as Kandhamal Collector, will serve as Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL) Managing Director. Khurda Collector Sangram Keshari Mohapatra will serve as Odisha Adarsh Vidyalaya Project Director. Rayagada collector Saroj Kumar Mishra has been transferred to home department while Bhadrak collector Trilochan Majhi has been posted in revenue department.

IAS officer Prem Chandra Chaudhary has been appointed as the new Agriculture and Food Production Director.

Among the junior IAS officers, Keerthi Vasan V has been posted as new project director of district rural development agency, Ganjam while Suryawanshi Mayur Vikas has been transferred as additional commissioner of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation. Agrawal Akshay Sunil has been posted in general administration department.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Dharmendra Kumar Meher, S/o. Dasharath Meher & Smt. Udian Meher, Village/P.O.: Bheden, Dist.: Bargarh, Odisha - 768104. My parents DOB (Father - 9 Jan. 1949 & Mother - 5 Feb. 1952) are correct as per Aadhaar Card, that affidavit on 10th June 2022 that was used for all purposes.

Murder accused on the run for 24 years nabbed in Ganjam

Sankar is accused in at least 13 cases, including two murders in 1998, 10 attempts to murder and one theft case, police said



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

During the 24 years of his life on the run, Sankar worked as a daily wage labourer in Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Surat and Kerala, Khallikote Inspector in-charge Jagannath Mallick said

Berhampur, June 16: After leading a life on the run for over two decades, a 42-year-old man, wanted in several criminal cases including two murders, was finally caught in his own village in Ganjam district, police said Thursday.

Acting on a tip-off, police nabbed Sankar Biswal from Tulasipur village in Khallikote Police Station area Tuesday during one of his visits to meet his family, Superintendent of Police Brijesh Rai said, adding he was working as a daily wage labourer in Kerala.

He is accused in at least 13 cases, including two murders in 1998, 10

attempts to murder and one theft case, Rai said.

Earlier, several attempts were made to nab him but he succeeded in giving the slip to the police every time. A team was also sent to Kerala to arrest him but failed to achieve their objective, the SP said.

During the 24 years of his life on the run, Sankar worked as a daily wage labourer in Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Surat and Kerala, Khallikote Inspector in-charge Jagannath Mallick said.

Sankar, who often visited his village, is married and father of three children, he said. "We will verify his criminal records in other police stations as well," Mallick added.

COLOURS, CRAYONS & CHILDREN



Children participated in a drawing competition held by Tailika Baisya Samaj as part of Raja celebrations at Saheed Bhawan in Cuttack, Thursday

OP PHOTO

Similipal National Park closed for tourists

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, June 16: The Similipal Tiger Reserve in Mayurbhanj district will remain closed for visitors for four months starting from Thursday, the national park authorities informed.

All ecotourism complexes inside Tiger Reserve will remain closed for visitors while the date of re-opening will be notified later. Operation of jungle safari vehicles

will also remain closed during the period.

The closure is a part of regular management practices of the Tiger Reserve. Notably, the National Park remains closed for tourists every year during monsoon and reopens in October or November depending on its withdrawal. It is done as the roads get washed away due to rain.

The operation of the jungle safari vehicles have also been closed

Spread over 2,750 square km, the Tiger Reserve was set up in 1973 and was declared as a wildlife sanctuary in 1979

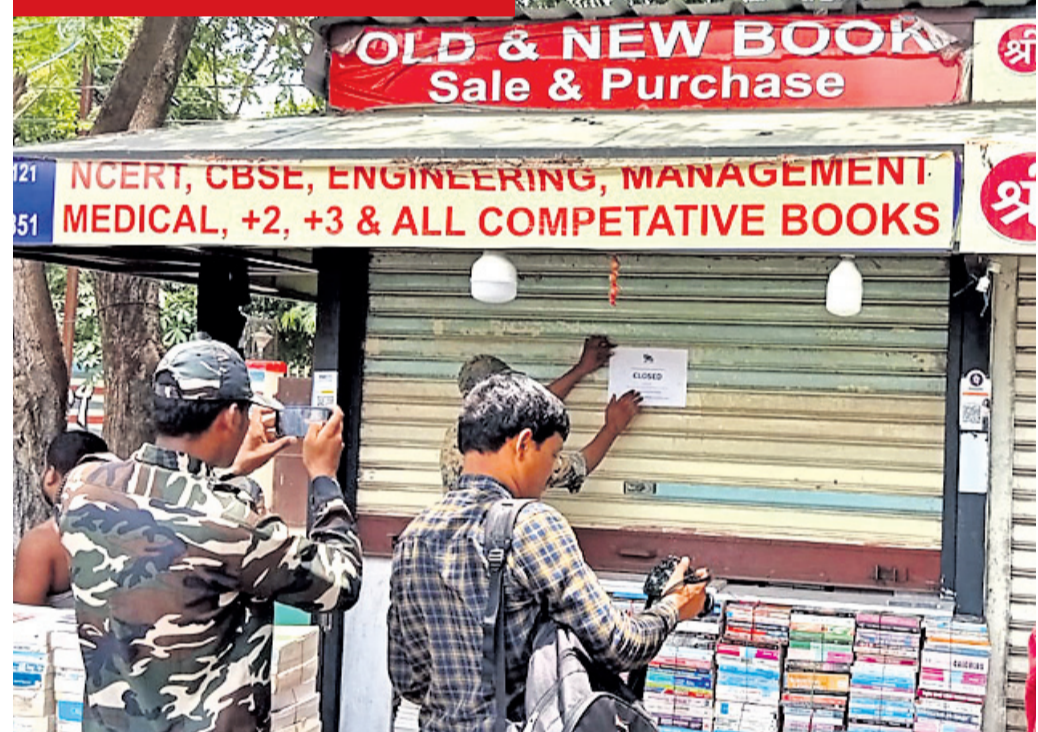
from Thursday. The date of re-opening of the Tiger Reserve will be notified later.

Usually the Tiger Reserve along with the national park and ad-

joining wildlife sanctuary are closed by mid-June for tourists during this period every year.

Spread over 2,750 square km, the Tiger Reserve was set up in 1973. It was declared as a wildlife sanctuary in 1979. The Tiger Reserve has rich wildlife and many picturesque places to visit including Chahala, Barehipani, Jaranda, Naana, Gududia and Jamuani. Similipal attracts thousands of visitors every year.

END TO ENCROACHMENT



The Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited (BSCL) Thursday ordered shutdown of ten book stores between Master Canteen square and Maharshi Square at Janpath over illegal expansion of business to footpath

OP PHOTO

CM to inaugurate KISS Residential School in Kalahandi

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 16: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will inaugurate the Kalahandi branch of The Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) residential school for tribal students June 17.

Kandhamal MP Achyuta Samanta, a well-known educationist and social entrepreneur who founded the first tribal residential school in Bhubaneswar, will attend the inauguration along with Kalahandi MP Basanta Kumar Panda and Rajya Sabha MP Sujit Kumar Samanta is also the founder of KIIT, a premier institute in Odisha.

The sprawling eco-friendly and Wi-Fi green campus has come up at Badli under Bhawanipatna Block in the Kalahandi District. KIIT has built the campus in the 1,20,000 square feet area with an investment of ₹50 crore. The residential school has a mechanized kitchen and a 25-bed hospital among other facilities.

NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020

AIPH to focus on skill-based vocational edu in state

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 16: With a view to reshaping and revamping various aspects of undergraduate education system in the county, Asian Institute of Public Health University (AIPH), Bhubaneswar organised a workshop on the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 Thursday.

Speaking on this occasion AP Dash, the Vice-Chancellor of the university, said, "It is our commitment to offer quality education and a learning environment for the students and researchers."

This is a step forward in the adoption of NEP at AIPH University as a part of our commitment to offer quality education and a learning environment for the students and researchers, Dr Das remarked. He emphasised the need to provide skill-based vocational educa-

tion as well as Indian traditional value education.

The NEP 2020, which was recently formulated by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, is based on the pillars of Access, Equity, Quality and Accountability. It envisages broad-based, multi-disciplinary, holistic Under Graduate education with flexible curricula, creative combinations of subjects, integration of vocational education and multiple entry and exit options with appropriate certification.

It is all set to change the background of Higher Education institutions in the current academic year with focus on research and innovation. The student-centric policy, which gives the freedom to choose subjects, can also be specific state centric, despite having been formulated for pan-Indian educational system.

India ranks 3rd for total renewable additions in '21

The 2022 report, released Wednesday, is the 17th consecutive edition and provides proof of what experts have been warning about: the overall share of renewables in the world's final energy consumption has stagnated - rising only minimally from 10.6 per cent in 2009 to 11.7 per cent in 2019 - and the global shift of the energy system to renewables is not happening

Despite the promise of a worldwide green recovery in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, this historic opportunity has been lost, says a report, but India ranked third globally for total renewable power capacity additions with 15.4 GW in 2021, following only China (136 GW) and the US (43 GW).

REN21's Renewables 2022 Global Status Report (GSR 2022) sends a clear warning that the global clean energy transition is not happening, making it unlikely that the world will be able to meet critical climate goals this decade.

The second half of 2021 saw the beginning of the biggest energy crisis in modern history, exacerbated by the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine in early 2022 and unprecedented

global commodity shock.

"Although many more governments committed to net zero greenhouse gas emissions in 2021, the reality is that, in response to the energy crisis, most countries have gone back to seeking out new sources of fossil fuels and to burning even more coal, oil and natural gas," said Rana Adib, REN21 Executive Director.

According to the report, India added 843 MW of hydropower capacity in 2021, raising the total capacity to 45.3 GW.

India was the second largest market in Asia for new solar PV capacity and third globally (13 GW of additions in 2021). It ranked fourth for total installations (60.4 GW), overtaking Germany (59.2 GW) for the first time.

India ranked third globally for the total installed capacity of wind



power (40.1 GW), behind China, the US and Germany. The GSR annually takes stock of renewable energy deployment worldwide.

The 2022 report, released Wednesday, is the 17th consecutive edition and provides proof of what experts have been warning about: the overall share of renewables in the world's final energy consumption has stagnated - rising only minimally from 10.6 per cent in 2009 to 11.7 per cent in 2019 - and the global shift of the energy system to renewables is not happening.

In the electricity sector, record additions in renewable power capacity (314.5 gigawatts, up 17 per cent from 2020) and generation (7,793 terawatt-hours) were unable to meet the overall increase in electricity consumption of six per cent. In heating and cooling, the renewable share in final energy consumption increased from 8.9 per cent in 2009 to 11.2 per cent in 2019.

In the transport sector, where the renewable share went from 2.4 per cent in 2009 to 3.7 per cent in 2019, the lack of progress is particularly worrying, as the sector ac-

counts for nearly a third of global energy consumption.

For the first time, the GSR 2022 provides a world map of renewable energy shares by country and highlights progress in some of the leading countries.

Despite many new commitments to net zero, political momentum has not translated into action. In the lead-up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in November 2021, a record 135 countries pledged to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. However, only 84 of these countries had economy-wide targets for renewable energy, and only 36 had targets for 100 per cent renewables.

For the first time in the history of UN climate summits, the COP26 declaration mentioned the need to reduce coal use, but it failed to call for targeted reductions in either coal or fossil fuels.

The GSR 2022 makes clear that meeting countries' net zero pledges will require massive efforts, and that the momentum associated with Covid-19 has passed untapped.

Despite important green recovery measures in many countries, the strong economic rebound in

2021 - with global real gross domestic product (GDP) growing 5.9 per cent - contributed to a four per cent rise in final energy consumption, offsetting the growth of renewables.

In China alone, final energy consumption rose 36 per cent between 2009 and 2019. Most of the increase in global energy use in 2021 was met by fossil fuels, resulting in the largest surge in carbon dioxide emissions in history, up more than 2 billion tonnes worldwide. The collapse of the old energy order threatens the global economy.

The year 2021 also marked the end of the era of cheap fossil fuels, with the largest spike in energy prices since the 1973 oil crisis. By the end of the year, gas prices reached around 10 times the 2020 levels in Europe and Asia and tripled in the US, leading to a spike in wholesale electricity prices in major markets by the end of 2021.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine deeply aggravated the unfolding energy crisis, causing an unprecedented commodity shock-wave that weighed heavily on global economic growth, rattling the more than 136 countries that are reliant on fossil fuel imports.

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HOPES SOAR FOR GI TAG

Special plans afoot for Kuchinda chilli farmers

SPICES BOARD OF INDIA (SBI) LAB REPORT FINDS IT TO BE 'BEST IN INDIA'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, June 16: Special plans are afoot for the benefit of Kuchinda chilli farmers in this district to help them increase their income by increasing the chilli supply to firms outside of the state, a report said.

This was stated here by ex-Collector Dibyajyoti Parida while speaking to mediapersons. This assumes significance as the Spices Board of India (SBI) in a report found the quality of Kuchinda chilli as the best in the country. The report by SBI has soared hopes on obtaining Geographical Indication (GI) tag for the famous Kuchinda chilli.

The district administration here has initiated steps to get the recognition for Kuchinda red chilli, popularly known as 'Bamra chilli'.

The chilli has earned a distinct identity like Guntur chilli over the years. Earlier, traders from across the country camped at Kuchinda to procure the chilli, but lack of promotion and marketing facilities is forcing farmers to opt out of cultivation.

The SBI conducted an examination of the Kuchinda chilli in two phases from September, 2021 and found the colour and pungency of Kuchinda



chilli to be far more superior to many other chillies with the GI tag in India.

The chilli specific to the Kuchinda region of this Western-Odisha district is very hot in nature and is cultivated by the local farmers as a cash crop. Though the locals and farmers have been demanding a GI tag for the spice since years, it could not be materialised owing to alleged administrative apathy.

The report was published after the ORMAS (Odisha Rural Development and Marketing Society) sent some samples to the lab for quality testing. The GI tag when received will help

the farmers export their produce to outside of the country and help the Kuchinda chilli earn a name.

The Collector said that apart from chilli, the ginger, litchi and mangoes cultivated in Kuchinda region are of superior quality for which they have a high market demand. The district administration has initiated steps to provide seeds to the farmers for cultivation and help them in procurement.

The cultivated chilli are procured from the farmers by the regulated market committees (RMC) and women self-help groups (SHGs) and trans-

The chilli specific to the Kuchinda region of this Western-Odisha district is very hot in nature and is cultivated by the local farmers as a cash crop

Though the locals and farmers have been demanding a GI tag for the spice since years, it could not be materialised owing to alleged administrative apathy

SBI found the colour and pungency of Kuchinda chilli to be far more superior to many other chillies with the GI tag in India

ported outside for sale to various firms, he said.

The quantity of chilli collected from the farmers will be increased in coming days for which talks are on with various firms outside of the state. This will help the farmers in getting the right price for their harvest which will help them increase their income, the Collector said.

A processing unit has been established at Kuchinda for preparation of chilli powder. The unit is being operated by women self-help groups, the Collector added.

Reports said that an IAS probationer Ashutosh Kulkarni posted in

the district had applied for GI tag for Kuchinda chilli in September, 2021 which was then published in Orissa POST.

The first report came out in February, 2021 while second report was published recently. In these two reports, the Kuchinda chilli has received favourable response from SBI.

Sources said chilli cultivation is the mainstay of farmers in Kuchinda region with over 12,000 farmers engaged in the cultivation. The cultivation is done over 7,845 hectare of land in both rabi and kharif seasons.

They sell per quintal of chilli from ₹3,000 to ₹3,500. A chilli powder processing plant has been established in the region to make the farmers self-reliant and to increase the cultivable area for chilli.

The chilli powder manufactured in this plant is sold ₹15,000 per quintal.

According to researchers, chilli cultivation became popular in Kuchinda in 1901 when the area was part of Bamanda (Deogarh) kingdom.

The erratic and deficit rainfall in the region led the then king of Bamanda Basudev Sudhal Dev to substitute paddy crop with chilli cultivation to tide over farm crisis. It later proved to be a long term solution.

RELIEF AT LAST



Girls carrying water pots were caught amid the monsoon rains in Niyamgiri area under Muniguda block of Rayagada district

12-hour bandh in Balasore over chinks in law & order

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, June 16: Alleging disruption of law and order situation in Balasore, various outfits and political parties peacefully observed a 12-hour bandh here Thursday.

Vehicle traffic was severely hit on several roads and shops were shut across the Balasore town due to the bandh.

The bandh call was given by various organisations protesting 'deteriorating law and order situation' in the town.

Holding placards and expressing resentment over police inaction on checking crimes in Balasore, the protesters hit the streets at 6 am at many places. Earlier, various outfits had appealed to people in Balasore town to extend their support to the shutdown against several key issues including continued drug trafficking, theft and murders and criminal activities posing threat to public life.

In support of the bandh, leaders from different outfits staged protests in various parts of the coastal town. No commercial establishments in



the town were open.

Agitating people shouted slogans and resorted to picketing at Station Chhak, Fakirmohan Golei, Phandi Chhak, Golapkhari Chhak and Bus Stand area against police for their alleged inefficiency in curbing the crimes.

Transport labourers, street vendors, auto rickshaw operators and taxi drivers supported the bandh.

The District Bar Association and Balasore Civil Society had called the bandh in protest against the rising cases of theft, robbery, loot, snatching, murders, and drugs trafficking across the district.

IT RAIDS ON MINE OWNER'S PREMISES

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dharmasala, June 16: Officials of the Income Tax department conducted raids on the residence of mine's owner Sribas Jena at Sarei under Dharmasala block in Jajpur Thursday. Simultaneous raids were also conducted on the offices and stone crushing units owned by other mines' owners linked with Jena.

Reports said, IT officials accompanied by two platoons of police raided Jena's Sarei residence, his commercial office Konark Transports at Jaraka and various stone crushing units owned by him in Dankari area.

However, IT officials kept mum on the reasons for the surprise raids on Jena.

It may be noted here that Jena

had resorted to excessive mining of black stone from Dankari hill from March 3, 2002 till 2016. The mining scam committed by Jena was probed by the Deputy Director of Mines, Jajpur Road. The investigation had then revealed that Jena had mined huge quantities of black stone beyond the permissible limits and had evaded huge amount of tax. The Dharmasala 28, 2016, had directed Jena to deposit over ₹58.62 crore towards penalty. Challenging the penalty, Jena had moved court. Meanwhile, six years have passed, but Jena has not yet deposited the penalty amount. It was suspected that IT raids had a lot to do with his mining activities and tax evasion.

आईआरईएन (इंडिया) लिमिटेड
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FORM A
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
(Under Regulation 6 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016)
FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE CREDITORS OF INDUS INTEGRATED INFORMATION MANAGEMENT LIMITED

RELEVANT PARTICULARS

1. Name of corporate debtor	Indus Integrated Information Management Limited
2. Date of incorporation of corporate debtor	04/07/2003
3. Authority under which corporate debtor is incorporated / registered	ROC-Kolkata
4. Corporate Identity No. / Limited Liability Identification No. of corporate debtor	U72200WB2003PLC096523
5. Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of corporate debtor	7th Floor, Raj Premier, Plot No.37, Block- EN Sector V, Salt Lake City Kolkata, WB 700091
6. Insolvency commencement date in respect of corporate debtor	15th June 2022
7. Estimated date of closure of insolvency resolution process	11th December, 2022
8. Name and registration number of the insolvency professional acting as interim resolution professional	Kamal Nayan Jain, Reg No: IBB/IPA-001/IP-P00029/2016-2017/10065
9. Address and e-mail of the interim resolution professional, as registered with the Board	Klass Insolvency Resolution Professionals Pvt. Ltd 27 Sarat Bose Road, Vasundhara Apartment, 2nd Floor, Kolkata-700020 Email: krjain@krjainco.com
10. Address and e-mail to be used for correspondence with the interim resolution professional	Kamal Nayan Jain 27 Sarat Bose Road, Vasundhara Apartment, 2nd Floor, Kolkata-700020 Email: cirp.indus@gmail.com
11. Last date for submission of claims	29th June, 2022
12. Classes of creditors, if any, under clause (b) of sub-section (8A) of section 21, ascertained by the interim resolution professional	N/A
13. Names of Insolvency Professionals identified to act as Authorised Representative of creditors in a class (Three names for each class)	N/A
14. (a) Relevant Forms and (b) Details of authorized representatives are available at:	Web link: https://ibbi.gov.in/home/downloads Physical Address: Not Applicable

Notice is hereby given that the National Company Law Tribunal has ordered the commencement of a corporate insolvency resolution process of the Indus Integrated Information Management Limited on 15.06.2022. The creditors of Indus Integrated Information Management Limited are hereby called upon to submit their claims with proof on or before 29.06.2022 to the interim resolution professional at the address mentioned against entry No. 10. The financial creditors shall submit their claims with proof by electronic means only. All other creditors may submit the claims with proof in person, by post or by electronic means. A financial creditor belonging to a class, as listed against the entry No. 12, shall indicate its choice of authorised representative from among the three insolvency professionals listed against entry No. 13 to act as authorised representative of the class (specify class) in Form CA-N.A. Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties.

Date: 16.06.2022
Place: Kolkata

Sd./-
KAMAL NAYAN JAIN
Interim Resolution Professional
Reg No: IBB/IPA-001/IP-P00029/2016-2017/10065

SCOURGE OF SOCIAL OSTRACISATION

Family shunned by villagers for 11 yrs

The scourge of social ostracisation is so high that a few days ago one Badal Sahu of Borigaon village under Ganjam block immolated himself outside the SP office in Chhatrapur after allegedly failing to get justice from local police



The scourge of social ostracisation is so high that a few days ago one Badal Sahu of Borigaon village under Ganjam block immolated himself outside the SP office in Chhatrapur after failing to get justice from local police.

Such incidents are being noticed more and more in areas under Chhatrapur Assembly segment during last one and half months. A man of Agharam village under Sriramachandrapur panchayat and Chamakhandi police limits being socially ostracised by the village committee for last 11 years is only one among many such cases.

The matter came to fore after Patra accompanied by his family members visited Chhatrapur and submitted a memorandum to the Ganjam SP in this regard Thursday.

Patra requested the SP to lift the ostracisation order on his family members and demanded stringent action against the culprits.

He alleged that the villagers socially boycotted his family members 11 years ago and banned him from participating in any social function or programmes in the village.

Although the Chamakhandi police had intervened and lifted the ostracisation order May 21, the village committee members with the help of public address system again boycotted his family June 10, he alleged. They informed him that they will only allow him free movement in the village and lift the social boycott order on him and his family members if he pays ₹1 lakh as penalty to the village committee, Patra added.

Woman found dead; kin cry murder over dowry

POST NEWS NETWORK

Remuna, June 16: The body of a woman was found under mysterious circumstances at Chhanpur village under Remuna block in Balasore district. The deceased woman has been identified as Minakshi Behera.

Reportedly, Minakshi was married to Kashinath Behera of Chhanpur village June 6, 2021. Minakshi's in-laws used to allegedly torture her over dowry demand.

According to her family members, she took dowry worth ₹15 lakh during her marriage. However, her mother-in-law allegedly demanded ₹5 lakh more.

A day back, Minakshi had called her aunty and requested to take her back home. Soon after, Minakshi's in-laws claimed that she had committed suicide. On the other hand, Minakshi's family alleged that she was killed over dowry, but her in-laws tried to give it a form of suicide. They said that the CCTV cameras in the house of her in-laws have been damaged to destroy the proof. Following a complaint, the Industrial Police with the help of a scientific team have started an investigation into the matter.

Roadmap drawn up for Rusimala hill facelift

Rushikulya river originates from this hill and meanders through Sorada area of Ganjam district



from Tamangi village under Hatimunda panchayat Wednesday. After trekking through hilly tracks for about five kilometre, he reached the Rusimala hill.

The Rushikulya river originates from this hill and meanders through Sorada area of Ganjam district.

People and devotees from various parts of the state and even outside

manage to trek to this place during Baruni Yatra and take a holy dip here. They worship the place of origin of Rushikulya river.

Locals say devotees from peripheral areas trudge up hills to offer worship at this hallowed place. Locals have claimed that some saints and monks reside in the densely forested area.

"The state government has plans to grant tourist spot status to this sacred hilly spot. Various developmental works will be carried out," the BDO said.

It was stated that the district tourism department in a letter to the BDO had urged him to collect data about the hills. The BDO walked five kilometre through the hills. His visit is the first ever official visit to the inaccessible area.

"There is need for a lot of development of the area. I will submit a detailed report about the topography of the area to the district tourism department. Accordingly, a roadmap of development for the place will be drawn up," the BDO said. The BDO's visit has brought cheers among the locals who have been leading a miserable life in this remote area.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Daringbadi, June 16: Rusimala hill, a picturesque abode of nature, is tucked away amid the dense forests and hills under Daringbadi block of Kandhamal district.

The government is keen on developing this pristine place, which is still inaccessible to public. Daringbadi BDO Gadadhar Patra undertook an arduous journey through hilly terrains

FOCUS UKRAINE WAR

CONSEQUENCES FOR INDIA



If Taiwan falls, India could most probably be the next target. Does New Delhi have a strategy in store for such an eventuality? We do hope it has, even though we cannot see it

China. The US has declared to militarily defend Taiwan. The outcome of the Ukraine war will largely shape the strategic future of Taiwan. It is because Ukraine war in public perception is a proxy war between Russia and the West. So if Russia takes over Ukraine or makes it a protectorate, the West loses the battle.

The geopolitical scenario that may emerge in the wake of the war is the push for retrieving the bipolar world order. China backed by Russia would like to replace the US as numero uno world power. Short of that, Beijing will want a bipolar world with leadership and influence shared between itself and Washington. Important to remember that world order changes, history repeats, albeit in different forms. We witnessed a kind of world order dominated by Germany from 1914-46; from 46 to 91, a bipolar world led by the US and Soviet Union, since 91 a unipolar world led by the US.

India has been advocating a multipolar world, a scenario not supported by history. Even the national interest of India seems complicated. New Delhi continues its unviable flirtation with strategic autonomy, an euphemism for the obsolete concept of non-alignment. India also is acquiring a new nomenclature called a hybrid ally, cooperating in some, and not cooperating with other issues. New Delhi is part of the Quad as well as a member of SCO. New Delhi perhaps hopes to blunt the belligerence of China by being friendly. Nehru's Hindi-Chini Bhai-Bhai, and 'swing and stroll diplomacy' of Modi have made no impact on Chinese appetite for Indian territories. If Taiwan falls, India could most probably be the next target. Does New Delhi have a strategy in store for such an eventuality? We do hope it has, even though we cannot see it.

The writer is Professor of International Relations, JIMMFC.

The war in Ukraine continues unabated. There are no signs of a ceasefire or conclusion to the deadly and devastating war. There are, however, serious repercussions of the war on the world, including India. It is critically important to mitigate these repercussions and reckon with the unfolding political and strategic scenarios across the world. Here is an attempt to discern those and deal with them.

One of the foreseeable consequences is food shortages leading even to famines and resultant social and political unrest. Ukraine has been the 'grain bowl' of the world. The production of food grain has been disrupted and the supply of available stock is interrupted by the war. Many countries are feeling the pinch of inflation, facing fuel and food scarcities causing social unrest and political instability. Our immediate neighbour Sri Lanka is a case in point.

Even European countries could go into recession. India has managed to buy some oil from Russia but India-Russia bilateral transactions may not hold for long as the rivalry between the West and Russia deepens. China is increasingly being shunned by Western countries. Beijing is in cahoots with Moscow as it competes with the West, mainly the USA for leadership space in world politics. Hence, there are plans to create alternative supply chains. India could play a big part in this because of its population marginally next to China who could potentially constitute the world's manufacturing hub and a market if a conducive context is created. Apparently, the existing supply chain pivoted by China is being restructured. As said, India could be a major link in a new supply chain, but not an automatic one. Other countries like South Korea, Taiwan and Indonesia are in waiting. India needs to reset its priorities if it wants to restructure the supply chain and be a part of it.

The other scenario could be, Russia, in desperation, extends its

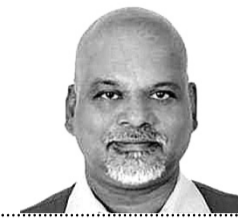
armed support and intervention to Georgia, Libya, Syria, Moldova, and such hotspots. Moscow has to make its presence felt by flexing its military muscles. Apart from other reasons for the war, displaying the military might was one such driver for Putin to invade Ukraine.

In economic terms, Russia will perform play a junior partner to China. In the face of sanctions by the West, Moscow's dependence on Beijing for trade and investment will increase. The other contrary possibility could be that China distances itself from Russia, the pariah state and builds its alliance with other countries instead. However, it is unlikely since China wants Russia as a strategic ally and market for investment.

The Western democracies and NATO allies have closed ranks, thanks to the Ukraine war. Countries like Germany and France, which were pursuing their own trade and foreign policies have remarkably come closer to the US-led bloc. It is an open secret that Western European countries were quietly carrying on with China and Russia in trade and investment. They were alarmed only recently as Beijing opened its military fangs to bite into other countries' territories - India, Philippines, Japan, Taiwan and others, and its ally Russia invaded

Ukraine. The West represents the 'club of democracy' as Russia and China have the rule of autocracy. It is another matter that the West failed to foresee the risk in creating an economic Frankenstein out of China. The monster seems to have escaped and has begun to attack its creators. Normatively speaking, democracies have a greater appeal as they promise freedom, choice, and human rights. But what casts confusion is the failure of democracies to deliver at home, Asian democracies including India, and abroad, the Western democracies themselves. Ukraine exemplifies the latter trend, as the West failed to prevent the war, having provoked it by their overtures to Ukraine for joining NATO and the European Union.

Therefore, it is anyone's guess if countries will follow the model of state-sponsored capitalism epitomised by China. If economic strength defined in terms of growth that leads to military might and diplomatic heft, many countries may prefer that path. The Western democracies are really in danger of losing their moral-political edge by failing to protect the freedom and sovereignty of other countries mainly their potential or actual allies. In all probability, Taiwan may be the next victim of aggression by



DK Giri

THE GEOPOLITICAL SCENARIO THAT MAY EMERGE IN THE WAKE OF THE WAR IS THE PUSH FOR RETRIEVING THE BIPOLAR WORLD ORDER



Samia Suluhu Hassan

Although Neglected Tropical Diseases debilitate, disfigure, and can kill, they receive far less attention than other diseases, in part because they primarily affect the world's poorest people

The practice of Yoga brings us face to face with the extraordinary complexity of our own being.

SRI AUROBINDO



End the Neglect

Earlier this year, world leaders began the process of committing to and endorsing the Kigali Declaration on Neglected Tropical Diseases. The declaration is a high-level statement meant to mobilise the necessary political will, community commitment, financial resources, and individual action to end NTDs. The Kigali Declaration will be launched at the Kigali Summit on Malaria and NTDs, held on the sidelines of this month's 26th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Rwanda.

NTDs are a group of 20 diseases that include leprosy, elephantiasis, rabies, river blindness, and trachoma, and more than 1.7 billion people worldwide - 35 per cent of whom live in Africa - suffer from them. But although these diseases debilitate, disfigure, and can kill, they receive far less attention than other diseases, in part because they primarily affect the world's poorest people.

Tanzania is among the countries hardest hit by NTDs. Nearly half of the country's population - more than 29 million people - requires treatment for at least one NTD, including 19 million children at risk of intestinal worms.

The effects of NTDs are devastating, and they fall disproportionately on women and girls, because high-risk activities such as washing clothes in rivers are a typical part of their daily routine, making them more likely to fall ill. When they do, they cannot attend school, go to work, or take care of themselves or their families.

Even if women and girls manage to avoid getting sick themselves, they may be expected to give up a job or leave school to care for a relative with an NTD. This can compound social stigma, isolation, and mental-health issues for women and girls. Scaling up NTD programmes thus can help to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals' targets for gender equality.

That is why I am especially pleased that the first goal of the Kigali Declaration is to "ensure that people affected by NTDs - particularly women and girls, persons with disabilities, and minority and underrepresented groups - are at the center of NTD programmes and decision-making processes." Only through this inclusive process will we be able to make progress toward equitable access to quality essential health care for all.

At the same time, the impact of NTDs extends beyond stigmatisation and psycho-social health. In countries where NTDs are endemic, the economic impact can trap communities in cycles of poverty. Billions of dollars are spent on treating NTDs, while income is lost as people cannot work because they are sick or must care for someone who is.

Ensuring long-term access to essential health services and adequate monitoring to combat NTDs requires significant financial investment. But limited resources and competing priorities have hindered efforts to combat NTDs and slowed movement toward their eradication, elimination, and control.

Despite these challenges, Tanzania made progress in the fight against NTDs. The number of districts in the country that require preventive treatments for lymphatic filariasis, commonly known as elephantiasis, shrank from 119 in 2004 to eight in 2021. And the number of districts that require preventive treatments for trachoma - the leading infectious cause of preventable blindness - was reduced from 71 in 2012 to nine in 2021. The number of people who need surgical interventions for trachoma declined from 167,000 to 27,000 in the same time period. These are remarkable achievements, and they have put Tanzania on track to eradicate both diseases.

Tanzania's success in the fight against NTDs echoes a pattern of progress globally. Forty-six countries have eradicated at least one NTD so far, and 600 million people no longer require treatment for NTDs. The infection rates of diseases that have plagued humanity for centuries, such as leprosy, sleeping sickness, and Guinea worm disease, are at an all-time low.

But while such trends show that ending NTDs is possible, there is still much work to be done. In particular, national leaders must take ownership of the process, throw their weight behind this mission, and invest the political and financial capital that will be required to see it through.

The Kigali Declaration on NTDs is a powerful tool to help achieve this mission, and Tanzania is proud to have endorsed it. In Tanzania, we are demonstrating that we are fully committed to ending NTDs. Other countries in Africa and elsewhere where NTDs are endemic should follow suit and endorse the Declaration at the Kigali Summit, unlocking the potential for countries to end both NTDs and malaria.

Eradicating NTDs will transform the lives of millions of people around the world. Global leaders now have the statement of purpose they need to motivate and guide efforts to ensure that the next generation is free of these diseases.

The writer is President of the United Republic of Tanzania.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope. MAYA ANGELOU

Whether one believes in a religion or not, and whether one believes in rebirth or not, there isn't anyone who doesn't appreciate kindness and compassion. DALAI LAMA

You have to take risks. We will only understand the miracle of life fully when we allow the unexpected to happen. PAULO COELHO

WORDSWORTH

Therianthrope

A therianthrope is a being that is part animal, part human. The usual meaning of the related adjective therianthrope is of a god that is represented as combining animal and human forms. The best known examples are the animal-headed gods of ancient Egypt, such as Bast (with the head of a cat) or Anubis (whose head was that of a jackal). The noun is rarer, but it appeared recently in reports of investigations into ancient cave art. The researchers found that some showed hybrid beings, such as cat-headed humans or men with the heads of antelopes. They argued these are the ancient relatives of such mythical human-animal hybrids as the minotaur (which had a man's body but a bull's head), satyr (part human, part goat), and werewolf. In the last of these, the creature exhibits its animal and human aspects serially rather than simultaneously, an extension of the usual definition, though a usage that is common online, and one that has been applied equally to other human-animal transformations.

LOL Dealing with a juggler

A juggler, driving to his next performance, was stopped by the police. "What are those knives doing in your car?" asked the officer. "I juggle them in my act." "Oh yeah?"



says the cop. "Let's see how you do it." So the juggler starts tossing and juggling the knives. A guy driving by sees this and says, "Wow, I am glad I quit drinking. Look at the test they're making you do now!"

SPECTRUM SOCIETY

A native's history of Odisha

A nation's history is usually written elucidating details about the actions of its national characters. It is these national characters, among whom the likes of Gandhi and Bose are most notable, who count as the nation's "native". This is not necessarily objectionable for an ethnically homogenous country like Bangladesh with inextricable linguistic and freedom struggle. On the other hand, the establishment of regional identities and the fight to preserve one's language in India is separate from the national struggle for freedom at large. In fact, many prominent movements to establish states based on language, including Potti Sreeramulu's fast unto death, happened after Independence. Thus, each state has its separate history and narrative and heroes who came in rescue of its language. It is in this vein that the novelist and poet Jagannath Prasad Das' "Desa Kala Patra" translated into English as "A Time Elsewhere" by Prof. Jatindra Nayak is written.

Historical narratives are often written from the point of view of its elites or the colonizers, often masquerading as disinterested historians. Das, on the other hand, seeks to write as a native. He does not pretend to be disinterested. This does not mean that he's careless. This historical novel is ex-

haustively well researched as evidenced by the fact that it includes original news articles, official letters, documents, petitions. In fact, one can read it as a book of history disguised as a novel.

There is no single "hero" in this book. Understandably so, given the fact that there were multiple individuals involved in the creation of a distinct Odia identity. Most of the characters in the novel are historical figures whose name would be familiar to everyone living in Odisha. Yet, we have created a version of them so mythologised that they are merely archetypal representatives. Das humanizes these figures. We come across Radhanath Ray, whose father's shadow always hangs over his life. Though now considered to be the father of modernism in Odia poetry, he initially starts his career by writing poems on well-known religious and mythological legends. It is only after the Bengali renaissance writer Bhudev Mukhopadhyay's encouragement and suggestion that Ray starts creating his own narratives in his poems. Das also writes about Ray's overbearing guilt and pitiful public confession of his affair with the Bengali poet Nagendrabala Saraswati through Bengali and Odia pamphlet.

Perhaps the greatest achievement of this book is putting his-

torical figures in their right place. One of the colonial figures who continues to occupy a respected place among the collective memory of the Odia people is Thomas Edward Ravenshaw, thanks to the success of Ravenshaw University. That Ravenshaw was, in fact, an insensitive commissioner whose inaction led indirectly to the death of millions during the famine of 1866 is not as well known. In the British famine commission report, Ravenshaw blamed the Odias partly for the famine as he considered the Odia people to be "apathetic and indolent" who "did not do all they might have done for themselves." Though he later felt guilty about these remarks, the report found him to be unfit and inefficient as a commissioner during the famine. Many popular cultural figures who are eulogised for their role in Bengali Renaissance, such as Rajendralal Mitra, do not come across well in this book. Mitra, for instance, claims that the only way for the region of Odisha to achieve progress is to replace Odia language with Bengali. Yet, the influence of many Bengali personalities, such as Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Raja Rammohun Roy and Michael Madhusudan Dutt over early Odia literary figures is also slightly touched upon. The relatively conservative colonial administrator

and linguist John Beames emerges as a forgotten hero. He forms close bonds with the major figures of the early Odia literary movement, helps in the employment of many of them, and becomes attached to the land of Odisha. Though he did not manage to stay for long in Odisha, his letters to Fakirmohan show that he always wanted to return. He eventually writes a book on comparative grammar of Indian languages where he convincingly argues that Odia is not just a separate language but also a language which is older than Bengali.

Written in unpretentious language with occasional satirical undertones, Das successfully ensures that no character occupies a central figure in his narrative. Common citizenry and little known historical figures are just as crucial for Das as someone like, say, Madhusudan Das. In doing this, Das subverts the great man theory, questions hegemonic narrative, demystifies "great" personalities and presents a version of history that is grounded, sensitive yet unsparing in its discussion of popularly held superstitions and customs.

The writer is an author, blogger and a student at Jindal School of International Affairs



Anwesh Satpathy

HISTORICAL NARRATIVES ARE OFTEN WRITTEN FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF ITS ELITES OR THE COLONIZERS, OFTEN MASQUERADING AS DISINTERESTED HISTORIANS

Understanding 'Agneepath'

Sir, The proposed 'Agneepath Yojana' for the recruitment of soldiers in three wings of the armed forces, will help the government to cut salary and pension bill. Though Defence Minister Rajnath Singh refused to such assumption stating, "Government does not look at the army from the point of view of savings. Whatever the expenditure, the government is ready to spend. Our aim is to protect the borders of the country. Whatever has to be spent, will be spent." However, the statistics of the last few years does not back the minister's statement. In 2020, the government has allocated ₹3.3 lakh crore for defence pension. The allocation towards defence sector in the Budget for FY 22-23 was ₹5.25 lakh crore whereas the allocation for the last fiscal was ₹4.78 lakh crore. This shows that the defence budget for 2022-23 is about 10 per cent higher than the previous year. The total revenue component allocated this year is ₹3.65 lakh crore, of which for pension is ₹119,696 crore. Around ₹1.20 lakh crore allocated for pension is higher than ₹1.17 lakh crore in the revised estimates of pension in 2021-22. In 2020-21, the pension bill was even higher at ₹1.28 lakh crore. Again the salary given to the Army has also been increasing over the years. In 2020-2021, ₹88,800 crore was paid to the army for salary and allowances, last year this figure was ₹10,000 crore. The Revised Estimates of the Army's salaries and allowances for 2021-2022 were over ₹99,800 crore. This year the government has allocated ₹1.07 lakh crore for salary and allowances of the Army. In 2020, the Army had come out with a preliminary proposal to make a rough assessment of how much money could be saved by such a scheme. The three-year model was considered in the initial proposal.

Abhijit Roy, JAMSHEDPUR

Money-spinner

Sir, The BCCI is laughing all the way to the bank! The world's richest cricket board's e-auction of the media rights of the Indian Premier League (IPL) for the next five-year cycle (2023-27) fetched a record ₹44,075 crore after selling its TV and digital rights for the Indian sub-continent. As a result, brand IPL has once again established itself as a money-spinner across all sports worldwide. The BCCI also rewarded former cricketers and umpires by doubling their pensions.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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national

of the day quote

The government has a clear policy of getting services to the people instead of people going to the offices for the same

PINARAYI VIJAYAN | KERALA CHIEF MINISTER

I see no way of achieving anything in J&K without a lasting unity between different sections of our society. We have to stop seeing ourselves as Hindu-Muslim, Shia-Suni, Bareilly-Deobandi, Kashmiri-Dogra

FAROOQ ABDULLAH | NATIONAL CONFERENCE (NC) PRESIDENT

Our government does what it says. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has provided more than 10 lakh jobs and has also done a lot of work in the field of self-employment

SMRITI IRANI | UNION MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Jindal gets fresh death threats

New Delhi: Former BJP leader Naveen Jindal has lodged a fresh complaint with the Delhi Police against unknown persons for threatening him over his controversial remarks on Prophet Muhammad through emails. Jindal allegedly received four emails containing threats from unknown senders. He immediately lodged a complaint with DCP East Delhi office.

CBI interrogates WBBSE president

Kolkata: CBI sleuths quizzed the president of West Bengal Board of Secondary Education (WBBSE) Kalyanmoy Ganguly on the alleged illegal appointments in state sponsored and aided schools Thursday, a day after Calcutta High Court expressed displeasure over the delay in the progress of the probe. The CBI sleuths went to Ganguly's residence here in the afternoon after he failed to appear before them despite repeated summons in connection with their Calcutta HC-ordered investigation into the School Service Commission (SSC) appointment scam and took him to the agency's city office for questioning, its senior officer said.

Delhi: 160 booked for drinking in public

New Delhi: As many as 166 people were booked in the Dwarka area of the national capital for consuming alcohol at various public places, an official said Thursday. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka district) M. Harsh Warden said a massive drive was conducted by police Wednesday to keep a tab on people drinking at public places of the Dwarka district.

J&K: Huge rush for refilling vehicles

Srinagar: Massive queues of vehicles could be seen at fuel stations in Kashmir Thursday as people scrambled to fill up the tanks in the wake of rumours that the country is facing shortage of fuel, officials said. Hundreds of vehicles were lined up at almost every fuel station, waiting for their turn to be refilled, leading to traffic jams in some parts of the city and elsewhere in the valley as well, the officials said.

3 cops die as car falls into ravine

Gangtok: Three policemen were killed and four others injured Wednesday when their vehicle plunged into a ravine in North Sikkim, a senior official said. The accident occurred in the Lingzya area after the police vehicle skidded off the road and fell into the ravine.



Terrorism, divisiveness and hatred have no place in a civilised society

M VENKAIAH NAIDU | VICE PRESIDENT

COVID-19 SURGE AGAIN

The single day rise in new coronavirus infections were recorded over 12,000 after 111 days, registering 38.4 per cent jump in daily cases while the active cases have increased to 58,215, according to the Union Health Ministry data Thursday



India, ASEAN seek to boost ties

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 16: India and the ASEAN Thursday agreed to work towards a comprehensive strategic partnership that is meaningful, substantive and mutually-beneficial by further enhancing their strategic ties.

This was stated in a statement by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Singaporean counterpart Vivian Balakrishnan at the India-ASEAN foreign ministerial meeting being hosted by New Delhi to mark the 30th anniversary of its relations with the 10-nation grouping.

Jaishankar and Balakrishnan are the co-chairs of the two-day meeting that began Thursday.

It is understood that the meeting discussed the situation in the South China Sea, a resource-rich region that has been witnessing increasing Chinese muscle-flexing.

In their statement, the co-chairs said the meeting reaffirmed commitment to multilateralism founded on the principles of international laws including the Charter of the United Nations, the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and other relevant UN treaties and conventions.

The foreign ministers agreed to work towards maintaining an open and inclusive regional cooperation framework, support ASEAN centrality in the evolving rules-based regional architecture and uphold multilateralism in jointly responding to regional and global challenges. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is considered one of the most influential groupings in the region, and India and several other countries,



ASEAN's role today is perhaps more important than ever before given the geopolitical challenges and uncertainties that the world faces. India fully supports a strong, unified and prosperous ASEAN, one whose centrality in the Indo-Pacific is fully recognised

S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

including the US, China, Japan and Australia, are its dialogue partners.

In their statement, the co-chairs said the meeting agreed to further strengthen and deepen the ASEAN-India strategic partnership across the whole spectrum of political, security, economic, socio-cultural and development cooperation by utilising existing ASEAN-led mechanisms.

The meeting agreed to work towards a comprehensive strategic partnership between the ASEAN and India that is "meaningful, substantive and mutually-beneficial by further enhancing ASEAN-India

strategic partnership", they said.

The co-chairs said the meeting welcomed ASEAN-India cooperation in preventing and countering terrorism, the rise of radicalisation and violent extremism, and combating transnational crimes.

Recognising the importance of the health sector, the meeting agreed to cooperate in vaccine production and distribution, research and innovation in generic medicines, cooperation on traditional medicines, strengthening public health infrastructure and enhancing capacities for preparedness and response to pandemic and public health emergencies.

In the sphere of trade, the two sides agreed to work towards realising the full potential including through enhanced utilisation and effective implementation of the ASEAN-India Free Trade Area (AIFTA) by the early commencement of the review of the ASEAN-India trade in goods agreement to ensure that it is more user friendly and simple. The co-chairs' statement said the two sides also agreed to strengthen regional connect-

40% newly-elected RS members have criminal cases: ADR

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, June 16: A survey of the newly-elected Rajya Sabha members conducted by the National Election Watch and Association for Democratic Rights (ADR) was released Thursday, which stated that 40 per cent of the newly-elected members have declared criminal cases, while 12 per cent have serious criminal cases pending against them.

A joint statement issued by the National Election Watch and ADR clarified that the survey report has been prepared based on the affidavits filed by the different candidates who contested the recent Rajya Sabha polls to fill the vacant seats from different states in the Upper House.

"Out of the 57 MPs analysed, 23 (40 per cent) have declared criminal cases against them, while 12 (21 per cent) have serious criminal cases, including cases related to murder; attempt to murder; theft etc., lodged against their names," the joint survey report said. According to the report, one newly-elected Rajya Sabha member has declared case of murder against his name, while one has declared case of attempt to murder against his name. One newly-elected MP has declared a case of crime against women against his name.

According to it, nine out of 22 MPs from BJP, four out of nine MPs from Congress, two MPs each from TRS and RJD and 1 MP each from YSRCP, DMK,



AIADMK, Samajwadi Party, SHS along with an Independent member have declared criminal cases against their names.

In the state-wise category, six out of 11 MPs from Uttar Pradesh, four out of six from Maharashtra, three out of six from Tamil Nadu, four out of five from Bihar, both the MPs from Telangana, one out of four from Andhra Pradesh, one out of two from Chhattisgarh, one out of four from Rajasthan and one out of two from Haryana have declared criminal cases against them.

The top three richest candidates are TRS's Bandi Partha Saradhi with total assets of Rs 5,300 crore, Independent Kapil Sibal with total assets of Rs 608 crore, and AAP's Vikramjit Singh from Punjab with total assets of Rs 498 crore.

The average assets value of the newly-elected is Rs 154.27 crore. Party-wise, 19 out of 22 MPs from BJP, all the nine MPs from Congress, all four MPs from YSRCP, all three MPs from DMK, all three MPs from BJD, both the MPs from TRS, AIADMK, RJD and Independent members, one out of two MPs from AAP and 1 MP each from RLD, NCP, JMM, SP, SHS and JD(U) have declared assets worth more than Rs 1 crore.

DGCA audits 30 flying institutes

AIRCRAFT WERE BEING OPERATED WITH FAULTY OR UNSERVICEABLE INSTRUMENTS SUCH AS FUEL GAUGES, STALL WARNING, ETC, THE DGCA SAID



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 16: Aviation regulator DGCA Thursday said it has audited 30 out of total 32 flying training organisations (FTOs) in India since March 21 and found them violating multiple safety regulations.

Consequently, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has suspended the approval of one FTO, issued warning letter to two accountable managers, suspended four certified flying instructors (CFIs), three Deputy CFIs and one assistant flying instructor (AFI), its statement noted.

The regulator found in the audit that "the facilities at the airfield/training organisation are not being maintained as per the requirements - runway surface was found worn out, wind sock was found torn or nonstandard."

The pre-flight alcohol test regulations were not followed at multiple FTOs, it stated.

"Few of the instructors, student pilots and aircraft maintenance engineers did not undergo BA (breathalyser) test or submit undertaking prior to commencement of duty/exercise of privileges," the DGCA noted.

In few cases, the testing equipment being used were not in compliance with the requirements or calibrated as required, it added.

The DGCA said it observed false logging in official documents.

"In few cases, dual flight was logged as solo flight and in few other cases, the taxi time was calculated towards the instrument flying time of the student pilot," it added. There were deficiencies in the ground training of student pilots, it said.

Student pilots were not appropriately briefed and trained on emergencies and essential exercises before being released to operate solo flights, it said.

There was "ad hocism in allocation of trainers as trainers were frequently changed and thereby affecting the learning experience of student pilot", the regulator noted.

Emergency response plan was not practiced and contained obsolete contact details, the DGCA said. The emergency response plan is of great importance when an incident occurs.



Members and supporters of the LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer) community participate in a pride parade at Sheikh Sarai in New Delhi

14 killed, 17 injured in 4 road accidents

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, June 16: Fourteen persons, including two children, were killed and 17 others injured in four road accidents in parts of Madhya Pradesh, police said Thursday.

These accidents - one each in Chhindwara and Barwani districts and two in Betul district - occurred Wednesday night, they said.

In Chhindwara, seven persons, including a child, were killed and five others injured when their jeep fell into a well after hitting a two-wheeler near Kodamau village late night. The victims were re-

turning from a marriage function in Bhajipani village, Mohkhed police station in-charge Gopal Ghale said. The well had little water and the jeep got stuck after falling into it, the official said. The vehicle was later pulled out with the help of a crane. The five injured persons were admitted to a hospital, the official added. In Barwani, three persons, including a child, were killed and seven others injured when a stationary bus was hit by a truck from behind near Barrufata in the district late night.

The bus had stopped at Barrufata after its tyre got punctured and

while the driver and helper were changing the wheel, passengers also got down and stood on a divider.

In Betul district, three people were killed and one person was injured when two motorcycles collided head-on near Sukhadhana village, Sarni police station in-charge Ratnakar Hingve said.

In another accident in Betul, a speeding dumper collided with a bus while trying to overtake it on an under-construction four-lane road near Shahpura town, a police official said. The dumper driver, Vikas Dhurve, suffered serious injuries and later died in a hospital.

Green transition in India not fast enough: Experts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 16: India has been taking steps to curb air pollution but the transition to a green economy is not fast enough, experts said Wednesday, calling on the government to adopt a proactive approach to reduce emissions.

The study attributed the rise in air pollution in India to the industrialisation, economic development and population growth over the last two decades, which have led to a skyrocketing energy demand and fossil fuel use.

"These studies remind us about our struggle to solve the air pollution problem. They basically inform us about the huge cost of air pollution in terms of human health and economy. Keep reminding us

where we are failing," said Chandra Bhushan, president and CEO of the International Forum for Environment, Sustainability & Technology, an independent non-profit environmental research and innovation organisation.

He said India is a poor country and growth is important but the option is "green growth".

"We have made a good start in the energy sector and renewables are growing, but they're not growing fast enough. We will not be able to meet the 175-gigawatt target that we have set (in 2022)."

"The government needs to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy and not invest in the fossil fuel industry because it won't be able to compete with renewables in 10 years from now," the

environmentalist said. He rued that the green transition is not happening fast enough in the industrial sector and the automobile sector.

"The automobile industry, which is



The comments came a day after a study by a US-based research institute said that the average Indian resident is set to lose five years of life expectancy if the WHO guidelines for PM2.5 pollution are not followed

dominated by old businesses in India, has not been very proactive on the production of electric vehicles. Most of the e-vehicles belong to new brands," Chandra Bhushan noted.

"Land degradation is another major challenge. One-third of the land in India is undergoing desertification. In summers, the biggest source of air pollution in Delhi is not automobiles, but dust," he added. Gufran Beig, founder project director, SAFAR, said the government should accelerate its efforts to reduce air pollution and target capturing emissions at source.

There should be clear cut science-based solutions for mitigation. "Even the electricity for e-vehicles will come from coal-based power plants. Therefore, it is imperative to have the latest technology installed at the thermal power plants to reduce emissions," he said.

"It is traffic snarls and not vehicles that lead to pollution. If we have intelligent traffic manage-

ment systems in place and maintain our vehicles in a good shape, pollution levels can be brought down by 20 to 30 percent," he said.

The transport sector accounts for around 40 per cent of the PM2.5 pollution in a metropolis like Delhi.

Sunil Dahiya from the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air said studies like the one conducted by EPIC show that despite launching programmes such as the National Clean Air Programme, air pollution has not been curbed.

"This means either there is something missing in our policies or we have not been able to implement them properly," he said. The government has not been able to control the consumption of fossil fuels and neither it is taking proactive action to curb emissions.

Significant decline in militant activities in J&K, says Rajnath



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, June 16: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Thursday said there has been a significant decline in militant activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

An official statement issued Thursday said: "Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh, who is on a two-day visit to the union territory said that the number of militant activities in Jammu and Kashmir have declined recently."

Immediately after his arrival, Singh visited the forward areas of Jammu and Kashmir and took stock of the security situation along the border.

Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Pande, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GoC-in-C), Northern Command Lt Gen Uppendra Dwivedi, GoC 15 Corps Lt Gen AS Aujla and GoC 19 Infantry

Division Maj Gen Ajay Chandpuria accompanied him and briefed him about the operational preparedness of the armed forces.

Later, Rajnath Singh interacted with the personnel of the Armed Forces, Border Security Force (BSF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and J&K Police.

Addressing the personnel, he commended them for fulfilling their responsibilities efficiently even in challenging situations, describing their valour and zeal as remarkable, the statement said.

He lauded the security personnel for serving the country with indomitable courage and dedication and instilling the sense of national pride in the people, especially the youth.

"Our neighbour has always resorted to anti-India activities. The state also witnessed terror activities in the past. Due to the relen-

Our neighbour has always resorted to anti-India activities. The state also witnessed terror activities in the past. Due to the relentless efforts of the personnel of Armed Forces, BSF, CRPF & J&K Police, there has been a significant decline in the number of militant activities in the state recently

RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

less efforts of the personnel of Armed Forces, BSF, CRPF & J&K Police, there has been a significant decline in the number of militant activities in the state recently," the Minister said.

"Pakistan continuously tries to disturb peace in the country through its approach of bleed India with a thousand cuts. But, our security forces are such a protective shield for this country that whoever tries to break it, bleeds himself. The nation has immense faith in our forces who are always ready to deal with any situation," he added.

Rajnath Singh said India is a peace loving country which has given the message of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (the whole world is one family) to the world.

"We have never tried to hurt any country in any way, nor have we tried to capture even an inch of anyone's land." He, however, said that if an attempt is ever made to hurt the unity and integrity of the Nation, the Armed Forces will give a befitting reply.

He exuded confidence that the Armed Forces will face the future challenges with full strength and their valour and dedication will build a golden future of the country.



Flood-affected people stand on a road damaged by the flooded Pagladiya river at Goalbil village in Baksa district, Assam, Thursday

Heavy rain lashes Assam for third day in a row

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, June 16: Assam continued to reel under heavy rain for the third consecutive day with two more deaths reported due to landslides Wednesday, and the flood situation taking a turn for the worse, officials said.

Two children were crushed to death when a landslide led to a house collapse in Azad Nagar area of Goalpara district, raising the toll due to floods and landslides in Assam this year rose to 44, they said. The two deceased children were identified as 11-year-old Hussain Ali and eight-year-old Asma Khatun.

In Guwahati, three persons suffered injuries in Noonmati area as multiple landslides were reported across the city during the day. In several areas, including Joypur in Kharguli area, Bonda Colony, South Sarania, Amayapur in Geetanagar and 12 Mile, debris pileup led to road blockades.

Work to clear the road leading to Nizarapar, where stands Bharat



Ratna Dr Bhupen Hazarika's residence, was underway, the officials stated. Torrential rain has also damaged two electric poles near Raj Bhavan here.

At least 18 districts in the state are still experiencing heavy showers, with inundation of fresh areas reported from Kamrup Metro, Kamrup, Nalbari and Barpeta. Nearly 75,000 people have been affected by floods in the 18 districts.

Water level in river Brahmaputra and its tributaries are on the rise, while river Manas was flowing

above the danger mark in some places. Life has come to a standstill in Guwahati due to continued waterlogging in most parts for the third consecutive day with areas such as Anil Nagar, Nabin Nagae, Zoo Road, Six Mile, Noonmati, Bhootnath, Maligaon figuring among the worst-affected.

The administration has urged people not to venture out of their homes unless necessary.

Deputy Commissioners in Lower Assam districts have also issued directives to educational institutions

Two children die in landslide

Nearly 75K people have been affected by floods in 18 districts

Water level in river Brahmaputra and its tributaries are on the rise

to suspend classes till Saturday as the Regional Meteorological Centre's warned of 'heavy to very heavy and extremely heavy rainfall in Assam and Meghalaya'.

The centre has issued 'red alert' for Assam and Meghalaya from Tuesday to Thursday and 'orange alert' Friday and Saturday.

District authorities have opened seven camps and nine relief distribution centres for assisting locals. A total of 1,224 people have taken shelter in the relief camps - 677 alone in Kamrup Metropolitan.

According to the bulletin issued by Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), 13 embankments were breached, 64 roads and a bridge damaged thus far due to heavy rain and flood.

Curfew relaxed for 3 hours in Bhandarwah, situation peaceful



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhandarwah/Jammu, June 16: Curfew was relaxed for three hours Thursday morning in Bhandarwah town of Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district as situation remained relatively peaceful with no untoward incident, officials said.

Shops and business establishments reopened around 9 am, immediately after authorities announced the relaxation in the curfew that was imposed June 9 following communal tension triggered by the remarks on Prophet Mohammad by BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma, who was later suspended, and social media posts by some local right wing activists in her support. The curfew had earlier been relaxed for two hours from 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm Wednesday, for the first time in a week.

Deputy Commissioner, Doda, Vikas Sharma, who along with SSP Doda Abdul Qayoom is camping at Bhandarwah for the last seven days to monitor the situation, appealed to the people to maintain communal harmony and assured them all restriction will be lifted soon.

The curfew was imposed as a precautionary measure to avoid any untoward incident but I am glad residents of this beautiful valley behaved in a mature manner.

"I hope they will not fell prey to nefarious designs of a handful of miscreants and will maintain age-old communal harmony and mutual brotherhood for their better future," Sharma said.

"We have already lifted the restrictions in Doda, Thathri, and

Gandoh towns and I assure if people here behave well, the remaining restriction will be eased soon as during this peak season of Tourism, we want to see visitors not the security forces," he added.

With the news of the relaxation, people in considerable number rushed to the markets in elation.

They demanded complete withdrawal of restrictions from the town and restoration of the broadband and mobile internet services, which remained suspended in the entire Doda and Kishtwar districts for the eighth day.

"We are supplying milk and milk products to the people living in the town but in past seven days, we have not been able to earn a single penny," Shoukat Ali, a resident of Jai Meadow in the outskirts of Bhandarwah town, told PTI. He said over 200 nomadic families earn their livelihood supplying milk to the people in the town and they have suffered huge losses since the clampdown. Manzoor Ahmad, a labourer from Marwah, said he has been unable to earn a living since the curfew began.

Bhandarwah Municipal Committee councillor Puneet Mehta expressed his incredulity at the long curfew in the town, ruing the setback to tourism.

"There is no justification for the prolonged restrictions. There was no clash or damage to public or private property. Instead of taking stern action against a few people involved in vitiating the peaceful atmosphere, the whole town was held hostage by imposing strict restrictions," he said.

Pan Naga Hoho still in offing, no speculations needed: NSCN(IM)

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kohima, June 16: The NSCN(IM) Thursday asked people to refrain from speculating on the concept of Pan Naga Hoho (PNH), a proposed umbrella body of all Nagas irrespective of where they live, as it is "still in incubation stage".

The Isak-Muivah faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagalim (NSCN-IM), which is holding peace talks with the government for over two decades, said in a statement that PNH is of critical importance for the Nagas and it cannot be processed in a hurry.

The statement came amid discussions by a section of the people about the power of the PNH chairman.

"The irony is that PNH is a topic that does not warrant wild speculation.... PNH is still in incubation stage and one need not go for panic reaction," it said.

However, the NSCN(IM) asserted that PNH would not undermine any democratic political institution as perceived by some quarters.

"The irony is that PNH is a topic that does not warrant wild speculation.... PNH is still in incubation stage and one need not go for panic reaction," it said.

However, the NSCN(IM) asserted that PNH would not undermine any democratic political institution as perceived by some quarters.



"When the PNH is accepted by NSCN taking into consideration the necessity to have such umbrella set up for the larger unity and welfare of the Nagas living in different regions, passed through the critical stage of political scrutiny it would naturally come out in the open," the NSCN(IM) said.

The PNH when concretised will take into account the social, cultural, literature, identity and interests of the Nagas, the statement said.

"Till then, the less fuss made about it the better," it said claiming "Things are moving too slow."

The Union government has been holding two separate parleys with the NSCN(IM) since 1997 and Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs) comprising of seven organizations since 2017. The Centre signed a framework agreement with the NSCN(IM) August 3, 2015, and also entered into an agreed position with PGs in December 2017.

However, the final solution is yet to see the light of the day mainly because of the unwillingness of the Centre to accept the NSCN(IM)'s persistent demand for a separate flag and constitution.

AMARNATH YATRA

LG launches online portal for booking of helicopters

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, June 16: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Thursday launched online helicopter booking service portal for Amarnath Yatra, 2022.

Devotees can easily log on to Shrine Board's website www.jk-sash.nic.in for the booking of helicopter tickets for the yatra.

Dedicating new online service to the devotees of Shri Amarnath Ji, the Lt Governor said, "It was a long pending endeavour of the Government to introduce heli services from Srinagar for better connectivity and accessibility".

For the first time, devotees can travel with ease directly from Srinagar to Panchtarni and complete the holy yatra in a single day, he added. The Lt Governor further directed the Shrine Board and NIC officials to ensure hassle free and secure online helicopter booking service for the pilgrims.

Earlier, helicopter services were operational for only two sectors, but now, the pilgrims can avail the



services in four sectors (to and fro) viz Srinagar to Neelgrath, Srinagar to Pahalgam, Neelgrath to Panchtarni, and Pahalgam to Panchtarni, with total 11 helicopters to remain available for the passengers. Addition of two new sectors from Srinagar will encourage those yatrias who wish to complete the yatra in a single day, and can return home.

This facility is also available for the devotees who want to travel only one way. The one-way tariff from Srinagar to Neelgrath shall be Rs 11,700; Srinagar to Pahalgam Rs 10,800; Neelgrath to Panchtarni Rs 2,800 and Pahalgam to Panchtarni Rs 4,200.

The Yatra 2022 shall commence June 30 and culminate August 11.

'Number of heavy rainfall days to increase in NE'

The study projects changes in temperature and rainfall patterns in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura over the next three decades (from 2021 till 2050) and compares it to the historical period (from 1990 to 2019)

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi/Bangalore, June 16: A study about climate change projections for the northeast Indian states Wednesday indicated an overall warming of both summer and winter minimum temperatures, an increase in the number of rainy days, and an increase in the number of heavy rainfall events



across almost all the districts of the region.

These are the findings of "District-Level Changes in Climate: Historical Climate and Climate Change Projections for the North-Eastern States of India" by the Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP), a Bangalore-based think tank.

The study projects changes in temperature and rainfall patterns in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram,

Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura over the next three decades (from 2021 till 2050) and compares it to the historical period (from 1990 to 2019).

It analysed two representative scenarios: first at moderate emissions, what in technical terms is called as RCP 4.5, and second, for high emissions (RCP 8.5). There are four RCPs, the Representative Concentration Pathways, each of which is a greenhouse gas concentration trajectory adopted by the Intergovernmental Panel on

Climate Change (IPCC), used for climate modelling in IPCC reports.

Stating that historically (1990-2019), temperature and rainfall have increased, and rainfall variability is high across all the north-eastern states, the important findings from the study includes that there is an overall warming of both summer and winter minimum temperatures, an increase in the number of rainy days (more than 2.5 mm rainfall per day), and an increase in the number of heavy rainfall events across almost all the districts of the north-eastern states.

It also found out that the summer maximum and the winter minimum temperatures are projected to increase by 1 degree Celsius to 1.5 degrees Celsius under the RCP 4.5 scenario and 1 degree Celsius to 2 degrees Celsius under the RCP 8.5 scenario.

The winter minimum temperature is projected to increase largely by 1 degree Celsius to 1.5 degrees C under the RCP 4.5 scenario and 1 degree Celsius to 2 degrees Celsius under the RCP 8.5 scenario in a majority

of the districts of north-east India.

The study also said that the number of rainy days is projected to increase in the 2030s in all the north-eastern states compared to the historical period. The increase is by 1 to 24 days under the RCP 4.5 scenario, with the maximum increase projected in Sikkim and a minimum increase projected in Assam. The increase is by 1 to 22 days under the RCP 8.5 scenario, with the maximum increase projected in Sikkim.

An increase in high-intensity (51-100 mm per day) and very high-intensity (more than 100 mm per day) rainfall events are projected in the 2030s across all the districts of north-east India compared to the historical period.

It also showed a decline in rainfall deficient years projected in the 2030s across almost all the districts of north-east India compared to the historical period. The decline in rainfall deficient years is by 1 to 4 years out of 30 years under the RCP 4.5 scenario and 1 to 5 years under the RCP 8.5 scenario in the various districts of north-east India.

of the day quote

We need to think about our future strategies now to bridge the learning gap that has widened due to the pandemic in the last two years. We need to start from the point where we left two years ago and strategise accordingly. There is no rush to complete the syllabus. The focus of the schools should be on building conceptual understanding

MANISH SISODIA | DELHI DEPUTY CM

People in the country are already afflicted by rising poverty, inflation, unemployment, wrong policies, and arrogant working style of the government, in such a situation, the uneasiness spread among the youth regarding new recruitment system in the army is causing anxiety

MAWATI | BSP SUPREMO

Hiring soldiers for four years, with effective service of three years, is not at all militarily a good idea

AMARINDER SINGH | FORMER PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Andhra signs MoU with Byju

Amaravati: The School Education Department of Andhra Pradesh Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding with Ed-tech company Byju's to provide quality content to government school students from classes 4 to 10. School Education Commissioner S Suresh Kumar and Byju's vice-president Sushmit Sarkar signed the MoU in the presence of Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, Education Minister Botsa Satyanarayana and Special Chief Secretary B Rajsekhar. Byju's CEO Raveendran participated through a video link.

Teenager dies after being set on fire

Kota (Rajasthan): A teenager who was allegedly set on fire by a seven-year-old died during treatment here, police said Thursday. Vishal (14), who was undergoing treatment for 60 per cent burn injuries for the last one month at the MBS Hospital in Kota, succumbed Wednesday, Udhay Nagar Circle Inspector (CI) Manoj Singh Sikarwal said. Earlier, Vishal in his statement alleged that an argument broke out between him and the boy May 13, following which the seven-year-old, in a fit of rage, poured diesel over him that he brought from his father's auto-rickshaw and set him on fire, the CI said.

4 killed as jeep rams into motorcycles

Jaipur: Four people, including two minors, were killed after a jeep rams into their motorcycles in Rajasthan's Udaipur district, police said Thursday. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot took to Twitter to offer his condolences to their family members. The accident occurred near Khokharia ki Naal on Gogunda-Pindwara highway Wednesday evening when the jeep hit the two motorcycles from behind, Assistant Sub-Inspector at Bekaria police station Sanjay Masar said.

Man drowns

Gurugram: A 35-year-old man drowned in a canal in Dhankot Thursday afternoon, the police said. According to the police, the victim, Sachin, was a resident of Vishwakarma Colony and had gone to the canal with at least three friends for a bath. Pradeep Kumar, in-charge of Dhankot police chowki, said: "They were bathing in the canal. Then one of them left the spot after taking a bath while Sachin and another friend remained there."



The BJP's intolerance towards Muslims and Dalits is well known and hence the time may not be far when other BJP-ruled states may adopt harsh, repressive and unconstitutional means to silence the voice of the minorities

MAHESH TAPASE | NCP CHIEF SPOKESPERSON

JAIRAM RAMESH IS AICC MEDIA CHIEF

The Congress Thursday appointed Jairam Ramesh as the AICC general secretary in-charge of communication, publicity and media, replacing Randeep Surjewala. A party statement said Surjewala has been relieved of his current responsibility as the general secretary in-charge of communication and will continue as the general secretary in-charge of Karnataka



Lightning report 2021-22: How have various states fared

Goa witnessed a very high rise in lightning strikes, up to 338 per cent, followed by Pondicherry at 80.77 per cent, Himachal at 66.27 per cent, Karnataka 68.74 per cent, and J&K 49.86 per cent

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 16: Apart from the states that registered the highest number of lightning strikes,

the Annual Lightning Report 2021-22 released Thursday also listed states that witnessed increase and decrease in lightning strikes.

During the year 2021-2022, Goa witnessed a very high rise in lightning strikes, up to 338 per cent, followed by Pudducherry at 80.77 per cent, Himachal Pradesh at 66.27 per cent, Karnataka 68.74 per cent, and Jammu & Kashmir 49.86 per cent.

Chandigarh and Sikkim showed maximum reduction in Cloud-to-Ground strikes by 40 per cent and 38.44 per cent, respectively. This was followed by Haryana 26.67



per cent, Bihar 23.4 per cent, Jharkhand 25.05 per cent, and Odisha 25.57 per cent.

The Annual Lightning Report 2021-22 was released by the Lightning Resilient India Campaign, a joint initiative of the Climate Resilient Observing Systems Promotion Council (CROPC) and the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Ministry of Earth Sciences.

In general, Madhya Pradesh continued to be at the top state with highest lightning strikes followed by Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh having witnessed more strikes

compared to Odisha. West Bengal, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Rajasthan were found to witness more than two lakh Cloud-to-Ground lightning strikes.

The IMD has an app called 'Damini' that sends out early warning to the mobile owner as per the location of the device. "The need of the hour is to enhance the appeal for far more capacity building programmes in view of the continued deaths," IMD Director General, Meteorology, Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said at the report release.

Cong takes ED battle to Prez, Parl

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 16: A day after alleging high-handedness by the police the Congress has taken the battle to Parliament and has met the presiding officers of both the Houses. Party leaders will also meet the President over the issue.

The Congress has sought action against Enforcement Directorate officials who "selectively leaked" to some media houses information related to Rahul Gandhi's questioning, as the party also served a legal notice on three Union ministers over the issue.

A delegation of Congress MPs met the Vice President to register their complaint.

The delegation comprising of Mallikarjun Kharge, P. Chidambaram and Jairam Ramesh complained about the high-handedness of the police and the ill-treatment meted out to the Parliamentarians.

The Congress Lok Sabha MPs also met Speaker Om Birla on Thursday morning and aired their grievances.

Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, while speaking to the media after the meeting said: "We have informed the Speaker about the manner in which we have been subjected to violence and atrocities. The Speaker listened to us. We told him about Delhi Police officers who barged into the Congress office and attacked our workers in a pre-planned manner." The Congress Wednesday filed



Congress party workers burn a motorcycle during their 'Chalo Raj Bhavan' protest march against summoning of Rahul Gandhi by the ED

ED accepts Rahul Gandhi's request

NEW DELHI: The ED has allowed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's request to defer his questioning in the National Herald money-laundering case from June 17 to June 20 owing to personal reasons, officials said Thursday. The Congress MP wrote to the investigating officer of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to allow him exemption from the questioning scheduled Friday (June 17) as he wants to remain with his ailing mother, Sonia Gandhi. Congress president Sonia Gandhi has been admitted to a private hospital in Delhi due to COVID-19-related issues. Rahul (51) spent almost 30 hours with the ED sleuths over the last three days.

protest. The complaint was lodged at the Tughlak Road Police Station in the national capital.

Congress leader Sachin Pilot was detained outside the party headquarters here. He said the whole country is watching what the government is doing. While speaking to his supporters outside his residence Thursday, he said: "We were detained yesterday; police entered the AICC office and did lathi-charge. The whole country is watching."

Pilot thanked his supporters for standing by him and also urged them to remain peaceful.

"It is very clear that the government is leaving no stone unturned to pressurise, demoralise, defame and show to the world that if you oppose the ideology of the BJP or government, you will be put to test. The entire force of the Government of India is falling down upon its opponents

It is very clear that the government is leaving no stone unturned to pressurise, demoralise, defame and show to the world that if you oppose the ideology of BJP or government, you will be put to test. The entire force of the Government of India is falling down upon its opponents

SACHIN PILOT | CONGRESS LEADER

a complaint against the Delhi police officials who manhandled the party men during Wednesday's

Churning continues in AIADMK



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, June 16: AIADMK Coordinator O Panneerselvam (OPS) rejected the clamour for unitary leadership by sections of party functionaries from the Joint Coordinator (EPS) camp and said he is open to talks with them and that he has no ego.

OPS, speaking to reporters said that he has conveyed through party veterans an 'agenda' to those favouring the single leadership demand,

It is empowering a 14-member party panel of veterans to scrutinise all key party matters. He asserted that he is ready for talks and the priority is keeping the party united and avert a split. Negotiations are on to resolve issues amicably. He said he cannot be sidelined and only ordinary party workers have a say in party organisation matters, polls. Answering a question, he ruled out any role for the BJP in addressing the issue as it had happened in 2017, since this is an internal party matter.

Asked if would decline to become the 'numero uno leader position' if offered, he said "It is not needed under the present day circumstances." Such recommendations of the committee would be binding on both him and his colleague, the party's joint coordinator EPS, he said adding the panel proposal is aimed at amicably resolve the leadership issue.

CHILLING OUT



A boy relaxes in the cool water of a tubewell on a hot summer afternoon, on the outskirts of Amritsar

Fuel receipt unfolds murder mystery of Moosewala

Moosewala, who left his house at around 5 p.m. May 29 along with two persons -- Gurwinder Singh and Gurpreet Singh (cousin) -- was shot dead by hired gunmen

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chandigarh, June 16: A small clue seized from a vehicle used in the crime helped Punjab Police unveil a trail of events related to the sensational murder of Punjabi singer Shubhdeep Singh, popularly known as Sidhu Moosewala, that led to the arrest of 10 people, including main conspirator Lawrence Bishnoi, investigators said Thursday.

The police have identified four shooters behind the crime, an official

statement said. Acting swiftly, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) under the supervision of the ADGP (Anti-Gangster Task Force-AGTF) to bring his killers to justice.

One of the important leads in the case was the recovery of a receipt of May 25 of a petrol pump in Fatehabad in Haryana. It was recovered from a Balero car, which is believed to be used in the crime. It was later found abandoned near Khayala village, some 13 km from the crime scene, said the ADGP AGTF, adding a police team was sent to the petrol station in Fatehabad to gather the CCTV footage.

"The police teams have procured the CCTV footage and managed to identify one of the accused, possibly a shooter, who was later identified as Priywarat of Sonipat," he said. Similarly, the owner of the vehicle was traced. The police have recovered all vehicles, including Mahindra



Bolero, Toyota Corolla, and White Alto car, used in the crime.

Apart from arresting gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, who was brought on production warrant from Tihar Jail in Delhi to Punjab, the other nine arrested accused have been identified as Charanjit Singh of Bathinda; Sandeep Singh alias Kekda of Sirsa, Manpreet Singh of Talwandi Sabo in Bathinda; Manpreet Bhau of Faridkot; Saraj

Mintu of Amritsar; Prabdeep Sidhu of Haryana; Monu Dagar of Sonipat; and Pawan Bishnoi and Naseeb, both residents of Fatehabad. They have been arrested for hatching conspiracy, providing logistic support, conducting recon and harbouring the shooters.

Manpreet Bhau, who was arrested from Chamoli in Uttarakhand on May 30, during interrogation said he had delivered the car to two suspected shooters identified as Manu Kusa of Moga and Jagroop Singh, alias Roopa, of Amritsar on the directions of Manna.

Sandeep Kekda, who was arrested on June 6, during questioning revealed that his brother Bittu of Kaliawali along with Nikku Takhat Mal of Sirsa had been conducting a recon of the movements of Moosewala.

He said May 29 his brother Bittu had tasked him to accompany

Nikku on his motorcycle to visit the house of Moosewala posing as his fans. He confessed that they took selfie with the singer on Nikku's mobile phone and the latter made a video call to Sachin Thapan to inform him about the real-time information about Moosewala that he had left his house without security and sitting on the driver's seat in the black Thar jeep.

The investigation has so far revealed that the arrested accused were acting on the directions of Lawrence Bishnoi and Canada-based gangster Goldy Brar, Sachin Thapan, Anmol Bishnoi and Vikram Brar, now in Dubai. Further, these gangsters had bluntly claimed responsibility for the murder through Facebook profiles.

Lawrence Bishnoi, Goldy Brar and others have been nominated as accused and conspirators in this case along with their gang members, said the statement.

AGNIPATH SCHEME

Govt issues 'myths vs facts' amid protests

To claims made that opportunities for youth will decrease as a result of Agnipath, the government maintained that the chances for youth to serve in armed forces will rather increase

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 16: With the recently-announced Agnipath scheme drawing massive flak, particularly know the youth, throughout the country, the government on Thursday sought to address certain "myths" related to the scheme.

On the claims that the future of "Agniveers", as beneficiaries of the scheme have been dubbed, is insecure, a government statement said that those wishing to be entrepreneurs, will get a financial package and bank loans.

"For those wishing to study further, they will be given Class 12 equivalent certificate and bridging course for further studies. Anyone who wish to obtain jobs, they will be given priority in CAPFs (central armed police forces) and state police. Several avenues are also being opened up for them in other sectors," it said. "In the coming years, recruitment of Agniveers will be around triple of the current recruitment in armed forces. No change is being done to the



Regimental system. Infact it will be further accentuated because the best of Agniveers will be selected, further boosting cohesiveness of the unit," the government said over the point that regimental bonding will be affected. On whether the move will impact the effectiveness of the armed forces, the government contended that such a short term enlistment system exists in most countries and hence is already tested out and considered best practice for a youthful and agile army.

"The performance of the Agniveers will be tested before re-induction in the army after four years. Hence, army will get the tested and tried personnel for supervisory ranks," it said.

4 terrorists killed in two encounters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, June 16: Four terrorists, including one involved in the killing of a teacher last month, were gunned down in two encounters with security forces in Kulgam and Anantnag districts of Jammu and Kashmir Thursday, police said.

Security forces launched an anti-terrorism operation in Kulgam's Mishipora area Tuesday, following information of the presence of terrorists there, a police spokesperson said.

After the initial exchange of fire with the security forces, the terrorists managed to move to the general area of Mishipora, he added. However, the security forces maintained the cordon and continued the search operation, which resulted in a fresh gun-battle Thursday, leading to the killing of two ultras, the spokesperson said.

NTAGI recommends reducing booster dose gap to six months

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 16: The Standing Technical Sub-Committee (STSC) of the NTAGI Thursday recommended reducing the gap between the second and precaution doses of Covid-19 vaccines from the current nine to six months, official sources said.

They said the Health Ministry will take the final call on the recommendation soon. The government advisory panel, which met Thursday also reviewed the findings of a study by the Christian Medical College (CMC) in Vellore on the feasibility of allowing as precaution dose a Covid vaccine different from the one used for primary vaccination. The panel members found a lack of uniformity in results upon mixing of jabs for booster shots and stated that no recommendation for it can be made as of now.

international



Cutting ties with New Delhi will not serve the country's interests as Islamabad is already internationally isolated and disengaged
BILAWAL BHUTTO ZARDARI | PAKISTAN'S FOREIGN MINISTER

KEVIN GRANTED BAIL

Hollywood star Kevin Spacey appeared at a London court Thursday and was granted unconditional bail until a full hearing into allegations that he sexually assaulted three men



of the day quote

At this time of proliferating crises, the international community must pursue proven strategies for peace and stability. Protecting and promoting women's rights is such a strategy

ANTONIO GUTERRES | UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

The EU has allocated 100 million euros (\$104 million) in an immediate relief to Egypt's food crisis

URSULA VON DER LEYEN | PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Recognising the Taliban-led government in Afghanistan was not on Moscow's current agenda

DMITRY PESKOV | KREMLIN SPOKESMAN

SHOW OF SUPPORT

Leaders pledge EU path for Ukraine

Irpin (Ukraine), June 16: The leaders of four European Union nations visited Ukraine Thursday, vowing to back Kyiv's bid to become an official candidate to join the bloc in a high-profile show of support for the country fending off a Russian invasion. French President Emmanuel Macron also promised Ukraine six more powerful truck-mounted ar-



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy greets French President Emmanuel Macron as German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi stand outside the Mariyinsky Palace, as Russia's attack on Ukraine continues in Kyiv

Zelenskyy thanks EU leaders for solidarity visit

Leaders tour ruined town of Irpin

Arms needed to fend off Russian advances in south and east

Ukrainian troops, civilians holed up in Sievierodonetsk plant

that it has said is necessary to fend off the Russians. Romania's president also made the journey.

After arriving in Kyiv to the sound of air raid sirens, the leaders headed to Irpin, a suburb of the capital that was the scene of intense fighting early in the war and where many civilians were killed. They decried the destruction there.

While shocking images of such devastation have rallied Western support, officials in Ukraine have expressed fears that "war fatigue" could eventually erode that - particularly as rising prices and up-

coming elections in the United States are increasingly dominating people's concerns.

The US and its European allies have given billions of dollars in weaponry to Ukraine, and Germany and the US recently announced new arms shipments. Such arms have been key to the country's surprising success in preventing the Russians from taking the capital, but officials in Kyiv have said much more will be needed if they are to drive Moscow's forces out.

Many in Ukraine hoped that the leaders' visit could mark a turning point by opening the way to significant new arms supplies and it also comes as EU leaders prepare to make a decision next week on Ukraine's request to become a candidate for membership in the bloc.

European allies have sent increasingly muscular weapons and rallied around Ukraine more than many expected, approving wave after wave of unprecedented sanctions against Russia that are badly squeezing Europe's economy.

The United States announced new strengthening of our defence, a new \$1 billion support package. I am grateful for this support, it is especially important for our defence in (the eastern region of) Donbas

VOLODYMYR ZELENKYY | UKRAINE PRESIDENT

Wives of Shehbaz, Imran richer than them: Report

According to a statement of assets filed for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 with the Election Commission of Pakistan, Nusrat Shehbaz, the first wife of the Prime Minister, is richer than her husband and owns wealth worth ₹230.29 million

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

with a liability of ₹141.78 million. His assets include 495 kanals of agricultural land in Lahore and Sheikhupura, two houses - one in Murree and the other in Lahore - while his residence in London is worth around ₹137.43 million.

He has investments in Pakistan, possesses two vehicles, and has been maintaining around ₹20 million in bank accounts for several years. Tehmina Durrani, the prime minister's second wife, has assets hovering around ₹5.76 million for several years. She possesses the same car for the last couple of years, said the report filed with the ECP. Former Prime Minister Imran Khan owns four goats worth ₹200,000.

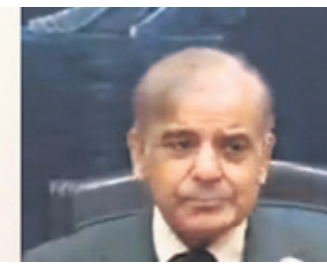
The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief also possesses six properties, the most prominent of which is his 300-kanal villa in Banigala, as well as inherited properties, including a house in Lahore's Zaman Park, around 600 acres of farmland, apart from non-agricultural land.

The cricketer-turned-politician neither owns a vehicle nor property outside Pakistan, does not have any investment, and has more than ₹60 million in bank accounts, apart from USD 329,196 and 518 pound sterling in Pakistani foreign currency accounts.

His wife Bushra Bibi's net worth is ₹142.11 million. The former prime minister's third wife also owns four properties, including a house in Banigala, as well as a vehicle.

Islamabad, June 16: Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and former premier Imran Khan's wives have financial assets worth more than their husbands, the media reported on Thursday. According to a statement of assets filed for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 with the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), Nusrat Shehbaz, the first wife of the Prime Minister, is richer than her husband and owns wealth worth ₹230.29 million. The Prime Minister's wife also owns nine agricultural properties and one house each in Lahore and Hazara divisions. Apart from the assets, Shehbaz Sharif's wife has significant investments in various sectors, but does not own a vehicle, the Dawn newspaper reported.

The prime minister however has wealth worth ₹104.21 million



UK PM's ethics chief resigns

London: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's independent ethics adviser Lord Christopher Geidt has resigned in the wake of the partygate scandal of Covid lockdown-breaching parties at Downing Street. Geidt, the Independent Adviser on Ministers' Interests who reported directly to the Prime Minister in an advisory capacity, handed in his resignation to Johnson Wednesday evening. Amid pressure to reveal the exact reason behind the resignation, Downing Street published his resignation letter to Johnson, which claims he was put in an "impossible and odious" position over another matter since the partygate scandal.

Dr Fauci tests positive for Covid

Washington: Dr Anthony Fauci, the face of America's pandemic response through two White House administrations, has tested positive for the coronavirus. The 81-year-old Fauci, who is fully vaccinated and has received two booster shots, was experiencing mild Covid-19 symptoms, according to a statement Wednesday from the National Institutes of Health. Fauci has not recently been in close contact with President Joe Biden or other senior government officials.

cause there is no cooking gas and food costs have skyrocketed. It is very hard to find work and the salaries are very low," said Lenora, who said she earns about 2,500 Sri Lanka rupees (\$6.80) a day. "With two children that is impossible."

So last week, carrying a change of clothes and an umbrella to fend off a blistering sun, the petite woman boarded a train from the town of Nuwara Eliya, in Sri Lanka's central hills, and travelled 170 km (105 miles) to the commercial capital, Colombo, to hand in her papers for her first passport.

In the queue, Lenora was joined by labourers, shop owners, farmers, public servants and housewives, some of whom camped out overnight, all looking to escape Sri Lanka's worst financial crisis in seven decades.

In the first five months of 2022, Sri Lanka has issued 2,88,645 passports compared with 91,331 in the same period last year, according to government data. The island nation

DIAMOND IN THE SKY



A man rides a bike on a zip line during the opening ceremony of the glass bridge over Dashbashi Canyon outside the town of Tsalka, Georgia

Reagan's shooter freed after 41 yrs

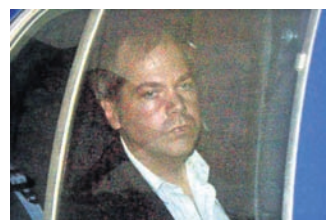
REUTERS

Washington, June 16: John Hinckley, who wounded then U.S. President Ronald Reagan and three others in a 1981 assassination attempt, was released without conditions on Wednesday in compliance with a federal judge's order.

He had received full-time conditional release in 2016 after 30 years in a psychiatric hospital in Washington and had lived with his mother in Virginia until her death last year.

A jury had found him not guilty by reason of insanity in his 1982 trial, prompting Congress and some states to pass laws restricting the use of insanity as a defense.

"After 41 years 2 months and 15 days, FREEDOM AT LAST!!!"



Hinckley, 67, wrote on his Twitter account on Wednesday afternoon.

Last September, U.S. District Judge Paul Friedman ruled that Hinckley was "mentally stable," had complied with the terms of his conditional release, which had limited his travel and internet use, and that he should be granted unconditional release.

Doctors who examined Hinckley told the court the risk of him committing violence were remote, and federal prosecutors agreed.

Reagan's daughter Patti Davis opposed Hinckley's release, saying Hinckley was a narcissist who she did not believe felt remorse.

Reagan quickly recovered after surgery for a punctured lung following Hinckley's attack outside a Washington hotel, but his press secretary Jim Brady was left with permanent disabilities.

The first of the six bullets Hinckley fired hit Brady's head, shattering the brain cavity.

The attack helped spur modern efforts to tighten gun laws, with Brady and his wife, Sarah Brady, forming the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence.

Following the shooting, it was widely reported that Hinckley had become obsessed with Jodie Foster and was trying to impress the "Taxi Driver" actor.

BATTERED BY ECONOMIC CRISIS

SRI LANKANS SEEK PASSPORT TO A BETTER LIFE

In the first five months of 2022, Sri Lanka has issued 2,88,645 passports compared with 91,331 in the same period last year, according to government data

REUTERS

Colombo, June 16: RMR Lenora stood in a snaking queue outside Sri Lanka's Immigration and Emigration Department headquarters for two days last week, hoping to get a passport and, with it, a chance to leave a country wilting under an economic crisis.

A garment worker, 33-year-old Lenora decided to apply for a job as a maid in Kuwait after her husband was laid off from a small restaurant where he worked as a cook. "My husband lost his job be-

cause there is no cooking gas and food costs have skyrocketed. It is very hard to find work and the salaries are very low," said Lenora, who said she earns about 2,500 Sri Lanka rupees (\$6.80) a day. "With two children that is impossible."

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Officials prepare the passports of the applicants at the Sri Lanka's Immigration and Emigration Department, amid the country's economic crisis, in Colombo, Sri Lanka

of 22 million people is running short of food, cooking gas, fuel and medicine, after economic mismanagement and the COVID-19 pandemic wiped out its foreign exchange reserves.

Currency depreciation, infla-

tion of more than 33%, and worries of prolonged political and economic uncertainty is pushing many to migrate. The government is keen to support more people hoping to work abroad to boost remittances, which have halved in recent months,

according to central bank data.

"They get angry" Inside the Immigration and Emigration Department, where people pack counters for hours to get their photos and fingerprints taken, a senior official said the 160 members of staff were exhausted trying to meet demand for passports.

The department has tightened security, expanded working hours, and tripled the number of passports it issues but at least 3,000 people are dropping off forms every day, said H.P. Chandralal, who oversees the authorisation of most applications.

The online application system is backlogged for months and many new applicants can't get necessary appointments. "It is very difficult dealing with the people because they are frustrated and do not understand that the system is not equipped to deal with this kind of demand," said Chandralal.

"So they get angry and blame us but there is nothing we can do." The

Biden nominates Indian-American to top Pentagon post

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, June 16: US President Joe Biden has nominated security expert Radha Iyengar Plumb to the post of Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, the latest Indian-American to be named for a key position.

Currently serving as the Chief of Staff to the Deputy Secretary of Defense, Plumb was nominated for the top Pentagon position on Wednesday. Prior to her appointment as Chief of Staff, Plumb was the Director of Research and Insights for Trust and Safety at Google, leading their cross-functional teams on business analytics, data science and technical research.

She has also previously served as the Global Head of Policy Analysis at Facebook, where she focused on high-risk/high-harm safety and critical international security issues.

Plumb was also a senior economist at RAND Corporation where she focused on improving the measurement and evaluation of readiness and security efforts across the Department of Defense.

She has also held a number of senior staff positions on national security issues at the Department of Defense, Department of Energy, and the White House National Security Council.

At the outset of her career, Plumb was an assistant professor at the London School of Economics and did her postdoctoral work at Harvard.

She received her Ph.D. and MS in Economics from Princeton University and holds a BS from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Another disease outbreak in NK

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, June 16: North Korea reported a new "epidemic" of an intestinal disease Thursday, an unusual announcement from the secretive country that is already contending with a COVID-19 outbreak and severe economic turmoil.

It's unclear how many people are infected in what the official Korean Central News Agency said was "an acute enteric epidemic" in southwestern Haeju city. The agency didn't name the disease, but enteric refers to intestinal illnesses, such as typhoid, dysentery and cholera, which are caused by germs in contaminated food or water or contact with the feces of infected people.

Such diseases routinely occur in North Korea, where there is a shortage of water treatment facilities and the public health system has been largely broken for decades. Some observers said the purpose of the announcement was not so much to report the infections themselves as to mention that leader Kim Jong Un donated medicine from his personal stock — an apparent effort to burnish his image at a moment of extreme hardship.



Coupled with the increasing merchant acceptance of contactless cards, we are seeing not only in metro cities but in non-metro cities as well, we anticipate contactless payments to be a key driver of digital payments in the future
SUNIL RONGALA | SENIOR VP, WORLDLINE

FIRST PLANE IN AKASA AIR'S HANGAR

Rakesh Jhunjhunwala-owned Akasa Air has received the delivery of its first aircraft, a Boeing 737 Max, in Seattle. It has ordered a total of 72 planes and aims to get 18 planes by March 2023. The 737 MAX family delivers superior efficiency, flexibility and reliability while reducing fuel use and carbon emissions



of the day quote

We expect banks and other financial institutions to proactively undertake stress testing of their loan books, subjecting them to various levels of stress, including extreme scenarios, to estimate the loss absorption limits wherever available at their disposal, and take measures to augment the same wherever necessary

M RAJESHWAR RAO | DEPUTY GOVERNOR, RBI

What I can say is that we are a long-term player and we have no reason to believe that we will not do well

TARUN GARG | DIRECTOR (SALES, MARKETING, SERVICE), HYUNDAI MOTOR INDIA

Bangalore is the ideal place for us to build our technology expertise and to provide an unparalleled opportunity for engineers to work with a leading player in the logistics space. We are delighted to open this centre in Bangalore

AMITAVA SAHA | FOUNDER, XPRESSBEES

Central banks struggling to fight inflation

US Fed's aggressive rate hikes raise likelihood of recession

Central banks around the world are trying to show that they can contain inflation which is hitting levels not seen in decades, pushed up by the reopening of the global economy after the Covid-19 pandemic and then by Russia's invasion of Ukraine



REUTERS

Washington, June 16: US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell has pledged to do whatever it takes to curb inflation, now raging at a four-decade high and defying the Fed's efforts so far to tame it. Increasingly, it seems, doing so might require the one painful thing the Fed has sought to avoid: A recession.

A worse-than-expected inflation report for May - consumer prices rocketed up 8.6 per cent from a year earlier; the biggest jump since 1981 - helped spur the Fed to raise its benchmark interest rate by

All central banks are grappling with it and taking adequate measures which are needed to control the inflation. I see fair amount of coordination... Directly or indirectly they are moving in tandem. So, I don't see any adverse impact of that (rate hike by Fed) because RBI, in the two previous cycles, has already taken adequate measures

First 75-basis-point increase by US Fed since November 1994

US gasoline prices have topped \$5.00 a gallon for the first time ever

US inflation touched 40 year high of 8.6% in May

THE DOLLAR PLAY

The dollar will likely rise as investors buy US Treasuries to capitalise on higher yields

A rising dollar hurts US companies and the economy by making American products costlier and harder to sell overseas

On the other hand, it makes imports cheaper in the United States, thereby helping ease some inflationary pressures

three-quarters of point Wednesday. Not since 1994 has the central bank raised its key rate by that much all at once. And until Friday's nasty inflation report, traders and economists had expected a rate hike of just half a percentage point

Wednesday. What's more, several more hikes are coming.

The "soft landing" the Fed has hoped to achieve - slowing inflation to its 2 per cent goal without derailing the economy - is becoming both trickier and riskier than Powell had bargained for.

Each rate hike means higher borrowing costs for consumers and businesses. And each time would-be borrowers find loan rates prohibitively expensive, the resulting drop in spending weakens confidence, job growth and overall

EUROPE'S CENTRAL BANKS JACK UP INTEREST RATES

Bern/London: Central banks across Europe raised interest rates Thursday, some by amounts that shocked markets, and hinted at even higher borrowing costs to come to tame soaring inflation that is eroding savings.

We are in a new era for central banks, where lowering inflation is their only objective, even at the expense of financial stability and growth

GEORGE LAGARIAS | CHIEF ECONOMIST, MAZARS WEALTH MANAGEMENT

The day's biggest moves came in Switzerland where the SNB raised its policy rate to 0.25% from the -0.75%, a step so large, not a single economist predicted it. In Budapest meanwhile, the Hungarian central bank unexpectedly raised its one-week deposit rate by 50 basis points to 7.25% at a weekly tender, also to tame stubbornly rising inflation now running in double-digits.

The Swiss National Bank and the National Bank of Hungary both caught markets off guard with big upward steps, just hours after their US counterpart the Federal Reserve lifted rates.

BoE raises rates by 25 basis points again

London: The Bank of England raised interest rates by a further quarter of a percentage point Thursday but said it was ready to act "forcefully" to stamp out dangers posed by an inflation rate heading above 11%. The BoE stuck to its more gradual approach as it warned that Britain's economy would shrink in the April-June period. The nine-strong Monetary Policy Committee voted 6-3 for the 25 basis-point hike in Bank Rate to 1.25%, the same breakdown as in May with the minority voting for a 50 basis-point increase. The British benchmark rate is now at its highest since January 2009. It was the fifth time that the BoE has raised borrowing costs since December when it became the first major central bank to tighten monetary policy after the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. But some critics say it is moving too slowly to stop the rise in inflation from becoming entrenched in pay deals and inflation expectations, damaging the economy over the long term.

economic vigour.

The Fed itself acknowledges that higher rates will inflict some damage, though it doesn't foresee a recession: On Wednesday, the Fed predicted that the economy will grow about 1.7 per cent this year, a sharp downgrade from the 2.8 per cent growth it had forecast in March. And it expects unemployment

to average a still-low 3.7 per cent at year's end.

But speaking at a news conference Wednesday, Powell rejected any notion that the Fed must inevitably cause a recession as the price of taming inflation. "We're not trying to induce a recession," he said. "Let's be clear about that."

Markets stumble for fifth day as Fed hike sparks recession fears

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 16: Equity benchmarks reeled for the fifth straight day to finish at over one-year lows Thursday, in tandem with weak global equities, after the US Federal Reserve hiked rates by 75 basis points to tame surging inflation.

Across-the-board selling played havoc on the domestic indices, with index majors Reliance Industries and HDFC twins contributing most to the decline.

Equity investors became poorer by ₹15.74 lakh crore in five days of fall

Despite a smart rally in morning trade, the BSE benchmark Sensex failed to hold on to the gains and plummeted 1,045.60 points or 1.99 per cent to settle at 51,495.79 - the lowest in over 12 months.

On similar lines, the NSE Nifty plunged 331.55 points or 2.11 per cent to close at 15,360.60.

Investors lost ₹5.54 lakh crore in Thursday's session, with the market capitalisation of all BSE-listed firms standing at ₹2,39,20,631.65 crore.

Barring Nestle India, all Sensex stocks closed in the red, led by Tata Steel, Tech Mahindra, Bharti Airtel, Wipro, IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Finance, Kotak Mahindra Bank, NTPC, and Bajaj Finserv, tumbling as much as 6.04 per cent.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge tumbled 2.87 per cent and the midcap index lost 2.34 per cent. As many as 2,754 stocks declined, while 620 advanced and 100 remained unchanged.

The rupee Thursday recovered from its record low to close 12 paise higher at 78.10 (provisional) against the American currency.

SHORT TAKES

Indians' funds in Swiss banks up 50%

New Delhi: Funds parked by Indian individuals and firms in Swiss banks, including through India-based branches and other financial institutions, jumped to a 14-year-high of 3.83 billion Swiss francs (over ₹30,500 crore) in 2021 on a sharp surge in holdings via securities and similar instruments while customer deposits rose as well, annual data from Switzerland's central bank showed Thursday. The rise in aggregate funds of Indian clients with Swiss banks, from 2.55 billion Swiss francs (Rs 20,700 crore) at the end of 2020, marks the second consecutive year of increase.

Retail businesses grow 24% in May

New Delhi: The retail businesses across India witnessed a growth of 24 per cent in May this year against the pre-pandemic level of the same month in 2019, according to industry body RAI. As per the latest retail business survey by the Retailers Association of India (RAI), sales in western India grew by 30 per cent, while eastern India showed a growth of 29 per cent compared to the pre-pandemic sales level in May 2019. Similarly, southern India posted a rise of 22 per cent and northern India grew 16 per cent, it added.

GST Council to meet June 28-29

New Delhi: The GST Council, chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, will meet June 28 and 29 in Srinagar. "The 47th meeting of the GST Council will be held on June 28-29, 2022 (Tuesday & Wednesday) in Srinagar," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's office tweeted. The council meeting assumes significance as it is expected to discuss the report of the panel of state ministers on rate rationalisation and also the GST rate on casinos, race courses and online gaming.

Hyundai drives in new Venue model

New Delhi: Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL) Thursday launched the new version of its compact hatchback Venue, with introductory prices starting from ₹7.53 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi), bolstering its presence in the robustly growing sub-4 meter SUV segment. The model, which competes with the likes of Maruti Suzuki Brezza, Tata Motors Nexon, Kia Sonet among others, comes with three powertrain options.

India better placed to avoid stagflation: RBI

Stagflation refers to a situation where inflation as well as unemployment are high, while demand remains stagnant in the economy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 16: India is better placed than many other countries to avoid the risks of a potential stagflation amid an increasingly hostile external environment, as per an RBI article on the state of the economy.

The article, published in the RBI's June bulletin, noted that global economic conditions continue to deteriorate as ratcheting up of commodity prices and financial market volatility have led to heightened uncertainty. "In the midst of this increasingly hostile external environment, India is better placed than many other countries in terms of avoiding the risks of a potential stagflation," said the article authored by a team led by RBI's Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra.

With most constituents of GDP surpassing pre-pandemic levels, domestic economic activity is gaining strength, it said, and added the inflation print for May has brought some relief as it recorded a decline after seven months of continuous rise.

The central bank, however, added that the opinions expressed in the article are those of the authors



and do not necessarily represent the views of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

With a growth rate of 8.7 per cent in 2021-22, India's gross domestic product (GDP) surpassed its pre-pandemic (2019-20) level by 1.5 per cent and the recovery remains robust in 2022-23 so far, the article said.

"The recovery remained broadly on track. This demonstrates the resilience of the economy in the face of multiple shocks and the innate strength of macro fundamentals as India strives to regain a sustainable high growth trajectory," it said.

The recent actions by the Reserve Bank which demonstrated its commitment to price stability while supporting growth augurs well in this milieu, it added.

ATF price hiked by 16%; touch new high

THE INCREASE IN JET FUEL PRICES IS IN STEP WITH FIRING INTERNATIONAL OIL RATES. BRENT CRUDE OIL WAS TRADING AT \$119.16/BARREL, THE HIGHEST IN ALMOST A DECADE THURSDAY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 16: Jet fuel prices Thursday were hiked by the steepest ever 16 per cent to catapult rates to an all-time high in step with hardening international oil rates.

The price of aviation turbine fuel (ATF) - the fuel that helps airplanes fly - has been increased by ₹19,757.13 per kilolitre, or 16.26 per cent, to ₹1,41,232.87 per kl (₹141.2 per litre) in the national capital, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.



The hike, which comes on the back of a marginal 1.3 per cent (Rs 1,563.97 per kl) cut in rate earlier this month, takes jet fuel prices to record high across the country.

ATF prices have increased by more than 120 per cent since June 2021. We believe that a minimum 10-15 per cent increase in fares is required to ensure that cost of operations are better sustained

AJAY SINGH | CHAIRMAN & MD, SPICEJET

But for the one-off decrease on June 1, ATF prices have been on the rise throughout 2022. In all, rates have been increased 11 times since

the start of the year. This has led to rates almost doubling in six months. Since January 1, prices have gone up by 91 per cent (₹67,210.46 per kl).

ATF price prior to the starting of price rise circle January 1, was ₹74,022.41 per kl and now it is ₹1,41,232.87.

With jet fuel making up for almost 40 per cent of the operating cost of an airline, the increase in prices will result in a rise in the cost of flying and possibly translate into higher fares.

BIZ BUZZ

MCL holds Swachhta Pakhwada 2022

Sambalpur: Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) will be observing Swachhta Pakhwada - 2022 from June 16 to June 30 which was inaugurated today by OP Singh, Chairman-cum-Managing Director of MCL. Singh administered the Swachhta pledge to all the officers and staff at the company headquarters in Sambalpur urging everyone to practice cleanliness at their workplace and residence. KR Vasudevan, Director (Finance), PK Patel, Chief Vigilance Officer, Jugal Kishor Borah, Director (Technical/ Projects and Planning) also participated in the pledge-taking ceremony. Similarly, the fortnight-long observations of Swachhta also started in all areas of MCL in Angul, Jharsuguda and Sundargarh districts of Odisha. A series of activities and competitions have also been scheduled during this Swachhta fortnight.



UCO Bank Bhubaneswar zone gets new head

Bhubaneswar: Goutam Patra, General Manager has joined as the new Zonal Head of Bhubaneswar Zone. He will also serve as the Convener of State-level Bankers' Committee in the state. Prior to this, he was working as General Manager in Treasury and Investment Department in Mumbai. Patra had joined UCO Bank in 2007 and worked in various capacities in West Bengal, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra and successfully accomplished his responsibilities. During the tenure as Zonal Head of Bhubaneswar Zone, he is likely to give more emphasis in retail, MSME, CASA and priority sector.



RBI lifts curbs on Mastercard

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 16: The RBI Thursday lifted the restrictions imposed last year on Mastercard and allowed the global payment processor to onboard new customers for debit, credit or prepaid cards in India, after satisfactory compliance with data storage norms.

In July last year, the Reserve Bank had taken a major supervisory action on the US-based entity and barred it from issuing new credit, debit and prepaid cards for its failure to comply with data storage guidelines.

Ferrari promises electric means 'even more unique' cars

Faced with looming bans on fossil-fuel vehicles in Europe and China, major automakers have committed to spend more than \$250 billion through 2025 on the shift to electrification, according to industry estimates

REUTERS

Maranello, June 16: Electric and hybrid models should make up 80% of Ferrari's sales by 2030, the luxury carmaker told investors Thursday, vowing to produce "even more unique" cars as it makes the expensive shift to zero-emission driving.

"We believe we can use the electric engine to enhance the performance of our cars," Chief Executive Benedetto Vigna said Thursday as he

unveiled the company's long-awaited new business plan.

Like other sports carmakers, Ferrari's challenge goes beyond just the huge capital investments needed to develop electric models that can match the high performance of their fossil-fuel forebears - today's electric vehicle (EV) batteries cannot deliver the sustained power of a combustion engine sports car.

Ferrari and its rivals also sell an emotional experience to wealthy

customers currently centred on the throaty roar of that powerful engine. So as it goes electric, Ferrari must ensure its high-net worth customers and investors are along for the ride. "Everything we do will always focus on being distinctively Ferrari," company chairman John Elkann said in opening remarks.

"The opportunity set of electrification and electronics will allow us to make even more unique cars."

In the meantime, Ferrari said it would unveil its first ever sport-utility vehicle - powered by its hefty, gas-guzzling trademark 12-cylinder engine - this September.

Vigna confirmed the Italian carmaker's plans to launch its first electric model in 2025, and Ferrari said it would launch 15 new mod-

els from 2023 to 2026.

The company expects fully-electric cars will make up 5% of sales in 2025 and 40% in 2030, Vigna said. Hybrid models should rise to 55% of sales in 2025 from 20% in 2021, before dropping to 40% in 2030.

Vigna said Ferrari would develop and build its own electric motors, inverters and battery modules for its electric models on a new assembly line at its plant in Maranello, Italy, while outsourcing non-core components to partners.

Ferrari said it expects to invest 4.4 billion euros (\$4.58 billion) by 2026, most of that on prod-

uct development, while delivering EBITDA (Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation, and Amortization) of 2.5-2.7 billion euros by that year. Ferrari's current guidance for 2022 is for adjusted EBITDA of 1.65-1.70 billion euros. The carmaker expects cumulated free cash flow of 4.6-4.9 billion euros from 2022 to 2026.

FIRST ALL-ELECTRIC FERRARI BY 2025; 15 NEW MODELS IN FOUR YEARS
FULLY-ELECTRIC CARS TO MAKE UP 40% OF SALES IN 2030
THE COMPANY EXPECTS TO INVEST 4.4BN EUROS BY 2026
IT SEES EBITDA OF 2.5-2.7BN EUROS BY 2026



ANOTHER MUST-WIN GAME

INDIA IN NEED OF SKIPPER PANT'S PYROTECHNICS TO LEVEL THE SERIES AS THEY FACE SOUTH AFRICA IN THE FOURTH T20I



Stand-in India skipper Rishabh Pant would look to end his poor run of form when he takes the field in the fourth T20I against the Proteas, Friday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rajkot, June 16: Under pressure India skipper Rishabh Pant will be hoping to tide over his struggles with the bat and help the hosts improve their middle overs play when they take on South Africa in the fourth T20I here Friday.

Save Pant's problems, India were able to plug the gaps in Vizag to open their account in the series with a comprehensive win. They will need another near perfect game to take the five-match series into the decider. Such has been the brilliance of Pant that every time he has been written off across formats, he has found a way to bounce back. The stage is set for him in another must-win game for India.

The southpaw has been caught in the deep multiple times in the series trying to reach for the ball when it is not there in his hitting zone. Pant prefers to hit in the cow corner region but the South African bowlers have not allowed him to do that by bowling a wide line.

The hosts had got off to an electric start in the last game with Ruturaj Gaikwad finding some much-needed runs and complementing Ishan Kishan who has made a good case for being India's

reserve opener in the long run, including in the T20 World Cup in Australia later this year.

The two will be looking to make the most of the remaining two games, followed by a couple in Ireland, before the regular openers walk back into the playing eleven.

Shreyas Iyer, who has been tested with the short ball regularly in the series, has not yet made a significant contribution at number three and will be itching to change that Friday.

The home side struggled in the middle overs in Vizag after a perfect start before Hardik Pandya came to the team's rescue and took the score close to 180. Pant's men will be aiming to rectify that here and ensure the momentum is not lost through the innings.

India rely on their spinners in the middle overs and the biggest positive out of the last game was the performance of Yuzvendra Chahal and Axar Patel.

While Axar kept it tidy, Chahal bore the fruits of bowling slower through the air. The turn and dip that deserted him in the earlier games was back and he looked at his threatening best.

In the pace department, the seasoned Bhuvneshwar Kumar has

been remarkably consistent. Avesh Khan has not gone for a lot of runs but is yet to take a wicket in the series while Harshal Patel, who relies on his variations to be effective, found his rhythm in Vizag and ended up with a four-wicket haul.

The South Africans, on the other hand, would back themselves to win the next game and seal the series. They currently lead 2-1.

The visitors will be hoping their star batter Quinton de Kock recovers fully from a wrist injury and rejoins skipper Temba Bavuma at the top.

After outplaying India in the first two games, the South Africans were at the receiving end in the third match, eventually losing by a massive 48-run margin. Their batting failed miserably after a mixed performance with the ball. Their spinners Tabraiz Shamsi and Keshav Maharaj have leaked more than 10 runs an over with the Indians purposely going on the offensive against them.

Pace spearhead Kagiso Rabada has been their most impressive bowler and the hosts have given him due respect by not taking many chances against him. Although South Africa's ground fielding has been alright, catching has left a lot to be desired.

Players leave for England for rescheduled fifth Test

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, June 16: Even as the white-ball squad led by Rishabh Pant is engaged in a T20I series against South Africa at home, some key players of the Test squad including former India captain Virat Kohli have left for England for the rescheduled Test at Birmingham. The selection committee had a



TEST SQUAD (INITIAL)

Rohit Sharma (C), KL Rahul (vc) Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, Hanuma Vihari, Cheteshwar Pujara, Rishabh Pant (wk), KS Bharat (wk), Ravindra Jadeja, Ravichandran Ashwin, Shardul Thakur, Mohammed Shami, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Umesh Yadav, Prasidh Krishna.

few days back named India's 17-member Test squad for the fifth rescheduled Test against England to be played at Edgbaston, Birmingham from July 1-5. India currently lead the Test series 2-1.

Thursday, BCCI tweeted photos of the players that are not involved in the South Africa series and left for England. The players that departed for England Thursday include Virat Kohli, opener Shubman Gill, Mohammed Shami, Ravindra Jadeja, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, and Cheteshwar Pujara. In all BCCI tweeted photos of eight players from the squad of 17 that left for England.

Skipper Rohit Sharma is yet to recover from his injury and if he is declared fit to play, will leave

for England in a few days along with those involved in the South Africa series.

RAHUL TO FLY TO GERMANY

Mumbai: India opener KL Rahul is all set to miss the entire tour of England as he will be flying to Germany for the treatment of his groin injury. Earlier, the right groin injury had resulted in Rahul being ruled out of India's ongoing T20I series against South Africa on the eve of the opening match in New Delhi. "That is correct, the board is working on his fitness and he will be going to Germany soon," BCCI secretary Jay Shah was quoted as saying in a report by 'Cricbuzz' Thursday. The report added that Rahul may leave for Germany by the end of this month or in early July. It means that Rahul will miss the England tour entirely, where India are to play the Edgbaston Test July 1-5 and three T20Is, followed by as many ODIs. He was named vice-captain under Rohit Sharma for the Edgbaston Test but now, the Indian selection committee will have to name another deputy in place of Rahul.

With no pace, Harshal keeps improving skills

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

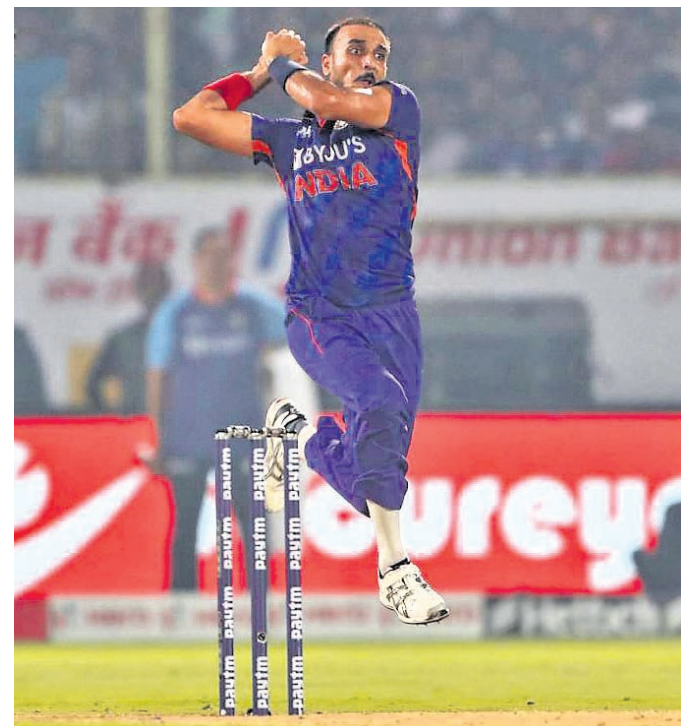
Rajkot, June 16: As he doesn't possess the pace of Umran Maik, India medium pacer Harshal Patel feels he has to keep upping his 'variations' game to extend his nascent international career.

Harshal had made his India debut after the T20 World Cup last November and more than six months into international cricket, the 31-year-old has 17 wickets in 11 games at an average of 19.52.

Slower pitches suit his style of bowling more and that was evident in the last two games after the hammering he got on a true Kotla surface in the series opener. Being a shrewd operator, Harshal very well knows how to remain effective under extreme pressure despite his limitations.

"To be honest, people have been trying to anticipate what I am bowling for the last two years (in IPL). With every bowler they longer they play the opposition will realise what the bowlers strengths and patterns are.

"As a bowler my job is to stay one step ahead of them. At the



end of the day you can have 15 plans but on a particular day in a pressure situation if you

don't go out and execute with confidence, everything doesn't fall in place.

"My focus is on trying to execute the best possible delivery at that point of time," he said ahead of the fourth T20 against South Africa.

The RCB bowling mainstay relies a lot on his variations to outsmart the batters and he says that is something he needs to constantly develop.

"I can't worry about pace because I can't bowl fast as Umran Malik. I have to develop skills to render myself effective at the international level. I have never been an express fast bowler though on a good day I can go near 140 kmph.

"My focus has always been to develop skills around my bowling and whatever limitations and advantages I have in my bowling. I would certainly prefer to pay on slow wickets. It gives you a fighting chance. If you can keep playing on pitches like Delhi it can hamper your confidence a little bit.

"We have bowlers who can bowl on all pitches but it brings them more into the game when there are slightly slower pitches and slightly bigger ground dimensions," he said.

DUTEE, SRABANI NAMED IN WOMEN'S 4X100M RELAY Neeraj to lead 37-member team at CWG

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 16: The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) Thursday named a 37-member Indian athletics team, to be led by Olympic champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, for the upcoming Commonwealth Games, with the selection committee picking the athletes on expected lines with no major surprises.

Out of the 37 picked by the selection committee of the AFI, 18 are women, with the likes of star sprinters Hima Das, Dutee Chand as well as Srabani Nanda getting their berths through the women's 4x100m relay team.

The selectors also named a men's 4x400m relay team. The team also have the likes of Avinash Sable, who broke his own 3000m steeplechase national record for the eighth time recently, as well as Jyothi Yarraji, who broke her own 100m NR twice last month.

It also has Aishwarya Babu, who smashed her own triple jump national record with a stunning 14.4m effort during the recent National Inter-State Championships in Chennai. However, 200m national record holder Amlan Borgohain, who won a sprint double (100m and 200m) during the National Inter-State, missed the bus as he could not reach the CWG qualifying standard set by the AFI.

Although selected, some of the athletes will have to prove their form and fitness before the Birmingham Games.

Veteran discus thrower Seema Punia has been given a chance to feature in her fifth CWG considering her past performances in the Games. Her participation, how-



ever, is subject to reaching the qualifying standard set by the AFI in a competition in USA.

Punia has won a medal in each of the four CWG she has taken part earlier. "Seema Punia's participation in the CWG will ab-

solutely depend on her performance in the USA," AFI president Adille Sumariwalla said.

"We have allowed her to train and compete in the USA considering here past results in the CWG and Asian Games," he said of Punia.

who skipped the June 10-14 National Inter-State Senior Championships which was the qualifying event for CWG selection.

There will be three Indians in the men's javelin throw in the Birmingham Games with DP Manu and Rohit Yadav joining Chopra. The same is for men's triple jump, with Abdulla Aboobacker, Praveen Chithravel and Eldhose Paul making it to the team. The AFI has been given a quota of 36 in the Indian team for the July 28 to August 8 Games.

Shot putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor will have to perform well in Kazakhstan while Amoj Jacob has been selected in the men's 4x400m relay team subject to his recovery and fitness level. Jacob had pulled his hamstring while running the last leg of the India 'A' team during the Inter-State Championships.

THE TEAM

MEN: Avinash Sable (3000m Steeplechase); Nitender Rawat (Marathon); M Sreeshankar and Muhammed Anees Yahya (Long Jump); Abdulla Aboobacker, Praveen Chithravel and Eldhose Paul (Triple Jump); Tajinderpal Singh Toor (Shot Put); Neeraj Chopra, DP Manu and Rohit Yadav (Javelin Throw); Sandeep Kumar and Amit Khatri (Race Walking); Amoj Jacob, Noah Nirmal Tom, Arokia Rajiv, Muhammed Ajmal, Naganathan Pandi and Rajesh Ramesh (4x400m Relay).

WOMEN: S Dhanalakshmi (100m and 4x100m relay); Jyothi Yarraji (100m Hurdles); Aishwarya B (Long Jump and Triple Jump) and Ancy Sojan (Long Jump); Manpreet Kaur (Shot Put); Navjeet Kaur Dhillion and Seema Antil Punia (Discus Throw); Annu Rani and Shilpa Rani (Javelin Throw); Manju Bala Singh and Sarita Romit Singh (Hammer Throw); Bhawna Jat and Priyanka Goswami (Race Walking); Hima Das, Dutee Chand, Srabani Nanda, MV Jilna and NS Simi (4x100m relay).

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jakarta, June 16: One of the heroes of India's epic Thomas Cup triumph, HS Prannoy continued his rich vein of form as he stormed into the quarterfinals of the Indonesia Open Super 1000 tournament with a straight-game win over Hong Kong's Ng Ka Long Angus here Thursday.

The 29-year-old from Kerala, who is desperately looking to break his five year title drought, dished out another impressive performance to outwit Ng Long 21-11, 21-18 in a second round match that lasted 41 minutes.

It was Prannoy's fourth win over the 27-year-old, who is currently ranked 12th in the world. A former top 10 player, Prannoy will next face either Denmark's Rasmus Gemke or France's Brice Leverdez.

Among other Indians in the fray, Sameer Verma ended his campaign with a 10-21, 13-21 loss to World No.5 Lee Zii Jia of Malaysia in the second round. This was Sameer's fifth loss to Lee in seven meetings.

Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy also bowed out of the tournament after losing 16-21, 13-21 to top seeds Chen Qing Chen and Jia Yi Fan of China in women's doubles competition. The men's doubles pairing of MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila also went down 19-21, 15-21 to China's Liu Yu Chen and Ou Xuan Yi.

In the men's singles contest, it was all Prannoy in the first half of the opening game as he simply dominated the proceedings, grabbing the initiative early to lead 11-3 with a sensational cross court jump smash.

Prannoy was, however, erratic after the interval and his unforced errors allowed Ng Long to collect



a few points before the Indian unleashed another cross court smash and made some sound judgements at the baseline to keep moving ahead.

Prannoy's movement was smooth as he mixed up the shots and with his opponent committing errors, he had no issues in closing out the match comfortably. He moved to nine game point opportunities with a precise smash and sealed it when his rival went to net.

Former Commonwealth Games bronze medalist RMV Gurusaidutt's presence at the coach's chair also helped Prannoy as he was seen chatting with the player during the mid-game interval. Gurusaidutt is on his first assignment with the Indian team

after retiring from the game. Ng Long gave a better display in the second game as his movements improved and he managed to stay on the rallies but Prannoy did well to keep his nose ahead at 9-7 with a return on his opponent's back hand corner.

He had a two-point cushion at the mid-game interval after the Hong Kong player went wide again. The Indian extended his lead to 16-11. Ng Long produced occasional winners but he was too erratic, while Prannoy unleashed another jump smash to again wriggle out.

In the end, a precise return on the baseline gave Prannoy four match points. He squandered two before converting the third chance with a booming smash following a superb rally.