



Kriti's concerns

Actor-turned-producer Kriti Sanon shares her perspective on rising cost of production in the Hindi film industry

LEISURE | P2



UN halts food aid

UN's main food agency says it has 'paused' its operations from the US-built floating pier off Gaza due to security concerns

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Swelling inflow

Equity mutual funds witnesses a staggering growth with inflow reaching a record high of ₹34,697 crore in May, an 83% surge from April

BUSINESS | P11



Crucial game

Indian football team enter a testing transition phase with a crucial FIFA World Cup qualifying match against heavyweights Qatar today

SPORTS | P12

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 71 | www.orissapost.com

BHUBANESWAR | TUESDAY JUNE 11, 2024

12 PAGES | ₹5.00

SHORT TAKES

Eight fall prey to heatwave in state

Bhubaneswar: At least eight people have died of sunstroke in the last three days, the state government said Monday. As per government information, so far 159 persons have died due to sunstroke in the state, officials stated. Seventy three cases of these deaths are under inquiry at the district level, officials informed.

Militants ambush Manipur CM's convoy

Imphal: Suspected militants ambushed the advance security convoy of Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh in Kangpokpi district Monday morning, leaving two personnel injured, police said. The convoy was on its way to violence-hit Jiribam district when it came under attack around 10.30am near Kotlien village along a stretch of National Highway-53, they said. Multiple gunshots were fired at the vehicles of the security forces, who retaliated, a police officer said. CM was supposed to visit Jiribam, but has postponed his trip, "the officer added.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

NO.1 COACHING
CIVIL SERVICES • NEET • PO



Why give you lakhs if you can't guarantee selection? I'd rather pay the paper leak mafia

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	CHANGE	PERCENTAGE
SENSEX	76490.08	↓ 203.28	-0.27%
NIFTY	23259.20	↓ 30.95	-0.13%
DOLLAR	83.53	↑ ₹0.08	+0.1%
EURO	89.86	↓ ₹1.03	-1.1%
GOLD	₹71,190	↓ ₹118	-0.17%
SILVER	₹89,552	↑ ₹463	+0.5%

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	39.2°C	39.8°C
Min Temp	28.0°C	27.0°C
Humidity	75%	72%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

FORECAST: PARTLY CLOUDY SKY



NEW INNINGS: Prime Minister Narendra Modi chairs Monday the first meeting of his Cabinet in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

Modi banks on experience

Many of the ministers have been retained in their last jobs because of continuity while among the new faces are Shivraj Singh Chouhan, HD Kumaraswamy and Chirag Paswan

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 10: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's top four ministers - Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nirmala Sitharaman and S Jaishankar - have retained their respective Home, Defence, Finance and External Affairs portfolios, according to an official statement released here Sunday.

Among those retained from the last term are Nitin Gadkari, (Road Transport and Highways Ministry) and Piyush Goyal (Commerce).

JP Nadda, the Health Minister in PM Modi's first cabinet, has been brought back with the same portfolio. The portfolios of IT and Railways will be handled by Ashwini Vaishnaw.

NAME	MINISTRY
Amit Shah	Home, Cooperation
Rajnath Singh	Defence
S Jaishankar	External Affairs
Nirmala Sitharaman	Finance, Corporate Affairs
Shivraj Singh Chouhan	Agriculture & Rural Dev
JP Nadda	Health, Chemicals
Nitin Gadkari	Road Transport
Dharmendra Pradhan	Education
ML Khattar	Power, Housing
Kiren Rijiju	Parliamentary Affairs
Sarbananda Sonowal	Ports, Shipping
HD Kumaraswamy	Heavy Industries & Steel
Piyush Goyal	Commerce & Industry
Jitan Ram Manjhi	MSME
Rajiv Ranjan Singh	Panchayati Raj & Animal Husbandry
K Rammohan Naidu	Civil Aviation
Chirag Paswan	Food Processing

ODISHA GETS THREE MINISTERS

DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: About a fortnight shy of his 56th birthday, Dharmendra Pradhan, the towering figure of Odisha BJP, made a triumphant return to the Union Cabinet. Son of a doctor and former Union Minister Debendra Pradhan, he gained fame as 'Ujjwala Man'. Pradhan was instrumental in making Modi's 'Ujjwala Yojana' successful providing free cooking gas cylinders to poor women.



ASHWINI VAISHNAW: Bureaucrat-turned-politician Ashwini Vaishnaw is known for his efforts for Railway sector reforms and establishment of the public-private partnership model in infrastructure projects. The 53-year-old Rajya Sabha member's induction to the Modi government in its second term surprised many. He managed important portfolios like Railways, Communications and Electronics and IT.



JUAL ORAM: Veteran BJP leader Jual Oram, who stands as a beacon of tribal leadership in Odisha, holds the distinction of being the country's first Tribal Affairs Minister during former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee's tenure. The 63-year-old leader, who hails from Sundargarh district, has a long political experience both as an MLA and an MP. Oram has been a LS member from Sundargarh for six terms.



NAME	MINISTRY
Arjun Ram Meghwal	Law & Justice
Jayant Chaudhary	Skill Development
Jitendra Singh	Science and Tech, Earth Sc
Pralhad Joshi	Consumer Affairs & Renewable Energy
Ashwini Vaishnaw	Railway, Meity, IT
Jual Oram	Tribal Affairs
Giriraj Singh	Textiles
Bhupendra Yadav	Environment, Climate change
Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	Culture & Tourism
G Kishan Reddy	Coal & Mines
Hardeep Singh Puri	Petroleum & Natural Gas
Annpurna Devi	Women and Child Dev
CR Paatil	Jal Shakti
Mansukh Mandaviya	Labour, Youth Affairs & Sports
Virendra Kumar	Social Justice & Empowerment
Jyotiraditya Scindia	Communications & Development (Northeast)

Macron humbled in EU polls

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brussels, June 10: Far-right parties rattled the traditional powers in the European Union (EU) and made major gains in parliamentary elections Sunday, dealing an especially humiliating defeat to French President Emmanuel Macron.

On a night where the 27-member bloc palpably shifted to the right, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni more than doubled her seats in the EU Parliament. And even if the 'Alternative for Germany' extreme right party was hounded by scandals involving candidates, it still rallied enough seats to sweep past the

slumping Social Democrats of Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

Undoubtedly however, the star on a stunning electoral night was the 'National Rally' party of Marine Le Pen, which dominated the French polls to such an extent that Macron immediately dissolved the national parliament and called for new elections. It is a massive political risk since his party could suffer more losses.

"We're ready to turn the country around, ready to defend the interests of the French, ready to put an end to mass immigration," Le Pen said, echoing the rallying cry of so many far-right leaders in other countries who were celebrating also.

P10

Protests grow against NEET

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 10: Protests against alleged 'irregularities' in the NEET exams grew across the country with members of Left-affiliated students' unions holding a demonstration in front of the Education Ministry here Monday.

In a separate development, retired judge of Madras High Court Justice AK Rajan has asked the Tamil Nadu government to take immediate steps to eliminate the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) through legal and/or legislative procedures and make Higher Secondary examination marks the sole criteria for admission to first year medical programmes.

The government should ensure equality in opportunity to students from different boards



of education and normalisation of scores may be followed, the retired judge who headed a high-level committee, has recommended. The panel was constituted after DMK stormed to power in the state in 2021, to study the impact of the NEET-based admission process.

The National Testing Agency (NTA) had earlier said Saturday that the Education Ministry has set up a four-member panel to review the grace marks awarded to more than 1,500 candidates in the exam. The move came amid

allegations of inflation of marks leading to 67 candidates sharing the first rank in the NEET-UG medical entrance exam.

"We demand the Ministry to establish a more reliable and secure examination system to safeguard the integrity of entrance exams," JNU Students' Union vice-president Avijit Ghosh said in the national capital.

Sixty-seven candidates had shared the first rank in the exam including eight from the same centre in Haryana. A record of more than 24 lakh candidates had registered for the exam this year.

In another development Chennai-based advocate Mathews J Numpara has written to the Supreme Court Registry seeking an urgent listing of their writ petition for investigation into the 'question paper leak'.

Discontent brews in NDA

Both the NCP (Ajit Pawar) and Shinde Sena are expecting more Cabinet berths

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 10: Simmering discontent and the problems and perils of running a coalition government were highlighted Monday morning by a squabble between the BJP and its Maharashtra allies - the Shiv Sena unit led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar's NCP.

A staggering 71 MPs were sworn in Sunday after Prime Minister Narendra Modi took oath for a record-equalling third time. However, among them only five are from Maharashtra. Among the five, four are from BJP, while the fifth is Shinde Sena's Prataprao Jadhav, who was sworn in as a

junior minister, albeit with independent charge. A similar offer had been made to Praful Patel of Ajit Pawar's NCP but it was refused as a 'demotion'.

However, Pawar tried to diffuse the situation, by stating Monday in Mumbai that he is 'ready to wait' for the Cabinet berth. "We have one Lok Sabha and one Rajya Sabha MP (Sunil Tatkare and Praful Patel). In the coming months, we will have two more Rajya Sabha MPs. Then we will have four MPs and should get a Cabinet berth. We are ready to wait but want a Cabinet berth," Pawar said. It should be stated here that Patel was Minister of Heavy Industries from 2011 to 2014.

Meanwhile, the Shinde Sena had demanded three posts - one in the Cabinet and two junior minister berths. Shinde stated that they are ready to wait till the next Cabinet expansion.

Heatwaves will be intense, frequent: IMD chief

THIS YEAR INDIA HAS EXPERIENCED THE LONGEST-EVER STRETCH OF HEATWAVE, SAYS MOHAPATRA

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 10: The current heatwave on in India is the longest-ever to hit the country, head of India's Meteorological Department (IMD), Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said Monday. He also warned people will face increasingly oppressive temperatures, if preventive measures are not implemented quickly.

Parts of northern India have been gripped by a heatwave since mid-May, with temperatures soaring over 45 degrees Celsius (113 degrees Fahrenheit). "This has been the longest heatwave spell because it has been experienced for about 24 days in different parts of India," Mohapatra said.

The mercury is expected to fall as the annual monsoon rains move north this month, but

Mohapatra cautioned worse will follow. "Heatwaves will be more frequent, durable and intense, if precautionary or preventive measures are not taken. It may go up substantially every year," Mohapatra warned.

India is the world's third-biggest emitter of greenhouse gases but has committed to achieve a net zero emissions economy by 2070 - two decades after most of the industrialised West. For now, it is overwhelmingly reliant on coal for power generation.

"Human activities, increasing population, industrialisation and transport mechanisms are leading to increased concentration of carbon monoxide, methane and chlorocarbons," Mohapatra pointed out. "We are endangering not only ourselves,



but also our future generations." The regional office of the IMD in Bhubaneswar meanwhile warned Monday that heatwave will continue in eight districts of Odisha till June 14. The Special Relief Commissioner's (SRC) of-

office has asked the Collectors of eight districts - Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Bargarh, Sambalpur, Sonepur, Bolangir, Boudh and Nuapada - to remain alert in view of the heatwave. Scientific research shows cli-

mate change is causing heatwaves to become longer, more frequent and more intense. The latest heatwave has seen temperatures in New Delhi match the capital's previous record high: 49.2°C (120.5°F) clocked in 2022.

Mohapatra however, was quick to point out that in some places the sensors have erred giving wrong temperatures. "We constituted an expert committee, which observed readings for the next two days and found there were problems with the sensor," Mohapatra said.

"We inspect the AWS (automatic weather stations) every six months. But in between a bird or a monkey can disturb it," added Mohapatra.

The IMD chief however, reiterated that next year also people should brace themselves for an extended heatwave.

FORTUNE FORECAST

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

ARIES

An enterprising day. The stars say you may visit an ancient place. A museum, perhaps, or a historical place. But your health may require some attention, says Ganesh. If so, it's a good idea to spend an evening by yourself.

TAURUS

It will be a thought-provoking day with tidbits of success and rewards scattered here and there, says Ganesh. If you feel you got the short end of the stick, do not let it affect your morale. Every sunrise comes with a different promise and today is not the end of the world.

GEMINI

Today, you will have the required intentions and courage to propose your sweetheart. You will be dressed to kill, or rather to marry. You will make a favourable impression with the way you'll look tonight. You will be an open book to your future partner, which is likely to work in your favour.

CANCER

Though your thoughts and views may be quite radical, you will be largely restrained while acting on them, portends Ganesh. You will have no problems starting a new venture or love affair, and taking the required action to keep them afloat.

LEO

'One small drop at a time fills an ocean over time'. Remember this lesson, says Ganesh, and continue to concentrate your efforts on your goal without losing heart. There may be times when you sit back and think twice, but know that all it takes is a small effort and that is what shall enable you to reach the zenith.

VIRGO

Meticulous as you are, hopefully you won't grudge the extra quota of domestic responsibilities that comes your way today. But then, since the work is in a more than satisfactory state, some added issues on the home front won't hurt either. Your subordinates will offer the best of their support, and you shall feel contented at the end of the day.

LIBRA

You will be very unpredictable today, and your mercurial tendencies will remain till the evening. After that, be prepared to get a pleasant surprise. Just bear in mind that being prepared is always a good idea, since you never know when the perfect moment arrives.

SCORPIO

Today, the sugar and spice of work and home are delicately balanced to bring out the best in you, says Ganesh. You may spend a lot of your time brainstorming at your desk. In the evening, however, mental exercises will be substituted for pleasure and fun with friends and family.

SAGITTARIUS

Time to open up that can of confetti at the workplace today. Success never smelled sweeter. But you may bleed on the purchase front, says Ganesh, as in your revelry, you may just unknowingly end up shelling an extra buck or two on ordinary items.

CAPRICORN

The day will be a maze of complex problems and situations, but you will find your way out in no time, says Ganesh. At work, you may love to play the leader, but that makes you accountable, for both the good as well as the poor performance of your subordinates. In all likelihood, you may be held responsible for the poor performance of your team members.

AQUARIUS

Today is an auspicious day, particularly for astrologers, healers, spiritual guides and gurus, says Ganesh. One will think twice before challenging you today. Greed is not a word in your dictionary, and today, you are even more inspired to work for humanity.

PISCES

The focus is firmly on career advancement today. Business deals, which have been a long time in the making, will finally come through. Those pursuing a profession can expect pay rises or promotions. Make sure your skills are up to the mark to be able to tackle your new responsibilities satisfactorily, says Ganesh.



HOLMES PLANNING NEW CAREER AS AN AUTHOR

American actress Katie Holmes - who shot to fame on teen show *Dawson's Creek* in the 1990s - has branched out into writing and directing movies in recent years but she is now hoping to put pen to paper to work on fiction novels.

MORRIS COMES OUT AS BISEXUAL

American singer Maren Morris - who split from Ryan Hurd last October after five years of marriage - revealed she is attracted to both men and women in a new social media post to mark Pride month.



Sharvari shares her casting jitters

Mumbai: Sharvari Wagh is celebrating the success of her recent release, *Munjya*. The horror-comedy, co-starring Mona Singh and Abhay Verma, has garnered positive reviews and propelled Sharvari further into the spotlight. But her journey to this point has been paved with perseverance and numerous auditions, including ones for big-budget YRF films like *Sui Dhaaga: Made In India* and *Sultan*, she recently revealed.

Speaking to *Bollywood Bubble*, Sharvari shed light on her initial days navigating the competitive world of casting. "During auditions, people don't tell you for which movie we are doing auditions at least at the initial stage," she said. "I remember auditioning for *Sui Dhaaga* and *Sultan* (in and around). Actually, I got a random call asking me to come for an introduction and their casting office is in Juhu."

She recalled attending frequent auditions, every "2-3 months" often unaware of the projects she was vying for. This dedication ultimately paid off, landing her the lead role in *Bunty Aur Babli 2* (2021) alongside actress Rani Mukerji.

Reflecting on *Bunty Aur Babli 2*, Sharvari acknowledged the initial disappointment. "When you make your debut, you're in a bubble," she said. "There's so much dedication, a dream you see every day to be on the big screen. I've dreamt of that since before *Bunty Aur Babli 2*."

throughout the shoot, and even

after the release."

Meanwhile, set in Pune and the Konkan region, *Munjya* blends horror and comedy, with Sharvari playing a pivotal role.

AGENCIES

Mumbai: In recent months, there has been a lot of discussion within the film industry about the rising costs that go into a film's production. This subject has become a growing concern given that

KRITI'S PERSPECTIVE ON RISING PRODUCTION COST

several big budget Bollywood films lately have been unable to create the desired impact at the box office. In a chat with *Bombay Times*, actress and now producer Kriti Sanon, shares her perspective on this matter.

Last month, reportedly a meeting occurred between four film bodies — Indian Motion Picture Producers' Association (IMPPA), Producers Guild of India, Active Telugu Film Producers Guild and Tamil Film Active Producers Association, along with five talent agencies, to address the escalating costs of movie production.

Talking about it, Kriti tells us, "Actors should get paid what they deserve, however, there are a lot of things that should be checked. There are certain areas where a lot of unnecessary expenditure happens. At the end, it is the content that wins. No matter what you are paying people or whether you think

you are paying them more, if you're not focusing on the main thing which is the content, I don't think the rest matters."

Lately, multiple filmmakers such as Anurag Kashyap and Farah Khan in their interviews, have spoken about the rising issue of stars' unnecessary expenses while shooting.

Ask the *Crew* actress about the paraphernalia, from the point of view of an actor and a producer, and she replies, "I've not experienced any of that myself, so I wouldn't be able to comment on that. But it should not be ridiculous. It should make sense at the end of the day."

AGENCIES

ACTRESS MALABIKA DAS FOUND DEAD

Mumbai: In a case of suspected suicide, former air-hostess-turned-actress Noor Malabika Das, who worked with Kajol in the streaming show *The Trial*, was found dead at her Mumbai flat four days ago, creating ripples in the film circles, official sources said Monday.

Hailing from Assam, Mumbai-born Malabika (31) worked as a stewardess with Qatar

Airways for several years before switching careers to become an actress.

The police said that following complaints of a foul smell emanating from her home in Oshiwara Saturday, a team broke open the door and found her partly mutilated and decomposing body.

She had allegedly hanged herself Thursday (June 6), but it was only after the neighbours' complained of foul smell that the matter came to light. The police have seized her mobile phones, some diaries, medicines, and other personal items from the rented flat and registered an accidental death report.

Later, they shifted her body for an autopsy, the details of which are not yet known.

Her mortal remains were handed over to one of her friends and professional colleagues, AN Pathak, who organised her last rites through an NGO.

The news of her unexpected demise was greeted with shock, disbelief, and dismay on social media.

IAN S

Sonakshi to tie knot June 23!

Mumbai: Actress Sonakshi Sinha is reportedly set to marry her longtime boyfriend, Zaheer Iqbal, in Mumbai June 23, according to media reports.

The couple has been together for a while but has kept their relationship private.

Reports suggest that Sonakshi and Zaheer will get married at a venue in South Mumbai. However, the couple has yet to confirm any of the reports regarding their upcoming marriage.

According to media reports, the wedding invitation is said to be designed like a magazine cover with the text 'rumours are true.'

Reports also claim that close family and friends, including the star cast of *Heeramandi*, have been invited to the ceremony.

Both Sonakshi and Zaheer made their debuts with Salman Khan's films.

Sonakshi debuted in 2010 with *Dabangg*, while Zaheer's first film was *Notebook* in 2019. The couple also acted together in the comedy-drama film *Double XL* in 2022.

Last week, Zaheer posted a sweet birthday wish for Sonakshi, sharing unseen pictures of the two of them. The pictures show them sharing happy moments, laughing together, and vacationing at an undisclosed location, dressed in winter clothing.

"Happy Birthday Sonzzz," he wrote with the pictures. IAN S

FUN post

PEANUTS



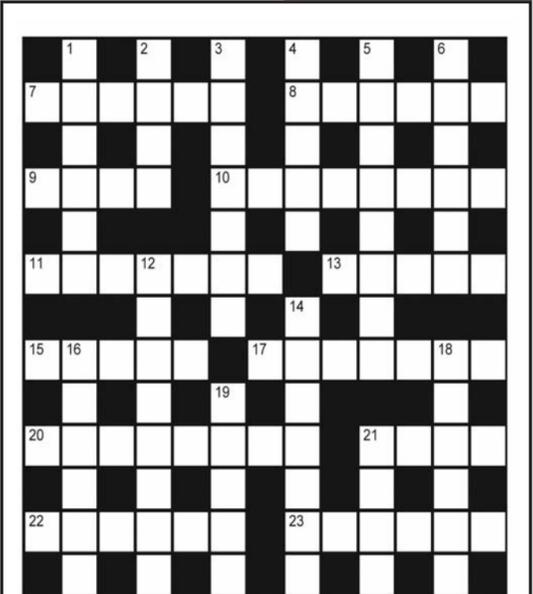
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



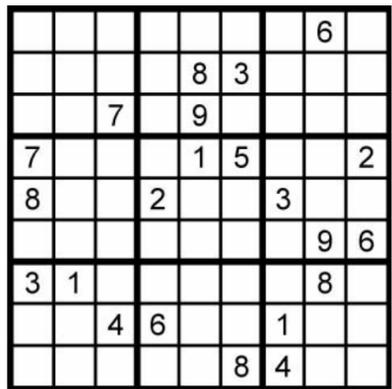
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Holiday accessory
 - 8 Tree droppings
 - 9 Small wooded hollow
 - 10 Minor planet
 - 11 Footstool
 - 13 Sacred text
 - 15 Flu symptoms
 - 17 Swiss cheese
 - 20 Expose
 - 21 Prune
 - 22 Flower part
 - 23 Judge, of sorts
 - Down**
 - 1 One's natural ability
 - 2 Ardour
 - 3 Type of seed
 - 4 Dinner holder
 - 5 Church room
 - 6 Agreeable
 - 12 Defeat
 - 14 Importance
 - 16 Glazed cotton fabric
 - 18 Dried fruit
 - 19 Not antediluvian
 - 21 It's got you covered

SUDOKU

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

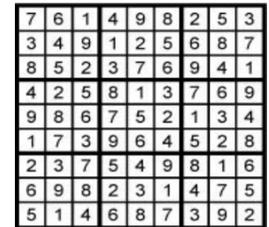


SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

IN MEMORIAM

Guests at an event organised by Anurag Sahitya Sangosthi to observe the death anniversary of Purnamasi Khuntia in Puri, Monday



Vaishnaw keeps Railways

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 10: Ashwini Vaishnaw, besides retaining his previous portfolios of Railways as well as Minister of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), got a new responsibility as Minister of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) in the third term of the Modi government.

In the previous Cabinet, the I&B Ministry was with Anurag Thakur, who has been reelected as Member of Parliament from Himachal Pradesh's Hamirpur.

Bureaucrat-turned-politician Vaishnaw first took charge as Railway Minister July 7, 2021 and has continued it in the new cabinet formed June 9, 2024.

A former IAS officer of the 1994-batch, Vaishnaw has handled important responsibilities for over 15 years and was particularly known for his contribution to the public-private partnership (PPP) framework in infrastructure.

Vaishnaw emerged one of the most successful Railway ministers for several initiatives, one of them being the introduction of 98 semi-high speed Vande Bharat trains.

"The first pair of Vande Bharat trains was launched in February 2019 and today, according to the Railway Ministry, 102 trains are running across the country with an overall occupancy of 105.7 per cent," an official said.

According to the Ministry, the popularity of Vande Bharat trains can be gauged from the fact that till March 31, 2024, more than 2.15 crore people have travelled by it.

A total of 284 districts across the country have been connected to the Vande Bharat Express.

Under Vaishnaw, Railway achieved another milestone of laying 3,901 km of tracks in 2022-23, making it the highest ever in its history.

He is the fourth Railway Minister since Modi government came to power in May 2014. Before him, DV Sadananda Gowda, Suresh Prabhu and Piyush Goyal held this portfolio.

Gowda, the first Railway Minister when Modi became the prime minister, served for 166 days in 2014 from May 27 to November 9.

After Gowda, Prabhu took charge of the ministry along with other Cabinet positions till September 3, 2017, holding the portfolio for almost three years.

Under Modi's first regime, Goyal was the third Railway Minister from September 3, 2017 to May 30, 2019. He was again entrusted with the responsibility of the ministry May 31, 2019 during the Modi government's second term.

Goyal continued till July 7, 2021 and became the longest serving Railway Minister under Modi regime with 3 years and 307 days.



UNDONE: Barricades of the AC tunnel for devotees, installed during the Srimandir Parikrama Pralapa in January this year, has been removed and kept in piles as the tube on the Grand Road wears a desolate look, in Puri, Monday

HEATWAVE: SRC ALERTS 8 DIST COLLECTORS

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 10: The Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Monday asked Collectors of eight districts to take all precautions in order to meet any eventuality in view of likely heatwave conditions predicted by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) for the next five days.

In a letter to the Collectors of Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Bargarh, Sambalpur, Sonepur, Bolangir, Boudh and Nuapada, the SRC said the IMD has forecast that there will be a gradual rise in day temperature by 2 to 3 degrees Celsius during the next five days.

"Hot and humid conditions are likely to prevail in many places across the state during the next five days," the letter said.

The Collectors were asked to use public announcement system, advising people to take precautions. Hospitals have also been asked to be in readiness. Workers have been asked not to



work under the sun during the peak hours (11am to 3pm).

Heatwave conditions continued to put normal life out of gear in most places across the state Monday.

In its evening bulletin, the Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre said 20 places in the state recorded a maximum temperature of 40 degrees Celsius or above Monday.

Nuapada town in western Odisha was the hottest place in

41 sunstroke deaths reported this summer

At least 41 sunstroke deaths have been reported in the state this summer, while 73 other cases are pending inquiry, according to an official statement.

During this summer season till Monday, 159 cases of alleged sunstroke deaths have been reported in the state.

Of these, 41 have been confirmed due to heat-related ill-

nesses, while 45 deaths were found not to be due to sunstroke, while 73 remaining cases were pending inquiry, the statement issued by the Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) said.

Eight suspected sunstroke deaths were reported from different districts in the last three days and investigation is underway to ascertain the reasons behind the deaths, it said.

The state government had earlier asked districts to ensure post-mortem examination of every suspected sunstroke death for sanction of ex-gratia amounts.

Also, a joint inquiry by the local revenue officer and the local medical officer needs to be conducted to ascertain the exact cause of each death, officials said.

Odisha, recording a temperature of 44 degrees Celsius. It was followed by Boudh (42.8), Paralakhemundi (42.4), Bolangir (42.2) and Baripada (42).

"Heatwave conditions would prevail in the districts of Balasore, Jagatsinghpur, Nayagarh, Khurda, Nuapada, Bolangir, Gajapati, Ganjam, Boudh, and Jharsuguda Tuesday. Similarly, hot and humid weather conditions would be experienced in Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, and Puri districts June

11," it said.

IMD regional centre director Manorama Mohanty told reporters that there is no likelihood of further advancement of monsoon in other parts of the state during the next five days.

Mohanty said the conditions due to south-westerly winds are not favourable for the further advancement of the monsoon in the state.

The southwest monsoon has advanced into some more parts

of south Odisha June 8 and the monsoon covered some parts of Malkangiri.

"The IMD then had indicated that the conditions are now favourable for further advancement of the monsoon into other parts of Odisha in the next few days," Mohanty said.

"The coastal districts of the state will experience excess humidity levels," Mohanty said, adding that there is a possibility of a rise in rainfall activities in Odisha after five days.



KING OF FRUITS: RBI regional director SP Mohanty and NABARD CGM Sudhanshu KK Mishra at a mango exhibition organised on NABARD office premises in Bhubaneswar, Monday

New methods developed to detect Huntington's disease progression

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 10: A team of scientists in the UK developed non-invasive measurement techniques and novel analysis methods to decode disease progression and evaluate the effect of potential treatments or lifestyle changes in people with Huntington's disease.

Huntington's is a genetic disease where the brain's nerve cells (neurons) gradually break down and die. The condition leads to dementia, with a progressive decline in an individual's movement, memory, and cognition. There is currently no cure.

The team from Lancaster University in the UK showed that Huntington's disease not only affects nerve cells in the brain but also has widespread effects on microscopic blood vessels.

The changes were also observed before symptoms of the disease appeared, demonstrating the potential for this research to predict brain health and evaluate the beneficial effects of lifestyle changes or treatments.

Professor Aneta Stefanovska of Lancaster University said that they hope that the novel method can help "monitor the disease progression and evaluate the effect of potential treatments or lifestyle changes"



in people with "Huntington's and other neurodegenerative diseases."

Professor Aneta added that the study would also lead to "new treatments of Huntington's disease targeting the vasculature and brain metabolism."

In their study, published in the journal Brain Communications, the team investigated changes in the coordination between neuronal activity and the brain's oxygenation in Huntington's disease.

They combined non-invasive measurement techniques and novel analysis methods - probes emitting infrared light were placed on the heads of participants in the study. Using infrared light, the re-

searchers could measure the brain's blood oxygenation. Further, using electrodes, which can measure electrical activity from neurons, the team studied the many rhythms related to brain and cardiovascular system functioning via mathematical techniques.

These rhythms included the heart and respiration rates, related to the transport of nutrients and oxygen, as well as slower rhythms associated with local control of blood flow.

The team explained that brain activity manifests in faster rhythms. Efficient functioning of the brain depends on how well all these rhythms are orchestrated.

Half-day holiday for swearing-in ceremony

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 10: The Odisha government Monday announced that all state government offices and courts in the City will close after 1pm June 12 due to the swearing-in ceremony of the new chief minister and council of ministers.

According to a notification issued by the Revenue and Disaster Management department, the order will apply to all state government offices and revenue and magisterial courts (executive) within the jurisdiction of the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC).

The new BJP government will be sworn in June 12 at 5pm. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to arrive here at 2:30pm and proceed to Raj Bhavan from the airport. He will later attend the oath-taking ceremony at Janata Maidan at 5pm.

The state unit of the BJP has urged people to observe June 12 like Diwali by lighting at least two diyas (lamps) - one for the Central government and another for the state government. Balasore MP Pratap Sarangi highlighted that the two diyas symbolise the 'double engine sarkar' (dual government) in the state.



55 SALTWATER CROC NESTS SPOTTED IN BHITARKANIKA

AGENCIES

Kendrapara, June 10: The Bhitarkanika National Park personnel have spotted over 55 nests of saltwater crocodile inside the Kanika forest range within the national park during the ongoing nesting season.

ACF-cum-Range in-charge of Kanika forest range, Manas Kumar Das said Forest personnel have sighted the crocodile nests at Chintamani Mohanty creek, Thanapati, Mangalpur, Saguna Chera creek, Jalahar creek, and Bhitarkanika Patia creek inside the Bhitarkanika National Park.

Female crocodiles lay eggs inside the mangrove forest near the waterbodies of the park areas and guard the eggs till the emergence of the hatchlings.

The crocodiles lay eggs by creating a mound-like structure of a nest with mangrove leaves. The hatchlings emerge from the nest after a gap of about 60 to 70 days.

As the female crocodiles in Bhitarkanika National Park grow up to 14 feet long, they lay nearly 45 to 60 eggs. If the length of a female crocodile is more than 14 feet, then she would lay more numbers of eggs.

Forest officials claimed that nearly 50 per cent of laid eggs are infertile. The Rajnagar mangrove



(wildlife) forest division has already imposed a three months ban, from May 1 to July 31 to count the crocodile nests in the waterbodies of Bhitarkanika National Park and nearby rivers.

Tourists' entry into the crocodile infested areas of Bhitarkanika National Park has been restricted. The Forest officials have also asked the riverside villagers to inform them if they come across any crocodile outside the park area. Due to hyper-salinity in the

waterbodies of Bhitarkanika National Park during the full moon and new moon period, the saltwater crocodiles generally stray away from their natural habitats as their body temperature changes and go in search of less saline water.

The saltwater crocodiles sneak into the Brahmani, Baitarani, Patashala, Govari and Kharasrota rivers leading to a man-crocodile conflict in which the riverside villagers fell prey to the crocodile attack, Forest officials said.

Cabinet nod to 3cr houses under PMAY

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 10: In the first Cabinet meeting a day after swearing in of the ministers, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday cleared the proposal to provide assistance for construction of houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), one of the running flagship schemes. It has been decided in the Cabinet meeting Monday to provide assistance to 3 crore additional rural and urban households for the construction of houses, to meet the housing requirements arising out of the increase in the number of eligible families.

The Union government's PMAY introduced in 2015-16 has been providing assistance to eligible rural and urban households for construction of houses



The PM signed a file authorising release of 17th instalment of PM Kisan Nidhi. This will benefit 9.3 crore farmers who will receive aid to the tune of ₹20,000 crore

with basic amenities. Under the ambitious scheme, a total of 4.21 crore houses have been completed for the eligible

poor families in the last 10 years.

All the houses constructed under PMAY are provided with the other basic amenities such as toilets and functional tap connection through convergence with other schemes of the Union and state governments.

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Modi signed the file, first after being sworn in as the PM for the third straight term, authorising release of 17th instalment of PM Kisan Nidhi. This will benefit 9.3 crore farmers who will receive around ₹20,000 crore.

"Ours is a government fully committed to Kisan Kalyan (farmer welfare). It is therefore fitting that the first file signed on taking charge is related to farmer welfare. We want to keep working even more for the farmers and the agriculture sector in the times to come," said Modi after signing the file.



DEFT HANDS: An iron smith servitor prepares a nail for construction of chariots in Puri, Monday

OP PHOTO

Naveen greets Modi, ministers from state

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 10: BJD supremo and outgoing chief minister Naveen Patnaik congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi and ministers from Odisha - Dharmendra Pradhan, Jual Oram and Ashwini Vaishnav - as they took oath of office and secrecy for the NDA government's third term.

Taking to his official social media account, Patnaik said "Congratulate Narendra Modi on being sworn in as the Prime Minister of India for the record third consecutive term. Wish you a successful tenure and best wishes to your team in fulfilling the aspirations of the people. May our beloved country reach new heights of development under your leadership."

In another tweet, Patnaik said, "Congratulate Members of Parliament from Odisha, Dharmendra Pradhan, Jual Oram and Ashwini Vaishnav, on being sworn-in as Ministers



in the Union Cabinet. Wish you great success in your respective Ministries for the nation and specifically for the people of Odisha."

In reply Dharmendra, who got Ministry of Education, said, "Thank you for the good wishes Naveen Patnaik ji. Words of encouragement from a statesman like you means a lot. We are steadfast in our commitment to fulfil aspirations, take forward the growth trajectory as well as realise the goal of Viksit Odisha and Viksit Bharat."

Social worker Minati Mohanty dead

Cuttack: Renowned social worker and lifetime member of Odisha's Nari Seva Sangha, Minati Mohanty, passed away at her Mission Road residence here, Monday, due to age-related health issues. She was 97. Mohanty was the wife of late Arta Bandhu Mohanty, former chief engineer of state Works department. Several eminent personalities visited her residence and paid their last tributes to the departed soul. She is survived by two sons and three daughters. Her last rites were performed at Khannagar crematorium, said sources. She had also worked as the president of the Inner-Wheel Club and worked in the field of making women self-reliant, children's education and environmental protection. She had also worked with her aunt Rama Devi Choudhury before her marriage.

My victory is a message of brotherhood: Sofia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 10: "My victory is a message of brotherhood to the entire country", said Sofia Firdous, who scripted history by becoming the first Muslim woman MLA in Odisha.

An IIM graduate, Firdous, said she was born in a Muslim family but was raised among the people of Cuttack, who are mostly Hindus.

"Religion for me is nothing other than a medium of worship to the Supreme Power; the Unseen Force. I believe spirituality is essential for all - Hindus, Muslims, Christians and any other community. It (spirituality) keeps oneself united and gives strength," she told PTI. Firdous, who also took part in Durga Puja, said she was born in a Muslim family but was raised among the people of Cuttack, who are mostly Hindus.

Congress candidate Firdous won the Barabati-Cuttack Assembly seat defeating her nearest candidate Purna Chandra Mahapatra of the BJP by 8,001 votes.

Speaking to PTI, Firdous said the people of Cuttack believe in "brotherhood" and they proved that religion has no place when the matter is about development.

The 32-year-old MLA said she has close friends among Hindus who never see her as different from them.

"In my childhood, I offered prayer in school, participated

in Durga Puja in my locality, and enjoyed all the festivals of different religions as Cuttack in the city of brotherhood," said Firdous, an engineering graduate.

On becoming the first Muslim woman MLA of Odisha, Firdous said, "First of all, I am a proud Odia and Indian. People have voted for me as I am a daughter of Cuttack. It is a coincidence that I am Muslim and it had not happened before."

Over 140 women have been elected to the Assembly in nearly 90 years of its history, but there was no Muslim among them.

"The tag of being the first Muslim woman MLA of Odisha came automatically. Thank God for all that. I am happy," she said.

Firdous, who also heads a real-estate firm set up by her father, said her ideal politician is Nandini Satpathy who was the chief minister of a Congress government in Odisha between 1972 and 1976.

Asked why she joined politics despite her engineering and management background, Firdous said she was made for politics as her father Mohammed Moquim is a "popular Congress leader" whose entanglement in a legal case forced her to enter this field "so early".

Her father Mohammed Moquim was elected from the same Assembly seat in the 2019 election. He could not con-



test the 2024 polls after being convicted in the Odisha Rural Housing and Development Corporation Limited (ORHDC) loan irregularities case.

"As my father was entangled in a legal case and he could not fight elections this time, I had to enter into electoral politics. I had never thought to come to politics so early. I contested the 2024 elections in order to retain my father's legacy and complete his work in the Barabati-Cuttack Assembly segment," she said.

The young Congress leader said she had campaigned for her father in the 2019 elections and also looked after his poll management previously.

"The people of my constituency have elected me keeping a view on my father's work

Firdous, who also heads a real-estate firm set up by her father, said her ideal politician is Nandini Satpathy who was the chief minister of a Congress government in Odisha between 1972 and 1976

during the last five years and my profile. They trusted their daughter and I will stand by them in all situations," Firdous said.

Asked about her father's conviction ahead of the elections, Firdous said, "My father has been targeted for political reasons. The people of Odisha have shown the BJD government its place in this election."

BJD, which has been in power in the state for 24 years, was defeated by the BJP in the elections. In the constituency of Firdous, the BJD came third after Congress and BJP.

Congress had raised its strong voice over many issues inside the Assembly even when it had just nine MLAs, said Firdous, an engineering graduate and an alumnus of IIM Bangalore.

"Now, the party has 14 MLAs while the principal opposition party BJD has 51 in the 147-member House. As the opposition has become very strong now, it will play a major role," she stated.

Victory rally video doctored: Cong



POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, June 10: With the video of a victory rally of Barabati-Cuttack Congress going viral in which slogans like "Pakistan Zindabad" were purportedly raised, the Youth Congress members and some residents of Ward No-13, Monday, lodged a complaint at the Cyber police station here alleging that the original video has been doctored and uploaded on several social media platforms.

According to the complaint, the victory rally of newly-elected MLA Sofia Firdous was taken out in Ward No-13 during which some children raised slogans like 'Mohd Moquim Zindabad', 'Sofia Firdous Zindabad' and 'Hata Chihna Zindabad'. However, a group of anti-socials edited the video and inserted 'Pakistan Zindabad' slogan in it before uploading it on social media, said the complaint lodged by the Youth Congress.

B David, a resident of the ward under Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC), said, "Slogans like 'Pakistan Zindabad' were never raised in the rally. This is an act by some conspirators who have edited the rally video to incorporate the slogan. We have lodged a complaint with the Cyber Police and they have assured us to conduct a thorough probe into the matter."

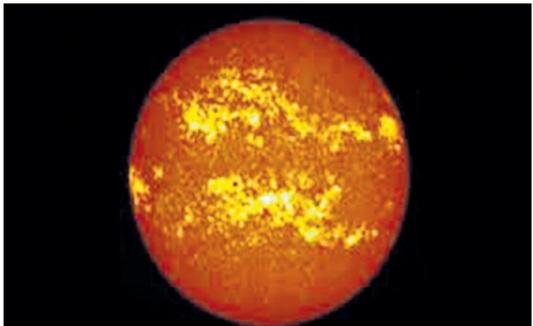
Solar flares may fry satellites; India watchful

AGENCIES

Bangalore, June 10: ISRO's Aditya-L1 spacecraft's two on-board remote sensing instruments have captured the recent solar flare, the space agency said Monday, while warning that the Sun is moving towards "its solar maximum, giving rise to enhanced activity".

ISRO chairman S Somanath told NDTV, "Aditya L1 captured when the Sun got angry this May. If it gets furious in the near future, as scientists suggest, India's 24x7X365 days' eye on the Sun is going to provide a forewarning. After all, we have to protect the 50-plus Indian satellites in space that have cost the country an estimated more than ₹50,000 crore. Aditya L1 is a celestial protector for our space assets."

In a series of images released Monday by the ISRO, the solar storms of May 17 have been effectively captured and full disk



images show enhanced solar activity and solar flares.

When a large solar flare comes out of the Sun like it came May 11, it can literally fry the electronics of the satellites. To protect them, space engineers shut down the electronics and keep them in safe mode till the highly charged storm passes over. In the past, SpaceX's constellation of Starlink satellites had suf-

fered serious damage due to a solar storm.

Somanath added, "India's first space-based solar observatory Aditya L1 was a challenging maiden mission for ISRO. Today, all seven instruments onboard are working to satisfaction as it hovers in the unique halo orbit 1.5 million kilometres from Earth."

ISRO said in a statement,

WHEN A LARGE SOLAR FLARE COMES OUT OF THE SUN LIKE IT CAME MAY 11, IT CAN LITERALLY FRY THE ELECTRONICS OF THE SATELLITES

TO PROTECT THEM, SPACE ENGINEERS SHUT DOWN THE ELECTRONICS AND KEEP THEM IN SAFE MODE TILL THE HIGHLY CHARGED STORM PASSES OVER

IN THE PAST, SPACEX'S CONSTELLATION OF STARLINK SATELLITES HAD SUFFERED SERIOUS DAMAGE DUE TO A SOLAR STORM

"Our Sun is the nearest star and the largest object in the solar system. The estimated age of Sun is about 4.5 billion years. It is a hot, glowing ball of hydrogen and helium gases. The distance to the sun from the earth is about 150 million km, and is the source of energy for our solar system. Without the solar energy, the life on earth, as we know, cannot exist. The

gravity of the sun holds all the objects of the solar system together. At the central region of the sun, known as 'core', the temperature can reach as high as 15 million degree Celsius. At this temperature, a process called nuclear fusion takes place in the core which powers the sun. The visible surface of the sun known as photosphere is relatively cool and has temperature of about 5,500 celsius."

India's maiden solar mission Aditya-L1 reached the Lagrangian point (L1) January 6, 2024, 127 days after it was launched September 2, 2023. L1 is located roughly 1.5 million km from Earth and enables the spacecraft to view the Sun continuously.

The Solar Ultra Violet Imaging Telescope (SUIT) and the Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC) have captured the dynamic activities of the Sun during May 2024, ISRO said in a statement.

14th edition of 'Margi' kicks off

RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 10: The 14th edition of classical dance festival 'Margi', organised by Nrutyashala, got off to a colorful start at Rabindra Mandap here, Monday.

On the first day of the two-day event, a string of eminent Odishi dancers presented their performances which left the audience spellbound.

The guests on the first day included Bijay Jena - Principal of Utkal Sangeet Mahavidyalaya, and Prabodh Rath - secretary, Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi (OSNA). Guru Niranjan Rout and Guru Pradeep Mishra were among the distinguished attendees.

Monday's event began with the presentation of 'Odissi Mangalacharana' by Kavita Dwivedi. It was followed by a performance of Matruprasad Das on own composition, 'Ramacharana Sukha Dai'.

Thereafter, director of the



event, Bandita Ghosal, performed on 'Shyama Sama Kamoniya' which was directed by Ashok Kumar Ghosal.

It was followed by a couple of more enthralling performances by budding dancers and troupes.

The festival showcases innovative compositions of well-known Gurus, performed in the form of solo, duet and group repertoires.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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

FinMin, Speaker posts curse for Ganjam leaders



POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, June 10: With the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) facing a major debacle in the recently-concluded elections after 24 years of its rule in the state, many party heavyweights including former Assembly Speaker and Finance Minister Bikram Keshari Arukha from Ganjam district have also faced drubbing. However, the posts of Assembly Speaker and finance minister in the state are proving to be a curse for the politicians in Ganjam district, if the poll performance of the leaders holding such posts in the past is any indication.

There are numerous instances to prove this claim where the political careers of high profile politicians have declined after their appointment either as Speaker or as finance minister in the state government.

Reports said Lal Mohan Patnaik was appointed the Speaker of the Assembly and remained in the post from 1946 to 1952 after Odisha was formed as a separate province April 1, 1936. Later, he vanished from the politics.

Former Chief Justice of Orissa High Court Lingaraj Panigrahi forayed into politics after his retirement. He contested on a

Congress ticket from Berhampur Assembly constituency and became a Cabinet minister after winning the election in 1957.

Subsequently, he contested from Kodala Assembly seat in 1961 and was appointed as the Speaker of Odisha Assembly. Later, he left politics and was appointed as the Vice-Chancellor of Berhampur University.

Congress MLA Somanath Rath, who was elected from Bhanjanagar Assembly constituency in 1980 election, was appointed the Speaker of the state Assembly. He, however, left the post after a period of two and half years.

Chintamani Dyan Samantara was first appointed a deputy speaker in the Assembly after winning the Chikiti Assembly seat in 1985. Later, he again emerged victorious from the same seat in 1995 and was first appointed a Deputy Speaker and then a Speaker of the Odisha Assembly.

His political career received a jolt after he was defeated in the 2000, 2004 and 2009 elections. Later, he stayed away from politics.

Similarly, Binayak Acharya was appointed as a finance minister in the second term government of former Chief

Minister Nandini Satpathy. Subsequently, he also became the Chief Minister for a brief period. Later, his political career declined and he quit politics.

Rama Krushna Patnaik was elected from Kodala Assembly constituency on a Janata Dal ticket in 1990 election and appointed the finance minister in the Biju Patnaik-led government. However, he was removed from the ministry after a period of two years.

Rama Krushna again won the Kodala Assembly constituency on a BJD ticket in the 2000 and appointed the finance minister in Naveen's first term. He was shifted to a separate ministry after a period of two years and later sacked from the party. Later, his political career witnessed a sharp decline and ultimately he said goodbye to politics.

Likewise, veteran BJD leader Late Surya Narayan Patra won Digapahandi Assembly constituency in 2019. He was appointed the Speaker and became the fifth leader from Ganjam district to get appointed to the coveted post.

He resigned from the Speaker post due to illness following which Arukha, who had won the Bhanjanagar Assembly seat, for the sixth time was appointed as the sixth Speaker of the state Assembly from the district. Later, he resigned and again became a minister in the state government. He was also given an important portfolio of finance ministry.

Although Arukha contested from his traditional bastion of Bhanjanagar for the seventh time in 2024, he was trounced by his nearest BJP rival by a margin of over 16,000 votes reportedly due to the saffron wave.

Meanwhile, speculations are rife about Arukha's political future post his defeat.



SOAKED IN DIVINITY: Women dance in a joyous mood during rituals for Sital Sasthi festival, the marriage ceremony of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati, at Lokanath temple in Jhaduapada of Sambalpur, Monday

Man drowns while fishing

POST NEWS NETWORK

Morada, June 10: A man drowned while fishing in a canal at Phutukishola village under Gadia panchayat of this block in Mayurbhanj district, police said Monday.

The deceased was identified as Lakshman Mahakud of the village. Villagers noticed his body floating in the canal and informed the police and fire personnel. Chitrada fire brigade personnel fished out the body from the canal.

Chitrada police outpost in-charge Niranjan Soren registered a case and sent the body for post-mortem to the PRM Medical College and Hospital in Baripada.

Family members said Lakshman left home for fishing in the canal but did not return home till late night.

Woman held for stealing baby from Balasore DHH

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, June 10: The district police here Monday arrested a 40-year-old woman in connection with the theft of a newborn boy from the District Headquarters Hospital (DHH), Sunday.

Superintendent of Police (SP) Sagarika Nath Monday said the baby has been rescued and handed over to his mother. She identified the child lifter as Sandhya Patra, 40, alias Jhampadi.

Addressing a press conference, Nath said the baby had been stolen from the Maternal and Child Health Centre of the hospital barely eight hours after his birth when he was sleeping near his mother, in the wee hours of Sunday.

After it was discovered that the child was missing, his family members lodged a complaint with the Town police station.

Nath said following the registration of the case (No-210/14) the police scanned CCTV footage



collected from the hospital, nearby bus stands and railway station, before finally zeroing in on the accused, Sandhya, a resident of Jaleswar area.

Armed with reliable information about her whereabouts, a team from Town police station, with help from Jaleswar police, raided a house near Block Colony at Shantia village under

Jaleswar municipality. Sandhya was found along with the baby in the house, Nath added. She was put under arrest and the baby rescued.

During investigation, police learnt that Sandhya was earlier living in Hyderabad and she was about to sell the baby to a man in Hyderabad. Police are investigating to know if the ASHA worker who accompanied the child's mother to the hospital for delivery, or the security guard at the hospital, were involvement in the crime, said the SP.

According to reports, Anita Dandapata, wife of Purnachandra Dandapata, a resident of Kolhachada village under Baliaipal police limits had delivered the baby boy at the DHH Saturday. An unidentified woman allegedly vanished with the child on the pretext of showing him to a doctor, in the early hours of Sunday.

Challenge as 'doda' smuggling surfaces in Saranda

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, June 10: A fresh challenge has surfaced for the security forces involved in anti-Maoist operations across the state border which may very well prove to be a test of their strength on this side.

In the last couple of months, security forces have found a trail of 'doda' smugglers. 'Doda' is the bark of the opium tree. The personnel have seized 'doda' worth ₹6 crores during anti-Maoist search operations. The combined forces of CRPF, Jaguar and CoBRA battalion have found huge amounts of 'doda' in two successful operations.

Following a tip-off, security forces recovered the banned substance in an abandoned house April 21, this year. The contraband, weighing over 2,162 kg, was kept in 92 sacks, the market value of which was nearly ₹3.24 crores.

The finding alerted the forces, said one paramilitary personnel involved in anti-Maoist operations on this side of the border. Subsequently, in another



raid conducted in a jungle under Tope PS near the bank of Chaki river June 2, they found another huge consignment of 2,100 kg 'doda' worth nearly ₹3.15 crore kept in 83 sacks.

It became clear to the security forces that such activity

cannot be carried out inside Saranda forest without the involvement of the Naxals. The banned contraband has a huge market in northern India, especially in Punjab and Haryana.

Notably, seizure of 'doda' consignments was made not very

far from the Odisha border -- within 30-50 km in West Singhbhum district in neighbouring Jharkhand.

"This is another means of earning money by giving protection to this activity apart from their regular sources like mines and industries in the Maoist-affected areas," one official on the other side said. This intelligence has been shared among forces.

It is pertinent to mention that Rourkela shares a porous border with Jharkhand and illegal timber smuggling is an open secret here. Saranda forest is one of the biggest forests in the country stretched over 820 sq. kms. It borders Odisha and timbers brought from here are sold in Rourkela and sent to different parts of the state.

On the other hand, Rourkela is the transit point for 'ganja' smuggled from Kandhamal, Koraput districts and other surrounding areas. This contraband has been seized in large amounts on several occasions, while being smuggled to Jharkhand and Bihar.

Another accused in fake certificate racket held

BHUBANESWAR: Police Monday arrested another person in the fake matriculation certificate racket in Koraput district, police said. The accused has been identified as Chhanda Charan Sahoo, police added. Previously, seven persons were arrested in this case. According to police, Sahoo had forged his matriculation certificate and used it to apply for the post of Gramin Dak Sevak, thereby depriving genuine aspirants of their right to the job. During the course of investigation, it was prima facie proved that accused Sahoo had forged the matriculation certificate and had used it to apply for the post of Gramin Dak Sevak and thereby depriving genuine aspirants from their right of getting jobs, the Crime Branch said in a statement.

The case was initially registered at Jeypore town police station based on a report from the superintendent of post offices, Koraput division.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
E-AUCTION OF PAY & USE TOILET
Station & Location : BHADRAK (ON PLATFORM-1 & 2, MIDDLE).
Auction Start Date & Time : 19.06.2024 at 1100 hrs., Auction End Date & Time : 19.06.2024 at 1130 hrs.
Note: Prospective bidders are advised to visit the www.ireps.gov.in and check the upcoming e-auctions leasing tab to get all required information regarding this e-auction.
Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/PR-192/P/24-25 Khurda Road

EAST COAST RAILWAY
'E' PROCUREMENT SYSTEM
No. MCS/Stores/E-Procure/Tender Notice/529/103 Dtd.: 04.06.2024
SL. NO. 01 : TENDER NO. 92245529, DESCRIPTION: 4.5 KW UNDERSLUNG CONSTANT VOLTAGE REGULATED CUM EMERGENCY BATTERY CHARGER, QUANTITY: 11 NOS.
Tender closing date & time: at 1500 hrs. of 01.07.2024.
Complete information including e-tender documents is available in website www.ireps.gov.in
Dy. Chief Materials Manager, Carriage Repair Workshop, PR-194/P/24-25 Manchewar

Diarrhoea kills man in Rayagada; 4 admitted



admitted to Government Hospital at Muniguda and Bissam Katak Christian Hospital.

The deceased has been identified as Gopal Kamdamaka, 28, and the four other affected villagers have been identified as Kadulu Kamdamaka, 40, who is undergoing treatment at Government Hospital at Muniguda and Kumar Mandika, 40, Milan Mandika, 18, and Kabita Sabar, 12, all are undergoing treatment at Bissam Katak Christian Hospital.

According to reports, Gopal started experiencing vomiting and loose motion Sunday. As his health condition deteriorated, family members rushed him to the Government Hospital at Muniguda Sunday. Later, as per the advice of the doctors he was shifted to Government Hospital at Rayagada. He died while undergoing treatment at the hospital Monday.

Villagers when informed Bissam Katak BDO and Rayagada Collector about the matter, three medical teams from Bissam Katak, Muniguda and Rayagada reached the village, distributed medicines and ORS to the villagers.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bissam Katak, June 10: A person from Gailakana village under Daliakuji panchayat of this block in Rayagada district died of diarrhoea while undergoing treatment at Rayagada Government Hospital Monday. Three other villagers who were also suffering from diarrhoea have been

बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda
Regional Office : Sambalpur Region, 1st Floor, At: Christianpada, G.M. College Chowk, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha, PIN-768001
DEMAND NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Demand Notice u/s. 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 is issued by Bank of Baroda as Secured Creditor against the following Borrower(s) of the Branches.

Branch Name / Name of the A/c.	Name & Address of Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) / A/c. No.	NPA Date / 13(2) Date / Reason for Return of Notice	Nature / Limit (in ₹)	Rate of Interest	Total Dues
HOSPITAL ROAD, SUNDARGARH BRANCH / M/s. Jay Bajrang Lubricants	Borrower: M/s Jay Bajrang Lubricants, Prop.: Mr. Manish Prasad Tiwari, At: New Amilipali, PO: Rangadhapa, Sundargarh, Odisha, PIN-770002 / Co-Borrower: Mr. Naresh Prasad Tiwari, S/o- Mr. Debi Prasad Tiwari, At/PO: Rangadhapa, Sundargarh, Odisha, PIN-770002 / Guarantors: Mr. Bismaya Ranjan Pattnaik, S/o- Mr. Kutartha Ranjan Pattnaik, At: Near Govt. Womens College, Nuapada, Maheshdih, Sundargarh, Odisha, PIN-770011 / A/c.No.: 84090600000265	29.01.2024 / 31.01.2024 / Guarantor refused to receive	Term Loan (Baroda Traders Loan) / ₹ 10,00,000/-	11.25%	₹ 9,09,032.74 as on 30.01.2024 with further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus all cost, charges & expenses till date of payment
ATTABIRA BRANCH / Mr. Bidyadhar Barik	Borrower: Mr. Bidyadhar Barik, S/o- Mr. Asadhu Barik / Co-Borrowers: 1) Mrs. Bedamati Barik, W/o- Mr. Bidyadhar Barik, 2) Mr. Bharat Barik, S/o- Mr. Bidyadhar Barik / Guarantor: Mr. Narendra Barik, S/o- Mr. Bidyadhar Barik, All are At: Khalipali, PO: Tope, Attabira, Bargharh, Odisha, PIN-768027 / A/c.No.: 8408060000113 & 8408060000098.	30.04.2024 / 07.05.2024 / Addressee Moved	Term Loan (Housing Loan) & Term Loan (Top Up Loan) / ₹ 4,00,000/- & ₹ 1,00,000/-	9.50% & 9.10%	₹ 3,67,549.39 + ₹ 35,648.99 = ₹ 4,03,198.38 as on 06.05.2024 with further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus all cost, charges & expenses till date of payment

Description of Mortgage property: Equitable mortgage of Land and Building admeasuring Area: Ac.0.070dec., situated at Nua Amilipali, PS/Tahasil/Dist.: Sundargarh, bearing Khata No.: 237/170, Plot No.: 1047/1607, Tahasil No. 186, PS No. 80, Kisam: Gharbari, Owner Name: Mr. Naresh Prasad Tiwari. Bounded by- East: Property of R. K. Patel, West: Property of K. Meher, North: Road, South: Road.

Description of Mortgage property: Equitable mortgage of Land and Building admeasuring Area: Ac.0.04dec., Kisam: Gharbari, situated at Chaka Khata No.: 929/184, NC Plot No.: 1921/3837, Mouza: Tope, PS/Tahasil: Attabira, Dist.: Bargharh, Owner of the Property: Mr. Bidyadhar Barik, S/o- Mr. Asadhu Barik. Bounded by- East: Land of Bipin Barik, West: Road, North: Land of Shanti Barik, South: Land of Bedamati Barik.

You have committed default in repayment of loan mentioned above with further interest at the agreed rate availed from our Concerned Branches as mentioned above. The Bank has issued notice under the said Act to you to repay the outstanding amount in the above mentioned table. The Demand Notice sent to you by registered post but it has been returned with the reason mentioned above. Again you have committed default in payment. You are called upon to pay the dues together with interest within 60 days from the date of this notice failing which Bank will be constrained to exercise Right to Enforcement of Security Interest as against the secured asset given in the schedule of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of security Interest Act, 2002. We hereby give you a notice that in terms of sub-section 13 of the said Act, you are barred from transferring the secured asset mentioned above by way of sale, lease or otherwise other than in the ordinary course of business without prior written consent of the Bank. We further invite your attention to sub section (8) of section 13 of the said Act in terms of which you may redeem the secured assets. If the amount of dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank is tendered by you, at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction / inviting quotations / tender / private treaty. Please note that after publication of the notice as above, your right to redeem the secured assets will not be available. This Notice is without prejudice to any other right, remedy available to the Bank including initiation of legal action.

Date: 10.06.2024
Place: Sambalpur
Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

FOCUS POLITICS

TIMES HAVE CHANGED



The results are nevertheless in keeping with the pluralist character of a diverse polity. This is exemplified by the results in UP

not made so bold as to give the Opposition anything above 40.

Set against this however, we have the sweeping NDA victory in the small but seemingly impregnable bastion of the BJD led by one of India's longest serving Chief Ministers, who could hold onto not a single Lok Sabha seat, with 20 going to the BJP and the only remaining one to the Congress. Not only this, in the Vidhan Sabha dominated for years by the BJD, the BJP wrested an absolute majority with 78 seats against the BJD's 51. Similarly, the BJP took every seat in Madhya Pradesh's 29 constituencies.

In "Electoral Democracy: An Enquiry into the Fairness and Integrity of Elections in India," a retired group of civil servants had researched with the assistance of experts at home, including the IITs, and abroad, broaching the possibility of the electoral process in India being compromised. The nature of elections in Delhi, Odisha and MP, and even in some parts of UP make these elections worthy of review.

In the Lok Sabha elections in 1989, then ruling INC, taking account of its severe losses, having been reduced to 197 seats with almost 40% of the vote when a majority required 265, as against the principal Opposition Janata Dal's 143, looked upon this as a defeat, which it was, as indeed it is for the ruling party today. The outgoing PM Rajiv Gandhi, refused to make a bid for office or to cobble together an alliance. Instead, Gandhi addressed the nation on national television shortly after the election, promising "constructive cooperation" to the new government. "With all my strength, I shall continue to serve the people of India," he said. "Elections are about winning and losing, but the nation's work never stops." Times have changed.

The writer was the first Chief Information Commissioner of India. Views are personal.

©THE BILLION PRESS

Unaware Investor

A petition has been filed in the Supreme Court, urging the Centre and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to provide a comprehensive report on the stock market plunge that occurred on 4 June, the day the results of the general elections were announced, leading to a Rs 30 lakh crore wipe out, the biggest ever in India. "It is said that after announcements of exit polls in respect to the Lok Sabha 2024 results, the share market went high, but when the actual results were announced the market crashed," the petition read. "Stock market volatility again emerged... This again has raised question mark on the regulatory mechanism... despite this Court's direction, nothing has changed," it added.

On 31 May (Friday), a day before voting for the last phase of the general elections was conducted, the National Stock Exchange (NSE) witnessed unprecedented activity - the volume for shares traded (bought and sold) doubled from the previous day. Adding to the complexity was the fact that foreign institutional investors (FIIs), who were net sellers of Indian shares for the last several sessions, accounted for 58 per cent of the traded value on that day. The very next day, almost all exit polls predicted a landslide victory for the BJP-led NDA.

Investors prefer a stable government as it would ensure policy continuity and involve less risk. As the markets reopened on 3 June (Monday), the benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty hit all-time highs on back of the exit poll predictions. The Sensex shot up by 2,507 points or 3.4 per cent to settle at a new closing peak of 76,469. The FIIs made handsome profits. However, the next day when the actual results started to emerge from across the country and it was clear that the BJP was way behind the magic figure of 272, the markets crashed like never before with the Sensex tanking 4,390 points or 6 per cent to settle at 72,079.

This was the worst single-day crash in four years and it was the retail investors who suffered the most. A real 'Blood bath' as it comes.

Before all these events unfolded, something sinister and even more unprecedented had happened. Former Union Home Minister Amit Shah, himself a former stock broker, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, all had given investment advice to the people of this country - "buy before 4 June as the markets are going to hit all-time highs after results are announced."

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has alleged that Modi and Shah were "directly involved" in the "biggest stock market scam" and demanded a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) probe into it. "We want inquiry against Prime Minister Modi, Home Minister Shah and those who carried out the exit polls," he said. The former Congress president also asked: "Why did the PM and HM give specific investment advice to the five crore families investing in the stock markets? Is it their job to give investment advice to the people?"

Such events happening at a time when more and more common people are investing in equities - whether directly in stocks or via mutual funds - as against the traditional bank fixed deposits raises serious concerns. And ill-advice coming from people at the top of the government is atrocious to say the least. But then, that is what Indians, investors or otherwise, should have been able to judge while listening to unsought for advice from people they themselves were wary of, as their voting patterns suggest. Or maybe these 5 crore or so investors are unruly and unaware of ground realities of the country where they are investing their life's earnings.

Far-Right Advances

Both bad and good news are coming from Europe. The bad news first-Right leaning parties have made significant gains in the European Parliament election, the results of which poured in on 9 June night. The good news is Europe has not yet been taken over by these groups with Fascist and Nazi mental make-up. The Centrist parties' working majority could not be overturned, putting Ursula von der Leyen on track to stay President of the European Commission until 2029. The immediate fallout of the spectacular rise of the Far-Right parties is the French President Emmanuel Macron's announcement to hold a snap parliamentary poll even before the final official tally was out. His Centrist pro-European party Renaissance got just 15 per cent of votes and was crushed by the Far-Right National Rally, which secured over 30 per cent of French votes cast.

Macron is apparently so shaken by the turn of events that he declared to his people that he had "decided to give you back the choice of our parliamentary future through the vote." Saying this he dissolved the National Assembly. The move is of course a huge gamble for Macron. He seems to be desperate to regain control of the country with no imminent threat to his position as he was reelected President in 2022 defeating National Rally candidate Marine Le Pen. French voters will now exercise their franchise again 30 June and 7 July.

In Paris, jubilant Le Pen hailed Macron's announcement. She did not waste time to tell the nation in her usual flamboyant style that she and her party are ready to "transform the country, defend the interests of the French and stop mass migration." The last pledge leaves no one in doubt about her Far-Right intent. She is expected to contest the 2027 French presidential polls again, though 28-year-old member of the European Parliament Jordan Bardella now presides over the National Rally.

On the other hand, the mood in Germany is so much against the established parties that its Far-Right party - Alternative for Germany (AfD) - will have 15 European Parliament Members. The AfD was plagued by several scandals, yet it could brush them off to emerge as the second biggest force in Germany behind von der Leyen's Christian Democrats. Only last month, its lead candidate, Maximilian Krah, faced the allegation of spreading Russian influence, while his parliamentary aide was accused of conducting espionage for China.

The Centrist forces led by von der Leyen are ahead of all rivals. According to provisional projections from all 27 EU countries, her Centre-Right European People's Party (EPP) has won 184 of the 720 seats. In second place came the slightly weakened Centre-Left Socialists and Democrats (S&D) group, with 139 lawmakers, followed by the drastically reduced liberal Renew group, with 80 seats.

After the picture became clear, the 65-year-old von der Leyen iterated her resolve to "build a bastion against the extremes from the Left and from the Right." This is not only political rhetoric, but also a loaded message to the Centre-Left and liberal outfits that she will need to work with them to continue to push her agenda forward.

Europe is indeed on the crossroads. The credibility of the established parties to deliver on their promises to help the people tide over the cost of living crisis has alarmingly eroded. Such a situation was tailor-made for the rise of the Nazis and Fascists before World War II. History is dangerously on the verge of being repeated. Whether the sharply divided Far-Right can form a broad coalition to build on its gains will be keenly watched in the weeks to come.

WISDOM CORNER

- Life seems but a quick succession of busy nothings. JANE AUSTEN
- Facts do not cease to exist because they are ignored. ALDOUS HUXLEY
- Who looks outside, dreams; who looks inside, awakes. CARL JUNG



When Reason died, then Wisdom was born.

SRI AUROBINDO



Wajahat Habibullah

THE LAST TEN YEARS OF BJP RULE IN THE COUNTRY EXACERBATED SOCIAL TENSIONS

At the close of polling on the evening of 1 June, the last day of the scattered seven-phase elections to the Lok Sabha, the visual and print media was awash with purported exit polls claiming a landslide victory for the ruling party on its own strength, and with at least 350 seats together with its allies from the NDA. A prejudiced section of the media responded by ridiculing the rival INDIA bloc and poking fun at psephologists who had, from the initiation of voting, beginning with south India predicted that the ruling alliance faced reversals. Political strategist Prashant Kishor, having bristled in an interview that had questioned his self-proclaimed infallibility, in which he had predicted 300 plus seats for the BJP, dismissed the lot as "fake." The evident doctoring of exit polls was in fact the consummation of a campaign that began with a senior news anchor of a leading media house publishing on his Facebook page "Ab ki baar 400 se par" (This time, over 400). The results however, reveal who the fakes really are.

Now, as we know, the BJP in 2024 has suffered its worst defeat since the assumption of Narendra Modi's leadership, and ended the tally well below an absolute majority, leaving the party depending primarily on two allies, which its own leadership has, in the past repeatedly labelled shifty and unreliable, and one of whom had faced jail under BJP rule. On the other hand, these very results have been celebrated by "liberals" who have read into them a reversal of the drift towards majoritarianism and the rescue of constitutional governance, in the face of some BJP candidates, being rumoured to have actually proclaimed that on their return to power the Constitution would be revised. This, despite denials by the ruling establishment, brought discomfiture at the hustings, besides eroding the BJP's support base among those of their former adherents whose social standing

sprang from the very Constitution that has been the keystone of reservation.

But this contention actually saw the drawing of battle lines never perhaps intended but brought on by the irresponsible utterings of leaders from the BJP including PM Modi himself regarding the legal basis of citizenship of millions of his fellow citizens based only on their religious denomination. This certainly rallied the Muslim community across India behind the INDIA bloc. In the Union Territories of Ladakh and J&K, with their Muslim majorities these battle lines are dramatically demonstrable but are obvious to a discreet observer elsewhere in the country. In a triumph of the democratic option, Kashmiris notorious for their election boycotts in the past, streamed out in large numbers to rally behind the local nationalist National Conference and even one proponent of independence (azadi), Engineer Rasheed languishing in jail under the UAPA, their sole purpose being to oust the BJP at the Centre.

The last ten years of BJP rule in the country exacerbated social tensions. All sections of Indian society need reassurance not for the enjoyment of special privileges, except that which is provided in the Constitution, but in each citizen being assured of freedom from economic, social or political dis-

crimination on whatever ground. Otherwise, Indian society is faced with fracture which cannot bode well for the lasting unity that the country was born to. This is a challenge for the incoming government. At least two major components of this government, the JD(U) and the TDP, have already declared their commitment to address this. Will the NDA find answers or buckle under the issue given that contradictory emotions run high on the matter?

The results are nevertheless in keeping with the pluralist character of a diverse polity. This is exemplified by the results in UP. Although no politician myself I had personally campaigned for the son of a former colleague in my home village of Saidanpur in Barabanki district, with a Muslim majority in a reserved constituency. This has been a Samajwadi Party stronghold with the Lok Sabha seat held by the BJP since 2014, but assigned in the INDIA bloc to the INC. The young Congressman Tanuj Punia contesting here won the seat by over 2 lakh votes, exceeding even the victory margin of the BJP strongman fighting from the BJP citadel and former PM Vajpayee's adjoining constituency Lucknow, the popular Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. INDIA ended up with 47 seats to NDA's 33, although all predictions, even those supportive of INDIA had

SPECTRUM SOCIETY

Are the kids all right?

Why are so many young people attracted to far-right politics? Polls show that 36% of French people aged 18-24 support Marine Le Pen's National Rally, while roughly 31% in the Netherlands back Geert Wilders' nationalist, anti-immigration Party for Freedom. Similarly, a recent poll finds that 26% of Americans aged 18-29 prefer former US President Donald Trump over the incumbent Joe Biden.

While these figures do not reflect the views of most young people, they are nonetheless striking and somewhat counterintuitive. After all, for at least four decades following the end of World War II, youth was synonymous with being on the left, wanting to change the world for the better, and fighting for an open, diverse, and egalitarian society where fascism could never rise again. By contrast, the far-right was associated with disheveled older men who exuded a musty odor of the brown or black shirts they might have previously worn.

This began to change in the 1990s. By then, many of the old extremists had died, and center-left parties were losing their youthful idealism. The Soviet Union had lost

the Cold War; and some of the enthusiasm for collective improvement may have faded with it.

Meanwhile, both conservative and center-left parties fell under the sway of neoliberalism. A new generation of right-wing populists rushed to fill the political vacuum, promising to fight for the disenfranchised against a corrupt globalist elite that supposedly allowed immigrants to take jobs from native-born workers. The late Austrian firebrand Jörg Haider, Sweden Democrats leader Jimmie Åkesson, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, and her deputy, Matteo Salvini, are prime examples of this new breed of politicians. Slick operators in sharp suits, with a talent to amuse, they stoke anger and resentment. Some of them even flirt with fascist and Nazi symbols, pushing the boundaries of postwar taboos.

Though significantly older, Trump is cut from the same cloth. While he may not personally have written the reference to a "unified Reich" that appeared in a video he recently shared, Trump has long embraced the rhetoric of far-right radicals, offering a fantasy of

America's past greatness and promising to keep out immigrants who are "poisoning the blood of our country."

Such promises are bound to appeal to some young people for the same reasons that left-wing ideals once did. Silver-tongued right-wing extremists might also attract young men who think it is cool to break contemporary social taboos related to masculine domination and privilege. But whatever the appeal, it has nothing to do with conservatism. Far-right leaders like Trump, Wilders, and Salvini are not conservatives - their primary goal is to disrupt and destroy. Conservatism is now more on the other side. Standing up against the rising tide of radical populism are veteran politicians like Biden who are trying to preserve the established institutions of liberal democracy: judicial independence, a free press, and fair elections. Building or repairing these institutions after the catastrophes of World War II was once a progressive project. Today, protecting these institutions against those who wish to destroy them and seize every opportunity to attack the judges, legislators, and citizens upholding them is quite

literally a conservative endeavor.

To young people excited by the prospect of radical change, the 81-year-old Biden may seem like a relic of the past, clinging to an obsolete system. One could argue, as I would, that incremental democratic change is preferable to smashing the existing order; but such a message is unlikely to draw restless young people back to established center-left parties. Trump does not have to convince many young people to vote for him. If enough of them refuse to vote for Biden, either because he is too old, too conservative, or too pro-Israel, Trump could win November's presidential election. If elected, he will continue to shatter the norms and wreck the institutions that allow democracy to function.

Future generations might have to work hard to undo the damage, but perhaps this will bring a new impetus for youthful enthusiasm to rebuild the world to be a better place. One can only hope they will succeed.

The writer is the author, most recently, of Spinoza: Freedom's Messiah (Yale University Press, 2024).

©PROJECT SYNDICATE



Ian Buruma

FAR-RIGHT LEADERS LIKE TRUMP, WILDERS, AND SALVINI ARE NOT CONSERVATIVES - THEIR PRIMARY GOAL IS TO DISRUPT AND DESTROY

Spanish dominance

Sir, A Spaniard is once again the king of Roland Garros. Carlos Alcaraz continued his country's dominance of the French Open, defeating Alexander Zverev of Germany in a gruelling five sets to win his third Grand Slam title. Though it was his first triumph on the storied clay court in Paris, Alcaraz carried on the tradition of countryman Rafael Nadal, who won a record 14 French Open titles from 2005 to 2022. There is a reason why Alcaraz is always high on the odds-makers' list to win titles. He has the skill, talent, and tools to do so, which were evident when he adapted so well to the clay surface and made proper adjustments to win his first French Open title. The future of world tennis seems to be in the safe hands of a highly talented youngster, who combines flash, grit, guts and grace.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Eat the humble pie

Sir, The BJP has managed one and supposedly the only chance to redeem itself and become an all-serving rather than a billionaire-serving government. While many reports show a decline in poverty rates in the Modi era, their data is found to be incomplete and flawed. A World Bank report titled "Poverty and Shared Prosperity" (2022) indicated that over 70 million of the world population fell below the poverty line of which India alone accounted for 80 per cent. Another study by researchers at the Azim Premji University titled "State of Working India" (2021) indicated that the number of people below the national wage threshold of 375 rupees per day has increased by over 230 million during the COVID-19 pandemic. These figures show that though India is the fifth largest economy of the world it has not yet solved even 1 per cent of its core problem that is poverty. When a country is languishing at 107th position out of 121 in the Global Hunger Index, its Prime Minister should eat some humble pie and not beat any drums about the country's seemingly fabricated development.

Noopur Baruah, TEZPUR (ASSAM)

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, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Massive manhunt on to track down terrorists



“The attack is a despicable attempt to instigate turmoil in Jammu, but we are resolute in our commitment to safeguard the region”
MANOJ SINHA | J&K LG

being present at the spot who acted as a lookout for the three terrorists. Sources said the terrorists used M4 carbines - American-made assault rifles developed in the 1990s and used extensively by militaries worldwide, including a variant reportedly in service with Pakistani special forces and the Special Security Unit of the Sindh Police. Nine people were killed and 41 injured as the terrorists opened fire at the 53-seater bus, on its way from the Shiv Khori temple to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Katra, causing it to veer off the road and fall into a deep gorge near the Teryath village of the Poni area of Reasi Sunday. The bus was ferrying pilgrims from Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi. Following the attack, a joint operation was launched involving the police, the Army, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and central intelligence agencies. Survivors of the attack are recording their statements as part of the ongoing probe into the attack, while a thorough combing operation is underway to track down the perpetrators, the officials said. The Resistance Front (TRF), a shadow group of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba terror outfit, initially claimed responsibility for the attack but retracted its statement later. Among those killed in the attack are two-year-old Titu Sawhney and his mother Pooja from Rajasthan. They were among four people from the state who lost their lives in the attack.

NIA, SIA VISIT SPOT; FOREIGN TERRORISTS POSSIBLY OF LeT INVOLVED

officials said. The Resistance Front (TRF), a shadow group of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba terror outfit, initially claimed responsibility for the attack but retracted its statement later. Among those killed in the attack are two-year-old Titu Sawhney and his mother Pooja from Rajasthan. They were among four people from the state who lost their lives in the attack.

SECURITY FORCES SUSPECT TERRORISTS ARE HIDING IN THE MOUNTAINOUS TERRAINS OF RAJOURI AND REASI

FIVE OF THE NINE DECEASED AND 10 OUT OF 41 INJURED IN THE ATTACK HAD GUNSHOT WOUNDS

Three of the deceased were from Uttar Pradesh. The driver and the conductor of the bus, both from Reasi, were also among the victims. The officials said five of the nine deceased had gunshot wounds. They added that 41 people were injured in the attack and 10 of them had bullet injuries. Some of those injured were undergoing treatment in hospitals across Jammu and Reasi districts. Security forces suspect the terrorists are hiding in the mountainous terrains of Rajouri and Reasi, and have intensified combing operations in the region. A search operation has been

launched in the area, Senior Superintendent of Police, Reasi, Mohita Sharma said, adding that village defence committees have also been geared up. Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha condemned the attack, calling it a part of a malicious scheme to disrupt peace in the region. Expressing solidarity with the affected families, the administration has approved ex gratia payments of Rs 10 lakh for the families of the deceased and Rs 50,000 for those injured. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister Amit Shah have been briefed on the situation, with assurances that those responsible for the attack will face justice, Sinha said. “The attack is a despicable attempt to instigate turmoil in Jammu, but we are resolute in our commitment to safeguard the region,” Sinha said during a visit to the Government Medical College to enquire after the injured. In a related development, the separatist amalgam Hurriyat Conference condemned the terror attack and said the conglomerate has and will always condemn all forms of violence against humanity. The loss of precious human lives is deeply disturbing.

REASI TERROR ATTACK

Shutdowns, protests held in Jammu region

People demanded that an all-out operation be carried out in the region to clear it of terrorists

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, June 10: Several organisations, including the Congress, Monday held protests in the Jammu region against the terrorist attack on a passenger bus in Reasi district that left nine dead and 41 injured. Shutdowns were also observed in the region's Kishtwar and Ranso areas. Protests were held at Jammu, Poonch, Rajouri, Kishtwar, Reasi, Doda, Kathua and Udhampur districts while business establishments were shut in Kishtwar town and the Ranso area of Reasi district. People demanded that an all-out operation be carried out in the region to clear it of terrorists. The Congress took out a rally in Jammu to protest against the terror attack and raised slogans against Pakistan. Targeting the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre, Jammu and Kashmir Congress working president Raman Bhalla said, “The government should take concrete steps to control militancy and save the innocent. Such inhuman acts affect the normal life.” In Jammu, workers of the VHP and the Sanatan Dharam Sabha, led by VHP J&K unit



president Rajesh Gupta, held a march to protest the incident. There has been an increase in terrorist activities in Reasi, Rajouri and Poonch districts. The terrorists often target vehicles in the evening hours and hide in forest areas. This is a serious concern, Gupta told reporters here. He called for action to prevent such incidents, particularly in view of the upcoming Amarnath and Budha Amarnath yatras. The Kalki Movement Organisation also held a protest march in the Jewel area of Jammu and demanded action against Pakistan for sponsoring terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. The Bajrang Dal, Shiv Sena and the Dogra Front as well as civil society groups held protests.

Three MPs from Northeast get ministerial berths in NDA govt

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Guwahati/Agartala, June 10: Three MPs from the northeastern states - two from Assam and one from Arunachal Pradesh - were Sunday accommodated in the new coalition government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi against five in the previous government. Sarbananda Sonowal, who won from Dibrugarh for the second time; Kiren Rijiju, who was elected from Arunachal West Lok Sabha constituency for the fourth time, and BJP's Rajya Sabha member Pabitra Margherita got the ministerial berth. While Sonowal and Rijiju got the Cabinet berths like the previous PM Modi-led 2.0 government, Margherita got the Minister of State rank. While Sonowal served as the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Minister of AYUSH, Kiren Rijiju served as Minister of Earth Sciences and Minister of Food



Processing Industries, Rameswar Teli (from Assam) served as the Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Labour and Employment, Rajkumar Ranjan Singh (from Manipur) served as Minister of State for External Affairs and Education and Pratima Bhoumik (from Tripura) served as Union Minister of State, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in Modi 2.0 government. Teli, Singh and Bhoumik did not contest the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The BJP and its ally Naga

People's Front lost both the Lok Sabha seats in Manipur to Congress. BJP candidates -- Biplab Kumar Deb and Kriti Devi Debbarman -- won from Tripura West and Tripura East Lok Sabha seats respectively, but none of them have been accommodated in the Union Ministry. Of the 25 Lok Sabha seats in eight northeastern states, including Sikkim, the BJP won nine seats in Assam, two each in Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh, while its allies United People's Liberal Party (UPPL) and Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) in Assam, and the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) in Sikkim secured one seat each. The Congress won two seats in Manipur, and one seat each in Nagaland and Meghalaya from the BJP and its allies, besides winning three seats in Assam.



EYE IN THE SKY: Security personnel conduct search operation using drone after a bus carrying pilgrims was ambushed by terrorists, in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir, Monday

After fresh violence, people from Manipur taking refuge in Assam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Silchar (Assam), June 10: People affected by fresh incidents of violence in Manipur have started arriving in Assam's Cachar district in search of safety, the local MLA said Monday. Security along the inter-state border has been tightened, a police officer said. Two police outposts, a forest beat office and at least 70 houses were torched in Jiribam by suspected militants Saturday, leading to fresh tension in the neighbouring state which has been witnessing ethnic violence since May last year. Residents of the bordering areas claimed that about 600 people have taken shelter in various parts of Lakhipur in Cachar district, entering the state by crossing the Jiri river over the last four days. They are taking shelter in villages at Jirighat and Lakhipur, though no government relief camp has been opened for them, they said. “The people who have come from Manipur are being allowed to stay here safely. The local administration is taking all steps to ensure no spread of any vio-

lence here,” Lakhipur MLA Kaushik Rai told PTI. Cachar Superintendent of Police Nomal Mahatto said that police and other security forces have been deployed in the border areas. “There are no reports of any untoward incident in Cachar so far. Police patrolling in Jirighat on the border as well as along the national highway and nearby villages is being conducted,” he told PTI. The SP added that the situation on the Assam side is completely under control and the police are keeping a strict vigil following the violence in Jiribam. Jiribam, which has a diverse ethnic composition of Meiteis, Muslims, Nagas, Kukis and non-Manipuris, had so far remained unaffected by the ethnic strife that has been raging in the northeastern state since May last year. The MLA said that most of the people who have entered Cachar are Kukis and Hmars. The ethnic conflict between Imphal valley-based Meiteis and hill-based Kukis began in May last year and led to the deaths of over 200 people, besides rendering thousands of people homeless.

Tamang sworn in as Sikkim CM

No representation for women in the Tamang Cabinet despite four women getting elected on SKM tickets, including the CM's wife Krishna Kumari Rai



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gangtok, June 10: Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) supreme Prem Singh Tamang Monday took oath as the Chief Minister of the Himalayan state for the second consecutive term. The 56-year-old politician was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya at a function held in Paljor Stadium here. Eleven other ministers also took oath along with him. Thousands of SKM supporters turned up to witness the swearing-in ceremony and cheered for their leader who took oath in Nepali. The stadium erupted in loud sounds of firecrackers as Tamang was sworn in. The bursting of firecrackers is otherwise prohibited in Sikkim. Along with the Chief Minister, 11 other ministers were sworn in, including Sonam Lama, Arun Kumar Upreti, Samdup Lepcha, Bhim Hang Limboo, Bhoj Raj Rai, GT Dhungel, Puran Kumar Gurung, Pintso Namgyal Lepcha, Nar Bahadur Dahal, Raju Basnet and Tshering Thendup Bhutia. The council of ministers in Sikkim can have a maximum strength of 12 including the Chief Minister. While three ministers -- Arun Kumar Upreti, Nar Bahadur Dahal and Raju Basnet -- took oath in Nepali, eight other ministers took oath in English. Only four ministers of the

Won't humiliate myself by entering UT Assembly: Omar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, June 10: National Conference (NC) leader Omar Abdullah Monday ruled out the possibility of him contesting the forthcoming elections to the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly but said he would be leading his party's campaign for the polls. The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister also said he will not humiliate himself by entering the legislature of a Union Territory (UT). On his defeat in the Lok Sabha election to jailed contestant Sheikh Abdul Rashid alias Engineer Rashid in Baramulla, Abdullah said in electoral politics, one has to be ready for a loss as well. “If you set aside the fact that I lost, on the whole I think the NC has a lot to be satisfied for... as far as my own seat is concerned, how can I be anything but disappointed? But that is electoral politics for you. If you are not prepared to lose, you should not file

your papers. I cannot say the result was on expected lines. But it is what it is,” he told PTI in an interview. The NC leader said he will lead his party's campaign for the Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir. “No. I am not contesting the Assembly elections. I will not fight a UT election. I am absolutely clear on that. I will help my party, I will lead the campaign, I will do whatever I have to for the NC. But I will not enter an Assembly of the UT of J&K,” he said. “I will fight for our statehood to be restored to us. I will fight for a full state of J&K with no dilution. Then, if possible, I will seek an opportunity to enter the Assembly and play my part there. But, I will not humiliate myself by entering a UT (Assembly),” the NC vice president said. On the conduct of the Assembly elections, Abdullah said he would not have been so hopeful had the Supreme Court not directed that the polls be held by September 30.



national

of the day quote

I worked as a party worker in the past and would continue to work as a party worker in the future. Our entire effort is to take India on the path of progress. All of us will walk together because India is important, the Modi government is important and the country's progress is important

ANURAG SINGH THAKUR | BJP LEADER

Delighted to call on President Dr Mohamed Muizzu of Maldives today in New Delhi. Look forward to India and Maldives working together closely

S JAISHANKAR | UNION MINISTER

The Opposition members have won in large numbers. The arbitrary work that used to happen in parliament earlier will not be allowed to happen now

SACHIN PILOT | CONGRESS LEADER

SHORT TAKES

CBI arrests NHA GM in bribery case

New Delhi: The CBI has arrested NHA general manager Purushottam Lal Choudhary, posted in Madhya Pradesh's Chattarpur, in a Rs 10-lakh bribery case, officials said Sunday. The six other accused in the case, including an NHA consultant Sharad Verma and his resident engineer Prem Kumar Sinha, and four employees of accused company PNC Infratech were arrested Saturday evening, they said. The accused were receiving bribes for the final handing over as well as the issuance of a no objection certificate and processing of the final bill of the Jhansi-Khajuraho Project awarded to the company by the National Highways Authority of India (NHA).

Monsoon to enter Gujarat by June 12

Ahmedabad: Southwest monsoon is likely to enter Gujarat in the next 48 hours, an official of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Monday. Gujarat has been facing intense heat wave conditions for past many days. Rainfall occurred at isolated places over Gujarat region and Saurashtra in the 24 hours ending at 6 am Monday. Light rain and thunderstorms were likely at isolated places in all districts of north Gujarat as well as parts of north Gujarat and Saurashtra region till Wednesday morning, it said.

Relief for Azam Khan

Rampur: A Rampur court Monday provided respite to senior Samajwadi Party leader Mohd Azam Khan by clearing his name in a case related to loot and indulging in violence by forcing people to vacate their dwellings in Durgapur area eight years ago. MP-MLA court judge Vijay Kumar cleared Khan and five other accused in the case related to 2016, said Khan's lawyer Jubair Ahmad. The court cleared the Samajwadi Party leader of the charges for want of evidence against him in the matter.

Rahul Gandhi to visit Wayanad June 12

Thiruvananthapuram: Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is expected to visit Wayanad in Kerala June 12, party sources said Monday. His visit comes days after he secured a massive victory in Wayanad constituency in the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections. Gandhi is visiting the constituency amidst speculations that he would give up the seat in Kerala and retain Raebareilly, a traditional stronghold of the Congress party in Uttar Pradesh.



We must recognise that post-COVID economic recovery has been a K-shaped recovery. I think the most important reforms that the Modi government must take is one to tackle the unemployment problem, especially in the unorganised and the small and medium enterprises

RAJIV KUMAR | NITI AAYOG VICE CHAIRMAN

BYPOLLS TO 13 ASSEMBLY SEATS

The Election Commission Monday announced bypolls to 13 assembly constituencies across seven states, including four in West Bengal, July 10



India set to rename 30 places in Tibet

MILITARY SOURCES SAY THE NEW NAMES ARE BACKED BY EXTENSIVE HISTORICAL RESEARCH

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 10: In a tit-for-tat move, India is all set to not only refute China's renaming in recent years of a total of 30-odd places in its northeastern border state of Arunachal Pradesh by claiming they are parts of its territory but also to make counter-claims by giving its own name to a number of places currently in occupied Tibet, reported thediplomat.com June 6.

The lists have been researched by Indian military sources and the list of place names in Chinese ruled Tibet is expected to be released soon after a new government takes power in Delhi next week, the report said.

"Prime Minister Modi has sought to win these polls on the strength of his strongman image. It is natural he will authorize the renaming of Tibetan places to live up to that image," former Intelligence Bureau officer Benu Ghosh, who has followed China



and the border issue with India for decades, was quoted as saying.

This list will be made public as part of a global campaign to offer a strong counter-narrative to Chinese claims on India's Arunachal Pradesh state and other parts of the disputed border, the report cited sources as saying.

"As and when that [the renaming campaign] happens, it will be tantamount to India reopening the Tibetan question," Ghosh has said.

"India has accepted Tibet as

part of China since it was forcibly occupied by Beijing, but now [the] Modi government seems prepared to change course to deflate the Chinese cartographical and nomenclature aggression."

To push its claim on the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, which it calls "Zangnan" (southern Tibet) on the basis of its claim over Tibet, China in Mar 2024 renamed 30 places in it along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Released by the Chinese Ministry of Civil Affairs, which

is responsible for the establishment and naming of administrative divisions, this was described as the fourth list of "standardised" geographical names in Zangnan.

The list included 11 residential areas, 12 mountains, four rivers, one lake, one mountain pass, and a piece of land. They were given in Chinese characters, Tibetan, and pinyin, the Roman alphabet version of Mandarin Chinese.

Beijing released the first list of its so-called standardized names of six places in Arunachal Pradesh in 2017, followed by a second list of 15 places in 2021, and a third one with names for 11 places in 2023. The fourth list contains almost as many new place names as the previous three combined, the report noted.

India rejected China's move on each occasion, calling the state integral part of the country and making it clear that assigning "invented" names does not alter this reality.

Manipur CM condemns ambush on security convoy



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imphal, June 10: Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh Monday condemned the ambush on his advance security convoy near Kotlen in Kangpokpi district in which a driver was injured.

He termed it a direct attack on himself and the people of the state, assuring that the "rule of law" will be established.

Speaking to reporters at Shija hospital, where the injured person is undergoing treatment, Singh said, "It is very unfortunate and highly condemnable. It's an attack on the chief minister, which means a direct attack on the people of the state. The state government has to do something... we will take a decision."

Singh explained that fortunately the person was not seriously injured. He added, "Earlier, the state government did not retaliate much in the hope that an understanding could be achieved through talks."

"However, certain violent acts

have been perpetuated on people as if a state government does not exist. This has hurt me deeply. There have been consistent insults to existing state machineries, and we have tolerated them for so long. The attack on an advance security team of the CM is an attack on the CM himself," Singh said, adding, "All are requested to decide for themselves who are with the government and who are against it."

On his recent interactions with the affected people of Jiribam, Singh said, "I spoke with them over the phone and told them I would come in two or three days and look into their requirements, and they were happy I returned from Delhi as the situation in the state was important."

He had gone to Delhi to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which he described as his responsibility as a Chief Minister.

Earlier in the day, suspected militants ambushed the advance security convoy of Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh in Kangpokpi district, leaving one person injured, police said.

The convoy was on its way to violence-hit Jiribam district when it came under attack around 10.30 am near Kotlen village along a stretch of National Highway-53, they said. Multiple gunshots were fired at the vehicles of the security forces, who retaliated, a police officer said.

SC warns Delhi govt on water scarcity plea

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 10: Do not take us for granted, the Supreme Court Monday said, slamming the Delhi government for not rectifying defects in its plea seeking a direction to Haryana to release the surplus water provided by Himachal Pradesh to the national capital to mitigate its water crisis.

A vacation bench of Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra and Justice Prasanna B Varale noted that affidavits are not being accepted in the registry due to the defect in the petition filed by the Delhi government.

"Why have you not cured the defect? We will dismiss the petition. On the last date also this was pointed out and you did not remove the defect. Don't take the court proceedings for granted, however important your case may be."

"Never take us for granted. Filings are not being accepted. You straightaway hand over a series of documents in court and then you say you are suffering a deficit of water and pass an order today itself. You are raising all grounds of urgency and sitting leisurely. Let everything come on record. We will take it the day after tomorrow," the bench said while adjourning the matter to June 12.

The top court said it wants to read the files before the matter is heard as there are so many things being reported in the newspaper.

At the outset, senior advocate Shyam Divan, appearing for Haryana, submitted the reply filed by the state government. The apex court asked Divan why



SC extends deadline for AAP to vacate headquarters office

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday extended by nearly two months the June 15 deadline given to the Aam Aadmi Party to vacate its office at Rouse Avenue in the national capital here. The top court had March 4 directed the party to vacate its office by June 15 after noting that the plot was allotted to the Delhi High Court for expanding judicial infrastructure. A vacation bench comprising justices Vikran Nath and Sandeep Mehta took note of the submissions of senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for the AAP and others, and extended the deadline till August 10, saying it was the last opportunity and that the party will have to hand over the vacant possession of the building at 206, Rouse Avenue here by then.

did he file the reply now.

Divan replied that since the defects in the Delhi government's plea have not been rectified, pre-filing of the reply was not permitted by the registry.

The top court then rebuked the Delhi government. The counsel for the Delhi government submitted that defects have been removed.

The acute shortage of drinking water has become an "existential problem" in Delhi, the top court had earlier observed and directed the Himachal Pradesh government to release

137 cusecs of surplus water to the national capital on Friday and Haryana to facilitate its flow.

The apex court had also said there should be no politics over water.

Considering the urgency of the matter, the apex court had directed Himachal Pradesh to release the water June 7 with prior intimation to Haryana. It had said the Upper Yamuna River Board (UYRB) shall measure the excess water which comes to Hathnikund for its onward supply to Wazirabad and Delhi.

Delhi Court to hear Rashid's bail plea

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 10: A Delhi court has fixed June 18 to hear arguments on an application filed by Engineer Rashid, arrested in a 2016 Jammu and Kashmir terror funding case, seeking interim bail to take oath as an MP after the recently concluded general elections.

Sheikh Abdul Rashid, popularly known as Engineer Rashid, defeated J-K former chief minister Omar Abdullah from the Baramulla constituency in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Rashid contested as an Independent candidate to defeat the National Conference (NC) vice president. Additional Sessions Judge Chander Jit Singh fixed the matter for June 18 after the NIA sought time to file reply to Rashid's application.

The judge adjourned the matter, adding that if the notification for the ceremony comes before the next date, the accused may move the court with a plea to expedite the matter.



Maharashtra Deputy CM Ajit Pawar, NCP (Ajit) leader Praful Patel and party leaders during the NCP's Foundation Day programme, in Mumbai, Monday

Study examines new possible reason for several Ice ages on Earth

Ice ages, when glaciers cover a major part of the Earth's surface, are said to occur for a number of reasons, including the planet's tilt and rotation, shifting plate tectonics, volcanic eruptions, and carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 10: The solar system may have passed through a dense cloud about two million years ago, possibly plunging the Earth into a deep freeze, with multiple Ice ages coming and going until about 12,000 years ago, according to new research.

The solar system, comprising the Sun and eight planets, along with several dwarf planets such as Pluto, is wrapped in a giant bubble, called the heliosphere, according to the US space agency NASA.

The heliosphere is formed by solar winds, which are a constant flow of charged particles coming from the Sun, travelling

up to three times the distance to Pluto. The giant bubble protects us from rays from the galaxy that can potentially alter our genes, according to NASA.

Ice ages, when glaciers cover a major part of the Earth's surface, are said to occur for a number of reasons, including the planet's tilt and rotation, shifting plate tectonics, volcanic eruptions, and carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere.

But what if drastic changes like these are not only a result of Earth's environment, but also the Sun's location in the galaxy asked the researchers, including those at Boston University, US.

The latest study, published in



the journal Nature Astronomy, found that the cold interstellar cloud interfered with the heliosphere in a manner such that the Earth, along with other planets, were no longer under its protection. The interstellar medium refers to the space in between stars and beyond the heliosphere in our galaxy.

The researchers believe the findings show that the Sun's location in space might shape Earth's history more than previously considered.

This paper is the first to quantitatively show there was an encounter between the sun and something outside of the solar system that would have affected Earth's climate, said lead author Merav Opher, an as-

tronomy professor at Boston University.

Stars move, and now this paper is showing not only that they move, but they encounter drastic changes, said Opher.

For the study, the researchers used computer models to visualise the positions of the Sun, the heliosphere and the planets two million years in the past.

They found that one of the clouds, forming the Local Ribbon of Cold Clouds system - a string of large, dense, very cold clouds in our galaxy - could have collided with the heliosphere. The cloud is called Local Lynx of Cold Cloud.

The researchers said that if this had actually happened, the Earth would have been fully exposed to the interstellar medium, where gas and dust mix with the leftover atomic elements of exploded stars, including iron and plutonium - most of which is fil-

tered out by the heliosphere.

However, in the absence of the protection, the particles could easily reach the Earth, they said.

The researchers also said that the event aligned with evidence on Earth showing increased levels of iron and plutonium in the ocean, on the moon, Antarctic snow, and ice cores from the same time period.

The timing also matches with temperature records indicating a cooling period, they said.

Only rarely does our cosmic neighbourhood beyond the solar system affect life on Earth, said co-author Avi Loeb from Harvard University.

It is exciting to discover that our passage through dense clouds a few million years ago could have exposed the Earth to a much larger flux of cosmic rays and hydrogen atoms. Our results open a new window into the relationship between the evolution of life on Earth and our cosmic neighbourhood, said Loeb.



Telugu Desam Legislature Party meeting will be held tomorrow (Tuesday). Naidu will be elected as the leader
JYOTSHNA TIRUNAGARI | TDP SPOKESPERSON

MISLEADING INFO: CBSE WARNS STUDENTS

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) Monday issued an advisory cautioning students and parents against misleading information about syllabus, resources and sample question papers for 2024-25 session. The Board has warned students against falling prey to online portals spreading unverified news



of the day quote

Remember the Katchaveevu issue that was 'manufactured' by the 'one-third prime minister' during the election campaign and taken up by his colleagues to gather support for the BJP in Tamil Nadu. This was highly irresponsible and a severe distortion of history
JAIRAM RAMESH | CONGRESS LEADER

Somewhere, there was anger in the heart of that woman (CISF constable). It (incident) should not have happened like this
BHAGWANT MANN | CM, PUNJAB

It looks like they (BJP/NDA) don't want backward classes and Dalit communities. There are several people from such communities who have got elected in the state from that party
G PARAMESHWARA | HOME MINISTER, KARNATAKA

X POST OF THE DAY

To all those celebrating the 'swearing-in' of @narendramodi, a message from India's only woman chief minister
@MamataOfficial. She switched off all her lights and sat in darkness during the entire so-called 'ceremony' for a 'prime minister' who has resoundingly lost the mandate and has been rejected by the people. Almost lost in Varanasi, lost in Ayodhya, could not get a majority in spite of a campaign centred entirely on himself. Modi should be replaced. Let the @BJP4India elect a fresh leader
@sagarikaghose

SHORT TAKES

Revanna sent to 14 days judicial custody

Bangalore: A court here Monday sent former JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna, who is facing charges of rape and sexual abuse against several women, to 14 days judicial custody. He was produced before the 42nd Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) court as his Special Investigation Team (SIT) custody ended today. The court May 31 remanded him to SIT custody till June 6, and later extended it till June 10. While in their custody, the SIT conducted a detailed investigation, including gathering evidence and interviewing witnesses, and questioned Revanna extensively about the allegations. The court, taking into consideration the gravity of the allegations and the evidence presented by the SIT, decided to remand him to judicial custody for 14 days, till June 24.

'Kana Gang' leader arrested in Delhi

New Delhi: Delhi Police has arrested the leader of 'Kana Gang', who allegedly formed the gang due to his wife's infidelity, officials Monday said. The accused was arrested from Delhi's Kalindi Kunj area when he was on his way to commit crime, they said. The officials said that the gangster was identified as Akash alias Kana, a resident of Madanpur Khadar. He was searching for one Ranjan, a member of Shahrugh gang, associated with Lawrence Bishnoi gang, who took his wife, they said. Ranjan's house was set on fire by Akash in the intervening night of August 31 and September 1, police said.

LIQUOR POLICY ROW

Kerala Assembly on boil

VIJAYAN GOVT REJECTS OPPN DEMAND TO REGISTER CORRUPTION CASE INTO LIQUOR POLICY ROW

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, June 10: The Kerala Assembly, convened Monday, witnessed a heated exchange between the ruling and opposition parties regarding the ongoing liquor policy controversy that has plagued the Left government for several weeks.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan rejected the opposition's demand in the Assembly to register a case under the Prevention of Corruption Act into the allegations with regard to the "amendment" of the state's liquor policy, which met here for the first time after the Lok Sabha polls.

The members of the opposition UDF raised placards and a banner criticising the CPI(M)-led government over the allegations, then boycotted the House proceedings.

They later demanded that a case be registered under the Prevention of Corruption Act and called for the resignation of the Tourism and Excise Ministers in connection with the controversy.

For over a month, the Congress has been raising corruption charges against the Pinarayi Vijayan government over its liquor policy, alleging that it was planning to amend it by accept-



ing bribes from bar owners.

They raised the issue in the House on the first day of the session during zero hour and demanded a discussion on the raging row.

However, Excise Minister MB Rajesh dismissed the charges, stating that not even an initial discussion had been carried out regarding the amendment of the liquor policy.

He maintained that the recent department secretaries' meeting convened by the Chief Secretary and the stakeholders' meeting called by the Tourism Director had nothing to do with the liquor policy amendment, as alleged by the UDF.

He also said the opposition has been raising baseless charges against the government for over a month, citing a policy about which the government has yet to launch an initial action.

However, Congress legislator Roji M John, who sought a notice for the motion, criticised the

government and said abetting corruption was also a crime, and asked why a case had not been registered under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

Though the Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, VD Satheesan, also reiterated the same demand, Vijayan intervened and made it clear that a police probe was already underway.

He accused the opposition of raising a fabricated argument and trying to create the impression that something (illegal) was happening in the state. "The State Excise Minister himself had lodged a complaint with the Director General of Police as soon as he came across false news related to the state's liquor policy," he said.

An investigation is going on over the complaint, and appropriate action would be taken against whatever crimes had been committed, he said.

Vijayan asked whether the attempt by the opposition was to

create hurdles in the ongoing police probe.

However, Satheesan questioned the CM's claim and asked what outcome could be expected in a police probe being carried out based on a complaint lodged by the Excise Minister, who is an accused in the alleged scam.

"So, a case should be registered under the Prohibition of Corruption Act on the allegations. The opposition will not compromise on the matter and will hold strong agitations inside and outside the House raising the issue," the LoP added.

Speaker AN Shamseer denied leave for the motion based on the replies of the CM and Excise Minister.

An agitated opposition raised slogans against the government and showed placards standing near the Speaker's podium.

The UDF later boycotted the House proceedings and walked out, continuing to raise slogans against the government and demanding the resignation of the Excise and Tourism ministers.

The issue of the purported withdrawal of the 'dry day' policy (which prohibits the sale of alcohol in the state on the first day of every calendar month), snowballed into a controversy after an audio clip said to be of a bar association member allegedly asking other members to pay money for a 'favourable liquor policy' was aired on TV channels.

The UDF came out with allegations that the Left government sought ₹20 crore from bar owners to make a policy favourable to them and demanded the resignation of Excise Minister Rajesh.

Cabinet approves govt assistance for making 3cr houses under PMAY



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 10: The Union Cabinet in its first meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday approved government assistance for the construction of three crore houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY).

This was the first meeting of the Union Cabinet of Modi 3.0 government held at the Prime Minister's 7, Lok Kalyan Marg residence. The meeting was attended by ministers of all allies of the NDA.

"It has been decided in the Cabinet meeting today to provide assistance to three crore additional rural and urban households for the construction of

houses to meet the housing requirements arising out of the increase in the number of eligible families," officials said.

The government of India is implementing the PMAY since 2015-16 to provide assistance to eligible rural and urban households for the construction of houses with basic amenities.

Under PMAY, a total of 4.21 crore houses have been completed for the eligible poor families under the housing schemes in the last 10 years.

All the houses constructed under PMAY are provided basic amenities like household toilets, LPG connection, electricity connection and functional household tap connection through convergence with other schemes of the central and state governments.

THE DECISION WAS TAKEN AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE UNION CABINET OF MODI 3.0 GOVT UNDER PMAY, A TOTAL OF 4.21 CRORE HOUSES HAVE BEEN COMPLETED FOR THE ELIGIBLE POOR FAMILIES UNDER THE HOUSING SCHEMES IN THE LAST 10 YEARS

NO CENSUS IN 2021

14cr deprived of National Food Security Act benefits: Congress

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 10: The Congress Monday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has to tell the country soon when the updated census will be conducted and demanded that it must also provide data on the population of communities categorised as OBCs to give "true meaning" to social justice enshrined in the Constitution.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said a comprehensive census essential for socioeconomic development is carried out by the Union government every 10 years. The last census was to be completed in 2021.

"But Mr Modi didn't get it done. One immediate consequence of not having census 2021 conducted is that at least 14 crore Indians are being deprived of benefits under the National Food Security Act, 2013, repackaged as PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana," he said.

"The 'one-third' prime minister has to tell the country soon when the updated census will be conducted," the Congress general secretary said.

The decennial Census has



since 1951 provided data on the population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, he noted. The updated census must provide data on the population of communities categorised as Other Backward Classes (OBCs) as well, Ramesh said.

"This will give true meaning to social justice enshrined in our republic's Constitution that has just been saved by the people from an assault on it by Mr Modi, his cheerleaders, and drumbeaters," he added.

The Congress in its Lok Sabha poll manifesto had promised to carry out a nationwide caste survey.

FUNDS FOR FARMERS: NO FAVOUR BY PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi did no special favour to farmers by releasing the PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi fund, which was due to them a month ago but delayed by the poll code, the Congress said Monday. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the release of the 17th instalment of funds, which Modi is touting as the first decision of his new government, is the legitimate entitlement due to farmers, according to the policy of his government. If he is genuinely concerned about farmers, the prime minister should grant legal status to minimum support price (MSP) for their produce, announce a farm loan waiver and provide guaranteed insurance payment directly into their bank accounts, he said. Taking charge as prime minister in his third term, Modi Monday signed his first file authorising the release of the 17th instalment of the PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi fund, amounting to nearly ₹20,000 crore that will benefit around 9.3 crore farmers. After signing on to the release of the fund, Modi said, "Ours is a government fully committed to 'kisan kalyan (farmers' welfare)'. It is, therefore, fitting that the first file signed on taking charge is related to it. We want to keep working even more for farmers and the agriculture sector in the times to come."

Parl should enact law to prevent mob lynching, hate crimes: AIKS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 10: The All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) Monday demanded Parliament to enact a law to prevent mob lynching and hate crimes, as they protested violence perpetrated against three cattle transporters by a mob in Chhattisgarh.

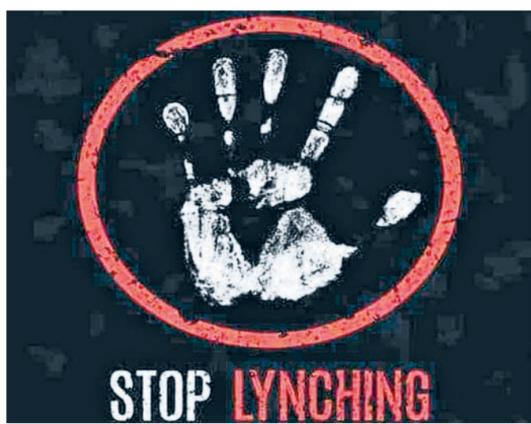
In a statement issued here Monday, the AIKS strongly protested the "murder" of two cattle transport workers and severe injuries to another worker on June 7, 2024 on the Mahanadi Bridge in the Mahasamund-Raipur border of Chhattisgarh.

Calling those involved "criminal gangsters", the AIKS said a

group of 15-20 people had been following the truck load of animals travelling towards Odisha. They said the group put nails on the bridge to deflate the tyres and after stopping the truck, the drivers were beaten severely and thrown on the rocks 30 feet below the bridge.

"Tehseen Qureshi died on the spot and Chand Khan was declared dead after reaching the hospital. Another worker Saddam Qureshi suffered severe injuries and is in hospital. It is very clear that this is an incident of premeditated murder and a hate crime, and not a mob lynching," the AIKS said.

It said the state police have registered an FIR under sections



304 and 307 of IPC for attempt to murder and culpable homicide that attracts punishment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with a fine, or with both.

"The police have not included Section 302 of IPC for murder. They justify this serious omission as suspected mob lynching in the name of cow protection," it said.

"The AIKS strongly demands the NDA-led Union Government and the newly elected Parliament to enact a law to prevent mob lynching and hate crimes in the name of cow protection, to establish fast track courts to expedite trial and conviction in order to protect the interests of

the cattle farmers, traders and workers in the industry," it said.

The AIKS also demanded a judicial enquiry into the incident, including the role of the police in protecting the criminals and compensation of ₹50 lakh each to the family of both deceased workers and ₹20 lakh to the severely injured worker.

According to the police, two cattle transporters died and another sustained serious injuries under suspicious circumstances after being allegedly chased by a mob Friday.

The incident took place in the early hours under Arang police station area on Raipur-Mahasamund interdistrict border.

international



The sacrifices of our brave soldiers and citizens is a debt on us that we must repay by relentlessly eliminating terrorism from our nation
SHEHBAZ SHARIF | PM, PAKISTAN

UKRAINE PEACE SUMMIT

Nearly 90 countries and organisations, half from Europe, have confirmed attending the Swiss-hosted Ukraine peace summit over the weekend despite Russia's refusal to participate in the conference, Switzerland's President said Monday



of the day quote

Prime Minister Modi's historic third term sends a strong message of political and economic stability and continuity by the voters of India amidst rising geopolitical uncertainty

ATUL KESHAP | PRESIDENT, US INDIA BUSINESS COUNCIL

The United States needs Japan's help to cope with strategic challenges in Europe and Asia that are straining its defence industries

RAHM EMANUEL | US AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN

We call upon the US administration to put pressure on the occupation to stop the war on Gaza and the Hamas movement is ready to deal positively with any initiative that secures an end to the war

SAMI ABU ZUHRI | SENIOR HAMAS OFFICIAL

SHORT TAKES

Diesel prices jump 56% in Malaysia

Kuala Lumpur: Diesel price in Malaysia jumped by more than 50 per cent Monday as part of a revamp of decades-old fuel subsidies to tighten government spending and save billions of ringgits annually. The restructuring eliminates blanket energy subsidies and redirects them to the needy. They're part of economic reforms pledged by Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, whose government says they're needed to build and more sustainable economy and plug losses from smuggling cheap oil to neighbouring countries.

Belarus to join Russian N-drills

Moscow: Belarus said Monday its army was taking part in the second stage of Russian exercises ordered by President Vladimir Putin to practise the deployment of tactical nuclear weapons. The first phase of the drills took place in southern Russia last month, in what nuclear analysts said was a warning signal by Putin to deter the West from wading more deeply into the war in Ukraine. Belarusian Defence Minister Lieutenant General Viktor Khrenin said the exercises were a proactive measure to "increase our readiness to use so-called retaliatory weapons". "Now, more than ever before, we are determined to respond to any threats posed to both our country and the Union State" between Russia and Belarus, he said.

European Parl debuts with new names

RACING DRIVER, EX-PARATROOPER AND INSTAGRAM INFLUENCER WIN SEATS

REUTERS

Madrid, June 10: While attention has focused far-right gains in European Parliament elections, some anti-establishment and outspoken candidates from left and right are set to take up their seats in Strasbourg.

CZECH REPUBLIC

FILIP TUREK - MOTORISTS' PARTY
Czech car collector and former motor racer Filip Turek's Motorists' party is a eurosceptic group not represented in the Czech parliament that says it defends the rights of drivers against EU climate policies.

It formed a coalition with protest party Oath, together coming third in the EU election with 10.3%. Turek, 38, has seen his popularity grow through social networks with his "petrolhead" image and calls to reshape Europe.

But police have also been investigating pictures in which he used the Nazi salute some years ago and other activities possibly suggesting sympathy for the Nazis. He has not been charged and has brushed off the accusations as misunderstanding of a past bad taste in humour.

GERMANY

MARIE-AGNES STRACK-ZIMMERMANN - GERMAN LIBERAL

Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann, a well-known member of the German Bundestag and military expert, will enter the European Parliament for her liberal party, FDP.

She is a staunch supporter of Ukraine and has criticised German chancellor Scholz, her coalition partner, repeatedly for being too hesitant to provide weapons, including Germany's "Taurus" cruise missiles.

She recently said that Scholz was an "autistic know-it-all".

The 66-year-old led a high-profile campaign, criticizing European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen for im-



posing more bureaucracy and over-regulating the economy.

She has cultivated an approach of "plain text" (Klartext). Her slogan for the campaign was "Strack-Zimmermann - arguementative in Europe".

ITALY

GENERAL ROBERTO VAN NACCI - THE LEAGUE

Vannacci is an Italian army general who last year published a book disparaging LGBTQ+ people, migrants, minorities and feminists. His ideas drew outrage from many quarters, but they resonated with the leader of the far-right League, Matteo Salvini, who signed him up to be a top candidate for his party.

In his best-selling book, Vannacci questioned whether people of colour could ever be Italian, even if they were born in the country, and defended a person's right "to hate".

A 55-year-old former paratrooper commander, Vannacci was a military attaché at Italy's embassy in Moscow. He is under investigation for embezzlement during his time in Russia, something he denies. He has also been suspended from the military, accused of discrediting the army with his book.

ILARIA SALIS - THE ITALIAN GREEN AND LEFT ALLIANCE (AVS)

Salis, a 39-year-old Italian teacher, has been detained in

said it was purely a business transaction.

Obajtek missed several scheduled hearings before a parliamentary commission and did not appear for questioning at the prosecutor's office. He denies any wrongdoing.

SPAIN

TERESA RIBERA - SOCIALIST PARTY
Spanish Energy Minister Teresa Ribera, 55, will lead the contingent of 20 MEPs the Socialist Party retained after opinion polls initially indicated the ruling party was heading towards a severe defeat.

The technocratic Ribera has held the ministry's job for six years and has been influential in Brussels where she was a proponent of the bloc's energy market reform.

As Spain held the EU's rotating presidency last year, she was a key figure at the COP28 conference in Dubai. She has not ruled out taking a job at the next European Commission.

In Spain, she has shepherded an ambitious green agenda since 2018, championing a harder, faster transition to a zero-carbon economy.

JORGE BUXADE - VOX

Jorge Buxade 48, led the Spanish far-right party VOX to a solid standing in the Sunday elections, taking its number of seats to six from four.

He was the party's voice in Brussels for the past five years.

The VOX performance was not as strong as other far-right groups in the bloc and was weaker in terms of share of the overall votes than in the most recent nationwide election last July.

The party's showing was considered strong given competition from maverick influencer Alvisé Perez and his "The Party is Over" movement, which gained three seats.

Buxade belongs to the most conservative wing of VOX, whose leader Santiago Abascal oscillates between a low-tax, small government libertarian stance to

anti-immigration, anti-gay rights ultra-conservative positions.

ALVISE PEREZ (THE PARTY IS OVER)

Anti-establishment influencer Alvisé Perez got 800,000 votes and three seats in the European Parliament, mainly from young male voters who see in the far-right activist a role model.

His party has no electoral programme, besides proposing the construction of a prison with no pool or gym for corrupt politicians. Perez promised to renounce his salary as an MEP if he elected.

Alvisé, who has several judicial cases pending for alleged libel, did not engage in a traditional campaign but took advantage of his social network accounts - almost a million followers in Instagram, more than 500,000 subscribers in Telegram - to make his symbol, a squirrel with a Guy Fawkes mask, popular all over Spain.

FRANCE

JORDAN BARDELLA, RASSEMBLEMENT NATIONAL

A slick 28-year-old with a rapturous following among some of France's youth, Jordan Bardella is the bright young thing of Marine Le Pen's Rassemblement National (RN), leading the far-right party to victory over Macron's centrists in Sunday's vote.

Already an MEP having been first elected in 2019, Bardella has helped broaden the RN's appeal, leading efforts to ditch its racist past by focusing on pocketbook issues, immigration and criticism of the European Union.

He embraces his working-class roots on the rough outskirts of Paris, citing his Italian immigrant mother and Le Pen as the two women to which he owes everything. French President Emmanuel Macron Sunday called a snap parliamentary election for later this month. If the far right were to win an outright majority in that vote, Bardella would be the most likely candidate for prime minister.

US Consulate vandalised in Australia

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sydney, June 10: Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese urged activists on both sides of the Israel-Palestinian debate to "turn the heat down" after the US Consulate in Sydney was vandalised Monday.

CCTV footage showed a person wearing a dark hoodie using a small sledgehammer to smash nine holes in the reinforced glass windows of the building in North Sydney after 3 am, a police statement said. Two inverted red triangles, seen by many as a symbol of Palestinian resistance, were also painted on the front of the building. Albanese urged people to have "respectful political debate and discourse."

"People are traumatised by what is going on in the Middle



East, particularly those with relatives in either Israel or in the Palestinian Occupied Territories," Albanese told reporters.

"And I just say, again, reiterate my call to turn the heat down and measures such as painting the US consulate do nothing to advance the cause of those who have committed what is, of course, a crime to damage property," Albanese added.

The consulate was sprayed with graffiti in April, including the words "Free (sic) Gaza. The US Consulate in Melbourne was vandalised by pro-Palestinian activists May 31.

UN halts Gaza food aid via US pier

The US Agency for International Development describes the pause as a step to allow for a security review by the humanitarian community in Gaza

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, June 10: The director of the UN World Food Program said Sunday the programme has "paused" its distribution of humanitarian aid from an American-built pier off Gaza, saying she was "concerned about the safety of our people after what had been one of the

deadliest days of the war there. Saturday saw both an Israeli military assault that freed four hostages but left 274 Palestinians and one Israeli commando dead, and Cindy McCain said, two of WFP's warehouses in Gaza had been "rocketed" and a staffer injured.

Sunday's UN announcement of the pause appears the latest setback for the US sea route, set up to try to bring more aid to Gaza's starving people.



Major blow to Netanyahu

Israeli minister Benny Gantz announced his resignation from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's emergency government Sunday, withdrawing the only centrist power in the embattled leader's far-right coalition amid a months-long war in Gaza. The departure of Gantz's centrist party will pose an immediate threat to the government. But it could have a serious impact nonetheless, leaving Netanyahu reliant on hardliners, with no end in sight to the Gaza war and a possible escalation in fighting with Lebanese Hezbollah

The UN agency gave no further details, including how long the pause would last. WFP spokespeople did not respond to requests for further details.

Egypt, Iran, UAE, Saudi & Ethiopia join BRICS

INDIA WELCOMES NEW FULL-FLEDGED BRICS MEMBERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Moscow, June 10: India Monday wholeheartedly welcomed Egypt, Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Ethiopia joining the BRICS as their representatives attended for the first time a key meeting of the grouping hosted by Russia.

Senior diplomat Dammu Ravi led the Indian delegation at the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Nizhny Novgorod, in western Russia.

"A significant meeting in the format of expanded BRICS family. India wholeheartedly welcomes the new membership," the spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs Randhir Jaiswal posted on X.

The meeting Monday was the first ministerial meeting following BRICS expansion in 2023 when Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE joined Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa as full-fledged BRICS members.



Ravi, Secretary (Economic Relations) in MEA, led the Indian delegation at the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Nizhny Novgorod, it said.

Usually, the External Affairs Minister attends such meetings. Since S Jaishankar was reappointed as External Affairs Minister only Monday after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's swearing-in ceremony Sunday, he could not make it to Russia to attend the meeting.

A joint statement issued after the meeting said the BRICS foreign ministers reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening

the framework of BRICS Strategic Partnership under the three pillars of cooperation - politics and security, economy and finance, cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

The ministers reiterated their commitment to multilateralism and upholding the international law, including the Purposes and Principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations (UN) as its indispensable cornerstone, and the central role of the UN in an international system in which sovereign states cooperate to maintain international peace and security, advance sus-

tainable development, ensure the promotion and protection of democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.

They voiced their support for a comprehensive reform of the United Nations, including its Security Council, with a view to making it more democratic, representative, effective and efficient.

The ministers reaffirmed the important role of the G20 as the premier forum for international economic cooperation and welcomed and supported the inclusion of the African Union as a member of the G20 at the G20 New Delhi Summit.

The ministers reiterated that the consecutive G20 presidencies of India, Brazil and South Africa in 2023-2025 lay a solid ground for addressing inequalities, imbalances and shortcomings in the world economy, expressed support for continuity and collaboration in their G20 presidencies and wished them all success in their endeavours.

NK installing own loudspeakers: SK

The influential sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un warns of a new response against South Korea if the country continues with loudspeaker broadcasts and allowing leaflet balloon flights amid simmering tensions

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, June 10: South Korea's military Monday said it's detecting signs that North Korea is installing its own loudspeakers along their heavily armed border, a day after the South blared anti-Pyongyang propaganda broadcasts over its speakers for the first time in years as the rivals engage in a Cold War-style psychological warfare.

The South's resumption of its loudspeaker broadcasts Sunday was in retaliation for the North sending over 1,000 balloons filled with trash and manure over the last couple of weeks. North Korea has described its balloon campaign as a tit-for-tat against South Korean civilian groups flying anti-North Korean propaganda leaflets across the border. Pyongyang has long condemned it as it's extremely sensitive to any



outside criticism of leader Kim Jong Un's authoritarian rule.

Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff didn't immediately comment on the number of suspected North Korean speakers or where along the border they were spotted being installed. It said the speakers were still silent as of Monday afternoon.

South Korea Sunday activated its loudspeakers for an initial broadcast into North Korea, which reportedly included news,

criticism about North Korea's government and South Korean pop music.

Hours later Sunday, Kim's powerful sister warned that the South created a "prelude to a very dangerous situation". She said South Korea would witness an unspecified "new response" from the North if it continues with the broadcasts and fails to stop civilian activists from flying anti-North Korean propaganda leaflets across the border.

of the day quote

We expect India to continue to be one of the fastest growing markets in the world. It's a top five market today, and we expect it will continue to climb up the ranks in the size markets that we have outside of the US

ART D'ELIA | DOMINO'S EVP, INTERNATIONAL

Kharif season outset in India has brought in some buoyancy in tractor buying, and we are happy that the inevitable change towards farm mechanisation is gradually taking shape

RAMAN MITTAL | INTERNATIONAL TRACTORS LTD. JOINT MANAGING DIRECTOR

With improved air connectivity, visa facilitation, and a wide range of travel options, it has become more convenient than ever for Indian travellers to explore the beauty of Southeast Asia

BITESH AGARWAL | OYO FOUNDER AND CEO

SHORT TAKES

Mphasis promoter pares 15% stake

New Delhi: Global investment firm Blackstone, promoter of Mphasis, Monday divested a 15.08 per cent stake in information technology and consulting company for ₹6,735 crore through an open market transaction on the National Stock Exchange (NSE). As per the bulk deal data available with the NSE, US-based Blackstone through its affiliate BCP Topco IX Pte sold 2.85 crore equity shares, amounting to a 15.08 per cent stake in the IT and consulting firm. The shares were disposed of at an average price of ₹2,363.37 apiece, taking the transaction value to ₹6,735.60 crore. After the stake sale, shareholding of Blackstone has declined to 40.37 per cent from 55.45 per cent in Mphasis. However, it will continue to be the largest shareholder in the firm.

Sebi junks rule to freeze demat a/cs

New Delhi: Capital markets regulator Sebi Monday eased rules for existing investors with abolishing the norm of freezing demat accounts and mutual fund folios in case of failure to provide a 'choice of nomination'. Additionally, investors holding securities in physical form would be eligible for receipt of any payment, including dividend, interest or redemption payment as well as to lodge grievances or avail any service request from the RTA (Registrars to an Issue and Share Transfer Agents) even if they did not submit 'choice of nomination'. Earlier, the regulator set June 30, 2024, as the deadline for all existing individual mutual fund holders to nominate or opt out of nomination.

Paytm lays off employees

New Delhi: Fintech firm One97 Communications, owner of Paytm brand, is laying off an undisclosed number of employees and claimed that it is providing outplacement support for their smooth transition, according to a company statement. Paytm's sales employee headcount in March 2024 quarter dropped by about 3,500 to 36,521 personnel on a quarter-on-quarter basis, mainly due to the impact of the Reserve Bank of India's ban on services of Paytm Payments Bank. "One97 Communications Limited (OCL) is providing outplacement support to employees which have resigned as a part of the restructuring efforts by the company.



We are looking forward to the forthcoming regular Budget of the new government, which should serve as clear policy directions and priorities of the NDA government

SANJAY NAYYAR | ASSOCHAM PRESIDENT

SHRINKING ECONOMY

The Japanese economy shrank at an annual rate of 1.8 per cent in the first quarter of this year, slightly better than the initial estimate at a 2.0 per cent contraction, according to revised government data Monday. The revision was due to private sector investments, at minus 0.4 per cent, up from the previous minus 0.5 per cent.



Equity mutual fund inflow swells to ₹34,697cr in May

THIS MARKS THE 39TH CONSECUTIVE MONTH OF NET INFLOWS IN EQUITY FUNDS, DATA WITH THE ASSOCIATION OF MUTUAL FUNDS IN INDIA SHOWED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 10: Equity mutual funds witnessed a staggering growth with inflow reaching a record high of ₹34,697 crore in May, marking a 83 per cent surge from the preceding month, propelled by contributions from thematic funds and intermittent corrections that provided buying opportunity to investors.

The inflow suggests investors' confidence in the equity markets despite the continued volatility.

This also marks the 39th consecutive month of net inflows in equity funds, data with the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) showed Monday.

Moreover, the Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) book, which primarily comprises retail money, rose to ₹20,904 crore in May, from ₹20,371 crore in April, marking the second consecutive month of inflows exceeding ₹20,000 crore.

Overall, the mutual fund industry has witnessed an inflow of ₹1.1 lakh crore in the month under review as compared to ₹2.4 lakh crore in April.

With these inflows, the in-



dustry's net assets under management rose to ₹58.91 lakh crore in May-end from ₹57.26 lakh crore in April-end.

As per the data, equity-oriented schemes witnessed an inflow of ₹34,697 crore in May, way higher than ₹18,917 crore in April.

The net flows in equity-oriented mutual funds took the segment past the ₹25 lakh crore mark to close at their record high of ₹25.39 lakh crore in May, Venkat Chalasani, Chief Executive of AMFI, said.

Except for the focused and equity-linked saving schemes (ELSS) categories, all the other categories witnessed good net inflows. Sector/thematic funds continue to attract investor attention with the highest net inflows of ₹19,213 crores during the month. This was largely owing to the new fund offering (NFO) of the HDFC Manufacturing Fund, which collected around ₹9,563 crore.

Further, the small-cap category witnessed flows of ₹2,724

crore in May, a growth of almost 23 per cent as compared to April. The investors' interest in large-cap funds seemed relatively low as the category saw inflows of ₹663 crore, suggesting a preference for more specialised and potentially higher-yielding opportunities.

"Intermittent corrections provided investors some buying opportunity in a market which has largely witnessed a secular uptrend for a long time now. Moreover, the expectation of the NDA-led government coming back to power also propelled buying from investors, as they would have expected the markets to rally further if the NDA government is indeed formed," Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director - Manager Research at Morningstar Investment Research India, said.

Manish Mehta, National Head - Sales, Marketing & Digital Business at Kotak Mahindra AMC, said that record inflows were aided by NFO listings and

investors taking advantage of volatility to add equity schemes to their investments through SIPs as well as lumpsum.

"The record inflow in May came despite high volatility from FPI selling and general elections. Investors remained steadfast in their pursuit of returns on the back of the Indian growth narrative, buoyed by confidence in the incumbent government securing a record third consecutive term," Gopal Kavalireddi, Vice President of Research at FYERS, said.

Apart from equities, debt category schemes experienced net inflows of ₹42,495 crore on preference for safety which drove the flow in the segment. However, the inflow dropped by almost 78 per cent from ₹1.9 lakh crore seen in April.

Of the debt schemes, liquid funds recorded inflows to the tune of ₹25,873 crore.

"Given the uncertainty surrounding the interest rate cycle, most of the flows have flowed into categories having a duration profile of less than a year such as ultrashort and money market. Significant flows have also been received by overnight and liquid fund categories, but that is largely corporates and institution driven and usually of very short tenure," Srivastava said.

The categories which witnessed net outflows are short duration, medium duration, dynamic bond, credit risk, gilt fund and floater fund.

Besides, hybrid category schemes attracted ₹17,991 crore and index funds and other ETFs collectively garnered ₹15,180 crore.

Indices breach record levels but settle lower



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 10: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty ended lower Monday after hitting their all-time high levels in early trade amid selling in blue-chip IT stocks and HDFC Bank.

After breaching the 77,000-mark during the early trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex came under selling pressure at the fag-end of the session and ended 203.28 points or 0.27 per cent lower at 76,693.36. During the day, the benchmark jumped 385.68 points or 0.50 per cent to hit a new record of 77,079.04.

Halting its three-day rally, the NSE Nifty dipped 30.95 points or 0.13 per cent to settle at 23,259.20. Intra-day, it climbed 121.75 points or 0.52 per cent to hit the lifetime peak of 23,411.90.

Narendra Modi was sworn in as Prime Minister Sunday for a record-equalling third term, heading a 72-member Union Council of Ministers that put emphasis on continuity, youth and experience, while also rewarding partners in the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government.

Among the 30 Sensex companies, Tech Mahindra, Infosys,

Wipro, Bajaj Finance, Mahindra & Mahindra, HDFC Bank, HCL Technologies and Tata Consultancy Services were among the major laggards. UltraTech Cement, Power Grid, Nestle, NTPC, Tata Steel and Axis Bank were among the biggest gainers.

"Volatility returned to markets, as Sensex slipped from its new high and fell sharply towards the close amid profit-taking in IT, metals and oil & gas stocks. Lacklustre sentiment also prevailed due to weak global cues after recent data from the US indicated that rate cut may not happen soon," said Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd. In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 1.04 per cent and midcap index jumped 0.56 per cent.

Among the indices, services rallied 1.61 per cent, realty jumped 1.34 per cent, commodities (1.28 per cent), utilities (1.11 per cent), healthcare (0.77 per cent) and industrials (0.49 per cent).

IT, auto, metal and teck were the laggards. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth ₹4,391.02 crore Friday, according to exchange data.

'Lower political capital' to hit tough reforms: UBS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 10: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'lower political capital' will make it difficult for the new government to implement hard reforms, a Swiss brokerage said Monday.

The potential rate of growth can go up to over 7.5 per cent, if the government is able to implement tougher reforms like those related to land, farming, divestments, Uniform Civil Code and one nation one election, UBS Securities said.

"The implementation of hard reforms can take the potential rate of growth to 7.5 per cent-plus over the next five years, from the present 6.5-7 per cent," its chief India Economist Tanvee Gupta Jain told reporters here.

"...tougher reforms will be pushed out as political capital is lower vis-a-vis 2019 and 2014 elections," she said, referring to the ruling BJP's reliance on partners of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in its third term of the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The government will continue with reforms like continuing with the boost to manufacturing, implement the previously-passed labour laws over the next 12-18 months, focus on skill development and creating blue-collar jobs, she said.



"We think implementation of tougher reforms including land reforms, a big boost to infrastructure spending, divestment, farm bills, Uniform Civil Code, One Nation One Elections, amongst others, will be challenging," she said.

Jain said the growth momentum is robust, and retained her FY25 real GDP growth estimate at 7 per cent. She said next month's Union Budget is the key policy announcement to watch out for, and added that the new government will continue with the fiscal consolidation path.

The FY25 fiscal deficit number may be retained at 5.1 per cent or may be at 5 per cent as well by the new government, Jain said, pointing out to the ₹2.11 lakh crore dividend by RBI as a comforting factor which will ensure that all the plans announced earlier go through.

The government is likely to use the leeway presented by the RBI dividend for social sector spending, she said, adding that the same will increase to 8-9 per cent in FY25 as against the interim budget's estimate of 6 per cent.

Bank of India acquires 6% stake in CCIL IFSC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 10: State-owned Bank of India Monday said it has acquired a 6.125 per cent stake in the recently incorporated CCIL IFSC, listed in GIFT SEZ, reflecting its commitment to the growth of IFSC.

The announcement was made by Bank of India's Executive Director (International Operations) Subrat Kumar in GIFT City while speaking at an event to mark the first anniversary of the bank's IFSC Banking Unit in GIFT City.

"The acquisition of 6.125 per cent stake in CCIL IFSC for ₹6.125 crore showcases our strategic commitment towards the growth of GIFT City IFSC and its emergence as a global financial services provider," Kumar said.

Promoted by Clearing Corporation of India Limited (CCIL), CCIL IFSC is the proposed entity to build and operate a real-time foreign currency settlement system at GIFT City, the country's only operational international financial services centre. The entity will act as a clearing house and system operator at GIFT City. The foreign currency settlement system is expected to help develop the GIFT City ecosystem further by enabling and promoting a greater number of use cases within the IFSC.

Tighter rules for derivatives trading on cards



REUTERS

Mumbai, June 10: India's markets regulator has proposed tighter rules on trading in individual stock derivatives, arguing the rules were needed to avert risks of market manipulation after recent explosive growth particularly in options trading.

The move comes after two sources familiar with the matter told Reuters in April that India's top financial regulators would form a committee to assess stability risks emerging from a surge in derivatives markets.

Options trading has soared in India in the last five years, fueled mainly by retail investors so that the notional value of index options traded more than doubled in 2023-24 to \$907.09 tril-

lion from the year before, exchange operator NSE has said.

A discussion paper published on Sunday on the website of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) said derivatives contracts on individual stocks should have sufficient liquidity and trading interest from market participants - currently a requirement only for contracts on indexes.

"Without sufficient depth in the underlying cash market and appropriate position limits around leveraged derivatives, there can be higher risks of market manipulation, increased volatility, and compromised investor protection," SEBI said.

Under the proposed rules, for a stock to be considered for futures and options (F&O) trading, it should have traded for

75% of trading days, SEBI said, without specifying over what period.

Also 15% of active derivatives traders should have traded the stock; average premium daily turnover should be 1.5 billion rupees (\$18 million); average daily turnover must be between 5 and 15 billion rupees; and the maximum number of open F&O contracts permitted for the underlying stock must be 12.5-17.5 billion rupees. SEBI said, again without specifying any time periods.

The regulatory scrutiny comes after India's top stock exchanges have been luring investors with new products and lower fees as they battle for a share of the burgeoning derivatives market, in turn fuelling a surge in trading activity.

Of the 108 billion options contracts traded worldwide in 2023, 78% were on Indian exchanges, according to data from the Futures Industry Association. Retail investors make up 35% of derivative trading in the country.

Financial services firm IIFL said in a research note that as many as 25 of the 182 stocks on which futures and options contracts are currently traded could be rendered ineligible for such trading if the regulator's proposals are implemented.

A discussion paper is the first step taken by Indian regulators to change policies or rules.

Retail car sales drop in May as polls, heat delay purchases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 10: Domestic passenger vehicle retail sales declined 1 per cent year-on-year in May, as blistering summer heat and elections impacted demand, automobile dealers' body FADA said Monday.

Passenger vehicle registrations dipped to 3,03,358 units last month, as compared with 3,35,123 units in May 2023.

"Dealers cited the impact of elections, extreme heat and market liquidity issues as major factors for the dip in sales last month," the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) President Manish Raj Singhania said.

Despite better supply, some

pending bookings and discount schemes, the lack of new models, intense competition and poor marketing efforts by original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) also affected sales, he added.

Additionally, the month saw increased customer postponements and low enquiries, Singhania stated.

Due to the extreme heat, the number of walk-ins to showrooms dropped by around 18 per cent, he said.

Two-wheeler sales rose 2 per cent to 15,34,856 units in May, as against 14,97,778 units in the same month last year.

Singhania said positive rural demand on account of good rains in some regions and improved fi-



nance availability kept the counters ticking.

Three-wheeler retails rose 20

per cent year-on-year to 98,265 units last month. While commercial vehicle sales witnessed

an increase of 4 per cent at 83,059 units last month, as compared to 79,807 units in May 2023.

"Despite growth due to a low base from last year and increased bus orders, the industry faced challenges due to wholesale pressures, government policy effects, and negative market sentiment," Singhania said.

He noted that the near-term outlook for automobile retail is 'cautiously optimistic', influenced by a mix of positive and challenging factors across various segments.

Government formation is expected to bring stability and improve market sentiment, Singhania said.

Dealers are hopeful about better supplies and positive move-

Rohit heaps praises on Bumrah

BUMRAH IS A GENIUS, WANT HIM IN THIS KIND OF MINDSET THROUGH WC, SAYS INDIAN SKIPPER

Press Trust of India
New York, June 10: India captain Rohit Sharma has termed Jasprit Bumrah as a genius and wants his lethal weapon to perform at the same level for the entire duration of the T20 World Cup.

Bumrah was magnificent in India's six-run victory over Pakistan in which he had figures of 3/14 in four overs which included an astounding 15 dot balls while defending a paltry total of 119 Sunday.

"He is going from strength to strength (Bumrah). We all know what he can do. Not going to talk too much about him. We want him to be in that mindset throughout the World Cup. He is a genius, we all know that," Rohit said, praising one of India's greatest fast bowlers.

Rohit said India had the belief that they would win the match because the pitch was not that conducive for batting.

"With a bowling line-up like that you feel confident to do the job. Halfway through the stage when they were batting, we got everyone together and said that if it can happen to us, it can happen to them."

The skipper, however, did admit that they should have batted better after being 89 for 3 at one stage.

"We didn't bat well enough. Halfway through our innings we were in a good position. We didn't put enough partnership there and fell short with the bat," Rohit said about losing 7 wickets for 28 runs.

"We spoke about every run matter on a pitch like that. There was enough on the pitch. It was a good wicket to be honest, compared to the last game. Little contribution from everyone can make a huge difference."

Bumrah, who has now won back-to-back man of the match awards, felt that the pitch was slightly easier for batting in the second half as sun came out.

But he said the entire bowling



unit was very disciplined in its effort.

"It feels really good. We felt we were a little under and the wicket got a little better after the sun came out. We were really disciplined so it feels good."

Since it was a two-paced wicket, the idea was to hit the seam and get some lateral movement, said Bumrah.

"Tried to hit the seam as much as I could, tried to be as clear as I could with my execution and it all came out well so I felt happy," he said.

Both Rohit and Bumrah acknowledged the vociferous support that they had received at the Nassau Cricket County Ground.

"Felt like we were playing in India, really happy with the support and that gives us energy on the field. We focus on the now. We've played two games and played really well. You stick to your processes and look to play well."

NARRATIVE CHANGED: BUMRAH

Jasprit Bumrah couldn't help but laugh at how the narrative about him has changed in a year's time -- from being someone whose career is finished to the one who is at the peak of his prowess. In 2022, Bumrah underwent surgery for a lower back stress fracture and missed the T20 World Cup in Australia. Just before his comeback in a home bilateral series, he developed a strain and was out for more than 10 months. As a result, people became sceptical of his ability to handle the workload of three formats. But Indian cricket's rare gem sealed the lips of 'Doubting Thomases' with 67 wickets across three formats in the last one year, including a match-winning 3/14 against Pakistan in the low-scoring T20 World Cup thriller Sunday. "See a year ago, the same people were saying that I might not play again and my career is over and then now the question changed," he said taking a shot at all those who doubted his ability to fight back. India restricted Pakistan to 113/7 after posting a mere 119 here thanks largely to Bumrah's stupendous performance. He understands the fickle nature of criticism and knows that despite being a cliched phrase, controlling the controllables works best for him. "For me, I am not looking at whether I am bowling at the best of my ability. I try to solve the problem that is there in front of me. I know it's a cliched answer...but I was trying to focus on what is the best option over here on a wicket like this," the 30-year-old revealed.

See a year ago, the same people were saying that I might not play again and my career is over and then now the question changed

JASPRIT BUMRAH

Pak requires major surgery: PCB chief

DEMORALISED PAKISTAN EYE BIG WIN AGAINST CANADA TUESDAY TO KEEP T20 WC HOPES ALIVE

AGENCIES

Karachi, June 10: Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Mohsin Naqvi came down heavily on the team management and said the Babar Azam-led side requires "major surgery" following its six-run loss against arch-rivals India in the T20 World Cup.

Chasing an underwhelming 120-run target, Pakistani batters consumed 59 dot balls to be restricted to 113 for 7 in New York Sunday.



"I thought the team required minor surgery to start winning matches but now it appears that we have to go for major surgery," Naqvi was quoted as saying by the Pakistani media in New York.

Naqvi also felt that it is time to start looking at players who are sitting outside the team for sometime now.

"It is very disappointing the way we lost to the USA and now this loss to India. We need to now start looking at players beyond those in the team right now," he said.

Naqvi, who took over as chair-

Former players not happy

Former skipper Salim Malik has accused Imad Wasim of deliberately wasting balls in Pakistan's six-run loss to arch-rivals India in the T20 World Cup in New York. Wasim took 23 balls to score his 15 runs in the losing cause. "You look at his (Wasim) innings and it appears as if he was wasting balls not scoring runs and making things difficult in the run-chase," Malik said on 24 News channel. Another former captain Shahid Afridi feels all is not well in the Pakistan dressing room and some players have issues with skipper Babar Azam. "A captain brings everyone together, either he spoils the team environment or he builds the team. Let this World Cup finish, and I will speak openly," said Afridi. "I have such a relationship with Shaheen (Afridi) that if I talk about him, people will say I am favouring my son-in-law," he added. Former speedster Shoaib Akhtar minced no words in criticising Pakistan's below-par performance, saying the Babar Azam-led side doesn't deserve to be in the Super Eight stage. "I think I should have a template text. Disappointed & hurt automatically set to be posted. The whole nation is down and out. Morale is down. Someone you have to show intent to win. Do Pakistan deserve to be out of Super Eight? God knows," Akhtar said in a video message on 'X', formerly twitter.

man in January and later also became the interior minister in the government, made it clear that the PCB had done everything to facilitate the players.

"Why the team is not performing is something everyone is asking. The World Cup is still on. But obviously we will sit down and take a look at everything."

Pakistan's Super Eight chances now rests on winning big against Canada and Ireland, besides hoping that USA lose to India and Ireland. Even in that scenario both the teams will end on four points each and it will come down to the net run rate.

CHAMPIONS TROPHY

PCB suggests Lahore as India's home base

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lahore, June 10: The Pakistan Cricket Board has suggested Lahore as India's home base during next year's ICC Champions Trophy, in its bid to ensure the best security arrangements for the neighbours.

A reliable source in the PCB said that this suggestion has been made in the draft schedule of the event sent to the ICC in late April.

"Yes Lahore has been suggested as the home base for the Indian team to reduce their travelling and to provide them with the best security arrangements," the source said.

India last year refused to play the Asia Cup in Pakistan because of security concerns, following which their matches were moved to Sri Lanka.

Pakistan is due to host the major ICC 50-over event tentatively between February 19 to March 9 next year.

The ICC executive board is yet to approve the draft schedule but the PCB has also kept Karachi and Rawalpindi as other venues for Champions Trophy matches.

This is the first time since 1996 that Pakistan will be hosting any major ICC event although it did host the entire Asia Cup in 2008 and also some games of the same event last year.

The BCCI is yet to formally confirm whether it would be sending the national team to Pakistan for the ICC event.

PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi has indicated that a major overhaul is on the cards in the Pakistan team following their six-run loss to India in the T20 World Cup in New York Sunday.

He also said that all three stadiums in Lahore, Karachi and Rawalpindi will be upgraded ahead of the Champions Trophy.

The PCB has also said that it would be hosting the Pakistan Super League sometime in April next year because of the Champions Trophy and a tri-series it plans to host before the ICC event with South Africa and New Zealand being the other participating sides.

SHORT TAKES

Prannoy takes charge at Australian Open

Sydney: HS Prannoy will look to regain his lost form when he spearheads India's challenge at the Australian Open badminton tournament starting here Tuesday. Prannoy, seeded fifth here, didn't have best of results in the last two tournaments. He was stunned by compatriot Meiraba Luwang Maisnam in the men's singles opening round of Thailand Open last month. Other Indians to feature in the men's singles are Mithun Manjunath, who will take on Indonesia's Alwi Farhan, Kiran George who is up against Canada's Xiaodong Sheng, S Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian who is pitted against top seed Jonatan Christie of Indonesia. In women's singles, eighth seed Aakrushi Kashyap will lead the Indian charge.

Sinner pips Djoko

Paris: Jannik Sinner made his debut at No 1 in the ATP rankings Monday, moving up one spot to replace the injured Novak Djokovic there. The 22-year-old Sinner is the first player from Italy to reach No 1 since the computerized rankings began in 1973. He will be the top-seeded man at Wimbledon, where play begins July 1. Sinner is 33-3 this season with three titles, including earning his first Grand Slam trophy at the Australian Open in January, part of a 19-0 run to begin 2024. Two of those three losses were against Carlos Alcaraz.

Nagal shines in ATP

New Delhi: India's Sumit Nagal climbed 18 places to 77th in the latest ATP rankings issued Monday, all but sealing a spot in the Paris Olympics men's singles draw. Nagal has 713 ATP points. The improvement in his rankings was due to Nagal bagging the men's singles crown at the Heilbronn Neckarcup 2024 Challenger event in Germany Sunday, beating Switzerland's Alexander Ritschard in a three-set thriller.

VINESH'S REQUEST ACCEPTED

IOA, WFI set to provide extensive support to Olympic-bound wrestlers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 10: Indian Olympic Association will provide "extensive support" to the six Olympics-bound wrestlers, with the national Olympic committee and WFI also accepting ace grappler Vinesh Phogat's request for more aid for training.

Six Indian grapplers - Vinesh Phogat (50kg), Antim Panghal (53kg), Anshu Malik (57kg), Nisha Dahiya (68kg) and Reetika Hooda (76kg) in women's section and Aman Sehrawat (57kg) in men's - have qualified for Paris Games.

IOA president PT Usha said in a statement Monday that the aim of the exercise is to ensure peak performance of the wrestlers.

"By providing an extensive support team, we aim to ensure that our wrestlers have access to the best resources, enabling their

peak performance. This decision aligns with our commitment to foster an environment where athletes can thrive," said Usha.

IOA and WFI are planning a support team for wrestlers that will include coaches, physiotherapists, nutritionists, mental conditioning coaches, and other essential staff in the days leading up to the Olympics.

Wrestling Federation of India president Sanjay Singh said more support staff will be provided to Asian Games gold medallist Vinesh for her training.

"We will ensure that Vinesh and all our wrestlers receive the necessary support to excel and keep India's flag flying," he said.

Earlier this month, the Sports Ministry's Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) had approved multiple proposals from Paris-bound athletes, including Vinesh.

Verstappen wins 3rd straight Canadian Grand Prix

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Montreal, June 10: Max Verstappen won the Canadian Grand Prix for the third straight year for the Red Bull star's 60th Formula 1 victory and sixth in nine races this season.

Verstappen started second in the rain alongside pole-sitter George Russell and dominated late again at Circuit Gilles Villeneuve on Ile Notre-Dame Sunday. The 26-year-old Dutchman has a staggering 50 victories in the last 75 F1 races.

Verstappen finished 3.879 seconds ahead of McLaren's Lando Norris in the 70-lap race on the 2.71-mile (4.36-kilometer) road course. Last year, Verstappen started from the pole and led every lap.

The race Sunday started with a soaking wet track before the sun emerged 10 minutes in, but rain showers returned periodically throughout the afternoon.

"It's a lot of fun to drive these kinds of races now and then," Verstappen said. "You don't want



it all the time because that's too stressful. But I had a lot of fun out there today."

Norris lost a 10-second lead when Logan Sargeant brought out the safety car on Lap 26.

"We should have won the race today and we didn't so, frustrating," Norris said. "We had the pace. We should have won today. It's as simple as that."

Mercedes took the third and fourth spots, with Russell third and seven-time Montreal winner Lewis Hamilton fourth. Oscar Piastri was fifth for McLaren, followed by Aston Martin drivers Fernando Alonso and Lance Stroll, the lone Canadian in the race.

"It was a tough track with the condition, so I'm really satisfied to score points," Stroll said. "Lots

It's great to have three wins in a row here. I hope I can add more in the future

MAX VERSTAPPEN

of points, the sixth and seventh positions are really good for the team."

Verstappen increased his season lead to 56 points over second-place Charles Leclerc of Ferrari. "As a team, we made the right calls today," said Verstappen, coming off a sixth-place finish in Monaco.

Verstappen joined Hamilton and Michael Schumacher as the only drivers to three-peat in Montreal. The three-time season champion is third on the career victory list behind Hamilton (103) and Michael Schumacher (91).

Verstappen started second Sunday on a tiebreaker after having the same lap time as Russell in qualifying Saturday.

Chhetri-less India enter testing transition phase

CRUCIAL WC QUALIFIER AGAINST QATAR TODAY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Doha, June 10: The influential Sunil Chhetri's absence will be a difficult void to fill as the Indian football team enters a testing transition phase with a crucial FIFA World Cup qualifying match against heavyweights Qatar here Tuesday.

The 39-year-old Chhetri called time on his glorious international career by playing in last week's fixture against Kuwait in Kolkata, which ended in a goal-less draw as the team failed to give him a fitting farewell.

The Indian team will be led by the 32-year-old first-choice goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, who has so far appeared in 72 internationals and is the most experienced player in the 23-member squad after Chhetri's

retirement.

An acid test awaits India as they run into two-time Asian champions Qatar at the Jassim bin Hamad Stadium, knowing well that a defeat will end their campaign and dash all hopes of securing a maiden entry into the third round of the World Cup Qualifiers.

India remain in the second spot with five points and a goal difference of -3. Afghanistan, who also played out a 0-0 draw with Qatar in their last outing in Hofuf, Saudi Arabia, are in third spot with a goal difference of -10, the stalemate making the job much more difficult for Igor Stimac's wards.

Qatar, who have already qualified for the third round as group-toppers, have named a largely youthful squad, with 21 out of their 29 players below the age of 24. "We have watched the Afghanistan versus Qatar game and will work on the attacking transition, with a hope to start scoring goals from the chances



we create," said Stimac on arriving here.

India had their first practice in Doha Sunday evening and are having the official training session Monday at the match venue.

For the Blue Tigers, a result is a must. If they lose against Qatar, they will be eliminated from the FIFA World Cup

Qualifiers third round.

They will then be doing battle in the AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers third round matches for a place at the 2027 tournament in Saudi Arabia.

However, if India beat Qatar, they will be in pole position to make the World Cup Qualifiers third round and a direct spot at

Chhetri ended with 94 goals in 151 matches, having led the country with aplomb for more than a decade

the Asian Cup thanks to their much-superior goal difference over Afghanistan.

If India draw against Qatar, they will qualify for the third round only if the match between Kuwait and Afghanistan, which will kick off in Kuwait City two hours after India's match, also ends in a draw.

In that scenario, India will finish second in the group with six points, the same as Afghanistan, but with a better goal difference.

Kuwait are at the bottom of the table with four points but with Qatar already through to the third round, all the other three teams remain in contention for the second and final berth from

Group A.

For over a decade, one question that has dogged Indian football is, "Who, after Sunil Chhetri?" The team is yet to find a lethal striker to succeed him.

Rahim Ali struggled as a substitute in the previous match and lacked clinical finishing skills. The likes of Manvir Singh, Vikram Partap Singh and David Lalhlansanga comprise India's forward line but they are yet to make a statement upfront.

The fancied Qatar side will look to exploit wherever the India team is found wanting, making it extremely important for defenders Anwar Ali, Mehtab Singh, Nikhil Poojary and Rahul Bheke to be on their toes at all times.

In the midfield, the likes of Sahal Abdul Samad, Anirudh Thapa, Brandon Fernandes, Liston Colaco and Lallanzuala Chhangte will need to be creative with their passing and intelligent with movement off the ball.