



Top honour

Actor Sanya Malhotra bags the 'Best Actress' award at the prestigious New York Indian Film Festival 2024

LEISURE | P2



Mexico's 1st lady Prez

Nobel Prize-winning climate scientist, Claudia Sheinbaum, becomes Mexico's first female President after a landslide election triumph

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Sensex, Nifty surge

After exit polls predict return of Modi government for 3rd straight term, benchmark Sensex and Nifty zoom more than 3 per cent

BUSINESS | P11



Record prize money

ICC announces a record prize purse of USD11.25 million for 2024 T20 World Cup with the winners pocketing at least USD2.45 million

SPORTS | P12

SHORT TAKES

32 monkeys drown in irrigation well

Medininagar (Jharkhand): As many as 32 wild monkeys have drowned in an irrigation well in Palamu district in a bid to quench their thirst, a Forest department official said Monday here. The ghastly incident took place in Sorath village in Panki block and the corpses were found Sunday. "Sources of water in the area have almost dried up... wild animals are coming to villages of water. The monkeys apparently drowned in a bid to quench their thirst," divisional forest officer (DFO) Kumar Ashish said.

30 sunstroke deaths reported in state

Bhubaneswar: The official toll due to sunstroke rose to 30 in the state as four more deaths were reported Monday. Altogether 147 cases of suspected sunstroke deaths have been reported so far and of them, 30 were confirmed to be due to heat-related illness, the state's Special Relief Commission said. Heat-related deaths have been reported from the districts of Bolangir, Sundargarh, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur and Keonjhar.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Here they count votes to confirm the opinion polls, dear

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	76468.78 ↑ 2507.47
NIFTY	23263.90 ↑ 733.20
DOLLAR	83.14 ↓ ₹0.32
EURO	90.43 ↓ ₹0.00
GOLD	₹71,780 ↓ ₹106
SILVER	₹91,620 ↑ ₹50

WEATHER		
	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	35.6°C	34.8°C
Min Temp	23.1°C	21.5°C
Humidity	92%	87%
Rainfall	63.1mm	91mm
FORECAST		
PARTLY CLOUDY SKY		



BRILLIANT MINDS

Meritorious Class X and Class XII students were felicitated Monday by the Bidyabharati Shiksha Vikash Samiti during a programme at Unit VIII, Bhubaneswar

PIC: MANORANJAN MISHRA

Governor dissolves Odisha Assembly

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 3: Governor Raghuraj Das dissolved Monday the Odisha Legislative Assembly following a recommendation by the state Cabinet. The decision was taken a day before the results to the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in Odisha are announced. Earlier in the day, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik presided over the Cabinet meeting in virtual mode and recommended the Governor for dissolution of the Legislative Assembly till the formation of a newly-elected legislature.

The Department of Parliamentary Affairs issued a notification signed by Chief Secretary Pradeep Jena to this effect. The notification read, "In exercise of the power conferred upon me by Clause 121 (b) of Article-174 of the Constitution of India, I hereby order that the Odisha Legislative Assembly constituted vide Notification No 308/OR-LA/2019 dated 25 May 2019 of Election Commission of India, shall stand dissolved with effect from the date a newly-elected Legislature is constituted by the Election Commission of India."

The main agenda of the Cabinet meeting was to recommend the dissolution of the Legislative Assembly as the election process is over.

VERDICT TODAY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is so confident of his party's victory that he has already penned a vision for the country during his 3rd term on 'X'. However, INDIA bloc leaders believe that their alliance has been able to shape the poll narrative around its planks of 'welfarism and an alleged threat to the Constitution from the saffron party and will get popular support

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 3: The stage is set for the final countdown as the counting of votes for the Lok Sabha elections will take place Tuesday bringing an end to a marathon polling exercise stretching over 80 days. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is eyeing a record-equalling third straight term in power amid the INDIA bloc's hope of springing a surprise even though most of the exit polls have predicted an NDA sweep with the BJP set to better its previous tally of 303 in 2019.

Exit polls have been unanimous in their prediction that the NDA is closer to realising Modi's ambitious target of '400-



Fate of 8,360 candidates, 2nd highest since 1996 to be decided

Only 797 women candidates in fray, 9.6% of total contestants as per ADR

47% of total number of candidates independent, 16% from national parties

pair' for his alliance than the INDIA bloc is to crossing even the 180-seat mark, one-third of the total number of seats.

Always confident of his return to power, Modi has already penned an article about his vision for the country and posted

it on 'X' about people's support to the NDA and rejection of the opposition. He has also conducted a meeting with top officials on the 'new government's agenda' for the first 100 days.

Modi will equal the country's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's record of leading his party to three straight electoral victories, if the BJP retains power.

Congress leader Sonia Gandhi is hoping that the results will be completely 'opposite' to the poll predictions. "We have to wait, just wait and see. We are very hopeful that our results are completely the opposite of what the exit polls are saying," Sonia said Monday in Chennai.

No mobile phones

BHUBANESWAR: No one will be allowed to carry mobile polls inside the counting centres in Odisha, state Odisha Police ADG (Law & Order) Sanjay Kumar said Monday here. He informed that there will be a three-layer security in place at the counting stations. He said that the CAPF forces will be in charge of the inner layer of security, the Special Armed Police will look after the second layer and third layer will be handled by the district cops.

P3

BJP national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi meanwhile said Monday the Congress and other opposition parties are raising 'baseless' questions on the country's election process to create 'unrest' in society ahead of counting. "Wait for the results of the elections. Be ready to gracefully accept the defeat, rather than demeaning the dignity of democracy," Trivedi stated.

Congress leaders, including president Mallikarjun Kharge and principal campaigner Rahul Gandhi, have claimed that their alliance will get 295 seats in the 543-member Lok Sabha.

Mallya & Cos escape from India Probe agencies botched up: Court

AGENCIES

Mumbai, June 3: Businessmen involved in multi-million dollar scams, such as Nirav Modi, Mehul Choksi and Vijay Mallya, were able to flee the country because probe agencies failed to arrest them at proper time, a special PMLA court here has said recently. Special Judge MG Deshpande made the remark while hearing the plea of an accused booked under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) seeking modification in his bail condition.

The court May 29 accepted the plea of Vyomesh Shah, an accused in a money laundering case, to drop the bail condition of getting the court's prior permission to travel abroad. The detailed order was made available Monday here.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) had argued that allowing Shah's application would give rise to situations like Nirav, Mallya and Choksi. However, the judge rejected



the probe agency's contention. "I thoughtfully examined this argument and felt it necessary to note that all these persons fled because of the failure of the investigating agencies concerned in not arresting them at the proper time," Justice Deshpande said.

On the contrary, Shah had appeared before the court responding to the summons, secured bail, and applied many times to travel abroad. Hence his case cannot be equated with the cases of Nirav Modi, Vijay Mallya, Mehul Choksi etc," the judge added.

Diamantaire Nirav and his uncle Choksi are prime accused in the multi-crore Punjab National Bank (PNB) scam. Nirav is currently serving a prison sentence in the UK.

56K get OJEE rank

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 3: The results of the Odisha Joint Entrance Examinations (OJEE-2024) were declared Monday. The exams were conducted May 6 to May 10, through the CBT mode.

This year 65,742 candidates registered for the examinations, while 56,047 candidates (85.25%) appeared. Out of them, 56,000 candidates have been allotted ranks in their corresponding courses as per their performances in the examinations.

Sagarika Dash topped B Pharm, Suryakant Prusty was the topper in MBA and Brahmananda Moharana was first in MCA/MSC (Comp SC). In M Tech Civil Engineering, Rabindra Sahu stood first, while Purbipriya Nayak and Gobinda Nayak bagged the highest positions in Electrical and Mechanical

Engineering respectively. The course-wise toppers' list is available on the official website.

The entrance examinations were held for various technical/professional courses, such as B Pharm, LE-Tech (Dip), LE-Tech (BSc), B CAT (two streams), MBA, MCA, Int MBA, LE-Pharm, M Pharm, M Arch, M Plan and M Tech. These courses are presently being run in different government and private institutes/universities of the state for the academic year 2024-25.

A total of 57 test centres were set up in all the 30 districts of Odisha. Three outstation centres were also set up in Kolkata, Ranchi and Patna to help outstation students.

Candidates with ranks can take part in OJEE counselling for admission to different technical and professional courses in government-run and private colleges.

Stallone's watches to fetch whopping \$7.5mn

ACTOR SELLING OFF 11 OF HIS MOST PRIZED COLLECTION SUPPOSEDLY TO BUY A MANSION

AGENCIES

New York, June 3: Action hero Sylvester Stallone is parting ways with some of his most prized possessions, his watches. Up for auction at Sotheby's, starting June 5th is a portion of his incredible watch collection, valued at a staggering \$7.5 million, according to a report in the *New York Post*. No one really knows why the *Rocky* star is selling off some of his most passionate belongings. However, there are indications that the actor is planning to buy a new sprawling mansion.

Among the watches that will be up for grabs is one of Stallone's prized possession; the 'Patek Philippe Grandmaster Chime'. It is a legendary timepiece con-



sidered the ultimate treasure ('holy grail') by watch enthusiasts. This engineering marvel is estimated to bring in a whopping \$2.5 to \$5 million. Sotheby's watch expert Geoff Hess described it as 'one of the most complex wristwatches ever made'.

This rare beauty boasts a sleek white gold design with a remarkable 20 complications (fancy watch features) and an extra special touch: a handwritten note signed by Stallone himself. "I enjoy the collecting process like so many others in this pas-

sionate community, who don't just see watches as an accessory, but admire them for their history, craftsmanship, artistry - but most importantly - how they make them feel," Stallone said in a statement released by Sotheby's. "Looking at these watches, I feel truly lucky to have owned them; they serve as a reminder that hard work pays off. While parting ways with this collection is bittersweet, I cherish that I've owned them with pride, and hope they will be appreciated and admired in their next homes," the actor added.

Stallone's forthcoming auction at Sotheby's however, extends beyond the coveted 'Patek Philippe Grandmaster Chime'. Discerning watch collectors will also find a curated selection of

additional timepieces from Stallone's collection.

These include a 'Patek Philippe Nautilus', estimated at pre-sale to reach \$1,00,000, and an 'Audemars Piguet Royal Oak Tourbillon', projected to achieve up to \$2,00,000. Both watches are expected to bear provenance markers linking them directly to Stallone, such as an engraved signature or inscribed name.

For fans of the action genre, a truly unique opportunity arises with the inclusion of a 'Panerai Luminor Submersible 1950'. This specific timepiece was worn by Stallone in the 2012 film *The Expendables 2*, making it a coveted piece of movie memorabilia. The estimated value for this 'Panerai' is \$60,000.



FERREIRA FEARED SHE WAS POSSESSED BY A DEMON

Pop star Sky Ferreira became convinced she was possessed by a demon because she used to sleepwalk as a child. It happened after she saw the movie *The Exorcist* and became convinced a demon was behind her unconscious nighttime adventures.

RUPERT MURDOCH, 93, MARRIES FOR FIFTH TIME

Media mogul Rupert Murdoch has married fifth wife Elena Zhukova at his California vineyard over the weekend. The 93-year-old tied the knot with retired molecular biologist Zhukova, 67, at his vineyard in California Sunday, with family and friends in attendance, *MailOnline* reports.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You will exhibit your worth in ample measure today. You will probably chalk out great plans and ideas at work, and this will be very beneficial. But despite this, Ganesh says, if you don't get the deserved recognition, don't lose heart. Learn to take setbacks without getting disappointed.

TAURUS
You will be feeling listless, lazy and out of sorts today, and will tend to ignore and neglect important tasks scheduled for the day. Ganesh urges you to guard against this tendency as you could miss out on opportunities that others could then benefit from.

GEMINI
A crucial social event at home is on the anvil, and it will demand most of your attention. Intense business negotiations, which were going on for a long time, will come to a logical conclusion. The results are likely to be stacked in your favour. This, coupled with after-office parties, will ease out the stress.

CANCER
Today, you are likely to achieve something that you have badly wanted for a long time. It is very likely that you will get very emotional in the moment of victory today, predicts Ganesh. Your arrogance and overconfidence can throw you off track.

LEO
Unlike Dennis or Calvin, expect your sometimes naughty and mostly naughty kids to behave 'just right' at the right time. It's not that children like to break rules, they just want to have some fun, reminds Ganesh. Keep this in mind while you go about arranging for special classes to improve their academic skills and performance.

VIRGO
Foreign contacts will in all likelihood be a source of monetary profits. Ganesh says you will perform wonderfully in anything you might choose to undertake today. Even your ambition of setting up an offshore business enterprise will take root today.

LIBRA
Ganesh says that today will be a lucky day for you. You may receive some financial gain. There will be some good news about your children's progress. This is the right time to invest in business. For financial investors and share brokers this period is beneficial, so make the most of it.

SCORPIO
Keep your guards up and be wary today, warns Ganesh. A heat seeker meant for someone else may hit you in mid-flight. But all that watchfulness will save you from embarrassment. Like those old fables, these experiences have a lesson in them, says Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
Expect yourself to be hit with religious fervour. You may find yourself in the spotlight for an event or inauguration. Ganesh indicates travelling, so pack your bags for a long-distance business trip.

CAPRICORN
Numerous projects and building work pressure can keep you busy, but get done with whatever you have on hand, for Ganesh says the day has a host of recreational activities lined up for you. This will also be the right time to reach out to more people, and devour whatever knowledge or information they have to offer.

AQUARIUS
Optimism rules today, and you are assured of your success. You are not usually affected by others' opinions, and that is how it should be. But you must keep in mind the inconvenience your decisions may cause people.

PISCES
Confusion and uncertainty will linger like dark clouds in today's sky which will rain on your decision making parade and make it hard for you to find tangible solutions to problems. Steer clear of controversies and try and delay any important decisions and stick to your daily routine, advises Ganesh.

Sanjeeda on showbiz's dark side

Mumbai: Being an actor is not always rosy and actor Sanjeeda Shaikh recently revealed the dark side of showbiz. She recalled an incident when she was groped by a woman at a night club, which left her deeply shocked.

Sanya bags top honours at NYIFF

Sanya Malhotra has bagged the best actress award at the prestigious New York Indian Film Festival 2024 for her role in the movie *Mrs.*

Helmed by Arati Kadav, Mrs is reportedly the Hindi remake of the critically acclaimed Malayalam film, *The Great Indian Kitchen*. The movie has been described as 'a captivating account of a woman's strength and resilience', focusing on the journey of Richa, portrayed by Sanya Malhotra. Richa's story is one of self-discovery as she navigates the demanding responsibilities of the kitchen and household.

The film features an impressive cast, including Nishant Dahiya and Kanwaljit Singh, in key roles. The official handle of Jio Studios confirmed the news on social media. It said, "Congratulations to the incredibly talented @sanyamalhotra07 on winning the Best Actress Award at the prestigious New York Indian Film Festival for the film Mrs! Produced by #JyotiDeshpande Produced by #PammiBaweja & #HarmanBaweja. Cast @sanyamalhotra07 #NishantDahiya @kukuhere, Directed by @AratiKadav, Co-Produced by #SmitaBaliga #JioStudios @bawejastudios @nyindianff".

In addition to *Mrs*, Sanya Malhotra has an exciting lineup of upcoming projects. She will soon be seen in Varun Dhawan-headlined *Baby John* with dialogues by Alee, Mani Ratnam's forthcoming Tamil action drama, *Thug Life*, and an as-yet-untitled Anurag Kashyap directorial.

"I remember one incident very vaguely but it was by a girl. I was in a nightclub. One girl was passing by and she just touched my breast and she left. I was kind of taken aback, like what just happened. We hear men smack you on the back and they misbehave, but women are also the same," she said.

The actor continued, "If you are headed on the wrong path, you are going on it regardless. It has nothing to do with men or women; whatever is wrong is wrong. If a woman has wronged you, tell her. Because I think playing the victimhood card is very unattractive."

Sanjeeda, who is basking in the success of her web series *Heermandi*, also opened up

about divorce from actor Aamir Ali in 2020. She said that at that time, she thought of herself as the most depressed person, and unfortunate. It was after sometime that she loving herself, and now she has overcome and is happy with this version of herself.

AGENCIES



Mita's casting couch story

Mumbai: The 77th Cannes Film Festival has been special for India for many reasons. Payal Kapadia's *All We Imagine As Light* has made every countryman proud. And there's also *The Shameless*, for which Anasuya Sengupta won the Best Actress award in the Un Certain Regard segment at Cannes, a first for any Indian actor. Veteran actress Mita Vashisht, who also features in *The Shameless*, recently shared about her casting couch experience.

Narrating about the shocking incident, "A director from South met me in Chennai. He offered me a lead role. The actress he had worked with was like the Smita Patil of the South. At that time, she had just won a major award. He offered me the role but

the condition was that I should live with him for two months. I told him, 'Bullshit, keep your role and get lost!' There was not even a second thought."

She also said, "His English was a little gaddad; at first, I thought he meant that I have to stay in Chennai for two months to learn the language. Then he clarified, 'No, no, you have to live with me'."

Mita added, "It was a lead role and yet I walked off. He might be a hot shot in the Telugu industry whose heroines were winning awards but I don't give a damn."

Malaika in Odisha Queen beauty pageant jury

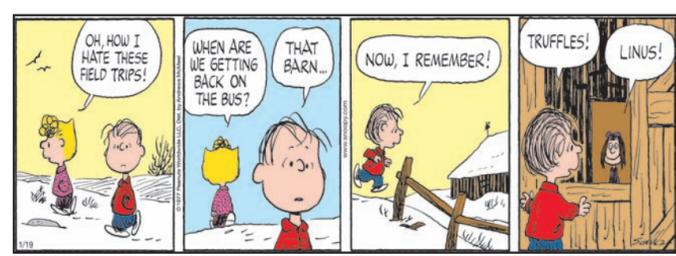


Bhubaneswar: The fourth season of Odisha Queen, a popular beauty contest of the state, organised by RR Events and Cine Productions, is scheduled to take place in Bhubaneswar, July 20. The competition will feature a panel of judges, including Hindi film star Malaika Arora, Odia actresses Archita Sahu and Sheetal Patra, and actor Subhasis Sharma.

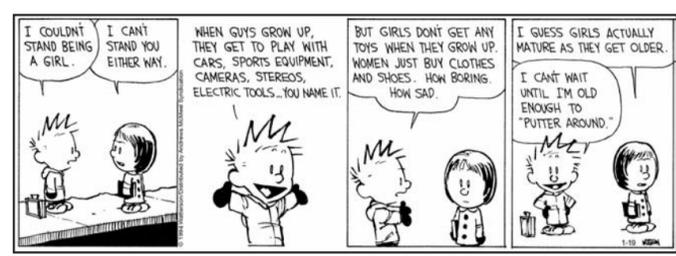
Ramesh Barik, Chairman of RR Events and Cine Productions, announced that auditions for the pageant will occur on specific dates across various locations in Odisha. The auditions will be held at Berhampur (June 19), Rourkela (June 22), Sambalpur (June 28), Cuttack (June 30), and Bhubaneswar (July 3 and July 5.) Participants aged 18 to 28 are invited to register and showcase their talents.

Talking about the significance of such pageants, actress Archita, one of the jury members, said she had limited opportunities during her times. But now such competitions are offering platforms to young women across Odisha to pursue their dreams and display their talents, added the actress.

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

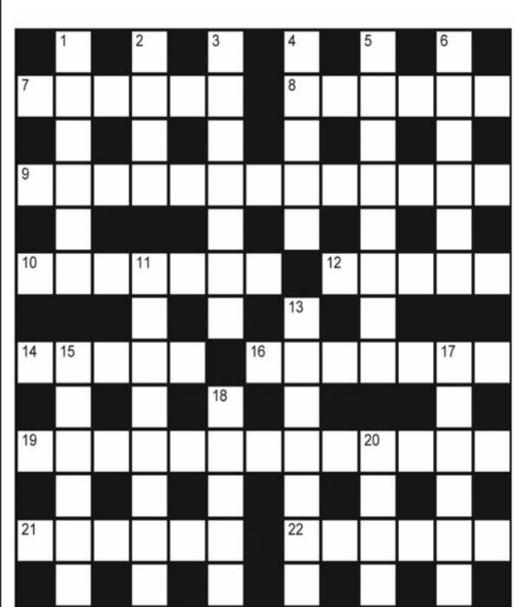


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



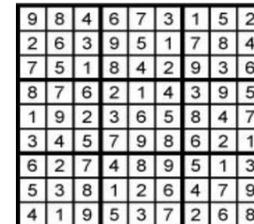
- Copyright ©2024 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 7 North American elk
 - 8 Aimless drawing
 - 9 Boxing final (5,8)
 - 10 Cowhide
 - 12 Flip response?
 - 14 Pungent
 - 16 Endure
 - 19 Uzi (10,3)
 - 21 Solant goose
 - 22 Like some plants
 - 4 Draw forth
 - 5 Wassailers
 - 6 Stone fruit
 - 11 B vitamin
 - 13 Cook's formulas
 - 15 Mountain lion
 - 17 Kind of apartment
 - 18 Critical
 - 20 Heroic poem
- Down**
- 1 Noisy bird
 - 2 Fuzzy fruit
 - 3 Violinist

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

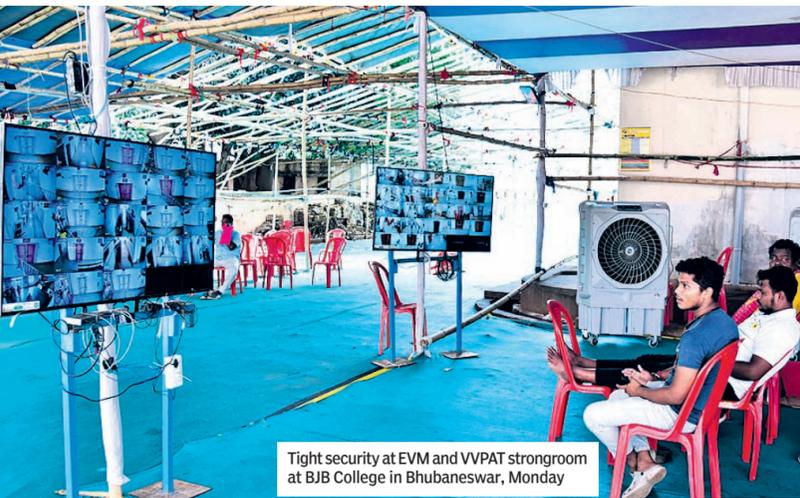


Congress workers stage a demonstration near Puri Collector's office, Monday, demanding stringent action against those responsible for Wednesday's firecracker mishap

downtown

70 CENTRES ALL SET FOR COUNTING

OVER 2.5 CRORE VOTERS EXERCISED THEIR FRANCHISE IN THE FOUR-PHASE ELECTIONS, WITH A TURNOUT OF 74.44 PER CENT, HIGHER THAN THE 73.09 PER CENT RECORDED IN 2019



Tight security at EVM and VVPAT strongroom at BJB College in Bhubaneswar, Monday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 3: The Election Commission has made elaborate preparations for counting of votes for 21 the Lok Sabha and 147 Assembly seats in Odisha. Counting will be held in 70 centres throughout the state starting at 8am Tuesday, officials said. Over 2.5 crore voters exercised their franchise in the four-phase elections, with a

turnout of 74.44 per cent, higher than the 73.09 per cent recorded in 2019, Chief Electoral Officer Nikunja Bihari Dhal told a press conference here Monday.

Of the total electors, 75.55 per cent women and 73.37 per cent men voted in this election.

More than 67,000 ballot units, along with 1.47 lakh postal ballots for Lok Sabha elections and 1.46 lakh for Assembly elections, will be tallied across the 70 centres. In order to ensure incident-free counting, prohibitory measures under Section 144 of CrPC have been imposed in and around the counting centres in Khurda district.

Counting halls have been air-conditioned due to the heatwave, with power generators on standby, CCTVs installed, and fire fighting teams stationed.

Adequate provisions for drinking water and ORS have also been made.

Each EVM counting table will have one counting supervisor, one counting assistant, and one micro observer, he added.

A total of 5,777 counting supervisors, 5,233 counting assistants, and 5,396 micro observers have been appointed. Additionally, the Election Commission has assigned 124 special observers to oversee the counting process.

Security measures have been intensified with 60 companies

Central forces in Odisha to prevent post-poll violence

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 3: In a bid to prevent post-poll violence, the Election Commission (EC) has for the first time decided to continue with the deployment of Central forces in some states, including Odisha, even after the expiry of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) period, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar said Monday.

He said while the EC believes that there would be no post-poll violence, to prevent any flare-up, the election body has, for the first time, decided to deploy Central forces even after the provisions of the MCC are lifted following Tuesday's counting of the votes cast in the Lok Sabha polls.

The states where the Central forces would continue to be deployed include Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Manipur, Kumar said. "Wherever

we think there is a possibility (of violence)," he told a press conference here.

Sources had said that the EC has provided Central forces to various states beyond the June 4 counting day to prevent any untoward incident, based on the assessment provided by the states as well as central observers.

Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal have been provided with security forces for 15 days after the counting day.

Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh have been provided with security forces for two days after the counting day, the sources said.

Along with the Lok Sabha election, Assembly polls were also held in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.

The counting of the votes polled in the Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh Assembly elections took place June 2.

of CAPF and OAPF deployed at counting centres, along with another 89 CAPF companies

for maintaining law and order after the results are announced.

VB Sayani NHRC acting chairperson

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 3: Vijaya Bharathi Sayani, a member of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), has become the acting chairperson of the central body with effect from June 2, according to a notification Monday.

He would be replacing Justice (ret'd) Arun Kumar Mishra, who completed his tenure June 1.

Mishra served as the eighth chairperson of the right panel and was appointed to its top post in June 2021.

"The President, under Section 7(1) of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, is pleased to authorise Smt Vijaya Bharathi Sayani, Member, National Human Rights Commission, to act as the Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission, with effect from 02.06.2024, until the appointment of a new Chairperson in the NHRC to fill such vacancy," read a notification issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs Monday.

A former Supreme Court judge, justice Mishra was also the first non-CJI to be appointed to the NHRC chief post since the amendment of the Protection of Human Rights Act in 2019.

He had succeeded justice H L Dattu, a former Chief Justice of India (CJI). Mishra, who had become an apex court judge July 7, 2014, demitted office in September 2020.

Fake narratives spread to sway elections: CEC

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 3: Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar Monday said 'fake' and 'mischievous' narratives were spread to sway the general elections and sought proof from the opposition to back its claim that district magistrates were influenced to vitiate the poll process.

"You cannot spread a rumour and bring everyone under a cloud of suspicion," Kumar said, citing opposition claims on faulty electoral rolls, the efficacy of EVMs, voter turnout and the counting process.

Flanked by election commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and SS Sandhu, the CEC was speaking at a press conference on the eve of the counting of votes.

"There is a pattern, there is a design, I'm not saying it's a toolkit. But there is a design," the CEC said, adding that cases pending for years were raked up just four days before the first phase of polling.

The Commission had made preparations to deal with any foreign attempt to influence the poll process but these allegations have come from within the country itself, he said in an apparent dig at the opposition.

"We failed to understand the

fake narratives that were going on during the elections, but we have understood now," Kumar said. With the EC facing criticism for holding elections in peak summer, the CEC said one of three big learnings from the polls was that this process should have been completed a month earlier.

"They shouldn't have been held in such hot weather. It is a big election that involves a lot of forces. There is a lot of movement. We cannot reduce the time taken for the process but it could have been done earlier instead of in such heat," Kumar said. "We failed to understand the fake narratives that were going on during the elections. But we have understood it now... We have to prepare next time to fight the fake narratives," the CEC said.

Taking exception to allegations that district magistrates were being influenced, the CEC said, "Those levelling allegations should say which DM was influenced and we will punish them. They should tell us before the counting process begins."

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh had claimed that Home Minister Amit Shah had been calling district magistrates and collectors and indulging in "blatant and brazen" intimidation.

Heat spells in state sign of global warming: Expert

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 3: The present spell of heatwaves across the state and in many parts of the country is the manifestation of the impacts of global warming and related climatic changes, said some environmentalists here ahead of the observance of World Environment Day, June 5.

The World Environment Day this year comes at crucial juncture when many parts of the country, including Odisha, are experiencing extreme heatwave conditions while, on the other hand, new governments are going to be formed both at the Centre and in Odisha as election results would be declared Tuesday.

As per United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a score of a little over 63 out of 100, India ranked a dismal 112th among 166 nations with respect to its preparedness to meet the goals. As per Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) 2024 State of India's Environment in Figures report, between January 1 and December 31, 2023, India experienced extreme weather events on 318 of the 365 days.



Putting these phenomena into perspective, OrissaPOST spoke to a few environmental experts about what needs to be done to tackle environmental hazards and climate change.

Environmentalist and secretary of Odisha Environmental Society JK Panigrahi said, "Humanity is confronting grave challenges. The present spell of heatwaves across the state and in many parts of the country is the manifestation of the impacts of global warming and related climatic changes. Persistent increase in release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere from enhanced use of fossil fuels is at the root of the crisis."

Panigrahi also said, "This year's theme being, 'Land

restoration, desertification and drought resilience' under the slogan 'Our Land, Our Future. We are Generation Restoration,' the world needs to focus its attention on combating the destructive land degradation practices and earnestly carrying out conservation measures. The mounting crisis of climate change is aggravating land degradation and desertification by way of frequent occurrence of droughts due to irregular weather patterns. The worst sufferers of the predicament are the rural population, marginal farmers and poorest of the poor."

As the quality of soil deteriorates, productivity declines and ecosystems become barren, thereby putting pressure on

As per United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a score of a little over 63 out of 100, India ranked a dismal 112th among 166 nations with respect to its preparedness to meet the goals

mankind as well as natural ecosystems, he added.

"The new governments that would be formed at the Centre as well as in the state need to rise to the occasion and undertake exemplary initiatives to fight out the environmental challenges by involving the citizens," Panigrahi stated.

Meanwhile, some of the environmentalist raised concern over shortcomings in environmental action plan of the government.

Ranjan Panda, popularly known as Water Man of Odisha, said, "We are almost on the edge as we celebrate World Environment Day this year. Heat has taken a heavy toll on our lives like never before. All our pre-

paredness seems to have fallen short of the need. Our transition to green economy, fuelled by green energy, is very slow. Our current development models are not letting the way for this transition. Let's change this with collective actions for transitioning to green and inclusive growth pathways. Unless we work on such pathways, we will just keep digging our own graves."

Echoing similar concerns, Neelima Mishra, climate activist and founder of an environmental impact startup, Ceiba Green Solutions, Odisha said, "Waste segregation, reducing usage of single-use plastics, composting, reducing textile wastes, participating in activities like plogging, nature trails etc are the need of the hour."

She also said, "Although we are yet to become zero-waste households, we have adopted a number of habits that have helped us reduce the amount of waste we produce and in the upcoming year we're striving to do even better. While we might not have the power to reverse climate change and stop rising sea levels, we can definitely work on adopting lifestyles with less use of plastic, less garbage and less packaging."

50-yr-old Canada woman's gut found producing alcohol

In a rare case, doctors in Canada treated a 50-year-old woman with a syndrome that makes her gut produce alcohol, and feel intoxicated without getting drunk, according to a case report published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal Monday.

Doctors at the University of Toronto and Mount Sinai diagnosed the woman with auto-brewery syndrome - a rare condition in which gut fungi create alcohol through fermentation.

For two years the woman suffered from extreme daytime sleepiness and slurred speech and, despite not drinking alcohol, had elevated blood alcohol levels and alcohol on her breath.

However, every time doctors dismissed her case with a diagnosis of being drunk - despite saying she had not been drinking.

In the last five years, she had recurrent Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs), which required frequent courses of proton pump inhibitors ciprofloxacin and nitrofurantoin, as well as gastrointestinal reflux disease, treated with dexlansoprazole.

In the past, she would drink a glass of wine on holidays; however, in recent years, she had stopped drinking altogether because of her religious beliefs.

Along with her husband and children, she visited the emergency department seven times before the correct diagnosis could be made, displaying a lack of awareness of the syndrome among physicians.

"Auto-brewery syndrome carries substantial social, legal, and medical consequences for patients and their loved ones," said Dr. Rahel Zewude, University

of Toronto, with co-authors.

The doctors 'suspect recurrent antibiotics for UTI and dexlansoprazole use led to gut dysbiosis with potential contribution of genetics' resulting in the rare syndrome.

The woman was treated with antifungal medication and low-carbohydrate diets.

Auto-brewery syndrome occurs when microorganisms capable of fermenting alcohol from carbohydrates outgrow normal gut flora.

It is rare because it requires several host factors to interact with a substantial overpopulation of fermenting microorganisms and high carbohydrate consumption.

"Comorbidities such as diabetes, liver disease, gut dysmotility disorders, and inflammatory bowel disease are associated with auto-brewery syndrome," the study showed.



BUDDING TALENT: Young artistes perform during Nrutyashikha Mahotsav 2024 at Rabintra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Monday

PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

74.41% turnout in final phase: EC



Polling - LOK SABHA (Phase IV)
 ■ Highest 76.77%: Balasore
 ■ Lowest 71.22%: Kendrapara
Polling - ASSEMBLY (Phase IV)
 ■ Highest 77.52%: Bangirposi
 ■ Lowest 62.30%: Aul
Voter turnout in first three phases
 ■ 75.68% - Phase I (May 13)
 ■ 73.5% - Phase II (May 20)
 ■ 74.55% - Phase III (May 25)

Bhubaneswar, Jun 3: The state registered a voter turnout of 74.41 per cent in the fourth round and the final phase of polling in six Lok Sabha (LS) and 42 Assembly segments held June 1, an Election Commission official said, Monday.
 In the 2019 general elections, the state's overall polling percentage was 74.38 per cent.
 Highest polling of 76.77 per cent was registered in Balasore Lok Sabha seat followed by Mayurbhanj (75.79 pc), Jagatsinghpur (75.48 pc), Jajpur (74.47 pc), Bhadrak (73.23 pc) and Kendrapara (71.22 pc), the official said.
 Bangirposi Assembly segment under Mayurbhanj LS seat

recorded the highest 77.52 per cent of voter turnout while Aul Vidhan Sabha seat registered the lowest of 62.30 per cent.
 Over 99.61 lakh voters were eligible to exercise their franchise at 10,881 polling booths in the last phase.
 The Election Commission had deployed 36,000 security personnel including 125 companies of Central forces. The official said the state had registered 75.68 per cent of voter turnout in the first round of polling May 13, 73.5 per cent in the second round May 20 and 74.55 per cent May 25.
 Meanwhile, 70 companies of CAPF will be deployed in Odisha till June 6 to maintain law and order in the post-election period, Chief Electoral Officer N

B Dhal said, adding 25 companies have been deployed to protect EVM strongrooms and counting centres.
 The decision to step up security arrangements was taken after the state witnessed sporadic incidents of post-poll violence in multiple places after completion of the last phase voting.
 The CEO office said that a two-tier security arrangement has been put in place at the strongrooms. While the first layer comprises a platoon of CAPF personnel, State Armed Police Force personnel have been mobilised outside the building.
 A record 185 companies of CAPF were deployed for the four-phase elections in the state to ensure free, fair and impartial polling.



RELAXING: Swings made up of plastic ropes await customers ahead of Raja festival near BJB College Road in Bhubaneswar, Monday

OHRC urged to act on human rights violations

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 3: Human Rights activist Pradipta Nayak appealed to Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) Monday requesting to intervene into the matter with regards to mass arrest of tribal men and women by Bada Sahi police under Mayurbhanj district May 30, 2024.

Nayak, in the letter to OHRC chairperson, alleged that 38 tribal men and women of village Belapala, under Mayurbhanj district have been arrested by the Bada Sahi Police on charges of breaking of vehicles and attacking the police on duty.
 Names of the arrestees are Meena Singh, Somabari Singh, Sukri Singh, Rajani Singh,

Phulamani Singh, Kentuni Polei, Libu Singh, Malati Singh, Sumi Singh, Mini Singh, Bharati Bisol, Somabari Singh w/o Sibi Singh, Somabari Singh w/o Rajendra Singh, Nandin Polei, Jasoda Singh, Sarathi Bag, Sanjulata Bag, Bulu Naik, Rajesh Polei, Binod Bag, Chanda Singh, Sujit Singh, Arun Polei, Bikram Singh, Biswanath Naik, Rohita swar Naik, Jhadeswar

Naik, Aruna Patra, Radhamohan Singh, Shyamasundar Singh, Bhagirathi Dandapat, Suman Digar, Debasmita Das, Rina Naik, Sulochana Naik, Susila Jena, Rajendra Singh and Prabodh Bhunya. Nayal alleged that the villagers were regularly opposing to illegal sand mining (Bali Ghat) near their village on river Budhabalanga.

2 poll officials hurt

Bhandaripokhari: Two women teachers of Raghunathpur Upper Primary School under this block in Bhadrak district were injured in a road mishap at Chingudipur Chowk on NH 16 while they were returning home on a scooter after finishing their election duty, late Saturday night, sources said Monday. The injured were identified as Menaka Das, 59, and Chhabirani Sahu, 36. They have been admitted to a hospital in Cuttack for treatment.

ASG Eye Hospital hosts 6th anniv



Bhubaneswar, June 3: ASG Eye Hospital, Bhubaneswar, which served over one lakh patients, observed its sixth anniversary recently.
 An event was organised on this occasion in which hospital director Bighnaraj Pal and manager Biswajit Mishra along with staff and patients cut a cake while thanking the community for its trust and support.
 Speaking on this occasion, Mishra said, "We are proud of our journey and the trust of our patients. Our commitment to excellence continues as we expand to provide top-notch eye care across Odisha," said Mishra.

Children, elderly join City cycling event

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 3: Several citizens across age groups enthusiastically participated in a cycling event in the Capital City to mark the 'World Bicycle Day', Monday.
 The event, organised by the Bhubaneswar Cycling and Adventure Club (BCAC), started at 6am from Unit VI area. The participants, which included BCAC members, were seen riding an array of bicycles wearing neon-green and blue club jerseys and colourful helmets.
 The large peloton of cyclists, ranging from children as young as five years to seniors over 65 years of age, created a captivating wave on the streets, impressing onlookers and motorists.
 The peloton took a brief halt at 'I love Bhubaneswar' insignia to take a few snaps before moving towards Ram Mandir, Exhibition Ground, Acharya Vihar, Kalinga Hospital Square and Patia, before finally reaching Nandankanan where they met a group from Cuttack.
 Twin city Police



Commissioner and BCAC president Sanjeeb Panda, who was present on the occasion, highlighted the importance of cycling. "As responsible citizens, everyone should adopt cycling in wherever possible to stay healthy and fit," he said.
 He also emphasised the impact of cycling for a sustainable community and environmental-friendly city. "We must incor-

porate cycling in our daily life for fitness, less carbon footprints and enduring a better tomorrow," he added.
 BCAC, as one of the leading cycling and adventure clubs in Bhubaneswar, continues to promote cycling through regular expeditions and events, advocating it as a healthier and eco-friendly mode of transportation.
 The United Nations ac-

knowledged the impact of cycling by designating June 3 as the 'World Bicycle Day' during its 72nd General Assembly April 12, 2018. Embracing the resolution, BCAC has been organising the 'World Bicycle Day' event every year with a rally from its Club House (VIR-11, Unit VI) to Nandankanan which attracts cyclists from the City and neighbouring Cuttack.

ELECTIONS 2024

153 cases, 139 arrests

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 3: The Odisha Police has registered a total of 153 election-related cases including violation of the Model Code of Conduct till Monday, a senior police officer said.
 The police arrested 139 people for their alleged involvement in the violation of law and MCC, he said.
 Since January 2024, the police have executed 34,602 warrants.
 The Odisha police also arrested 1283 history-sheeters and absconders and booked 11 persons under NSA.
 Besides, 281 illegal arms, 143 cartridges, 123 bombs and 10186 other explosives have been seized. The police have busted three illegal arms manufacturing units during the election period.
 The state CEO's office has received 124 electoral offences during the elections, compared to 327 such cases in 2019, official sources said.



Election-related seizures in the state were also more than six times compared to 2019. Seizure of items valued at approximately ₹280 crore including ₹20.52 crore in cash, ₹42.33 crore worth of liquor and ₹78.82 crore worth of drugs and other items were seized.
 Meanwhile, the police Monday arrested three more persons for their alleged involvement in the pre-poll violence, which claimed the life of a BJP worker at Srikrushnasanapur May 15 night.
 With these, the total number of arrested people in the violence has reached 17, Ganjam SP Jagmohan Meena said.

Community broadband: Local solution for a global problem

Communities are overcoming network access barriers by creating networks themselves. A digital network built and operated by the people who use it is a collective response to what is often a systemic problem

According to a 2023 study by the International Telecommunications Union, approximately 2.6 billion people are unconnected to the internet. It's a staggering figure.
 There are many reasons for this, including poverty, reliability of service, access to linguistically and culturally relevant content, leisure time, access to equipment and training. But perhaps the most debilitating barrier is access to network infrastructure.
 One way communities are overcoming network access barriers is by creating networks themselves. A digital network built and operated by the people who use it is a collective response to what is often a systemic problem. Communities are

building and operating their own broadband networks all over the world.
 Developing network literacy
 One of the key challenges that arise when people want to build their own broadband network is ensuring community members have the knowledge and skills required to address the complexities involved. Many different kinds of information have to be assembled and strategically navigated.
 The elements of a network need to not only be built and installed, but also maintained, repaired and replaced over time. These elements include both technical and social infrastructure such as key personnel and community relationships.
 Building and maintenance
 Building encompasses the ur-



gency and complexity of getting a network off the ground, while maintaining considers planning for long-term network sustainability.
 This design approach improves understanding and also anticipates future challenges related to both the inception and maintenance phases of the community network's lifecycle.
 Inclusive information design
 The Roadmap emphasises community efforts aimed at inclusion, accountability, group decision-

making and long-term planning. And it also presents the technical steps and stages required for building a network in an accessible way — including local needs assessments, network mapping, equipment choices and deploying a pilot network.
 The publication structure, guided by principles of information design, breaks up complex blocks of information into manageable chunks using accessible design features such as cross-referencing and signpost-

ing strategies. The Roadmap is a quick and ready resource for learning and training.
 Harnessing community knowledge
 Another key strategy identified in the Roadmap is how to pool technical knowledge among community members tackling a network project. The Roadmap lays out strategies for documenting and sharing troubleshooting and problem-solving resources, so that emerging community network wisdom does not get lost.
 Planning and maintaining networks
 The Community Network Roadmap is designed for communities in both the early stages of considering a community network, as well as for those who already have a network and require resources for troubleshooting and maintenance.
 For communities in early stages of thinking about a community network, the Roadmap offers thorough and research-based explanations of the many dif-

ferent issues, dimensions and considerations that can arise in the process of building and sustaining a community-run broadband network.
 In addition, communities starting a network often overlook longer-term issues like succession planning, network expansion, equipment upgrades and changing local needs. Bringing in medium and long-term considerations at the outset can make growth and change easier to manage. A global community resource
 The Roadmap is designed with a DIY method in mind — it is a document that we hope will help communities achieve connectivity goals using resources they have available.
 Connectivity today plays a central role in allowing individuals and communities to fully realise citizenship and belonging. How we navigate everyday life and participate politically and socially, and how we access educational opportunities all now manifest, at least in part, through digital networks.

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Poachers have a field day in Chilika as admin sleeps

Rampant hunting of birds continues on the Chilika coast from Daya river mouth to Makara river mouth via Bhusandpur on the fringes of Kanas block



POST NEWS NETWORK

Kanas, June 3: In a concerning development, poachers near here in Puri district along the coast of Chilika, Asia's largest brackish water lagoon, are hunting birds -- both migratory and indigenous -- by poisoning and adding sedatives to their feed, sources said Monday.

This practice of killing birds is spread from Daya river mouth to Makara river mouth via Bhusandpur on the fringes of Kanas block.

It is an endless story of horror and killing as poachers in these areas can be seen adding sedatives and poisoning the food to hunt birds. Thousands of birds are being poached every day by various tactics including shooting, twisting their necks, or poisoning the fish that the birds feed on. Miscreants carrying

the avian carcasses, even live ones, on bamboo slings or bags and selling them at roadside dhabas and hotels in the pursuit of fast buck has become a usual scene that one's eyes cannot ignore. However, the Forest officials in these areas are yet to wake up from their slumber and act against these poachers.

Lakhs of migratory as well as indigenous birds visit Chilika lake in winter and return after the onset of summer. The famous annual flocking of the birds to the Chilika coast has been possible owing to a favourable and secure eco-system for them spread across the abundant paddy fields and marshy land here.

However, it has been observed that some birds stay back for some more time and feed on the dropped paddy on the farmlands of nearby villages. Various

species of birds were seen feeding on the dropped paddy apart from pests and insects on the farmlands of Gopinathpur, Paikamara, Sanaora, Badaora, Ogalpur, Gangadharpur, Dochhian, Alipada, Nuagaon and Deipur villages adjoining the Chilika lake. The birds were also seen surviving on the weeds and water lily fruits growing in Chilika lake.

Taking undue advantage of this, poachers are either laying traps on the farmlands or adding sedatives or poison to the birds' feed to kill them. Summer season has proved favourable for them in hunting the birds as strict protection measures for the birds are only enforced during the winter by the Tangi Forest department, and bird protection committees at Satapada and Balugaon.

Poachers are having a field day nowadays as the strict measures are no longer in place. They are either killing or catching the birds alive and making a quick buck from their sale. Bird lovers and environmentalists have demanded the intervention of the Forest department to take steps to safeguard the winged guests.

Jumbo tramples man

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, June 3: A man was trampled to death by an elephant in a jungle near Kauchi village at Sialighati panchayat under Badasahi block in Mayurbhanj district, Forest officials said Monday.

The deceased villager was identified as Bukai Tudu, 50, a native of Kauchi village. He had gone to the forest to collect firewood when he came face to face with the elephant. The pachyderm picked him on its tusk and later trampled him under its feet leading to his death on spot.

The matter came to the fore after villagers spotted Tudu's body and informed the police and Forest officials. On being informed, police and Forest personnel reached the spot and launched an investigation. A case was registered in this connection and the body was sent for post-mortem to the district headquarters hospital here.

BJP worker's murder: 3 more held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur/Khallikote, June 3: Police here arrested three more accused Monday for their alleged involvement in the sensational political murder of BJP worker Dilip Pahan which took place May 15 at Krushnasaranpur village under Khallikote police limits, Ganjam SP Jagmohan Meena said in a press conference Monday. Earlier, 14 other accused have already been arrested in connection with the political violence.

The arrested accused have been identified as Raja Tarai and Binay Tarai of Loghar village, and Kokan Nahak of Ramachandrapur village. Khallikote police managed to arrest the trio from Bangalore, informed SP Meena. "An investigation into the incident is currently underway and strict action will be taken against whoever is found involved, directly or indirectly," he added.



DILIGENT EFFORTS: Farmers drying the harvested paddy under the sun on Chaurpur Road in Sambalpur Monday after the grains got drenched in the thunderstorm that lashed the area the previous day

TWO WILDLIFE CRIMINALS ARRESTED

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baliguda, June 3: Acting on a tip-off, a special team of Forest officials caught two poachers in the act and nabbed them from a jungle near Pusangia under Bataguda panchayat of this block in Kandhamal district, late Sunday night.

The accused were identified as Balam Pujari, 27, and Sudam Mallik, 40, residents of nearby villages. Informed, the team of forest officials immediately set off for the jungle and caught them red-handed while they were preparing for poaching. Later, they arrested the two poachers, forester Prabhat Dora

said. A gun, 10 live bullets, 120 gram explosives, two match boxes, two torches and two mobile phones were seized from their possession. A case was registered in this connection and the accused produced in the court after they admitted to their involvement in poaching, the forester added.

RCCI elects new body

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, June 3: The Rourkela Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has a new elected body. The election was conducted Sunday and the results declared late in the evening.

Prabhat Tibrewal has been elected as the new president of RCCI after defeating his nearest rival Naresh Arya, the outgoing vice-president. Similarly, Santosh Agarwal has been elected as the secretary (banking, tax and legal) and Rishi Modi, as secretary (finance). Modi defeated his nearest rival Sridhar Mallick.

Apart from these four main positions of the body, over two dozen persons have been elected for different verticals like iron and steel man-

ufacturing, refractory, fabrication, general industries, electronics and hardware etc.

The entire panel led by Prabhat Tibrewal was supported by Praveen Garg, a former president of RCCI. One of the supporters of Tibrewal said, "It has the indirect blessings of Sarada Bhai. We have scored a major victory."

This time, former president Subha Pattnaik's panel, which was led by Naresh Arya, failed miserably. "This is a loss for Subha babu," said one supporter of the new president. "We have broken the myth that chamber politics is controlled and played by Subha only," he added.

Besides, it is learnt that one of the most powerful and richest businessmen of Rourkela has also pulled the shots in this election of RCCI.

Vedanta Lanjigarh launches another livelihood project

Project Sangam aims to facilitate sustainable livelihoods for over 20,000 people in five years

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 3: Vedanta Limited, Lanjigarh, India's premier producer of smelter-grade alumina and a unit of Vedanta Aluminium, recently launched 'Sangam: Jeevan, Prakruti Aur Sanskriti Ka Ek Milan', an initiative that aims to support rural farmers through the development of climate-resilient livelihoods.

fall, except during the monsoons. In response, Project Sangam has been designed as a comprehensive roadmap of efforts to augment the socio-economic development of the region by integrating natural resource management and long-term livelihood opportunities.

Among these interventions is the establishment of Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) - a federation of small farmers who aggregate their produce to avail the benefits of economies of scale. Additionally, community members will

be imparted skill development and capacity-building training in sustainable and profitable non-farm-based activities like pottery. Some of the women farmers have already taken up entrepreneurial pursuits like beekeeping, which have the potential to generate a viable income with nominal investment requirements.

Integrating sustainable agricultural practices, technological interventions, and natural resource management, Project Sangam is being rolled out across more than 40 villages and is set to benefit over 500 families.

Kalahandi is primarily an agrarian region with limited livelihood opportunities. It also witnesses low levels of rain-

भारत सरकार
कारपोरेट कार्य मंत्रालय
त्वरित कॉर्पोरेट समापन प्रसंस्करण केंद्र
(सी-पेस),
आई.आई.सी.ए. बिल्डिंग, 7वीं मंजिल,
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आई.एम.टी. मानेसर,
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IMT Manesar,
Gurgaon, Haryana - 122050
Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

Form No. STK - 6
PUBLIC NOTICE
[Pursuant to sub-section (2) and sub-section (4) of section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 7 of the Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Register of Companies) Rules, 2016]
Public Notice No. ROC/C-PACE/STK-2/248(2)/2024-25/169 Date: 21/05/2024
Reference: (1) In the matter of striking off or removal of names (1) companies in the state of Odisha under section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 in respect of:

S. No.	SRN	CIN	Company Name
1	AA7535320	U72900OR2017PTC026827	EUROFORCE IT PRIVATE LIMITED

(2) Notice is hereby given that the Registrar of Companies had received applications from the above-mentioned companies under section 248(2) of the Companies Act, 2013 for removal of its/their name(s) from the register of companies either on the ground that they have failed to commence business within one year of their incorporation or on the ground that the company(ies) is/are not carrying on any business or operation for a period of two immediately preceding financial years and has/have not made any application(s) within such period for obtaining the status of a dormant company under section 455 of the Companies Act, 2013 or the company(ies) have obtained the status of dormant company/subscribers to the memorandum have not paid the subscription which they have undertaken to pay at the time of incorporation of a company and a declaration to this effect has not been filed within one hundred and eighty days of its incorporation under subsection (1) of section 10A/ have not been carrying on any business or operations, as revealed after the physical verification carried out under sub-section (9) of section 12, but it/they do not wish to continue its/their registration as companies and have, therefore, requested for removal/strike off of its/their names from the register of companies.
(3) Accordingly, the Registrar of Companies proposes to remove or strike off the names of the above-mentioned companies from the Register of Companies
(4) Any Person objecting to the proposed removal or striking off of name of the companies from the register of companies may send his or her objection to the office address mentioned here above within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.

Irkan Tirkey
Assistant Registrar
Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit
CBC 07123/11/0120/2425

ALL INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION
(A STATUTORY BODY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA)
Nelson Mandela Marg, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi - 110070
Website: www.aicte-india.org

PUBLIC NOTICE
Reopening of Portal for Institutions Offering BBA/BCA/BMS Programs

Till date, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has given approval to more than 4300 Institution offering BBA/BCA/BMS programs on 'as-is-where-is basis'. However, AICTE is still receiving large number of requests from institutions now having keen interest in taking approval.

Considering these requests, AICTE has decided to reopen the application portal for institutions seeking approval to offer BBA, BCA, and BMS programs for the academic year 2024-2025.

Institutions those have not yet applied will now have an additional opportunity to submit their applications with a late fee of Rs. 5000 till 07/06/2024, 5.00 PM.

All interested institutions are encouraged to take advantage of this extended deadline to ensure their applications are duly considered.

For more information and to submit your application, please visit the AICTE official website at www.aicte-india.org.

Advt. No. Regulation Bureau/AICTE/05(01)2024

Prof. RAJIVE KUMAR
Member Secretary, AICTE

CBC 21300/12/0001/2425

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POSSESSION NOTICE
[Rule - 8(1)]

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Maharashtra under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of the powers conferred under sub-section (12) of section 13 read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices calling upon the Borrowers/Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice plus interest and expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The Borrowers/Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the Bank of Maharashtra for an amount stated below with interest & expenses thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

BRANCH/ Name & Address of the Borrowers/Guarantors	Description of the Security Interest taken over possession / Type of possession	Liabilities due on the specified date as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession
Berhampur Branch/ Borrower / Guarantors: (1) Mr. Niranjan Pradhan, S/o-Mr. Purna Chandra Pradhan, Address-1: At: Plot No. 1283/2816, Khata No. 179/870, Bramha Nagar, Chikiti, Back side of SBI Chikiti Branch, Dist-Ganjam, Odisha-761010. Address-2: At: Parashamba Main Road, Near Shiv temple, Kalabada, Via-Chikiti, Dist.-Ganjam, Odisha-761010. (2) Mrs. Puspanjali Pradhan, W/o-Mr. Niranjan	Equitable Mortgage of all those pieces and parcels of residential land and building situated at, Mouza-Sanibarprnho, Khata No. 179/870, Plot No. 1283/2816, Bramha Nagar, back side of SBI Chikiti branch, Dist.-Ganjam, Area of Land the land is 1786 Sq.ft and Bounded are as follows: East: Site of R. Satrugana Reddy & Others, West: Site of R. Satrugana Reddy & Others, North: Site of Chamamayee Padhi, South: Road. Together with the buildings and structures/ residential block constructed to/ to be constructed thereon admeasuring 1786 Sq.ft. [Carper] i.e. 1786 Sq.ft. [built up] in aggregate consisting of 6 rooms on Ground floor/s and all the fixture annexed thereto.	₹ 30,07,512.34/- As on 16.02.2024 + interest and other charges there on	16.02.2024 / 29.05.2024
Berhampur Branch/ Borrower / Guarantors: (1) M/s. Prince Decor Glass, through its Prop.: Mr. U Santosh, S/o-Mr. Uppli Babu Rao, (2) Mrs. U Sushuma, W/o-Mr. Uppli Babu Rao, Both are At: ORT Colony, Gate Bazar, Berhampur, PO: Berhampur Sadar, Odisha, Pin 760001.	All those pieces and parcels of land and house situated at Mouza-Goilundi, SRO-Berhampur, Tahasil-Berhampur covered under Khatian Sl. No. 1166/5650, Survey/Plot No. 203/6315 (mutated Plot No. 203/9533) admeasuring area Ac. 0.004 Dec. (say 176 sq.ft. "48" w x 39" L) mortgaged by U Sushuma. Bounded as follows: East: Road, West: Site of Arun Kumar Bisoi & Pradeep Bisoi, North: House of Ram Shankar Mohapatra, South: House of Nirmala Sovasundari.	₹ 6,89,183.91/- As on 16.02.2024 + interest and other charges there on	16.02.2024 / 29.05.2024

Pradhan, Address: At: Plot No. 1283/2816, Khata No. 179/870, Bramha Nagar, Chikiti, Back side of SBI Chikiti Branch, Dist-Ganjam Odisha-761010, (3) M/s. Lucky Enterprises, Through its Proprietor-Mr. Niranjan Pradhan, S/o-Mr. Purna Chandra Pradhan, At: Parasamba, Po: Kalabada, Ps: Nuagaon, Chikiti, Ganjam, Odisha 761010.

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 04.06.2024 Sd/-Authorized Officer, Bank of Maharashtra

cbc 22201/11/0001/2425



Our life should be governed by the love for the Truth and the thirst for Light.

THE MOTHER



Heat Is On

India has been reeling under a bout of unsparing heatwave that has claimed dozens of lives, especially in the eastern states of Orissa and Bihar, while extremely high temperatures have shattered previous records at several places across the country. The heat-related deaths in Orissa have brought back memories of the unprecedented sunstroke casualties of 1998 when 2042 people had died in the coastal state. Delhi and the national capital region have recently recorded a crazy high temperature of 52.3 degrees Celsius. This has been called into question by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) though experts claim that such high temperature is entirely possible as the city has already reached unbearable temperatures varying from 45.2°C to 49.1°C. This is pushing the limits of what humans can endure. Severe heat has lasting detrimental effects, exacerbating nearly every chronic health issue that come with prolonged exposure to high temperatures.

At the same time, forest fires have been leading to a loss of precious green cover, while depleting water reservoirs have set alarm bells ringing. According to recent data from the Central Water Commission, water level at 150 major reservoirs of the country has dropped to 23 per cent. On top of this were the weeks-long general election and associated gruelling campaigning. All these things have made life unbearable for a vast majority of the population.

Taking note of the recent temperature surge, the Delhi High Court has observed that the national capital risks transforming into a barren desert if the young generation maintains a lack of concern towards deforestation. "Judicial notice is taken of the fact that as recent as on May 30, the official temperature recorded in Delhi was 52.3 degrees Celsius. It is not far to see the day when this city may be only a barren desert, in case the present generation continues an apathetic view on deforestation," the Court observed.

Likewise, the Rajasthan High Court, taking suo motu cognisance of deaths that occurred due to scorching heat and prevailing heatwave in the state, said that there was a need to declare heatwaves as 'national calamities'.

What the courts are observing now, climate scientists have been predicting for a long while. The increased speed of warming indicates that drastic climate change is happening right now, in front of our eyes. This necessitates a much more urgent and intensified effort to decrease greenhouse gas emissions and also manage the human-induced global warming.

According to a study published in The Lancet, India experienced a 55 per cent increase in fatalities caused by extreme heat between 2000-2004 and 2017-2021. The study also highlighted that exposure to heat led to a loss of 167.2 billion potential work hours among the Indian population in 2021. Although heatwaves have been a common occurrence in various regions of India during the summer season lately, experts warn that they are now lasting longer, growing in intensity, and occurring more frequently.

Fortunately, it is expected that India's current heatwave will subside in the coming days with the monsoon gradually covering the entire country. This will make us all forget the harrowing experiences of this current summer and also erase all memories about the 99 deaths (till today) due to heat that everyone suffered in Rourkela and other parts of the state this past week. However, it is going to be the same old story next year, unless we act immediately to curb this man-made crisis.

Unsafe Web

A groundbreaking study by researchers at the University of Edinburgh has revealed that over 300 million children worldwide fall victim to online sexual exploitation and abuse each year. It means about one in eight children globally is being targeted by unscrupulous operators who use the innocence and unsuspecting nature of children as their capital for extorting money and sexually abusing them. The exponential growth of social media has proved to be both a boon and a curse. Children are spending more time online than ever before. Around the world a child goes online for the first time every half second. Through computers, smartphones, gaming consoles, and televisions, children fast become adept at using social networks. When used in the right way – and accessible to all – the internet has the potential to widen the horizons of children and spur creativity the world over.

But with these opportunities come serious risks. This has prompted researchers at the University of Edinburgh's Childlight Global Child Safety Institute to conduct the survey. The findings should make governments aware and draw up a strategy to deal with the pervasive, pernicious influence without delay. The study estimates around 302 million young people have experienced non-consensual taking, sharing, and exposure to sexual images and videos over the past 12 months. This disturbing trend highlights the vast scale of online abuse affecting children and teenagers worldwide.

The types of offences vary widely, ranging from 'sextortion'—where perpetrators extort money from victims by threatening to release their private images—to the misuse of artificial intelligence (AI) technology to create deepfake videos and images. Solicitation, including unwanted 'sexting' and sexual requests by adults or other youths, has also been reported at similarly alarming rates.

Considering the severity of the issue it would not be an exaggeration to say, as experts are suggesting, that the menace has become a global pandemic that has remained hidden for far too long. There is an urgent need for coordinated international response to address the exponential growth of online child exploitation and abuse.

It is pertinent to note that the report follows recent warnings from UK police about criminal gangs in West Africa and Southeast Asia targeting British teenagers through sextortion scams. These scams that have been increasing globally, particularly affect teenagers. Perpetrators often pose as peers on social media, moving to encrypted messaging apps to elicit intimate images from their victims before making blackmail demands.

Britain's National Crime Agency (NCA) has responded by issuing alerts to hundreds of thousands of teachers, urging them to be vigilant about the threats their students might face. The NCA's warning highlights the rapid escalation of these scams, with blackmail demands often made within an hour of initial contact. The primary motivation of these scammers is financial extortion rather than sexual gratification.

There are several reasons for the vicious spread of online child abuse. A key to success of perpetrators is the rules followed by social network purveyors that prevent parents from accessing their children's accounts. For this there has been clamour for allowing parents to watch the content used by children at least up to the age of 13.

However, government response in this regard has been tardy. Political parties and the governments they run globally act with alacrity to regulate online operators each time their political interests are hit. But, they are not so prompt in reining those same crooks in when children are abused seemingly to protect the latter's business interests. It is time governments the world over and especially concerned parents make all out efforts to break the cash nexus without delay and save children from psychological trauma and mental health issues.

WISDOM CORNER

- Let come what comes, let go what goes. See what remains. RAMANA MAHARSHI
- Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic. ARTHUR C. CLARKE
- There is no charm equal to tenderness of heart. JANE AUSTEN

FOCUS TECHNOLOGY

HOW TO REGULATE AI

The arrival of new technologies tends to stoke widespread anxiety, most commonly about automation and displacement of human workers. The Luddites at the beginning of the industrial age are perhaps the most frequently cited example of this technophobia, but such worries have emerged periodically ever since.

The perceived threat of artificial intelligence, however, seems greater compared to past technological breakthroughs. People are worried not simply about human replacement, but about the possibility of human extinction. Lately, technologists have been asking each other, "What's your p(doom)?" (one's estimate of the probability that AI destroys humanity). The answer can vary depending on the day. But the exact number selected on the scale of zero to 100 matters less than the underlying question: How pessimistic are you about AI?

In March 2023, more than 1,000 tech researchers and executives signed what came to be known as the "pause" letter. They called on all AI labs to pause for at least six months "the training of AI systems more powerful than GPT-4." The signatories ranged from AI pioneer Yoshua Bengio to economist Daron Acemoglu and tech billionaire Elon Musk. It's a group that ought not to be ignored, but, as far as I can tell, they were. There was no discernible pause, although it is worth noting that, at the time of writing, no AI system significantly more powerful than ChatGPT-4 has been released.

The experts who signed the pause letter were adhering to the precautionary principle, which calls for slowing down and learning more if an activity could cause irreparable harm. But for every expert who emphasises caution, there are others who advocate the rapid development of AI technology. After all, for more than a decade, many economists, including



While economists generally believe that the benefits of most new technologies end up outweighing the costs, others see AI as the latest in a long line of potentially dangerous technologies that were adopted before fully understanding what these costs could be

me, have watched as startups brought incredible AI advances to market. There were breakthroughs in cancer detection, safety systems, tools to help the disabled, tutors to expand educational opportunities, and self-driving vehicles to increase mobility and independence for the elderly.

A pause would only delay such benefits. So, while a pause may indeed be advisable, we should ensure that our fears about potential harms are based on more than speculation.

To help determine the validity of concerns about AI, it is worth understanding their provenance. The first is historical experience. Most new technologies have both benefits and costs, and sometimes the latter outweigh the former. Thomas Midgley, Jr., invented tetraethyl lead, a gasoline additive that reduces engine knocking and dramatically improves vehicle reliability, and Freon, a chemical that is key to refrigeration. But his creations caused lead poisoning and released chlorofluorocarbons that depleted the ozone layer, and both were eventually banned.

In their 2023 book *Power and Progress*, Acemoglu and Simon Johnson argued that this outcome, more often than not, was the norm. So, while economists generally believe that the benefits of most new technologies end up outweighing the costs, others see AI as the latest in a long line of potentially dangerous technologies that were adopted before fully understanding what these costs could be.

The second source of concern about AI is that it does have various identifiable harms. There are conflicts over how such systems are trained, exemplified by The New York Times' lawsuit against OpenAI and Microsoft for alleged copyright infringement. Some innovators have made it clear that their goal is to replace workers with AI, while students are already using large language models to complete exams and assignments.

In addition to disrupting education and the workplace, AI has been used to surveil citizens, to imitate individuals through deepfakes, and to en-

hance military weapons. There are also legitimate concerns that incumbent firms that already possess vast quantities of data will enhance their market power. These identifiable harms can be weighed against the technology's benefits and, if necessary, addressed by regulation or, as with leaded petroleum and chlorofluorocarbons, outright prohibition.

This brings us back to the third source of concern: many of the consequences of new technologies are unintended and unforeseeable, and this will likely be true of AI as well. For example, there is now widespread concern that social media is damaging children's mental health. But, crucially, there is no simple regulatory solution, given the ubiquity of these platforms.

The fact that unintended consequences are often difficult to reverse poses its own problems, and appears to force a binary choice between AI or no AI. But this is a false dilemma. In fact, it means that we should engage in more small-scale experiments with AI to identify potential harms when it is still possible to limit their damage.

The potential irreversibility of a new technology's unintended consequences also suggests a more nuanced and multifaceted role for AI regulation. We must engage in continual research to identify consequences immediately after they appear and to conduct appropriate cost-benefit analyses. Moreover, we should find ways to make AI adoption more reversible, which might involve institutional and infrastructure reforms. This will provide a greater level of insurance against real damage should AI have unwelcome side effects, while ensuring that society can reap its benefits.

The writer is Professor of Strategic Management at the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management.
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Joshua Gans

THE PERCEIVED THREAT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SEEMS GREATER COMPARED TO PAST TECHNOLOGICAL BREAKTHROUGHS

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

Alarm bells for a grim climate

The summer this year has been exceptionally hard and harsh with temperatures soaring to 50 degrees Celsius in most parts of north-western India including the national capital of Delhi breaking all previous temperature records. Most parts of northern and central India are now reeling under intense heatwave conditions unprecedented by any count. This time around the year, the temperature is expected to increase by a little in northern parts of India as the sun moves from the Equator towards the Tropic of Cancer. However, the current temperature trend baffles all known geographical and climatic interpretations.

The water level in most reservoirs of India has alarmingly decreased owing to rapid evaporation leading to their declined storage capacity. Electricity demand has been surging due to the spiraling use of cooling devices leading to excess burning of coal in most coal-fired power plants, compounding the effect. Prices of vegetables and grains have also gone up due to their lower production in dry conditions. Wildfires have been triggered in states like Uttarakhand, Odisha

and Jharkhand due to the rising temperature and low humidity level of air. Heatwave related deaths are pouring in from different parts of the country.

This unusual rise of temperature is not just Delhi or India's problem, the whole world, in fact, is sizzling with an immense heat unknown and unheard before. Last year, extreme and prolonged heatwave conditions swept across the whole world starting from Japan in the east to the USA and Canada in the west encompassing Southern Europe, and North Africa, breaking all previous temperature records. For example, the United Kingdom crossed 40 degrees Celsius for the first time ever in July 2022. A small town in China's north-west recorded 52 degrees Celsius last year, the highest ever for that country. In 2021, Sicily in Italy recorded 48.8 degrees Celsius. The highest ever temperature recorded anywhere on Earth was 56.7 degrees Celsius at a place called Death Valley in the desert of California, United States in 1913.

According to one report, 40% parts of the world, including Antarctica, saw their highest daily temperatures on record in

10 years from 2013 to 2023. The highest temperature in India was recorded in Phalodi, Rajasthan during the period. According to the Copernicus Climate Change Service, an agency of the European Commission, the average global temperature in March 2024 has been higher by 0.7 degrees C as compared to the period 1991 to 2020 in March. The one year period between May 2023 and April 2024 was warmer than any previous 12-month period, about 1.61 degrees Celsius higher than the pre-industrial (1850-1900) average.

Coming to Odisha, the number of heatwave days in April this year is more than the previous nine years since 2016. As for the whole country, while last year saw only 40 heatwave days, there were 117 heatwave days this year during the same period, a whopping three-time rise.

There is no doubt that the world has been steadily warming since the Industrial Revolution due to large-scale emissions and due to other factors such as deforestation and desertification. While carbon dioxide, a key greenhouse gas, increased dramatically in our atmosphere by 11% since the

Industrial Revolution, methane, another greenhouse gas, accounts for a whopping 149% rise. Further, the monsoon system, a major cooling factor in the weather of the subcontinent and the backbone of the country's agriculture, has become weak in its moisture content and irregular in onset. According to one report, nearly 31 lakh trees were cut down for construction and development of public infrastructure across India in 2020-21 and the number of new plantations replenished in the aftermath was miniscule by nature.

The Earth is the only planet in the habitable zone of the parent star sun to possess life with an average temperature of 15 degrees C. On the other hand, the neighbouring planet Venus is a hell for life with an average temperature of 463 degrees C. The brutal temperatures in Delhi and the adjoining region have set the alarm bells ringing. Time has now come for humanity to think and take action to mitigate the consequences of the futures of nature.

The writer is Education Officer, Regional Science Centre, Shyamla Hills, Bhopal.



Nikunja Bihari Sahu

THE MONSOON SYSTEM HAS BECOME WEAK IN ITS MOISTURE CONTENT AND IRREGULAR IN ONSET

Gravity of choice

Sir, Apropos, "Victim Card," *Orissa POST*, June 3, Donald Trump's first act on becoming a convicted criminal was to launch a raging new attack on the rule of law, laying bare the gravity of the choice awaiting America's voters. In one sense, Trump's conviction on all counts in his first criminal trial affirmed the principle on which the United States is founded — that everyone is equal and that no one, not even a billionaire and former and possibly future president, enjoys impunity. But Trump's authoritarian outburst minutes after the guilty verdict in New York and a race by top Republicans to join his assault on the justice system underscore how threatened those bedrock values now are. Trump's conviction by a unanimous New York jury was the most painful low of a tumultuous life of denying accountability that has seen financial boom and bust, three marriages, television stardom, frequent brushes with the law, the triumph of his outsider 2016 election win, a norm-shattering presidency and an attempt to destroy democracy to stay in power after losing in 2020. This verdict shows two different things. The first is that the former president can be indicted and found guilty by a group of his peers. And that shows the strength of the US system. The other thing is, can the powerful use the country's political system to escape the consequences of being found guilty? And that will be answered in November.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Unresolved issues

Sir, June 2, 2024 marked the completion of 10 years of the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, creating the new state of Telangana. This landmark decision was taken largely to address regional imbalances and aspirations. However, a decade later now, several crucial issues pertaining to the division of resources and institutions remain unresolved, casting a shadow over the economic and social development of both states. Importantly, the lack of clarity with regard to resource allocations hinders infrastructure development and economic growth, resulting in an atmosphere of uncertainty that discourages investments. A collaborative effort from both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana with the support of the Centre is the need of the hour.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

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

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

Karnataka votes for 6 Legislative Council seats

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, June 3: The City voted Monday in the biennial elections for six seats in the Karnataka Legislative Council from teachers' and graduates' constituencies.

Seventy-eight contestants were in the fray. Counting of votes will be held June 6.

In the 75-member Upper House, the Congress has 29 members.

The polls were held for the constituencies of Karnataka North East Graduates, Karnataka South West Graduates, Bangalore Graduates, Karnataka South-East Teachers, Karnataka South-West Teachers and Karnataka South Teachers.



These seats fell vacant following the retirement of six members. The graduates' constituencies and teachers' constituencies have 3.63 lakh and 70,260 voters, respectively.

The Election Commission had set up 170 polling stations for the teachers' constituencies and 461 polling stations for the graduates' constituencies.

The Congress has fielded Marithibba Gowda (South Teachers constituency), K K Manjunath (South-West Teachers), Ayanur Manjunath (South-West Graduates), Chandrashekhara Patil (North-East Graduates), Ramoji Gowda (Bangalore Graduates) and D T Srinivas (South-East Teachers).

The BJP and its ally JD(S) are contesting the MLC elections together. The BJP is fighting in four constituencies and the JD(S) two. The BJP has fielded Amarnath Patil from the Karnataka North-East Graduates constituency, Dhananjay Sarji from the Karnataka South-West Graduates constituency, A Devegowda from the Bangalore Graduates' constituency and Y A Narayanaswamy from the South-East Teachers constituency.

The JD(S) candidates are K Vivekananda from the South Teachers constituency and Bhoje Gowda from the South West Teachers constituency.

Bangalore rain breaks 133-yr record

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, June 3: Bangalore received 111mm rainfall June 2, breaking the 133-year record for the highest ever rainfall in a single day in June, Met department officials said.

N Puvirasan, a scientist at India Meteorological Department (IMD), Bangalore, confirmed to PTI that June 2 witnessed the highest single day rainfall in June in 133 years. He also said the rainfall received June 1 and June 2 alone - 140.7mm - surpassed the monthly average for June.

He further said the highest single-day rainfall in June was recorded June 16, 1891.

The intense rain also brought Bangalore to a standstill in many places, particularly in Jayanagar, where residents posted pictures of fallen trees on social media. A tree had also fallen on the Metro track near Trinity Metro station causing inconvenience to commuters Sunday night. Besides fallen trees, inundated streets caused inconvenience to people.



According to C S Patil, head of IMD Centre, Bangalore, the southwest monsoon has further advanced over Karnataka and a yellow alert has been issued for some districts till June 5.

"Dakshina Kannada, Udipi and Uttara Kannada in coastal Karnataka, Bagalkote, Belgavi, Dharwad, Gadag, Haveri, Koppal and Vijayapura in north interior Karnataka and Ballari, Bangalore(rural and urban),

Chikkaballapura, Davangere, Chitradurga, Hassan, Mysuru, Tumakuru in south interior Karnataka are likely to get heavy rainfall in the next two days," he added.

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said he would visit the rain-affected areas soon to conduct inspections. "We will hold a meeting of officials after the Legislative Council polls and resolve rain-

Prevent untoward incidents: Shivakumar

A s torrential rain threw life out of gear in Bangalore Sunday night, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister (DCM) D K Shivakumar convened a meeting with officials and took stock of the situation. He directed the officials to work as a team to avert any untoward incident. Shivakumar said despite election duty, officials worked throughout the night and removed the fallen trees from the roads and ensured smooth traffic flow. As many as 261 electricity poles fell down, which were restored, officials informed Monday. Shivakumar directed the officials to evacuate those residing in old, dilapidated buildings. He said the officers should ensure that there are no casualties due to rain and work in tandem with the NDRF and SDRF teams.

related issues," he said while briefing reporters at the Vidhana Soudha.

K'taka gears up for vote count

Over 13,000 polling staff, 2,400 police personnel deployed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, June 3: Elaborate arrangements have been put in place with the deployment of more than 13,000 staff at the 29 counting centres across Karnataka for vote count Tuesday for the 28 Lok Sabha (LS) constituencies, officials said Monday.

The state has a total of 28 LS constituencies. The first phase of polling in the 14 seats in most of the southern and coastal districts was held April 26 and the second phase in the other 14 segments in the northern districts was held May 7.

Speaking to PTI, Manoj Kumar Meena, Chief Electoral Officer of Karnataka said, "We have 28 Parliamentary Lok Sabha constituencies in Karnataka and counting of votes at the 29 counting centres in the state will begin at 8 am Tuesday."

He further said that elaborate arrangements have been made and 13,173 counting staff, including counting supervisors, counting assistants and micro observers have been deployed.

"All necessary training for the staff has also been completed. At each counting centre, EVMs and postal ballots will be counted in separate rooms. Media centres have also been set up at each of these counting centres with required facilities (with computers, xerox, fax, printers) so that they can report to their respective media outlets," he added.

According to the police, in Bangalore alone, more than 2,400 police officers have been deployed at the three counting centres in the state capital, namely Mount Carmel College, Vasantnagar (Bangalore Central



Constituency), St Joseph's Indian High School, Vithal Mallya Road (Bangalore North Constituency) and SSMRV College, Jayanagar (Bangalore South Constituency).

Appropriate arrangements have been made for counting of votes in the three LS constituencies within the BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) limits to ensure the smooth conduct of the counting of votes under tight security, they said.

A total of 1,524 officers/personnel, 13 armed reserved units and four quick response teams have been deployed by Bangalore City Police unit for counting day and already 516 police officers and personnel, including civil and City Armed Reserve wings, have been deployed for maintaining strong room security duty in three shifts.

More than 400 traffic department police officers and personnel will be stationed to ensure that traffic flow around the counting centres is not interrupted.

A total of more than 2,400 police officers and personnel of the city has been deployed for vote counting duty to monitor the situation in the three counting centres.

SEEKING VOTES IN NAME OF RELIGION, CASTE, LANGUAGE

Madras HC to ECI: Appoint independent commission to curb corrupt practice

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, June 3: The Madras High Court Monday ordered issuing notice to the Election Commission of India (ECI) on a petition, which sought to appoint an independent commission comprising retired judges and human rights activists to oversee curbing the 'corrupt' practice of seeking votes in the name of religion, caste and language.

A division bench comprising Acting Chief Justice R Mahadevan and Justice Mohamed Shafiq posted after six weeks, further hearing of a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by advocate Rajesh Anouar Mahimaidoss.

The petitioner sought for appointing an independent commission to oversee the enforcement of a 2017 judgment of the Supreme Court, which ruled that seeking votes in the name



of religion, caste and language was a corrupt practice.

In his petition, Mahimaidoss also sought a direction to the ECI to frame a system to disseminate information to people and people's representatives about the preamble and basic structure of the Constitution, the 2017 judgment of the Supreme

Court and the corrupt practice under section 123 (3) of the Representation of People Act.

In his petition, he submitted that during the election and non-election periods, the registered, unregistered, and recognised political parties and people's representatives often use religion, language and caste as tools to polarise the voters for political gains.

He said the ECI was vested with power to ensure free and fair elections in India through various statutes, including the Representation of People Act and administrative orders. Despite ECI's efforts, even after 75 years of independence, the corrupt practice of seeking votes in the name of religion, caste and language continues. The political parties undertake a divide and rule policy that was against the Constitution, he added.

'BOMB' SCARE DELAYS FLIGHT



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, June 3: A Kolkata-bound IndiGo flight from here was delayed by two hours Monday morning following a call which warned that a bomb would get exploded in that flight, officials said.

Following the receipt of the call at the IndiGo Call Centre located at Thuraipakkam here, the flight was moved by authorities to an 'isolated bay' and a security check was carried out, they said.

After the completion of security procedures, the flight was allowed to depart by 10:30am, officials added.

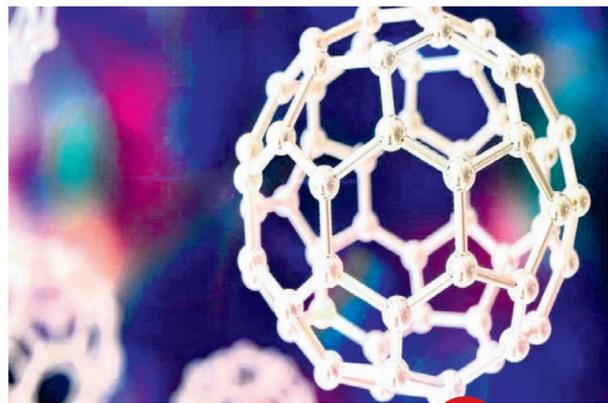
TENDER NOTICE
Date: 02.06.2024
Ref: ADVT.NO. 24-25/04
OSCOM invites request for proposal for the following items / job descriptions.

Bid No.	Job / Item Description
GEM/2024/B/4961213	Engagement of Registered Private Security Agency for Providing Security Services at IREL (OSCOM)
GEM/2024/B/492965	Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (rTMS) Machine.
GEM/2024/B/4978491	AMC for Electrical Maintenance Work of MSP.

Bidder may download tender document from <http://irel.co.in>, <http://gem.gov.in> or <https://procure.gov.in/procurement/app>. Any corrigendum / Extension to above tenders shall be hosted in above websites only.

Sd/-
GM & HEAD, MMD, OSCOM
CBC 48146/12/0004/2425

Charged water droplets can break minerals into nanoparticles: Study



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, June 3: Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras have shown that water microdroplets can break common minerals to make corresponding nanoparticles. This discovery could help to make the deserts bloom in future.

In their experiment, they found that pieces of minerals such as river sand, ruby and alumina, which are very hard minerals, incorporated in tiny charged water droplets break spontaneously to form nanoparticles, in milliseconds.

They collected the formed nanoparticles and characterised them with advanced methods. Computer simulations suggested that the phenomenon may occur by a process called 'proton-induced slip,' in which atomic layers in the minerals slip between each other, assisted by protons. In tiny water droplets, protons and other reactive species are known to exist, a release here said.

In a first research paper published in the prestigious peer-reviewed Science journal, the researchers said

"The science we reported, if happens in nature, could be a very important way to transform rocks to natural nanoparticles, which are active soil ingredients. To put it bluntly, we have found a way to make sand to soil"
THALAPPIL PRADEEP I
LEAD RESEARCHER, IIT MADRAS

'microdroplet showers' composed of nanoparticles and molecules falling on Earth may be of importance to the chemical and biological evolution of the planet.

"The science we reported, if happens in nature, could be a very important way to transform rocks to natural nanoparticles, which are active soil ingredients. To put it bluntly, we have found a way to make sand to soil," said Thalappil Pradeep, Institute Professor, Chemistry department, IIT Madras, a Padma Shri awardee, who led the research.

"Looking into the future, I might say

that with adequate resources, we can help deserts bloom," he added.

B K Spoorthi, the first author of the research paper who has completed her PhD from IIT Madras, said the finding offered a transformative technique for soil formation, dramatically accelerating natural weathering processes from centuries to moments.

"Beyond its environmental benefits, this method advances nanotechnology and materials science, enabling sustainable and efficient nanoparticle production with broad industrial applications," she said.

The computational work was done by Koyendril Debnath under the advice of Umesh V Waghmare of Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bangalore and president of Indian Academy of Sciences, the release said. The findings were published in the Science Journal issue dated May 31.

Highlighting the significance of this research, Thalappil Pradeep said microdroplets are known to enhance chemical reactions, and as a result, new chemical bonds form. "We thought it may be possible to break chemical bonds as well in microdroplets. That thought led to this discovery," he said.

Speaking about the mechanism, Waghmare said that the phenomenon involved complex processes inherent to microdroplets of water, and understanding its mechanism will stimulate many fundamental scientific studies. This rapid process of weathering may be important for soil formation, given the prevalence of charged aerosols in the atmosphere.

Soil forms through rock weathering, a process involving multiple factors and it takes 200-400 years to yield one centimetre of it normally composed of varied particle sizes. Nanoparticles of minerals such as silica are crucial for the growth of crops such as rice and wheat, the release said.

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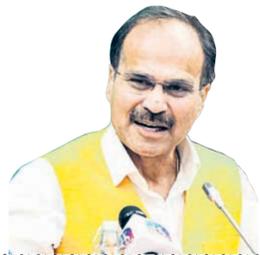
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national



Swamiji had advised us to help each other and do not fight; assimilate and do not destroy. I don't know whether Modi at all believes in these ideals
ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY | CONGRESS PRESIDENT, WB

FAKE JOB OFFERS

The Indian embassy in Myanmar has called upon Indian nationals looking for jobs in that country to be careful so that they are not lured into fake or illegal employment. In an advisory, the embassy said an international crime syndicate is active in the Myawaddy region on Myanmar-Thailand border and urged Indians to exercise caution before taking up job offers in the region



of the day quote

We will very soon start the process of assembly elections in J&K. We are very enthused. It is one of the most satisfying moments



RAJIV KUMAR | CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER

We are seeing it (exit poll results) with skepticism and disbelief. We have also campaigned across the country. We also have a sense of what the pulse of the people is, and we do not believe that is reflected accurately in this poll



SHASHI THAROOR | SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER

Congress should be ready to gracefully accept their "inevitable" defeat in the Lok Sabha poll rather than "demeaning" the dignity of democracy



SUDHANSHU TRIVEDI | NATIONAL SPOKESPERSON, BJP

SHORT TAKES

SKM expels 3 party leaders

Gangtok: The Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) Monday expelled three leaders, including former minister Karma Loden Bhutia from the party for indulging in anti-party activities, a party official said. On the instruction of SKM chief Prem Singh Tamang, party general secretary (Hqs) Pawan Gurung issued the letter expelling Bhutia, vice president (Culture Wing), Durga Prasad Pradhan (ex-advisor and vice-president Geyzing district), and Avinash Yakha, general secretary, press and media, youth wing, with immediate effect for indulging in anti-party activities, he said.

5 Naxals surrender

Sukma: Five Naxalites, including a couple, carrying a cumulative bounty of ₹17 lakh on their heads, surrendered Monday in Sukma district of Chhattisgarh, police said. They turned themselves in before security forces, citing disappointment with the "inhuman" and "hollow" Maoist ideology, a police officer said.

3 killed in road crash

Kolhapur (Maharashtra): A retired Pro Vice-Chancellor of Shivaji University Kolhapur, Vasant M. Chavan, was among three persons killed in a ghastly road accident of multiple vehicles at a prominent traffic junction here, here Monday, officials said. The crash took place when a speeding car, reportedly driven by Chavan, rammed into at least three motorcycles at the Cyber Chowk at around 2.30 p.m. Monday.



Tourists at the Taj Mahal on a hot summer day in Agra, Uttar Pradesh

DELHI EXCISE CASE

'Kavitha paid ₹100 crore kickbacks to AAP leaders'



AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 3: The Enforcement Directorate has alleged in its supplementary charge sheet filed against BRS leader K Kavitha before a court here that more than ₹1,100 crore was laundered in the alleged Delhi excise scam.

According to the ED, out of Rs 1,100 crore, Kavitha was involved in proceeds of crime (PoC) worth ₹292.8 crore.

The allegations were made in a supplementary prosecution complaint, ED's equivalent to a charge sheet, filed before Special Judge Kaveri Beweja, who Monday extended Kavitha's judicial custody till July 3.

The judge extended the custody after Kavitha was produced before the court in pursuance of its earlier order issuing a production warrant against her.

The court had issued the warrants after taking cognisance of a charge sheet against the BRS leader in the case May 29.

The court also granted bail to three co-accused persons - Prince, Damodar and Arvind Singh. The three accused were charge sheeted without being arrested during investigation by the ED.

"As per the investigation so far, the total proceeds of crime identified is ₹1,100 crore, out of which PoC of ₹292.8 crore is being dealt with in this Prosecution Complaint. Through

The judge extended the custody after Kavitha was produced before the court in pursuance of its earlier order issuing a production warrant against her

The court had issued the warrants after taking cognisance of a charge sheet against the BRS leader in the case May 29

activities of the accused persons i.e. Kavitha, Champreet Singh, Prince Kumar, Damodar Sharma and Arvind Singh, huge proceeds of crime have been generated," the charge sheet alleged. The charge sheet claimed that Kavitha was involved in PoC (money generated and laundered in crime) of ₹292.8 crore, out of which kickbacks of ₹100 crore were given to AAP leaders. "Kavitha conspired with the members of the South Group and the AAP leaders through accused Vijay Nair (who was acting on behalf of the top leaders of the AAP) to pay kickbacks to the tune of ₹100 crore and receive undue benefits," the documents claimed.

Kavitha, by paying kickback to the government functionaries through their middleman, has participated in the generation of PoC of ₹100 crore, the charge sheet claimed, adding that she then participated in the transfer of this PoC to the government functionaries.

Polls should be held before summer: CEC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 3: India created a world record with 64.2 crore voters, including 31.2 crore women, participating in the Lok Sabha elections this year, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar said Monday here. He also stated that the biggest challenge for the Election Commission was to conduct the elections during summer under intense heat-wave conditions. Kumar said his biggest learning has been that the poll process should be completed before summer.

Addressing a press briefing, he said over 68,000 monitoring teams and 1.5 crore polling and security personnel were involved in the world's largest electoral exercise.

On social media memes calling election commissioners 'Laapataa Gentlemen' (based on recent film 'Laapata Ladies'), Kumar said, "We were always here, never went missing. Now the same memes can say the 'Laapataa Gentlemen' are back."

Kumar said that nearly four lakh vehicles, 135 special trains



and 1,692 air sorties were used for conducting the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

"Repolling took place at 39 places only in the 2024 general elections as against 540 repolls in 2019," Kumar pointed out.

The CEC further said that Jammu and Kashmir recorded its highest turnout in four decades at 58.58 per cent overall and 51.05 per cent in the Valley. He also gave a detailed account of the items confiscated seizures. "Seizures of ₹10,000

POST-POLL VIOLENCE NCW seeks EC approval for Bengal visit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 3: NCW chairperson Rekha Sharma has sought permission from the Election Commission to allow an investigative visit to West Bengal by its team following reports of post-poll violence.

The request by the Chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW) was made in a letter addressed to Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar in view of the model code of conduct. The letter highlights concerns about "high-handedness and police atrocities against women" in the aftermath of recent elections in Sandeshkhali and other regions of West Bengal. Sharma emphasised the urgency of addressing these reports, noting the NCW's mandate to monitor and investigate issues related



to the deprivation of women's rights and the non-implementation of protective laws. In her communication, Sharma requested an exemption from the Election Commission of India's Code of Conduct to facilitate the NCW team's visit. The NCW team, led by Sharma, intends to conduct an on-the-ground investigation and take necessary actions to ensure the protection and rights of women in the affected areas, Sharma said.

India created a world record with 64.2 crore voters, including 31.2 crore women, participating in the Lok Sabha elections this year, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said Monday

before the counting of votes begins, Kumar said flanked by Election Commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and SS Sandhu. "You cannot spread a rumour and bring everyone under a cloud of suspicion," asserted Kumar. "Those levelling allegations should say which DM was influenced and we will punish them. They should tell us before the counting process begins," added Kumar.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh had claimed that Home Minister Amit Shah had been calling district magistrates and collectors and indulging in 'blatant and brazen' intimidation.

Ex-BrahMos staff gets lifer for spying for ISI

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Nagpur, June 3: An ex-engineer of Brahmos Aerospace, Nagpur, who was arrested in a sensational case of spying for Pakistan's ISI, has been awarded a 14-year jail term by a sessions court here Monday.

Nishant Agarwal - an aerospace engineer - was arrested in 2018 for allegedly leaking sensitive information about India's Brahmos missiles to the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) of Pakistan in a suspected honey-trap operation.

Besides the 14-year sentence under the Official Secrets Act, Additional Sessions Judge M.V. Deshpande also imposed a fine of ₹3,000 on Agarwal, special public prosecutor Jyoti Vajani told the media. At the time of his arrest six years ago, Agarwal was working as a senior systems engineer with the Brahmos



Aerospace, a joint venture of the DRDO and the Military Industrial Consortium of Russia.

Agarwal was part of the teams working to develop India's supersonic cruise missile that could be launched from land, sea, air, and underwater, giving an edge to the country's defence muscles. The spy scandal hit the headlines then as Agarwal, who was working with the company for over four years, reportedly fell victim to a honey-trap operation purportedly managed by the ISI. After it was detected, a

team of Military Intelligence along with the ATS of Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh swooped to arrest him. In April 2023, he was granted bail by the Bombay High Court (Nagpur Bench). As per the subsequent investigations, he was in touch with the two suspected operatives through two Facebook accounts in the name of Pooja Rajan and Neha Sharma.

The accounts were based out of Islamabad and were said to be run by ISI operatives. The investigators later said that Agarwal became an easy target on social media owing to his casual approach despite being engaged in a secret and sensitive defence-related project. The investigators said that Agarwal's laptop had restricted and secret files, besides a software through which such classified information could be transferred to countries or organisations abroad.

Cable cut hits Western Railway's Mumbai suburban services

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 3: Commuters in Mumbai faced significant disruptions Monday as local train services on the Western Railway network were severely impacted by technical issues because of cable cuts at Borivali station, a bustling hub in north Mumbai known for its heavy footfall of daily commuters and office-goers.

The incident, occurring around 2 am, led to the cancellation of several suburban services and widespread delays for passengers travelling on the route.

Western Railway officials worked tirelessly to resolve the problem, which took approximately 11 hours to rectify.

A senior Western Railway official told PTI that monsoon preparatory work was responsible for the technical issues, as the cable got cut when excavation work for a drain was underway at Borivali Sunday night.

Chief PRO of Western Railways, Sumit Thakur, announced on social media that last night, local train services from platforms no. 1 and 2 at Borivali station were affected due to a cable cut. Local train services from other platforms were running smoothly.

To alleviate the strain on commuters, extra Metro services were plied to manage the influx of passengers resulting from the delays on the Western Railway network.



60% Indians use water filters, quality concerns rise: Study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 3: As sweltering heat grips large swathes of India, including the national capital, concerns have surged over not only the quantity of potable water available but also its quality, revealed a survey that said almost 60 per cent of its respondents are using some kind of water filtration system.

Conducted by LocalCircles, a prominent community social media platform, the survey garnered responses from over 22,000 households across 322 districts of the country. "Only 4 per cent Indian households surveyed say they get drinkable quality water from their local body; 41 per cent say quality of water they receive is good but not drinkable," the findings revealed.

"Moreover, a whopping 60 per cent of the households surveyed said they are using some kind of modern water filtration mechanism," it said.

While there has been a modest uptick in households receiving drinkable quality water from their local bodies - rising from 2 per cent in 2022 to 4 per cent in 2024 - the percentage of citizens rating piped water quality as good has slightly dwindled from 44 per cent in 2023 to 41 per cent.

Data from the flagship Jal Jeevan Mission under the Jal Shakti Ministry offers a glimpse of progress, with over 75 per cent of households now boasting tap water connections as of May end. Compared to 3,23,62,838 (3.23 crore) households that had tap water connections in 2019



out of 19,30,89,649 (19.30 crore), more than 75 per cent households (14,82,96,789) have tap water connections as of May 31, 2024.

Although many states have achieved full or over 80 per cent coverage, the ministry has said it is working towards 100 per

cent saturation nationwide.

However, challenges persist amidst these strides. For instance, as the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the main opposition BJP spar over the issue of water supply in the national capital, the survey underscored

Data from the Union Health Ministry shows alarming figures: 56 fatalities from 24,849 suspected cases of heat-stroke between March and May, with 19,189 suspected cases reported in May alone

In light of these alarming figures, apprehensions arise over ensuring both access to and the quality of water, particularly during such extreme weather conditions

water quality issue in Delhi.

To a question, 'How do you purify water at home for drinking, cooking etc.?', an overwhelming number (41 per cent) said they used an RO (reverse osmosis) system, followed by use of a water purifier (28 per cent), use of chlorination, alum, other minerals (6 per cent) and a similar percentage consume water after boiling (8 per cent).

There were 8 per cent respondents who said they do not purify water and instead get bottled water supply for drinking or cooking purposes.

Only 1 per cent respondents said they do not need to purify as the water supplied is pure, while 4 per cent said they do not purify water and consume as it reaches to them. Almost 50 per cent of the responders said they were unhappy with the quality of piped water that was supplied to their homes from the local municipal body, water department or panchayat. The quality of piped water was marked 'average' by 24 per cent of the survey takers, while 26 per cent said it was 'poor'. There were only 6 per cent who said the quality was 'very good' and 19 per cent said it was 'good'.

of the day quote

That is why the public, remembering Mahatma Gandhi's 'do or die' call, is now agitated and ready to fight a new freedom movement to save their own and the country's future.

We have many candidates for the post of PM but what about the BJP? The INDI alliance will announce its prime ministerial candidate within 24 hours of the results being declared

I can confidently say that 15 days after Modi ji becomes the Prime Minister again, Uddhav Thackeray will be seen in the Modi government and with Modi ji, because the coming era is of Modi ji and Uddhav Thackeray knows it

POST OF THE DAY

Monsoon is here Southwest Monsoon has entered parts of Telangana today Southwest Monsoon will cover entire Karnataka, Rayalaseema, Telangana and rest of Coastal Andhra Pradesh during the next 4 to 5 days.

SHORT TAKES

Bats fall dead due to heat

Korba: At least 24 bats died in a village allegedly due to extreme heat in Chhattisgarh's Korba district, a forest official said Monday.

2 ultras killed in encounter

Srinagar: Two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists, including a self-styled commander of the outfit, were killed in an encounter with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district Monday, police said.

Three of family killed in accident

Gumla (Jharkhand): Three members of family were killed after their car collided with a passenger bus in Jharkhand's Gumla district Monday, police said.



I pay tributes to Kalaingar Karunanidhi Ji on his 100th birth anniversary. In his long years in public life, he worked towards the development of Tamil Nadu and the Tamil people

SCHOOLS REOPEN IN KERALA

Over 2.40 lakh students enrolled in Class I across Kerala as the new academic year began in the state Monday, following a two-month-long summer vacation.



Fire breaks out in three coaches of Taj Express; no casualties



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 3: Three coaches of the Taj Express train caught fire in southeast Delhi's Sarita Vihar Monday, officials said.

No one was injured in the incident as passengers managed to get out of the affected coaches in time, they said. The cause of the fire was not known immediately.

Police said a PCR call regarding the fire was received around 4.40 pm. "After receiving the call, police personnel rushed to the spot near Apollo Hospital.

Coaches D3 and D4 were gutted in the fire, while D2 was partially damaged, he said.

No one was injured in the incident as the passengers quickly moved to other coaches and disembarked the train, he added.

SC directs for urgent meeting

THE APEX COURT WAS HEARING A DELHI GOVERNMENT PLEA SEEKING A DIRECTION TO HARYANA TO RELEASE THE SURPLUS WATER PROVIDED BY HIMACHAL PRADESH TO THE NATIONAL CAPITAL TO MITIGATE ITS ONGOING WATER CRISIS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 3: As Delhi grapples with water crisis amid the unrelenting summer heat, the Supreme Court Monday ordered an emergent meeting of the Upper Yamuna River Board (UYRB) June 5 to address the issue.

The UYRB was set up in 1995 with one of its main functions being to regulate the allocation of available flows amongst the beneficiary states and also monitor and review the progress of all projects up to and including Okhla barrage in Delhi.

"Why can't there be a joint meeting of all the stakeholders?" a vacation bench of Justices P K Mishra and K V Viswanathan asked at the outset.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre and the Haryana government, said the issue was already being considered by the UYRB where all stakeholder states including Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi are parties.

"This is the question which is being considered. Himachal Pradesh is called upon by the board to provide the details as to what is the extra water or additional water if at all they have," he said. The bench observed that as an emergency measure, the



meeting of the board may be convened tomorrow to address the issue.

It noted that the advocates appearing for the Centre and the governments of Delhi, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh have agreed that a meeting of the UYRB be held.

The bench was hearing a plea filed by the Delhi government seeking a direction to Haryana to release the surplus water provided by Himachal Pradesh to the national capital to mitigate its water crisis.

"In the course of hearing, all the parties agreed that there should be a non-adversarial approach to the problem of scarcity of water faced by the citizens of Delhi," the bench said.

It said the lawyers have agreed that there shall be an emergent meeting of the Upper Yamuna

River Board June 5 to address the issues agitated in this petition and all other connected issues in right earnest so that the problem of scarcity of water for the citizens of Delhi shall be properly addressed".

The bench said the matter be posted for hearing June 6 along with the minutes of the meeting of the board and the suggested steps to be taken by the stakeholders to solve the problem.

Mehta said as per the figures placed before the board, if 100 litres of water comes to Delhi, the residents get only 48.65 litres. "Total water loss is 51.35 per cent," he said, adding that though the residents don't misutilise water, there are leakages, tanker mafia and theft by some industrial units.

Mehta said the Delhi government will have to tighten up the

IN ORDER TO DEAL WITH THE DEMAND IN SUMMER MONTHS, THE DELHI GOVERNMENT HAS DEVISED A SOLUTION UNDER WHICH HIMACHAL PRADESH HAS AGREED TO SHARE ITS SURPLUS WATER WITH DELHI, THE PETITION SAID

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL HAS BEEN FACING A SEVERE WATER SHORTAGE AND ATISHI HAS ACCUSED HARYANA OF NOT RELEASING DELHI'S SHARE OF WATER

strings. "You will make that point but not release water in June," senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for Delhi government, said. Singhvi said the Delhi government was making plans for preventing wastage of water.

"What solicitor is saying is also correct that there should be no wastage of water," the bench observed. When the bench said the board's meeting can be convened Tuesday, Mehta responded tomorrow it may be difficult. "Tomorrow, there will be too much of heat," the bench observed.

"As far as Himachal Pradesh is concerned, whatever unutilised water we have, we are ready to provide," the counsel appearing for Himachal Pradesh told the bench. During the hearing, Singhvi said, "I come from Rajasthan. The highest I have

seen in Rajasthan is 50 (degrees Celsius). I never heard of 52 (degrees Celsius) in Delhi. I have been in Delhi for a long time." The plea filed by Delhi's Water Minister Atishi has made the petition, saying that access to water is essential for survival and is one of the basic human rights.

"Access to water is one of the basic human rights of an individual. Not only is water essential for sustenance, but access to water also forms an essential component of the guarantee of dignity and a quality of life guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution," the plea said.

"The current water crisis, which may only get worse given peak summers and ongoing water shortage, violates the right to a dignified and quality life of the people of the NCT of Delhi, who are unable to access even adequate clean drinking water," it added.

The plea has sought a direction to the Haryana government for immediate and continuous release of water at the Wazirabad barrage, including but not limited to the full surplus water provided by Himachal Pradesh in order to mitigate the water crisis in the NCT of Delhi.

It said it has sought the direction as a one-time measure and not filed the plea for resolving any outstanding interstate water dispute.

Senas, NCPs face legacy battle in Maha



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 3: The counting of votes will be held Tuesday in 48 Lok Sabha seats of Maharashtra where the rival Shiv Sena and NCP factions, as well as the ruling BJP and the opposition Congress, are jockeying for political supremacy.

Counting will begin at 8 am across the 48 Lok Sabha seats in the state. The exercise would be held at 289 counting halls and 4,309 counting tables by 14,507 personnel. Adequate police security was in place at all the counting centres, as per a statement from the state Chief Electoral Officer.

The electoral performance in Maharashtra is crucial for both the ruling Mahayuti and opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) as the western state sends 48 members to the Lok Sabha, the

second highest after Uttar Pradesh, which elects 80 MPs.

The Mahayuti comprises the Shiv Sena led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, the BJP and the NCP headed by Deputy CM Ajit Pawar.

The MVA constituencies include the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT), Congress, and NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar). Maharashtra logged a voter turnout of 61.33 per cent in five phases from April 19 to May 20.

Among the 1,121 candidates in the fray include prominent figures such as Union ministers Nitin Gadkari (from Nagpur seat), Piyush Goyal (Mumbai North), Narayan Rane (Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg), Raosaheb Danve (Jalna), Bharti Pawar (Dindori) and Kapil Patil (Bhiwandi). They were pitted against rivals from the Congress and Shiv Sena

(UBT). The most riveting contest was in the Baramati constituency where Sharad Pawar's daughter and sitting NCP (SP) MP Supriya Sule was pitted against her sister-in-law Sumetra Pawar, wife of Ajit Pawar, who last year engineered a split in the Nationalist Congress Party founded by his uncle.

State ministers Sudhir Mungantiwar and Sandipan Bhumre contested against their rivals from the Congress and Shiv Sena (UBT) in Chandrapur and Aurangabad seats, respectively. The BJP-led NDA has set the bar high this time with a target to win 45 plus constituencies in the state.

In 2019, the BJP won 23 seats while its then ally Shiv Sena (undivided) bagged 18. The then undivided NCP bagged four constituencies, whereas the Congress could win just one seat.

The elections in 2024 were fought in a changed political landscape after splits in the Shiv Sena and NCP following a rebellion by Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar, respectively. The other key battles were between BJP leader Pankaja Munde and Bajrang Sonawane of the NCP (SP) in Beed and between Congress MLA Praniti Shinde, daughter of ex-Union Home Minister Sushilkumar Shinde, and Ram Satpute of the BJP in Solapur.



Tourists enjoy at the Kemty Falls on a hot summer day in Mussoorie, Uttarakhand

SC to hear Sisodia's bail pleas today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 3: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Manish Sisodia has moved the Supreme Court challenging the Delhi High Court's verdict dismissing his bail pleas in cases lodged by the ED and CBI in connection with the alleged liquor policy scam.

As per the cause list uploaded on the apex court website, a vacation bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and Sandeep Mehta is scheduled to hear Sisodia's pleas Tuesday.

In a major setback to Delhi's former deputy chief minister, the high court had May 21 dismissed his bail applications in

separate cases lodged by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in connection with the alleged liquor scam, saying the matter involved grave misuse of power and breach of public trust by him.

Sisodia's conduct amounted

EXCISE POLICY CASES

to a "great betrayal of democratic principles", the high court had said, adding he allegedly indulged in destruction of crucial evidence, including electronic evidence. The high court had said Sisodia was a very powerful and influential person within

the power corridors of the Delhi government as he held 18 portfolios in the city dispensation.

It had said as a minister having so many portfolios, including that of the excise department, Sisodia was entrusted with the formulation of a new liquor policy for Delhi.

Sisodia had challenged in the high court a trial court's April 30 order by which his bail pleas were rejected in the corruption and money laundering cases lodged by the CBI and ED, respectively, in connection with alleged irregularities in the formulation and execution of the now-scraped Delhi excise policy for 2021-22.

Mediterranean diet may lower risk of death in women

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 3: Women consuming the largely plant-based Mediterranean diet were found to be at a 23 per cent lower risk of dying prematurely, according to a new research.

The study following more than 25,000 US women for up to 25 years found that adhering to the diet reduced cholesterol, obesity and insulin resistance, all of which are known risk factors for developing metabolic disorders, including diabetes and heart disease.

The Mediterranean diet is rich in nuts, fruits and vegetables, along with whole grains and legumes. The dishes are mainly cooked in olive oil and also include a moderate intake of fish, poultry, dairy and eggs.

Red meat and sweets are rarely consumed.

Adopting this diet pattern was also found to lower risk of death due to cancer in the women studied. The findings were published in The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA).

"Our research provides significant public health insight: even modest changes in established risk factors for metabolic diseases can yield substantial long-term benefits from following a Mediterranean diet. This finding underscores the potential of encouraging healthier dietary habits to reduce the overall risk of mortality," said lead author Shafiqat Ahmad, a researcher at the Division of Preventive Medicine, Brigham and Women's Hospital, US.



The researchers included participants aged at least 45 years at the start of the Women's Health Study. The women responded to questionnaires and

provided information on their weight, height and body mass index, along with details about their lifestyle, medical and social history. Their blood pressures

The Mediterranean diet is rich in nuts, fruits and vegetables, along with whole grains and legumes

The dishes are mainly cooked in olive oil and also include a moderate intake of fish, poultry, dairy and eggs. Red meat and sweets are rarely consumed

were also taken.

For understanding possible biological mechanisms that could explain the diet's health benefits, the researchers assessed over 30 biomarkers of metabolism and inflammation, including lipids and insulin resistance.

"In this large-scale cohort study of 25,315 initially healthy US women who were followed up for 25 years, we observed that higher adherence to the

Mediterranean diet was associated with a 23 per cent relative risk reduction in all-cause mortality," the authors wrote.

The researchers acknowledged that the study was limited to middle aged and older well-educated female health professionals who were predominantly non-Hispanic and white. However, the study's strengths included its large sample size and a long follow-up duration, they said.

"The health benefits of the Mediterranean diet are recognised by medical professionals, and our study offers insights into why the diet may be so beneficial," said senior author Samia Mora, a cardiologist and the director of the Center for Lipid Metabolomics, Brigham and Women's Hospital.

international



I would like to warn American leaders against miscalculations that could have fatal consequences. For unknown reasons, they underestimate the seriousness of the rebuff they may receive

SERGEI RYABKOV | DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER, RUSSIA

MURDOCH TIES THE KNOT AGAIN

Media magnate Rupert Murdoch, 93, has married for the fifth time, his corporation, News Corp, confirmed Sunday. Murdoch and Elena Zhukova, a 67-year-old Russian-born retired molecular biologist, wed Saturday in a ceremony at his vineyard estate in Bel Air, California



of the day quote

We agreed that all countries in the region, especially the Islamic countries, should adopt a joint movement in order to counter Israeli aggression and protect the Palestinian people, especially in Rafah

ALI BAGHERI KANI | ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER, IRAN

China stands ready to work with Pakistan through this visit to make greater progress in our all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and take new steps in building an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era

JIANG ZAIDONG | CHINESE AMBASSADOR IN PAKISTAN

The international community must redouble efforts and investments to support communities to alleviate and adapt to the impact of climate change on children

TAJUDEEN OYEWALE | THE UNICEF REPRESENTATIVE IN AFGHANISTAN

SHORT TAKES

Trump joins TikTok

New York: Donald Trump has joined the popular video-sharing app TikTok, a platform he once tried to ban while in the White House, and posted from a UFC fight two days after he became the first former President and presumptive major party nominee in US history to be found guilty on felony charges. "It's an honour," Trump said in the TikTok video, which features footage of him waving to fans and posing for selfies at the Ultimate Fighting Championship fight in Newark, New Jersey, Saturday night. The video ends with Trump telling the camera: "That was a good walk-on, right?" By Sunday morning, Trump had amassed more than 1.1 million followers on the platform and the post had garnered more than 1 million likes and 24 million views.

2 Chinese accused of spying for UK

Taipei: Beijing has accused two Chinese citizens of spying for Britain, in the latest test of a relationship that has grown increasingly fraught. China and the UK have clashed over Beijing's clampdown on free speech and open elections in Hong Kong, a former British territory that was guaranteed its own economic and political freedoms for 50 years after its handover to Chinese rule in 1997. In a message on social media Monday, the Ministry of State Security, China's main intelligence service, said it uncovered a major espionage case involving a couple identified only by their surnames, Wang and Zhou, who were allegedly recruited by Britain's foreign intelligence agency, MI6.

Hunter Biden's trial commences

Wilmington: The criminal trial of Hunter Biden kicked off Monday in federal court in Delaware as President Joe Biden's son faces gun charges in a historic case that begins four days after Donald Trump became the first former US President to be convicted. Hunter Biden, 54, arrived at the courthouse for the first trial of the child of a sitting president, in which he will face three felony charges stemming from his purchase and possession of a revolver in 2018. He has pleaded not guilty. It is one of two criminal cases he faces, with federal tax charges brought separately in California.

LANDSLIDE VICTORY

Mexico gets 1st female Prez

Claudia Sheinbaum claimed victory in Mexico's Prez poll, becoming the first woman selected for the job by promising to continue the political course set by her predecessor despite widespread discontent with persistent cartel violence, disappointing economic performance

REUTERS

Mexico City, June 3: Claudia Sheinbaum, a Nobel Prize-winning climate scientist, will become Mexico's first female president after winning a landslide election victory and promising to continue the work of her mentor and outgoing leader Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador.

Sheinbaum, 61, secured between 58.3% and 60.7% of votes, according to the INE electoral institute's rapid sample count released late Sunday night, the most support won by a candidate in a Mexican presidential election since the end of one-party rule in 2000.

Accepting her victory, Sheinbaum thanked Lopez Obrador, calling him "an exceptional, unique man who has transformed Mexico for the better."

Lopez Obrador doubled the minimum wage, reduced poverty and oversaw a strengthening peso and low levels of unemployment - successes that made



Marred by violence, the election was the largest and bloodiest in Mexico's history. At least 38 candidates were killed, highlighting concerns about the threat of conflicting drug cartels to democracy

him incredibly popular and helped Sheinbaum to victory. But analysts believe Sheinbaum will find it difficult to follow in his footsteps. "We made history!" Sheinbaum told a crowd early Monday morning in the Zocalo square in the heart of Mexico City.

Her victory is a major step for Mexico, a country known for

its macho culture and home to the world's second biggest Roman Catholic population, which for years pushed more traditional values and roles for women.

"It's a historic moment, especially for women," said Arlyn Rivera, a 24-year-old student, as she celebrated Sheinbaum's victory in the Zocalo plaza. "Mexican politics deserves more than what we have had in recent years."

Main opposition rival, Xochitl Galvez, conceded defeat after mustering just 26.6%-28.6% of votes, according to preliminary results.

I do not arrive alone. We all arrived, with our heroines who gave us our homeland, with our mothers, our daughters and our granddaughters

CLAUDIA SHEINBAUM | NEW PRESIDENT, MEXICO

Sheinbaum, who will take office October 1, is the first woman to win a general election in the United States, Mexico or Canada.

Mexico joins Latin American counterparts like Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, which have voted women to the highest office.

BUDGET DEFICIT

Sheinbaum has promised to expand the welfare policies that have driven Lopez Obrador's popularity and her triumph, a tricky task while inheriting a hefty budget deficit and low economic growth.

Her agenda will be boosted by ample support in Congress. Rapid count results showed her ruling

party Morena and allies on track for a possible supermajority in both houses of Congress.

She has vowed to improve security but has given few details and the election, the most violent in Mexico's modern history with 38 candidates murdered, has reinforced massive security problems. Many analysts say organized crime groups expanded and deepened their influence during Lopez Obrador's term.

Sunday's vote was also marred by the killing of two people at polling stations in Puebla state. More people have been killed - over 185,000 - during the mandate of Lopez Obrador than during any other administration in Mexico's modern history, although the homicide rate has been inching down.

"Unless she commits to making a game-changing level of investment in improving policing and reducing impunity, Sheinbaum will likely struggle to achieve a significant improvement in overall levels of security," said Nathaniel Parish Flannery, an independent Latin America political risk analyst.

Relief for jailed Imran in 3 high-profile cases

Former Pak PM has been in jail since August last year after being convicted in some of the nearly 200 cases slapped on him since his ouster in April 2022



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, June 3: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party founder Imran Khan was Monday acquitted in three high-profile cases, including the cipher case, in a major relief to the beleaguered former prime minister who was sentenced to 10 years in jail for making public a secret diplomatic communication.

The 71-year-old former cricketer-turned-politician has been in jail since August last year after being convicted in some of the nearly 200 cases slapped on him since his ouster in April 2022.

On Monday, a two-member bench of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) comprising Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb acquitted Khan and former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi in the cipher case.

However, the duo are not expected to be released from prison due to Khan's sentence in the Iddat case (illegal marriage) while Qureshi was arrested in a

case linked to the May 9 violence. Qureshi is on physical remand till June 5.

Khan and Qureshi were sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment in the cipher case in January by a special court, established under the Official Secrets Act. Both Khan and Qureshi had challenged the verdict in the Islamabad High Court. The case pertains to the incident in which Khan showed a piece of paper - allegedly a copy of a diplomatic communication - at a public rally in Islamabad, claiming it as proof of a conspiracy against his government by a foreign power, referring to US diplomat Donald Lu, who has been at the centre of the cipher controversy.

Khan had brandished the cipher paper just two weeks before the ouster of the PTI government in April 2022 through a vote of no-confidence in Parliament.

Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Omar Ayub due to Khan's sentence in the Iddat case (illegal marriage) while Qureshi was arrested in a

Asylum seekers: UK sets date for first Rwanda deportation flights

London: Britain intends to begin deporting asylum seekers to Rwanda July 24, a government lawyer said Monday, although the hotly contested scheme is dependent on Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Conservative Party winning the upcoming election. Sending asylum seekers who have arrived in Britain without permission to Rwanda is one of Sunak's flagship policies, but legal and parliamentary obstacles have meant it has never got off the ground. Sunak has said the deportation flights will not leave before the July 4 election but has promised if he wins they would begin soon after. The opposition Labour Party, leading by about 20 points in opinion polls, has pledged to scrap the plan if elected. In documents submitted to the London High Court as part of a challenge to the policy by charity Asylum Aid, government lawyers said the intention was "to effect removals with a flight to Rwanda 23 July 2024 (and not before)."



China keeps stance on disputed Gulf islands despite Iran's anger



Beijing: China held its stance on three disputed islands in the Persian Gulf Monday despite Tehran's anger at Beijing for describing the Iran-controlled islands as a matter to be resolved with the United Arab Emirates. In a statement last week, China expressed support for the efforts of the UAE to reach a "peaceful solution" to the issue of the islands - the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa. The islands, claimed by the UAE and Iran, have been held by Tehran since 1971. In a rare show of anger toward its biggest trading partner, the Iranian foreign ministry Sunday summoned the Chinese ambassador to Iran to protest China's "repeated support" for the UAE's "baseless claims". "Considering the strategic cooperation between Tehran and Beijing, it is expected that the Chinese government will revise its stance on this matter," the Iranian foreign ministry said.

SK plans to nullify peace deal to punish NK

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, June 3: South Korea announced Monday it'll suspend a rapprochement deal with North Korea to punish it over its launches of trash-carrying balloons, even after the North said it would halt its balloon campaign.

Over several days, North Korea flew hundreds of balloons to drop trash and manure on South Korea in an angry reaction against previous South Korean civilian leafletting campaigns. On Sunday, South Korea said it would take "unbearable" retaliatory steps in response, before North Korea abruptly announced

it would stop flying balloons across the border.

On Monday, South Korea's presidential national security council said it has decided to suspend a 2018 inter-Korean agreement aimed at easing front-line animosities, until mutual trust between the two Koreas is restored, according to the presidential office.

The security council said the suspension would allow South Korea to resume military drills near the border with North Korea and take effective, immediate responses to provocations by North Korea. It said a proposal on the suspension will be introduced at the Cabinet Council

TRASH BALLOONS



Tuesday for approval.

Observers say South Korea needs the deal's suspension to restart blasting anti-Pyongyang propaganda broadcasts, K-pop songs and outside news from border loudspeakers. They say such broadcasts have previously stung in the rigidly controlled North, where most of its 26 mil-

lion people are not allowed official access to foreign news.

The 2018 agreement, reached during a brief period of reconciliation between then-liberal South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, require the Koreans to cease all hostile acts against each other, including propaganda broadcasts and leafletting campaigns.

But the accord doesn't clearly state civilian leafletting should also be banned. That has allowed South Korean activists to continue to fly balloons to drop anti-Pyongyang leaflets, USB sticks with South Korean dramas and world news, and US dollars in North Korea.

EUROPEAN ELECTION

REUTERS

Brussels, June 3: The European Union's disinformation-busting team last month debunked a Russian-language video on YouTube that said citizens were fleeing Poland and seeking refuge in Belarus, a close ally of Moscow.

The story peddled recurring pro-Kremlin narratives of Warsaw holding aggressive militaristic intentions and of democratic failings in Poland and the wider EU, the team known as Stratcom said.

It was also part of what Stratcom says is a broader Russian disinformation campaign that Europe is widely seen as struggling to counter before an election to the European Parliament June 6-9.

The video fitted a pattern: Russia-linked websites take pro-Kremlin content from state-controlled outlets or pro-Kremlin social media accounts, repack-

EU struggles to fight Russian disinformation

age it, including with translation, and spread it via new channels to target EU audiences, EU officials say.

Russia is widely accused of having waged disinformation campaigns targeting elections in the United States, Europe and Britain over the last decade although Moscow had denied it uses disinformation to influence public opinion.

A US intelligence assessment in 2023 found Moscow was using spies, social media and Russian state-run media to erode public faith in the integrity of elections worldwide.

European capitals have warned of a pre-election surge in disinformation, but its impact is hard to gauge.

"Influence operations by Russia, China and other actors, including domestic groups, have the potential to disrupt online conversations around the EU election," said Jack Stubbs, chief intelligence officer at social net-

Russia is widely accused of having waged disinformation campaigns targeting elections in the United States, Europe and Britain over the last decade although Moscow had denied the allegations



work analysis firm Graphika. "We've seen evidence to suggest that even the people conducting the operations can struggle to understand if they are having an impact."

Russia's foreign ministry did not respond to a request for com-

ment. Moscow dismisses Western allegations that it is spreading disinformation.

Stratcom, a team of 40 that runs on a shoestring budget of 15 million euros (\$16.3 million), is on the front line of Brussels' battle against disinformation.

But the 27-nation bloc is under-resourced for the fight, two EU officials said.

"We cannot stage an offensive from Brussels," said Peter Stano, spokesperson for the European Commission's diplomatic service, adding such action had to happen at member-state level.

Most, though not all, EU countries do wage their own fight against disinformation but resources vary and experts say the European effort is disjointed.

This has left mainstream parties vulnerable to disinformation campaigns that amplify grievances that are fuelling voter discontent and underpinning support for nationalist parties in France, Germany and elsewhere.

According to the EU's second annual disinformation report published this year, Poland and Germany were the most targeted nations inside the EU. France and non-EU member Serbia were also among the top targets.

FRAGMENTED RESPONSE

Moscow, whose relations with Western governments have sunk since its 2022 invasion of Ukraine, says the West is waging an information war involving fake claims aimed at destroying Russia's reputation and casting it as an enemy.

Officials in Russia, which has suppressed dissent under President Vladimir Putin, say the West has become so intolerant that it refuses to accept any view that contradicts the prevailing dominant narrative.

France's European affairs minister, Jean-Noel Barrot, told newspaper Ouest France in April that his country was "pounded" by Russian disinformation.

Attacks against France include the creation of a fake French government website alleging 200,000 citizens were being called up to fight in Ukraine and a Paris bug scare that was amplified by Kremlin-backed activities and went viral.

business

of the day quote

Cairn, as the largest private oil and gas producer in India, is proud to lead the charge towards a greener future by making a positive impact on the environment and communities we operate in. Our decarbonisation and environmental initiatives are aligned with the vision to become carbon neutral by 2030 through innovation and technology coupled with our dedicated efforts

STEVE MOORE | DEPUTY CEO, CAIRN OIL & GAS

Our portfolio of India 2.0 cars will offer six airbags as standard across the line-up. With this, we are showcasing our commitment towards safer mobility

ASHISH GUPTA | BRAND DIRECTOR AT VOLKSWAGEN PASSENGER CARS INDIA

We're excited to explore an emerging market segment within the jewellery industry, focusing on lightweight, fashion-forward designs

TS KALYANARAMAN | MANAGING DIRECTOR KALYAN JEWELLERS

SHORT TAKES

Coal production up 10% to 83.91 MT

New Delhi: The country's coal production rose by 10.15 per cent to 83.91 million tonnes (MT) in May compared to 76.18 MT in the year-ago period. Coal production by state-owned CIL rose by 7.46 per cent to 64.40 MT in May compared to 59.93 MT in the year-ago period, according to the Coal Ministry's provisional data. Coal India Ltd (CIL) accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic coal output. "Additionally, coal production by captive and other entities in May 2024 stood at 13.78 MT (provisional), reflecting a growth of 32.76 per cent from the previous year, which was 10.38 MT," the ministry said in a statement. Similarly, India's overall coal dispatches in May reached 90.84 MT, up by 10.35 per cent as against 82.32 MT reported in the same period last financial year.

HMSI: 45% jump in domestic sales

New Delhi: Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India Monday reported a 45 per cent year-on-year jump in domestic wholesales at 4,50,589 units in May. The company had dispatched 3,11,144 units to its dealers in May 2023. Exports increased to 41,458 units last month from 18,249 units in May 2023, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI) said in a statement. The total sales rose to 4,92,047 units last month as against 3,29,393 units in the same month last year, it added.

Adani ventures into fin sector

New Delhi: Adani Group Monday announced a venture into the financial sector, launching with ICICI Bank a co-branded credit card with airport-lined benefits as it looks to leverage customer touchpoints across businesses. The group's Adani One, an app to help users book tickets, check flight status, access lounges, shop duty-free products, get cabs and avail parking, and ICICI Bank launched India's first co-branded credit cards with airport-linked benefits in collaboration with Visa. "The cards come with a plethora of benefits designed to enhance the cardholders' lifestyle and elevate their airport and travel experience. They offer up to 7 per cent Adani Reward Points on spends across the Adani Group consumer ecosystem like the Adani One app, where one can book flights, hotels, trains, buses, and cabs; Adani-managed airports and Adani CNG pumps.



Many of the doomsday prophets pleading for extensive AI regulation have revealed themselves to be just protectionists who want to limit the fruits of gen AI to a few companies and investors

NANDAN NILEKANI | INFOSYS CHAIRMAN

97.82% OF ₹2000 BANKNOTES RETURNED

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Monday said 97.82 per cent of the ₹2000 denomination banknotes have returned to the banking system, and only ₹7,755 crore worth of the withdrawn notes are still with the public. May 19, 2023, the RBI announced the withdrawal of ₹2000 denomination banknotes from circulation.



Sensex, Nifty log biggest single-day gain in 3 yrs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 3: After the exit polls predicted the return of the Modi government for the third straight term, benchmark Sensex and Nifty zoomed more than 3 per cent Monday, recording their biggest single-day gain in three years and closing at lifetime highs.

The 30-share BSE Sensex soared by 2,507.47 points or 3.39 per cent to settle at a new closing peak of 76,468.78 points with 25 of its constituents ending in the green and five in the red. During the day, the barometer jumped 2,777.58 points or 3.75 per cent to hit a record intra-day peak of 76,738.89.

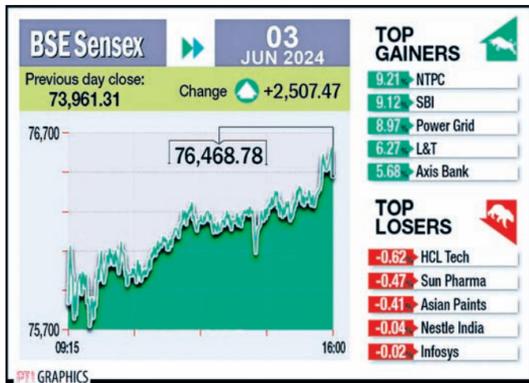
The NSE Nifty climbed 733.20 points or 3.25 per cent to finish at 23,263.90. During the day, it soared 808 points or 3.58 per cent to hit a fresh intra-day all-time high of 23,338.70.

Sensex and Nifty logged their biggest single-day gains since February 1, 2021, when indices had jumped nearly 5% after the budget presentation. Interestingly, Sensex and Nifty had spurred more than 3 per cent on May 20, 2019, after the exit polls predicted a major win BJP-led NDA in the 2019 general elections.

Among sectors, PSUs, Power, Utilities, Oil, Energy, Capital Goods, and Realty indices soared up to 8 per cent.

A sharp rally in blue-chip stocks Reliance Industries, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank and State Bank of India propelled the indices to lifetime high levels. Strong GDP data also added to the buoyancy in equity markets.

Shares of all Adani Group companies continued their rally on Monday, taking their combined market valuation to ₹19.42 lakh crore. Adani Power surged nearly 16 per cent, Adani Ports by 10 per cent and flagship Adani



PSU shares rally over 12%

NEW DELHI: Shares of public sector enterprises as well as state-owned banks settled over 12 per cent higher Monday as benchmark indices touched record highs a day after exit polls predicted a third term for the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government. Public sector units' indices jumped to fresh peaks during intra-day, in tandem with the benchmark barometers that hit new records. The Nifty PSU Bank Index climbed 620.15 points or 8.40 per cent to settle at 8,006.15. During the day, it witnessed a steep surge and reached an all-time high of 8,053.30. Shares of Bank of Baroda jumped 12.08 per cent to close at ₹296.90 apiece, Central Bank of India at ₹72.30 each, State Bank of India at ₹909.05, Canara Bank at ₹128.90, UCO Bank at ₹61.85 on the NSE. Also, Nifty CPSE indices jumped 471.90 points or 7.16 per cent to end at 7,059.05, with NTPC climbing 9.33 per cent to close at ₹392.50, Power Grid at ₹338.00, Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) at ₹319.80, and Oil & Natural Gas Corp at ₹284 per piece.

Enterprises by over 6 per cent.

Exit polls Saturday predicted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will retain power for the third straight term, with the BJP-led NDA expected to win a big majority in the Lok Sabha polls. The counting of votes will take place June 4.

"Nifty logged its best session in over three years, as investors cheered exit polls, along with better-than-expected India Q4 GDP," said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities.

"The markets opened at new highs today largely because of

exit polls predicting landslide victory for the BJP-led NDA. This will result in a positive surprise of policy continuity with higher seats for the NDA government," SAMCO MF Fund Manager & Head of Equity Research Paras Matalia said.

Among the 30-Sensex companies, NTPC, State Bank of India and Power Grid jumped over 9 per cent each. Larsen & Toubro, Axis Bank, Reliance Industries, UltraTech Cement, Mahindra & Mahindra, IndusInd Bank, ICICI Bank and Tata Steel were the other big gainers.

Sun Pharma, HCL

'Strong growth may lead to India rating upgrade'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 3: Strong growth and a narrower fiscal deficit can lead to a sovereign rating upgrade for India, a German brokerage said Monday.

The government's commitments on fiscal deficit to 5.1 per cent in FY25 and further down to 4.5 per cent in FY26 "look more credible now", analysts at Deutsche Bank said, pointing out that the number came in at 5.6 per cent in FY24 as against the budgeted 5.8 per cent.

Courtesy the higher than expected dividend announcement by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) at ₹2.1 lakh crore, the fiscal deficit for FY25 can come down to 5 per cent as against the budgeted 5.1 per cent.

On growth, the note said it expects real GDP expansion to come at 6.9 per cent in FY25 and go down further to 6.5 per cent

in FY26.

"Strong growth, lower fiscal deficit opens up room for ratings upgrade," the note said.

"A faster-than-anticipated pace of fiscal consolidation could pave the way for a sooner-rather-than-later sovereign rating upgrade for India," the analysts said.

It can be noted that global rating agency S&P had last week revised up the outlook on its sovereign rating for India to "positive" from "stable" earlier.

Friday, official data suggested that the economy grew at a faster clip of 8.2 per cent in the March quarter, which takes the FY24 real GDP growth to 7.6 per cent.

The note said the Indian economy has exhibited "remarkable resilience" despite higher rates for longer, the Russia-Ukraine war and Covid prior to that, though a strong pickup in real GDP growth during FY24 can be also attributed materially to a very low GDP deflator.

Rupee jumps 28 paise to close at 2-month high

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 3: The rupee jumped 28 paise to close at over two-month high of 83.14 against the US dollar Monday, tracking over 3 per cent surge in domestic equity benchmarks after exit poll results predicted a firm comeback of the ruling BJP-led government for the third straight term.

Forex analysts attributed the steep rise in the local unit to factors such as strong domestic macroeconomic data, inflow of foreign funds and a weak American currency against major Asian rivals.

Also, they said a fall in crude oil prices after the OPEC-plus grouping's decision to maintain the status quo in the oil output supported the Indian currency.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.09 and moved between the peak of 82.95 and the lowest level of 83.17 against the greenback during intra-day deals. The unit finally settled at 83.14 against the dollar, registering a gain of 28 paise from its previous close.



Friday, the rupee declined 13 paise to close at 83.42 against the US dollar.

Earlier, the rupee had closed at 83.13 against the dollar March 21 this year. It had breached the 83.00 level March 18.

Also, the local unit clocked the highest single-day rise since November 15, 2023 when it closed 24 paise higher.

Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP

Manufacturing growth eases; upturn in exports



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 3: India's manufacturing sector saw a slower growth rate for the second straight month in May but stayed firmly in expansion mode with global sales increasing to the greatest extent in over 13 years, a monthly survey said Monday.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) fell from 58.8 in April to 57.5 in May, signalling a slower but substantial improvement in the health of the sector.

The index had climbed to a 16-year high of 59.1 in March.

In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion while a score below 50 denotes contraction. India's economy grew by 8.2 per cent in the fiscal year that ended in March, cementing the country's position as the fastest-growing major economy in the world.

Analysts said global equities began June mostly higher after a report showing that inflation in the US is not worsening led to a rally on Wall Street. European stocks rose and government bond yields dropped as investors anticipated an interest rate cut from the ECB (European Central Bank) later this week.

"Panelists cited heatwaves as a reason for lower work hours in May, which may have affected production volumes," Das said.

The headline figure was nearly four points higher than its long-

run average. May data showed a further upturn in Indian factory production, which stretched the current sequence of expansion to nearly three years.

Despite easing to a three-month low, the rate of increase remained sharp. Growth was supported by new business gains, demand strength and successful marketing efforts, the report said.

New orders rose at a substantial pace that was nonetheless the slowest in three months. The rise was associated with marketing efforts, demand strength and favourable economic conditions, as per the report.

Growth was reportedly stymied by competitions and election-related disruptions, it said, adding that in contrast to the trend for total sales, new export orders rose at a faster pace in May.

The upturn in international sales was the strongest in over 13 years as manufacturers witnessed gains from customers across several countries in Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe, and the Middle East.

The ongoing strong sales performances, combined with upbeat growth forecasts, fuelled job creation in May, the report said.

Besides, a rise in risk appetite in global markets, a weak dollar and a decline in crude oil prices may also support the rupee even as investors are expected to remain cautious ahead of the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy later this week.

"USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of ₹82.70 to ₹83.50," Choudhary added. According to Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities, the expectations of the current government winning by a good margin attracted rupee buyers, anticipating positive fund flows.

"The trend remains volatile due to dollar fluctuations, but the rupee is expected to maintain its strength if the election results align with exit polls," he added.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.06 per cent higher at 104.68.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, dropped 2.43 per cent to USD 79.14 per barrel.

Women CEOs see higher pay, but numbers still small

ASSOCIATED PRESS

San Francisco, June 3: More women are attaining the top job at companies in the S&P 500, but their numbers are still minuscule compared to their male counterparts.

Of the 341 CEOs included in the AP's annual compensation survey, 25 are women. That's the most women making the list since the survey began in 2011. But the numbers haven't budged very much. The second highest tally was 21 women in 2017.

The survey, based on data analyzed for The Associated Press by Equilar, includes CEOs at S&P 500 companies who have served at least two fiscal years at their companies, which filed proxy statements between Jan. 1 and April 30, 2024.

Christy Glass, a professor of sociology at Utah State University

who studies equity, inclusion and leadership, said that while seeing more female CEOs this year is a positive, overall the trends are discouraging.

"We'll see a year where there's kind of a banner year of women CEOs," she said. "But then a year or two down the road, we'll see a significant turnover."

Lisa Su, CEO and chair of the board of chipmaker Advanced Micro Devices, was the highest paid female CEO in the AP survey for the fifth year in a row in fiscal 2023, bringing in total compensation worth USD30.3 million — flat with her compensation package a year earlier. Her rank rose to 21 overall from 25.

Su received a base salary of USD 1.2 million and a performance bonus of more than USD 1.4 million. The bulk of her package was USD 21.8 million in stock



awards. Su has been chief of AMD, based in Santa Clara, California, since 2014. The company is part of a growing number of companies trying to take advantage

of a broader interest from businesses looking for new AI tools that can analyze data, help make decisions and potentially replace some tasks currently performed by human workers. AMD's stock

price surged 127% in 2023.

The others in the top five highest paid female CEOs include Mary Barra of automaker General Motors with total compensation of USD 27.8 million; Jane Fraser of banking giant Citigroup with a package worth USD 25.5 million; Kathy Warden of aerospace and defense company Northrop Grumman Corp. at USD 23.5 million; and Carol Tome of package deliverer UPS Inc., whose pay was valued at USD 23.4 million.

Some notable female CEOs aren't included since they became CEO less than two years ago or their company files proxy statements outside of the January through April window, including Julie Sweet of consultant Accenture and Sue Nabi, CEO of Coty Inc.

The median pay package for female CEOs rose 21 per cent to

USD 17.6 million. That's better than the men fared: Their median pay package rose 12 per cent to USD16.3 million.

But the highest paid men still make far more than the highest paid women. Broadcom CEO Hock Tan raked in USD161.8 million — the vast majority of that in stock awards.

Part of the issue of the disproportionate numbers of men to women is the "glass cliff," Glass said. Her research shows women are more likely to be appointed CEO at disadvantaged companies.

"It's kind of like one step forward, two steps back," she said. "One of the factors driving that is the fact that women tend to have opportunities to serve as CEO when organizations are in crisis. ... That means that they start their leadership trajectory at a disadvantage."

T20 WORLD CUP

Record prize purse of \$11.25mn

The 55-match event will be played over 28 days, across nine venues in the West Indies and USA, making it the biggest T20 World Cup ever



it out of the Super 8s will earn \$382,500 each, while the teams placed ninth, 10th, 11th and 12th receive \$247,500 each. Participants who finish 13th to 20th place will return \$225,000 each.

"And every team receives an additional \$31,154 for each match they win barring the semi-finals and final," the sport's governing body added.

The 55-match event will be played over 28 days, across nine venues in the West Indies and

USA, making it the biggest T20 World Cup ever. A record 20 teams are taking part in the competition including first timers USA, Canada and Uganda.

The format of this year's tournament will see 40 first round matches played before the top eight progress to the Super 8s. Four teams will then qualify for the semi-finals, which will be staged in Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana, ending with the final in Barbados.

Doordarshan to telecast T20 WC

Prasar Bharati Monday announced that it will telecast the ongoing T20 World Cup, the Paris Olympics and Wimbledon on its DD Sports channel. The announcement was made by CEO Prasar Bharati, Gaurav Dwivedi, during an interaction with the media here Monday. Prasar Bharati also launched a special anthem 'Jazba' for the T20 World Cup. Doordarshan also announced live, deferred live and highlights of the Paris Olympics from July 26 August 11 and Paris Paralympics (August 28-September 8). It will also telecast India's tour of Zimbabwe from July 6-14 where they will play five T20Is after the T20 World Cup. India's white-ball series in Sri Lanka from July 27-August 7 will also be telecast by DD Sports, the release stated. The finals of the French Open and Wimbledon will be also telecast by Doordarshan.

Brother-sister duo suffers defeat at Norway Chess

PRAGGNA LOSES TO ALIREZA, CARLSEN JUMPS TO SOLE LEAD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Stavanger (Norway), June 3: The brother-sister Indian duo of R Praggnanandhaa and R Vaishali suffered defeats in their respective section while Magnus Carlsen justified his top billing with a win over an off-colour Ding Liren to surge to sole lead on 12 points in the Norway Chess tournament here.

Fabiano Caruana also scored over compatriot Hikaru Nakamura to help Carlsen emerge as the front runner for the crown in the six-player double round-robin contest being fought for a total prize pool of \$161,000.

Praggnanandhaa lost to Firouzja Alireza of France in the Armageddon tiebreaker after suffering a bit through the Classical game too while Vaishali went down to world women's champion Wenjun Ju of China who outplayed the Indian in the endgame.

With four rounds still to come in both sections, Carlsen is now followed by Nakamura on 11 points while Praggnanandhaa is still third on 9.5 points in all.

Alireza is on fourth spot with eight points in all and Caruana follows him with 6.5 points. Surprisingly, China's Ding Liren seems completely out of sorts with just 2.5 points thus far, needing a miracle to come back in the tournament.

In the women's section, Wenjun snatched the lead from Vaishali along with Anna Muzychuk of Ukraine who won a hard-fought Armageddon against Tingjie Lei of China. Both Wenjun and Muzychuk have an identical 10.5 points, a half point ahead of Vaishali.



Praggnanandhaa lost to Firouzja Alireza of France in the Armageddon tiebreaker after suffering a bit through the Classical game too while Vaishali went down to world women's champion Wenjun Ju of China who outplayed the Indian in the endgame

Lei is fourth on seven points, enjoying a two-point lead over Koneru Humpy who suffered another loss at the hands of Pia Cramling of Sweden in the Armageddon.

Cramling has 4.5 points now and is still at the bottom of the tables. Gaining a small advantage out of the opening, the world number one Carlsen capitalised on his double Bishops to launch an offensive on the king side and used another blunder by Ding Liren to finish the game with a child-like queen sacrifice.

Liren looks a far cry from the man who won the last world championship title against Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia and needs to really gather himself to make a match of it in the next

edition of the tournament against India's D Gukesh.

Currently, as per FIDE, the apex governing body, there are bids from Delhi, Chennai and Singapore to hold the World Championship match.

Praggnanandhaa suffered a jolt in his quest as Alireza played a nice game under Classical to put pressure and eventually drew the contest. In the return game however, the Indian faltered and could not really stage a comeback.

In the women's section, Vaishali had her chances but Wenjun Ju was at her technical best and seized opportunities as they came her way. The minor pieces endgame had some chances but Vaishali could not sustain the pressure.

Namibia win in Super Over

Bridgetown: Namibia's Ruben Trumpelmann became the first player to take wickets in the first two deliveries of a T20 international as his team beat Oman via the Super Over in a thrilling T20 World Cup match here. David Wiese and skipper Gerhard Erasmus smashed 21 runs for Namibia in the one-over eliminator with Oman managing 10 from the allotted six deliveries bowled brilliantly by the seasoned Wiese. Asked to bat first, Oman were earlier bowled out for 109 in 19.4 overs



at the Kensington Oval. In reply, Namibia were also stopped at the same team score with Jan Frylinck making 45 in 48 balls and Mehran Khan taking 3/7 to force a Super Over. This was after Namibia's South Africa-born left-arm fast bowler Trumpelmann created history. The 26-year-old achieved the feat

when he dismissed opener Kashyap Prajapati and Oman skipper Aqib Ilyas for golden ducks on the first two balls of the match. Khalid Kail top-scored for Oman with 34 in 39 balls. Trumpelmann took another wicket in his second over and returned with the career-best figures of 4-21.

SHORT TAKES

Proteas beat SL by six wickets

New York: South Africa defeated Sri Lanka by six wickets in their T20 World Cup opener here Monday. The Proteas first restricted Sri Lanka to 77 in 19.1 overs, the Islanders' lowest total in T20 cricket, with Nortje coming up with envious figures of 4/7 in four overs. Opener Kusal Mendis was the top-scorer for Sri Lanka with 19 off 30 balls. The Aiden Markram-led side then notched up the required runs with the loss of four wickets at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium.

Roy Krishna extends deal with Odisha FC

Bhubaneswar: Fiji forward Roy Krishna has extended his contract with Super Cup champions Odisha FC for another year, the Indian Super League side announced Monday. Roy has scored 13 goals in the ISL this season with three assists to his name and struck the winning goal in their 3-2 AFC Cup comeback win against Maziya S & RC in Maldives. "I'm very pleased to extend my stay at Odisha for another year. I've had a great season and can't wait to see what we can achieve together in the next one," Roy said. "The energy and support I get from our fans on and off the pitch is unparalleled and truly fuels my passion for the game. Playing under coach Sergio Lobera has been a great experience for me. His vision, leadership, and commitment to excel inspire me every day," he said.

Madrid seal 5-year deal with Mbappe

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Madrid, June 3: Spanish giant Real Madrid have officially announced the arrival of star player Kylian Mbappe on a five-year contract with the club that is valid till 2029 through a statement posted on their official website.

Mbappe will be presented to Madridista in a very special manner in July and is expected to be done in front of a sold-out Santiago Bernabeu following the end of the 2024 European Championship where he will be leading his national team, France.

"Real Madrid CF and Kylian Mbappe have reached an agreement whereby he will be a Real Madrid player for the next five seasons," read the statement posted on their official website.

Florentino Perez finally got his man.

Madrid's pursuit of the French



international began in 2017 when Mbappe was in Monaco, but the move never materialised as PSG spent a massive fee of 180 million Euros to snare the youngster. The continuous flirtation between the Los Blancos and Kylian continued with the latter almost joining the club in 2022 before extending his contract with the Parisian side.

This news comes two days after Real Madrid lifted their record-extending 15th UEFA Champions League trophy. It is a new era for Real Madrid as they now possess one of the most potent and dangerous attacking lineups with Vinicius, Mbappe, and Rodrygo amidst their ranks.

A move of this magnitude holds the potential of building a new dynasty for Madrid as they possess an abundance of extremely talented and young players waiting to take on world football.



INDONESIA OPEN Satwik, Chirag aim for title defence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jakarta, June 3: Keeping the Olympics in mind, star Indian shuttlers Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will seek consistency as they gear up to defend their doubles title at the Indonesia Open Super 1000 tournament, beginning here Tuesday.

The top seeded Indian pair, who are one of the favourites to win a gold at the Paris Olympics, have enjoyed a good run this season with four final appearances and two wins (French Open Super 750 and Thailand Open Super 500).

But they found it a tad difficult to negotiate the variety of serves dished out by the Indonesians and Chinese at the Thomas Cup and made early exits from the All England Open and the Singapore Open last week.

Satwik and Chirag, who created history by winning India's first BWF Super 1000 title here last year, will look to address the slight drop in their level this week when they begin their campaign against Man Wei Chong and Kai Wun Tee of Malaysia.

With the Paris Games less than two months away, the Olympic-bound shuttlers will have just a couple of tournaments -- Australian Open and Canada Open-- to polish their skills and eliminate any lingering rust before the quadrennial extravaganza.



Pressure will also be on two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu to build her confidence ahead of the Paris Games.

The runner-up finish in Malaysia would have boosted her morale, but the meltdown in the decider, after leading 11-3 to eventually lose the final against China's Wang Zhi Yi, is worrisome.

While top stars such as An Se Young, Chen Yu Fei, Akane Yamaguchi and Carolina Marin skipped the Malaysia Open, the quartet will be vying for top honours this week.

And should Sindhu win her opening round against Wen Chi Hsu from Chinese Taipei, she would be up against familiar foe Marin, who had beaten her in the pre-quarterfinals last week.

India's top player in men's singles HS Prannoy and Lakshya Sen will also hope for a deep

run into the event to receive the ideal boost in the build-up to the Paris Games.

However, it will be a tough test of their temperament as some big guns stand in their way in the Super 1000 tournament.

Lakshya, who sneaked into the Olympic qualification with back-to-back semifinal finishes at French Open and All England Championships, will begin his campaign against Japan's Kanta Tsuneyama. If all goes well he will once again square off against reigning Olympic champion and top seed Viktor Axelsen in the quarterfinals.

The Dane had got the better of Lakshya last week.

Prannoy, who has been troubled by health issues this season, will be eager to find his footing. He takes on compatriot Priyanshu Rajawat in the first round.

Jadhav retires from international cricket

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, June 3: India and Maharashtra batter Kedar Jadhav Monday announced his retirement from international cricket, four years since his last appearance for the national team.

The 39-year-old, who made his international debut for India in November 2014 during an ODI against Sri Lanka at Ranchi, went on to play 73 one-dayers as well as nine T20Is.

Perceived close to former India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Jadhav borrowed from the iconic wicketkeeper-batter's style to announce his retirement with a similar play of words.

"Thank you all for your love and support throughout my career from 1500 hrs. Consider me as retired from all forms of cricket," (sic) wrote Jadhav on X.



Interestingly, Jadhav is currently captaining Kolhapur Tuskers in the Maharashtra Premier League which got underway in Pune on Sunday and his post does not specify whether the announcement covers this engagement.

Jadhav scored 1,389 runs at an average of 42.09 with two centuries and six fifties for India in 73 ODIs. He also made 122 runs in the six innings of the nine T20 Internationals that he played.

Arguably, Jadhav's biggest moment under the sun came during the Pune ODI against England in January 2017, when he got his second ODI ton. He smacked a brutal 76-ball 120 with 12 fours and four sixes to fire India to a three-wicket win in a high-scoring contest.

Having developed his off-spin skills, Jadhav also emerged as a potent option with the ball with his slinging action that fetched him 27 ODI wickets.

In the Indian Premier League, the right-handed batter played for Chennai Super Kings, (formerly) Delhi Daredevils, now-defunct Kochi Tuskers Kerala, (formerly) Royal Challengers Bangalore and Sunrisers Hyderabad.

World Athletics unveils new global championship

THE TOURNAMENT IS NAMED 'WORLD ATHLETICS ULTIMATE CHAMPIONSHIP' AND WILL OFFER RECORD PRIZE MONEY OF \$10MN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Monaco, June 3: The international athletics body Monday launched a new season-ending championship that will offer record prize money of \$10 million and pit the world and Olympic champions and Diamond League winners against each other to decide the season's ultimate performers.

The tournament is named the 'World Athletics Ultimate Championship' and it aims to reach a broader audience.

Track and field sports global governing body World Athletics (WA) called it a "groundbreaking" championship that will "transform the athletics calen-

dar and define which athlete is the best of the best."

The championship, offering the highest prize money in track and field history, will conclude the 2026 track and field season.

Budapest will host the inaugural edition from September 11-13 and the championship will be held every two years. The gold medalists in the championship will receive \$150,000.

"With only the best of the best on show and cutting straight to semi-finals and finals, we will create an immediate pressure to perform for athletes aiming to claim the title of the ultimate champion," said World Athletics President Seb Coe.



"The World Athletics Ultimate Championship will be high on action and excitement for fans, setting a new standard for track and field events. Featuring athletics' biggest stars, it will be a must-watch global sports event and means track and field will host a major global champi-

onship in every single year, ensuring for the first time that athletes will enjoy a moment of maximum audience reach on an annual basis," Coe added.

Taking place over three evening sessions, each under three hours in duration, the championship will showcase the

By embracing innovation and breaking away from traditional models, we are looking to reach a broader audience, particularly younger fans, and elevate the entire sport"

JON RIDGEON | CEO, WORLD ATHLETICS

best of athletics, including sprints, middle and long-distance races, relays, jumps, and throws. Athletes will represent their national teams to ensure that "individual success is underpinned by national pride".

The apex body said athletes will "also benefit from greater promotional rights, allowing them to commercially activate and en-

hance their personal profiles." Chosen following a competitive process - which saw interest from a number of major global cities - Budapest will welcome nearly 400 of the world's top athletes for the inaugural championship.

"There will be a strong focus on television audiences, with an aim to reach the biggest global audience possible. We also want to enhance the viewing experience, both at home and in the stadium, so we are looking at what new competition innovations can be introduced, all of which will be thoroughly tested in advance. We truly believe this will be a game changer for our entire sport," said World Athletics CEO Jon Ridgeon.