NEET (UG) 2024

Aakashians Create History



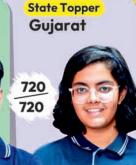
AIR



State Topper Rajasthan 720 720



State Topper Delhi 720 720



State Topper Rajasthan 720

720



Arghyadeep Dutta

Iram Quazi

Ayush Naugraiya

Sujoy Dutta 2 Year Classroom

Kriti Sharma

Dhruv Garg

State Topper

Delhi

Aditya Kumar Panda

State Topper Rajasthan



State Topper **West Bengal**



720 720

State Topper

Jharkhand

State Topper Maharashtra 720 720

720 720

State Topper

Uttar Pradesh

720 720

State Topper Uttarakhand

720 720

Samit Kumar Saini

Saksham Agrawal 2 Year Classroom

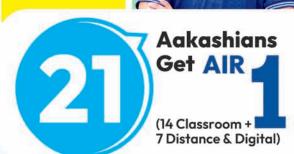
Manav Priyadarshi

Palansha Agarwal

Aryan Yadav 1 Year Classroom

Mridul Manya Anand

Akshat Pangaria



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(All India Rank)

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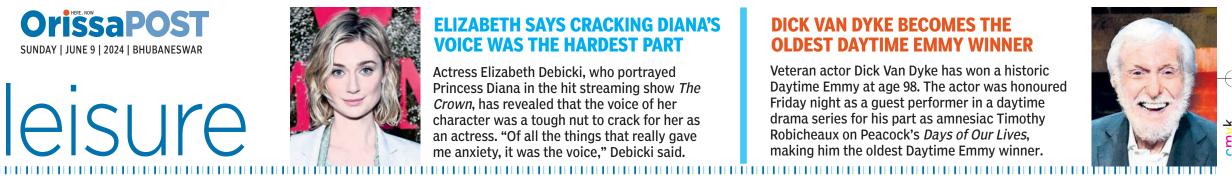


ELIZABETH SAYS CRACKING DIANA'S VOICE WAS THE HARDEST PART

Actress Elizabeth Debicki, who portrayed Princess Diana in the hit streaming show The *Crown*, has revealed that the voice of her character was a tough nut to crack for her as an actress. "Of all the things that really gave me anxiety, it was the voice," Debicki said.

DICK VAN DYKE BECOMES THE OLDEST DAYTIME EMMY WINNER

Veteran actor Dick Van Dyke has won a historic Daytime Emmy at age 98. The actor was honoured Friday night as a guest performer in a daytime drama series for his part as amnesiac Timothy Robicheaux on Peacock's Days of Our Lives, making him the oldest Daytime Emmy winner.



FORTUNE **FORECAST**

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You are brimming with ideas and will be ready to share them with anyone who wants to benefit from them. You are in a loving and generous mood. If you are planning to convince your grandmother to go in for a makeover at a beauty parlour, Ganesha gives you the thumbs-up

TAURUS

It is quite possible that today, you will remain decisive and determined on new joint ventures, predicts Ganesha. The results may fall below your expectations in the afternoon. Fight off stress with a

GEMINI

There are indications that your aggressive spirit and antagonistic trait will come to the fore today, says Ganesha. This may have a negative effect, but today you can even get away with murder! You will, in fact, get much-awaited good news at the workplace. At home, you will be at your playful and imaginative best.

CANCER Far and near relatives may give you a reason to be happy today, foretells Ganesha. Although there are thick chances of you getting involved in some uncalled for misunderstanding or conflict with your associates, you can expect to get a boost and advancement in the work arena

LEO

Do not underscore your influence and importance today, says Ganesha. You hold the key to many doors, and hence, your ability to influence people is at its strongest today. In business, this means deals. But remember that you merely hold the keys, you cannot predict what

VIRGO Ganesha foretells that you

will take a fascination for the handicrafts trade today. People will marvel at how you manage to work up that determination and devotion to work as well as at home. Ganesha suggests that you strengthen the bonds with your beloved and make hav while the sun shines

Ganesha says today you will

like to do something special in a subject that interests vou. Past incidents or memories will flash in your mind today. Today you will be able to tell what is in your heart and mind to a special person. Ganesha wishes you a happy and joyous day.

SCORPIO

Today, you may be at your creative best and encourage various forms of arts. If the passion grows, you may even consider taking lessons in classical music or dance. Love is in the air during the evening. Ganesha foresees a romantic dinner and drive with your beloved.

SAGITTARIUS

Ganesha foresees an actionpacked day for you, today. Your work may demand shooting innovative ideas to work on the new projects in the pipeline. And good news is that you will live up to your superiors' expectations. You spare some time for family, friends and relatives towards the end of the day.

CAPRICORN

Today, you'll open a mix bag of surprises, opportunities, challenges, and not-so good fall of events. You'll have a tendency of letting the noticeable details fall between the cracks at work. This is certainly not a good trait to have, however, it will not harm you much.

AQUARIUS

You will be on the cloud nine today! With efforts getting recognised and rewarded, you are motivated to beat your on standards and raise the bar. Not that you have not worked hard, but at work, you may have to put in more efforts as vour bosses expect you to be more effi cient and productive.

PISCES

It is a very favorable day for artists, interior designers and architects, savs Ganesha. Not only will you find work but you will also be able to achieve the creative satisfaction you have been craving for in your projects. People of marriageable age will find a suitable partner.



Mumbai: Actress Ananya Panday said when she was starting her cinema journey, there was an element of fear, but she has realised that it is more fulfilling to be real in front of people than trying to fake it.

"It is one aspect that really ties into what I have been speaking about for quite some time. We can't just feel toxic and positive all of a sudden. We have to feel all the emotions; there has to be sadness to balance out happiness," said the Kho Gave Hum Kahan actress.

The 25-year-old actress said that when she was starting out, she realised that she would never be able to make fear go away.

"As a young actor who started out when she was 18, there was fear, and there always will be fear. Putting yourself out there can be scary and fearful. Someone once told me that by not being yourself, you might get 100 people to like you, but by being yourself, even if five people like you in the long run, that is much more fulfilling. And that is what I try to go by, as it will give me joy," she said.

On the work front, Ananya Panday recently lent her voice to *Inside Out 2*. PTI



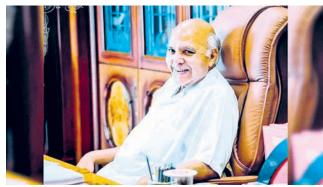


ema actors, including Rajinikanth, Chiranjeevi, Allu Arjun, Ram Charan, and Jr NTR, expressed their grief over his death. Rajinikanth posted on X, honouring Rao as a historic figure in journalism, cinema, and politics, and acknowledging

him as a personal guide and inspiration. Chiranjeevi shared an emotional message, describing Rao as an unvielding mountain who has now ascended to the heavens. Allu Arjun called Rao a pi-

oneering and visionary figure, noting his deep respect for the media baron. He remarked on feeling Rao's presence every time he worked at Ramoji Film City and praised his unparalleled contributions to various industries. Ram Charan credited Rao

with revolutionising regional media through Eenadu and establishing Ramoji Film City as a global landmark for film-



BFF pays tribute

The iconic figure received a fitting tribute at the ongoing Bhubaneswar Film Festival (BFF) at Jayadev Bhawan, Bhubaneswar. His significant contributions to the entertainment and news media industries, both nationally and in Odisha, were emphasised during the event. The organisers and attendees observed a minute of silence to honour his memory. Notable personalities such as Ashok Palit, Subash Sahoo, Nilambar Rath, and Suresh Patnaik were in attendance. PNN

makers. He highlighted Rao's warm personality and significant impact on the Telugu peo-

Filmmaker SS Rajamouli wrote about Rao's 50 years of resilience, hard work, and innovation, which provided hope and employment for millions.

and Rani Mukerji.

He suggested that the best tribute would be to honour Rao with the Bharat Ratna. Kajal Aggarwal expressed her deep sorrow over Rao's passing, offering heartfelt condolences to his family and noting that his legacy will continue to inspire

When Sonam asserted herself as an 'icon'

Mumbai: Actress Sonam Kapoor, who is admired for her outspoken nature and willingness to share her opinions, during an appearance on Karan Johar's popular talk show Koffee with Karan, Sonam referred to herself as an 'icon.'

When he asked her if she's worried about people noticing her more for her fashion than her acting skills, she said, "I'm bothered about being recognised more for her fashion than her performances. I am being considered an icon in my twenties; when people, like in their forties or after they die, are called icons, She said, "The

biggest movie stars in this world were all fashion icons. Whether it's an Audrey Hepburn, whether it's a Marilyn Monroe, whether it's a Katherine Hepburn, Meena Kumari, Sharmila Tagore, Rekha... They've always been fashion icons; they've always set trends. The masses like me as a regular, normal girl; those are the people who see my films. That's why my films do the kind of business that they do. But the 'classes' who see me on Vogue or watch Koffee with Karan like me as a fashion icon. So, I think I'm catering to both sides.

On the work front, Sonam Kapoor was last seen in Blind.



She highlighted their shared passion and enthusiasm for acting, stating, "What Rani Mukherjee and Alia Bhatt have in common is an undying passion and fire for their craft. This is evident not only in their performances but also in person. As a budding actor, I aspire to have that.

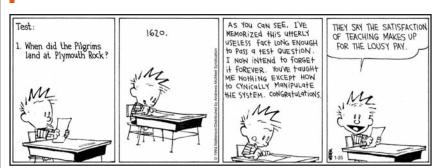
Sharvari commended their script choices, noting that the dedication and heart they put into their work reflect their unconditional love for acting. She believed that the dedication has been key to their success, acknowledging the difficulty of their achievements and expressing admiration for their roles.

The actress also opened up about the challenges she faced early in her career. She recalled a time when she struggled to find work and had a lot of free time. During this period. she joined an acting class in Bandra, attending for two hours daily. She shared that these classes were something she eagerly looked forward to each day.

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY



FUN POST **CROSSWORD**

10 22 Copyright ©2024 PuzzleJunction.co

16 Cute songs

18 Pulverise

19 Swear

21 Humble

22 Grommet

Across						
7	Fame					

8 Shrimp dish 9 Break in the

action 10 Type of spider

(4,4)

11 Salt shaker?

13 Smooth brown

oval nut

15 Bad-tempered

(7,6)3 Human body

Down 1 Bill of fare

2 Rock group

finder 14 Smoker's tool 17 Side-to-side measure

4 Common

(6,7)

12 Boundaries

5 Sternwheeler

6 Current (2-2-4)

20 Doomsayer's

sign

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

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.

	5	9			1			
			25					5
	7	6			9		4	
	1	4	9					
3			G		7			Se Se
				8	6	1		
			3				8	
		1			4		9	6
6		5				7		

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWOR ACIDICWRASSE UNITE 2

1 6 7 8 4 3 5 2 3 1 6 9 8 4 8 4 9 6 SUDOKU 2 7 1 4 9 8 4 9 8 5 6 3 1 7 2 6 5 2 8 1 3 9 4 7 8 6 2 4 9 7 3 5 1 3



In EOW net

The Economic Offences Wing of Odisha Police arrests director of a ponzi firm for an alleged fraud of over ₹123 crore

DOWNTOWN | P2



Bloodiest assault

Israeli forces kill more than 200 people in Gaza, one of the single bloodiest Israeli assaults of the eight-month-old war

INTERNATIONAL | P8



Investment from UK

Maharashtra followed by Karnataka and Delhi are the top three states of India bringing in foreign direct investment (FDI) into the UK

BUSINESS | P9



High intensity match

A confident and well-adjusted India would look to capitalise on an unpredictable Pakistan's vulnerable state

SPORTS | BACK PAGE

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BHUBANESWAR | SUNDAY JUNE 9, 2024

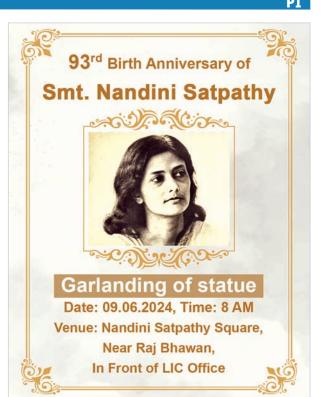
NEET-UG ROW

Panel to review grace marks to over 1.5K

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 8: Amid allegations of inflation of marks in the NEET-UG medical entrance exam, the National Testing Agency (NTA) announced Saturday that the education ministry has set up a fourmember panel to review the grace marks awarded to more than 1,500 candidates. The NTA denied any irregularities and said the changes made in the NCERT textbooks and grace marks for losing time at the examination centres were some of the reasons behind the students scoring higher marks.

The issue also took political turn with the AAP demanding a Supreme Courtmonitored SIT probe into the alleged irregularities and the Congress alleging paper leaks, rigging and corruption have become an integral part of many examinations. The party also accused the BJP of cheating youngsters and playing with



2 outposts, 70 houses torched in Manipur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imphal, June 8: Tensions heightened in Manipur's Jiribam district Saturday after suspected militants torched two police outposts, a forest office and at least 70 houses, prompting the authorities to transfer the superintendent of police, officials said.

A contingent of more than 70 state police commandos was airlifted from Imphal to Jiribam to assist security personnel in their operations against militants, they said.

Meanwhile, around 239 Meitei people, mostly women and children, were evacuated from peripheral areas of Jiribam Friday, and moved to a newly set up relief camp at a multi-sports complex in the district, the officials said.

According to a senior officer,

suspected militants torched more than 70 houses in Lamtai Khunou, Dibong Khunou, Nunkhal and Begra villages. He said the villagers vacated their residences

and took shelter in a relief camp. The SP's transfer order was issued hours after police outposts of Jiri Mukh and Choto Bekra and the Goakhal forest beat office were set on fire this

morning, the officer said. **P6**

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



allies. They will help me move faster so that I can serve the public better

SONIA ELECTED CPP CHAIRPERSON

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 8: Former Congress president Sonia Gandhi was unanimously re-elected as the chairperson of the Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) Saturday, its leaders said.

At a meeting of party MPs, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge proposed Gandhi's name as the chairperson of the Parliamentary party.

The proposal was seconded by Gaurav Gogoi, K Sudhakaran and Tariq Anwar. Gandhi, 77, was elected to the Rajya Sabha in February.

MORE P7

Modi to take oath today PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 8: Prime Minister-designate Narendra Modi is set to take oath Sunday for a third straight term as the head of a coalition government after two full tenures in which the BJP enjoyed a majority on

GREEN THUMBS: Farmers prepare to plant paddy saplings in a field at Arnia village near the India-Pakistan border in Jammu district, Saturday

Modi, 73, will be equalling the feat of first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, who won in 1952, 1957 and 1962 general elections. Leaders from India's neighbourhood and the Indian Ocean Region are among the dignitaries and special invitees expected to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the Prime Minister and his council of ministers at the Rashtrapati Bhavan at 7.15 pm.

Sri Lanka President Ranil Wickremesinghe, President of Maldives Mohamed Muizzu, Vice-President of Seychelles Ahmed Afif, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Mauritius Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Prime Minister of Nepal Pushpa Kamal Dahal and Prime Minister of Bhutan Tshering Tobgay have accepted

invitations to the ceremony. Also invited to the ceremony are people from different walks of life. Surekha Yadav, the pilot of the Chhatrapati Shivaji

No invitation to INDIA bloc New Delhi: Congress leaders are yet to receive invitations for Prime

Minister-designate Narendra Modi's swearing-in ceremony June 9, the party said Saturday and also claimed that Modi had lost political and moral authority as he 'did not get' the people's mandate in the Lok Sabha polls. The dignitaries and special invitees attending the ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Sunday evening, include leaders from India's neighbourhood and the Indian Ocean Region. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said party leaders have not received any invitation for PM Modi's swearing-in ceremony, while all invitations are going to international leaders. "The person taking the oath has lost his personal, political and moral authority. Mandate was sought in his (Modi) name, he did not get it, and we don't understand why this drama of swearing-in is being undertaken," Ramesh told reporters after a meeting of the Congress Parliamentary Party at the Central hall of the old Parliament building.

Maharaj Terminus-Solapur Vande Bharat train in Maharashtra, is among 10 loco pilots of the Indian Railways who have been invited.

Security has been stepped up with Delhi Police imposing prohibitory orders and the national capital has been declared a noflying zone for June 9 and 10 for the ceremony.

Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee announced that her party would not attend the event. "Neither we have got any invitation nor are we attending it,"Banerjee said in Kolkata.

Meanwhile, hectic parleys involving BJP leadership and allies were on over the share of berths of different constituents of the NDA in the new govern-

Senior BJP leaders such as Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh besides party president JP Nadda have been consulting the allies, including Telugu Desam Party's N Chandrababu Naidu, JD(U)'s Nitish Kumar and Shiv Sena's Eknath Shinde, to finalise their share of representation in the government.

There is a view that heavyweight portfolios like Home. Finance, Defence and External Affairs besides Education and Culture, two ministries with strong ideological hues, will be kept by the BJP, while its allies

MAMATA HINTS AT BID TO FORM GOVT

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said Saturday that her party would adopt a 'wait and watch' approach on the political situation at the Centre and asserted that the oppo sition INDIA bloc may not have staked claim to form the government today, but that does not mean it will not do it tomorrow. Speaking to reporters after a meeting of TMC MPs and senior leaders, Banerjee said she would be pleased if the 'weak and unstable' NDA government was removed from power. "The BJP is forming the government undemocratically and illegal ly. Today, the INDIA bloc may not have staked a claim to form the government, but that doesn't mean they won't tomorrow. Let's wait for some time," she said.

can get anywhere between five

to eight cabinet berths. While leaders like Shah and Singh are seen within the party as a certainty in the new Cabinet, former Chief Ministers who have won the Lok Sabha polls like Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Basavaraj Bommai, Manohar Lal Khattar and Sarbananda Sonowal are strong contenders for joining the government.

ECI for action against Singh; relief for Kutey action against the officer as

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 8: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has recommended action against IPS officer Ashish Kumar Singh for "misrepresentation of fact" about his health condition while revoking the suspension order on another senior police officer DS Kutey.

In a letter to the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Odisha, the ECI said the report of the special medical board of AIIMS. Bhubaneswar, has declared Singh, a 2010 batch IPS officer, physically and mentally fit.

He has been on leave on health ground since May 4.

While Kutey, the special secretary to Odisha Chief Minister, was suspended by the ECI May 28 for "unduly interfering in conduct of election.'

The Commission had ordered a medical examination of Singh by a special medical board of the AIIMS Bhubaneswar.

"The commission, prima facie, found it is a case of misrepresentation of fact on part of Sri Asish Kumar Singh, IPS, it is directed that the report of the Special Medical Board, AIIMS Bhubaneswar, be forwarded to Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha, for appropriate necessary

deemed fit," the ECI's letter to the CEO, Odisha said.

The ECI said Kutey's suspension should be revoked with immediate effect with the condition that the other directions given in its May 28 letter will continue. Departmental proceedings, if instituted, may only be decided with concurrence of the Commission, the June 6 letter said.

Kutey may report to the Chief Secretary for further posting, as deemed fit, it added. Earlier, while suspending Kutey on the charge of unduly interfering in the conduct of election, the ECI had stated, "his headquarters is fixed at the office of Resident Commissioner Odisha, New Delhi, where he will report by 3 pm on May 29.

"Chief Electoral Officer, Odisha, would provide to the Chief Secretary of Odisha draft of the chargesheet to be issued to Kutey and Odisha Chief Secretary would arrange chargesheet under relevant serv-

ice rules by 5 pm of May 30." Similarly, the ECI had ordered Singh to appear for a detailed medical examination by a special medical board constituted by Director of AIIMS-Bhubaneswar and stated that a report about his illness and treatment should reach the Commission by May 31.

Media baron This duck is unlikely to fly away anytime soon Ramoji Rao passes away

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, June 8: Veteran media personality and Ramoji group chairman Ch Ramoji Rao, died at a hospital here early Saturday. He was 88

Rao, who was admitted to a hospital here June 5 following respiratory problems, passed away at 4.50 am, according to Eenadu sources. The Padma Vibhushan awardee created a sensation in the media industry with the Eenadu newspaper and ETV group of channels.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief at his death describing him as a visionary who revolutionised Indian media. Rao's rich contributions have left an indelible mark on jour-

nalism and the world of films,

Modi said on X. Among others President Draupadi Murmu, TDP Chief N Chandrababu Naidu, Union Minister G Kishan Reddy, Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and former Telangana CM K Chandrasekhar Rao condoled the **Opposite Page**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sheffield (UK), June 8: Donald Duck's first appearance on screen was the animated short titled The Wise Little Hen. He was intended as a one-off supporting character, but his immediate popularity meant Disney used him in subsequent comic stories and animated shorts.

Within a few years of his debut appearance in 1934, Donald had already achieved a celebrity status comparable to Shirley Temple or Greta Garbo. By 1940, Walt Disney himself referred to Donald Duck as "the Gable of our stable" - pairing Donald's popularity with the Hollywood superstar Clark Gable, the biggest name at MGM Studios at the time. Donald's iconic status was cemented in the 1940s the world

and fiery tempered Donald Fauntleroy Duck made hi debut in a short animation film June), 1934. Nearly a century later, he remains one of

> over, from comic books in Europe and South America, to starring in US government domestic propaganda during the World War II. Donald starred in cartoons

people to invest in American government bonds, to ridiculing Hitler as DONALD @90

designed to encourage

Americans to rally behind the

war effort. These short anima-

tions range from encouraging

a deranged despot.

Disney charac-

Donald is arguably as popular now as he was in his mid-20th century peak Unlike many

ters. Donald's stories take place in the present day and his stories are contemporary to the audience enjoying them. This is clear in his relationships with female characters.

In Donald's early days, female characters were often limited

to representing beauty, domesticity and subservience to the patriarchy - reflecting the experiences of women the world over. For example, Daisy Duck was originally almost never shown as having her own job or

career, in sharp contrast to Donald, who is shown in many jobs including private detective, postal worker and salesperson.

In more recent years, though, female characters have developed to reflect the modern world. This includes the animated debut of characters such as Donald's

sister Della Duck Della is a skilled pilot, often found in the middle of action scenes and essential to the plots of the comic-book series Ducktales (2018), as well as the tel-

evision show of the same name. Arguably, Donald Duck is a more relatable character than aliens from a galaxy far away, or teenage royals from a place of "once upon a time"

Relatable experiences have been an important narrative device for Donald Duck over the past 90 years. He enjoyed the technological developments of radio and television in the animated shorts he starred in during the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s. And in his most recent animated appearances in *Ducktales*, characters are seen using social media platform QuackChat - an obvious parody of Snapchat.

Donald Duck is eternally popular because he is the "everyman". People the world over still find much to relate to and laugh at in his temper tantrums at life's travails. As long as Donald keeps pace with society, and continues to reflect the ever-changing worldwe live in, this duck is unlikely to fly away anytime soon.



Nandini: Iconic leader & humanist

The first and only woman chief minister of Odisha, Nandini Satpathy, remains unrivalled in the state's political landscape. A firebrand leader with deep people connect, Satpathy is remembered by millions for her unwavering resolve and exceptional self-sacrifice. Politics apart, the Iron Lady of Odisha' is also celebrated for her extraordinary literary genius that earned her the prestigious Sahitya Bharati Samman. Orissa POST encapsulates some moments from the eventful life and journey of the iconic leader on her 93rd birth anniversary















CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

By an affidavit before the Notary Public, Puri, I, Shubhashree Biswal, aged 28 Years, W/o. Basudev Biswal, resident of Santi Kunja Lane, C.T. Road, Puri - 2, PS: Sea Beach, Dist: Puri-752002, declare that, prior to marriage I was known as Shubhashree Barika, D/o Dibakar Barika at Nua Sahi, Bada Kharida, Dist: Ganjam, that after my marriage with Basudev Biswal, S/o. Madhusudan Biswal of aforesaid address I known as Shubhashree Biswal, W/o.: Basudev Biswal.

Henceforth I declare that

Basudev Biswal and

same person for all

Shubhashree Biswal, W/o.

Shubhashree Barika, D/o.

Dibakar Barika is one and

purposes. LOST

I Dasari Pratap, S/o- Late Dasari Veer Raju, R/o-Bargarh Railway Station Road, P.S./Dist.-Bargarh, Trustee of Kalahandi Vikash Charitable Trust have purchased the land bearing Khata No.-100/91, Mouza- Dunguripali, Tah-Belpada, Dist.- Balangir. That on 27.05.2024 while I was going to Tahasil Office Belpada from Laxmi Vikas Concept School, Dunguripali. I lost the document i.e. record of right Khata No.-100/91, Mouza-Dunguripali and Redg. sale deed bearing No.- 520 dt. 11.03.1994. That out of my sincere search I could not found the same any where. If any body found please contact Mob- 9778889999.

Naveen defends Pandian

Bhubaneswar, June 8: BJD supremo Naveen Patnaik Saturday said that criticism of his aide VK Pandian for the party's defeat in the Odisha Assembly elections was unfortunate as he did an 'excellent job'.

The five-term Chief Minister, however, in the same breath, reiterated that Pandian, a bureaucrat-turned-politician hailing from Tamil Nadu, was not his successor and asserted that the people of Odisha would decide who his successor would be.

Patnaik said he gracefully accepted defeat in the recently concluded Assembly elections and would continue to serve the people of the state in whichever way possible.

Speaking to PTI Video, he said, "There has been some criticism of Pandian. This is unfortunate. He joined the party and has not held any post. He did not contest the elections from $\,$ any constituency. I have always clearly said when asked about my successor that it is not Pandian. I repeat again that the people of Odisha will decide my successor."

"As an officer, he (Pandian) did an excellent job in different fields in the last 10 years, be it during two cyclones or the COVID-19 pandemic. After this good work, he retired from the bu-



an excellent work. He is a person of integrity and honesty and should be remembered for that,' Patnaik said.

His statement comes amid a section of party leaders and workers expressing resentment against Pandian following the party's poll debacle.

On his health condition, Patnaik said, "I want to say that my health has always been fine and will continue to be so. You have seen that I conducted hectic campaigning last month in the heat. And that should be enough to give a verdict on

On the party's defeat in the assembly polls, he said, "I think we have always tried and done an excellent job. We have much to be proud of in our government and the party. In a democracy, you either win or lose.

Arun's arrival fuels speculations

Amid the rumblings within BJD fol-lowing the massive debacle in the recently-concluded elections, the arrival of Naveen Patnaik's nephew Arun Patnaik in the City has fuelled speculations about him being anointed as successor to the BJD supremo. According to reports, Arun flew down to the City Friday night accompanied by party leader VK Pandian. They were received at the airport by party organisational secretary Pranab Prakash Das and national spokesperson Manas Mangaraj. From there, they drove straight to Naveen Niwas, Arun, son of Naveen's Delhi-based elder brother Prem Patnaik, reportedly staved back at Naveen Niwas. While a section of party leadership believe that the purpose of Arun's visit was mostly to console Naveen smarting under the poll debacle, others believe it is part of a succession plan. However, there was no official clarification over Arun's visit.

EOW arrests man from Kolkata for ₹123cr fraud

Bhubaneswar, June 8: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Odisha Police arrested the director of a ponzi scheme company from West Bengal for allegedly duping investors of more than ₹123 crore.

The accused, identified as Tusar Bhanjo of Hamirpur in Paschim Medinapur of West Bengal, was arrested from his residence under Haridevpur area of Kolkata. He was brought to Bhubaneswar on transit remand EOW said in a statement Saturday.

The case was registered on the written allegation of one Manmohan Dora Bhubaneswar against the company Harit Krishi Nidhi Ltd., M/s Transvision Dream Multi Trade Private Limited and its director Bhanjo.

Bhanjo was accused of inducing the complainant and many other investors to invest with his company for high returns like monthly interest of 11 per cent on the invested amount apart from four to five per cent extra commission on

adding new members. The Company also promised to provide monthly salary of ₹4.000 on investment of ₹4 lakh. ₹8,000 on investment of ₹8 lakh and so on. In order to induce the investors, Bhanjo was using



Tusar Bhanjo

the social media, leaflet, brochures and physical

Being induced, the informant joined the Harit Krishi Nidhi Company as a member by depositing ₹4,000 in 2023. Subsequently, the informant deposited ₹2 lakh in the company's bank account after which he was able to open three wallet IDs in which he had deposited total ₹2.17 lakh and got 11 per

cent interest only for one month. Thereafter, no amount was paid to him by the accused, who absconded with the invested money of thousands of investors including the informant.

As found during investigation, arrested accused Tusar Bhanjo who had earlier formed M/s Transvision Dream Multi Trade Pvt. Ltd. registered with ROC, Cuttack, opened Harit Krishi Nidhi Ltd. in the year 2023, which was incorporated with ROC, West Bengal.

1.1 quintal ganja seized; 3 arrested

Bhubaneswar: The Bharatpur police, in yet another haul, seized 1.1 quintal of ganja at the backside of Kalinganagar petrol pump here and arrested three peddlers in connection with the case, Saturday. A cash amount of ₹35,250 and the car used for peddling the contraband were seized by the cops. ACP Zone-III Tapas Chandra Pradhan said the accused were identified as Chandan Swaraj Naik, 29 and Ajaya Kumar Naik, 38. Both are natives of Angul and Rakesh Mondal, 26, a native of Murshidabad in West Bengal. The peddlers procured the consignment from Kandhamal district and were allegedly planning to sell it to dealers in West Bengal. Pradhan added. The Bharatpur police have booked the trio under Section 20 (B) (II) (C) of the NDPS act, and produced them before a local court Saturday.

Four injured in leopard attack

Balasore: Four members of a family including a 50-year-old woman were injured in a leopard attack in Balasore Saturday, local police informed. The incident happened at Gad village in Khaira area close to Kupari village when the four persons were working in a farmland. The animal suddenly came out of a bush and pounced on the woman. When the three others came to her rescue the leopard attacked them too before running back from where it had come. All the injured were admitted to Khaira hospital but the woman was shifted to the Bhadrakh district headquarters hospital (DHH) for better treatment, police said.

2 NIT interns drown in Brahmani; 4 rescued

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, June 8: Two students drowned in Brahmani river while four others were saved by locals at Vedvyas shrine in Sundargarh district, Saturday morning.

The tragedy struck when a group of six students -- two girls and four boys -- visited the Vedvyas ghat and was bathing in the river.

Initially, they were believed to be students of NIT Rourkela,

but later it was established that they belonged to different engineering institutes and had come to the institute for a summer in-

ternship programme. The deceased duo was identified as Rajat Sahu from Balasore and Samiran Sukumar Navak. from Raghunathpur, Patia in

Bhubaneswar. Both were students of Sambalpur University of Information and Technology

Monsoon reaches state ahead of schedule PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 8: The Southwest Monsoon set in over Odisha Saturday, four days ahead of its schedule, and covered parts of Malkangiri district, the Met office said.

The IMD also forecast that thunderstorms with lightning accompanied by gusty surface wind speed reaching 30-40 kmph are likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Balasore,

Bhadrak, Malkangiri, Koraput and Rayagada Sunday.

"Southwest Monsoon has set in over Odisha today. It covered some parts of Malkangiri district of Odisha," the regional centre of India Meteorological Department (IMD) in Bhubaneswar said in its evening bulletin Saturday. The Met department said that the monsoon hit Kerala June 5 and advanced over the entire south Arabian Sea, some parts of the central Arabian Sea, Lakshadweep, parts

of coastal and south interior Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and parts of the Bay of Bengal before reaching Malkangiri

Meanwhile, it said that the heatwave conditions are likely to prevail at one or two places over the districts of Bargarh, Bolangir and Nuapada Sunday

The hot and humid weather may prevail at one or two places over the districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh and Ganjam, Sunday, the Met office forecast.

WEATHER

BBSR CTC 38.6°C 38.2°C **Max Temp Min Temp** Humidity Rainfall **FORECAST**

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There is no greater pride and glory than to be a perfect instrument of the Master.

SRI AUROBINDO



Aakar Patel

coalition is

it suggests

always for

The word 'ally' in a

misleading because

someone who is

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Interesting 5 Years

he Prime Minister spoke to the NDA allies in Central Hall just before his swearing in. His message was that he would remain Prime Minister for another ten years (he did not say how he knew this) but to be fair to him that was mentioned in passing. His main message appeared to be to tell his alliance not to pay attention to the news.

Things would be reported about their government from here on but alliance partners should ignore these reports and not trust anything without it being verified. Why would he say that? Of course because things will begin to be reported in a way that they were not reported in the last decade. We have just come out of an era of total secrecy.

Modi's own Cabinet ministers did not know that demonetisation was coming. We know this because it was reported later that the Cabinet had been summoned to the meeting a few hours before Modi's speech to authorise demonetisation but ministers were told to leave their phones behind. This was to stop them from relaying the news outside. Since the ministers did not know till that moment, their ministries did not know or prepare. A similar situation had arisen during the 2020 national lockdown which came as a bolt from the blue to all of us including those in government.

This sort of thing will no longer happen. The shift from collective cabinet responsibility to one individual has ended and the shift back has begun. This is a good thing. There is a reason media speculation happens in democracies. That it shows a free press which can speculate about those in power without fear is only one aspect. The other is that things that are said behind closed doors, or cannot be said at all, are floated by people inside to gain advantage. This is normal in all democracies. It is in authoritarian places where there is no knowledge and no speculation about the goings-on. Where there is fear of being surveilled and danger of being punished for speaking. We should therefore expect such a change to come over at least one part of the media and the Prime Minister recognises this. What is less certain is why he would think his allies would not listen, because of course they will listen to what concerns them.

 $Modi \ has \ an \ advantage \ over \ alliances \ of$ the sort that began just after Narasimha Rao's government fell. And that advantage is that he has 240 MPs. His predecessor as NDA leader, three time Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, had only 180 MPs in his last term. That meant more vulnerability to allies to the point where the alliance it-

themselves and sometimes with you self was becoming the news. There was a fascinating report in February 1999 about Vajpayee sending Defence Minister George Fernandes to assuage AIADMK leader and NDA partner Jayalalitha. Fernandes flew to Chennai to her Poes Garden residence with the BJP's Pramod Mahajan, after he was given an appointment. But they were not given an audience. Instead, Jayalalitha admonished Fernandes over the intercom and

they left. Another news story from November 2001, headlined 'Mamata sulks over PM refusal for Cabinet berth', reported how the TMC boycotted a Cabinet meeting after joining the NDA. The BJP's president, Jana Krishnamurthy said "how can somebody expect to become a minister immediately? There are our own MPs aspiring to be ministers and they have been waiting for quite a while." The reference was to two BJP Lok Sabha MPs from Delhi -- Madan Lal Khurana and Sahib Singh Verma — who had been waiting for ministerships and they

This is what alliances are about and that is what they have always been about. The last decade was an aberration in India's politics of giveand-take. Vajpayee was a pragmatist and a politician of the old school, willing to accept the discomfort and irritation and occasional humiliation. Though he had fewer numbers he held this advantage over Modi, who is authoritarian by nature (I know him personally and can attest to this), and will have to learn how to compromise. Modi hopefully will not be put in such a position as frequently as Vajpayee was, given his larger plurality of seats but there will be moments when what has happened over the last decade from 2014 to 2024 will not happen. When his will to impose something over the heads of his Cabinet will be tested. We can be absolutely sure that this will be reported because the allies, or people inside the BJP looking to assert themselves, will want it reported. Telling people to ignore the news will not work.

The word 'ally' in a coalition is misleading because it suggests someone who is always for you and with you. This is incorrect. They are always for themselves and sometimes with you. In perfect partnerships such moments of difference do not come. But that happens only in the realm of fairy tales and divine beings. For us mortals, the world is a real place and its unpleasant realities have to be engaged with, not ig-

nored, because they absolutely will come up. For those who write, report and consume the news this will be an interesting and fascinating and often entertaining five years.

WISDOM CORNER



To be vourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment

There is a certain enthusiasm in liberty, that makes human nature rise above itself, in acts of bravery and heroism.

An arrogant person considers himself perfect. This is the chief harm of arrogance. It interferes with a person's main task in life

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

becoming a better person.

- **1358:** The Jacquerie, a revolt of French peasants against abuses inflicted upon them by the nobility of northeastern France, suffered a critical defeat
- agreements separately negotiated among various participants for the reorganization of Europe in the aftermath of the Napoleonic Wars, was signed by representatives of Austria, France, Great Britain, Portugal, Prussia,
- 1940: German tank forces under Major General Erwin Rommel crossed the Seine River in a push to the Atlantic coast of France during World War II.
- **1942:** On this day the residents of the village of Lidice (now in the Czech Republic) were rounded up, most to be massacred the next day in reprisal for the assassination by Czech underground fighters of Reinhard Heydrich, deputy leader of the Nazi paramilitary group SS.

FOCUS POLITICS

LOSS OF REGIONAL VOICE



Ipsit Acharya

ANY REGIONAL PARTY DOES WELL WHEN IT STANDS UP FOR REGIONAL CAUSES

he Biju Janata Dal (BJD) led by Naveen Patnaik lost the elections to the Odisha Legislative Assembly after being in the government for 24 years. The BJD ran a coalition government along with BJP for the first nine years of its rule. It emerged as the largest party with almost 3/4th majority since 2009 for three terms. The first of these three terms (2009-14) had the UPA government led by Congress at the Centre whereas the subsequent two terms (2014-24) coincided with strong BJP governments at the Centre.

The BJD came into power on the issues of good governance and regional identity. The grand majority in the five elections it faced was a result of the people's aspirations for a strong voice of the state along with progressive development. With time, the implementation of beneficial measures also helped the party to win elections. The personality and popularity of Naveen Patnaik remained the fulcrum of the repeated wins. These factors could help the party to sustain with the people's confidence for 24 years.

Our democracy has the space for many ideas, each different from the other. The various parties, thus, represent the various ideas concerning representation of people and governance. Regional parties harp on the issues related to the region; they set a narrative to benefit the region, which is generally supplemental and complimentary to national issues. Any regional party does well when it stands up for regional causes. The regional pride and self-respect (asmita) is central to the emergence, existence and continuance of a regional party. This at times requires good rapport with the Central government and at some other times bargaining or confrontation may also be required to keep up the regional interests and narrative. The BJD governments initially did well with



Like the YSRCP, the BJD did not benefit from continuously supporting the BJP on each and every subject concerning the Centre, and, as a result, such a stand made it appear that both the parties have lost their regional narrative and instead became pliable to the party at Centre

the clear vision of beneficial measures for the people along with Odia pride. As put forth by the party, such measures required "maintaining equidistance" from the two national parties which were eager to capture the political space of BJD.

The present poll debacle of the BJD is attributable to its functioning and stands taken in the later years of its rule, which deviated from the "asmita" narrative, at least in action, even though maintained in words. Apart from the prevalent corruption due to continued incumbency, the people of the state have also rejected the idea of a non-Odia person helming the affairs in the party. During the recent elections Naveen Patnaik had made it clear that his close confidant VK Pandian is not going to be his successor and asserted that the people of Odisha will choose his political heir. Pandian had been playing a key role in both administration and party matters which led to resentment among people. It was also seen that most of the long-standing leaders were being sidelined from consultative roles whereas young leaders were also not being promoted by the party. The people of the state did not take any chance, and for the time being, have chosen the successor at least in the state government.

Apart from its dismal show in the Assembly elections, the BJD also faced complete rout in Lok Sabha polls. The party has no representation in Lok Sabha as all its candidates lost the polls. The people of the state were much likely to have been influenced by the stand of the BJD government in respect to matters concerning the Centre, in other words, in not having legitimate demands nor making its voice heard at the Centre. The BJD government has paid

for taking the representation of the state in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha for granted. On matters raised in Parliament, the BJD played second fiddle to the BJP, offering unconditional support on most issues. Like the YSRCP, the BJD did not benefit from continuously supporting the BJP on each and every subject concerning the Centre, and as a result, such a stand made it appear that both the parties have lost their regional narrative and instead became pliable to the party at Centre. In such a case, their voters would feel that directly voting for a national party may be better than voting for the regional party. On the contrary, other regional parties which stood up to the Central government by raising their own issues, to the extent of being confrontational, have maintained or increased their vote share as well as electoral standing.

The BJP despite being a national party could latch on to the "Odia asmita" plank and reaped electoral benefits. In fact, the Congress also did better than previous elections, mostly at the BJD's cost. It is a rare feat in Indian politics that a strong regional party is diminished electorally by a national party without any unique political call for action.

The people of the state perhaps saw that the BJD was not able to comply with any of the attributes of a regional party, which it boasted of, instead the only facilitator for garnering the votes was "power." In a mature democracy like that of ours, only power - bereft of commit ment to any ideology - cannot be the means and ends of a political party in electoral politics. If the BJD sees a role for itself in the future of Odisha politics, it should start with aligning once again with the regional identity and "asmita" of Odisha in a sui generis method.

The writer is an advocate in Orissa High Court. Views are personal.

SPECTRUM GEOPOLITICS

Reshaping the world order



William R. Rhodes & Stuart P.M. Mackintosh

AS THE RISK OF A GREAT-POWER CONFRONTATION INCREASES, THE WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY FOR SOLVING HUMANITY'S MOST PRESSING PROBLEMS IS CLOSING FAST

as Treasury Secretary Janet L. Yellen, Secretary of State Antony Blinken, and several other senior US officials visit the country for talks. The two sides may disagree on most things, but maintaining dialogue is an essential part of geopolitics. The breakdown in communication last year, following visits to Taiwan by prominent American politicians and the US downing of a Chinese spy balloon, was dangerous and destabilising, because when adversaries do not engage, misperceptions - and the risk of a clash – mount.

But, midway through 2024, dialogue is proving unable to bridge deep divides. This major superpower conflict looks set to continue, and may even worsen, as positions on the war in Ukraine, national-security concerns, and trade tensions harden into a long-term standoff. Global institutions, forums, and solutions will be among the biggest losers in an ongoing US-China decoupling, while regional alliances will increase in importance.

Some weakness was evident at the World Bank and

United States and China spring meetings in Washington. the wall – the group now ingroup as small as the G7 can ad-Financial Committee did not issue a communiqué, as it normally would, because China and its allies refused to include a reference to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The G20 has also become more divided and less effective. In contrast to 2008-09, when G20 leaders quickly forged a coordinated response to the global financial crisis, the group currently lacks the collective will to address crises and achieve common goals To be sure, the G20 still holds annual summits, and technical experts have made progress in some areas. But Russia's invasion of Crimea in 2014 opened fissures in the group, which have only deepened in the years since. Consequently, the G20 is no longer the principal forum for global

diplomacy. Meanwhile the enlarged BRICS+ forum, an initiative pushed by China, seeks to counter American influence, especially now that the US is caught in what Graham Allison calls Thucydides Trap - the tendency toward war when an emerging power threatens to displace a regional or international hegeArabia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates, in addition to Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa - China is trying to build an alternative world order, in which the Global South has greater geopolitical, economic, and diplomatic heft. In 2024, the BRICS+ countries account for around 36% of global GDP and 45% of the world's population. While its members do not always - or even often - agree. they are shifting power away from the US and its allies, especially in the IMF, the World Bank, the G20, and the UN, where they promote China's positions.

Whether China will succeed in coordinating the Global South is unclear. America certainly hopes not. But others see BRICS+ as a new global economic paradigm. The reality is somewhere in between, although the US seems to be falling out of favour.

Tellingly, the US has responded to China's growing might by taking a step backward and attempting to reinvigorate the G7, an unrepresentative group that is no longer as effective or relevant as it once was. To be sure, a forum for Western allies is

ensions between the International Monetary Fund mon. By putting new BRICS in necessary. But the notion that a heightened tensions and hardening stances is fanciful. Moreover, the G7 is far from united: despite US pressure, its members have been unable to agree on commandeering Russia's frozen assets.

> While the exact impact of the changing geopolitical balance remains unknown, it is clearly becoming an impediment to addressing global challenges, whether related to climate change, migration, disease, or other worldwide crises. We are entering a period of deteriorating US-China relations, with each side backed by its own allies and operating in its own international forums. As the risk of a great-power confrontation increases, the window of opportunity for solving humanity's most pressing problems is closing fast.

> > William R. Rhodes is President of William R. Rhodes Global Advisers LLC. Stuart P.M. Mackintosh is Executive Director of the Group of Thirty.

1815: The Final Act of the Congress of Vienna, comprising several TO THE EDITOR

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

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Fitting lesson

Sir, Uttar Pradesh powered Narendra Modi's meteoric rise on the national stage in 2014. But, a decade later now, the state has cut him down to size, providing a reality check. Rather than touching upon the state's key issues like food inflation, unemployment, etc, Modi's time and energy, during his rallies, were largely driven towards flaunting about the Ram temple in Ayodhya, which he erroneously thought would guarantee the BJP a landslide victory. Also, Faizabad's demographic, with its prominent minority population, took speeches from him, targeting Muslims as a direct threat to the country's secular democracy. Another major reason for BJP's drubbing in UP is that for those living around the Ram temple in Ayodhya, their sanctuaries were reduced to debris, facilitating the billionaires and the country's rich to reach the site of temple inauguration. Sadly, no compensation was given to them, and this has disrupted their livelihoods. The setback in UP has taught a fitting lesson to the BJP that while symbolic gestures may resonate nationally, local issues and sentiments ultimately drive electoral outcomes

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Rhetoric won't work

Sir, The NDA and the Congress have a lot of lessons to learn from the recently held general elections. A little bit of overconfidence plus matters regarding the handling and meddling of economics and the not-so-diligent rhetoric from top leaders of the ruling party have clearly jolted the NDA juggernaut in many states. The results were not like what the NDA had expected. They now have to urgently stitch up the tears as the results obviously show that the voters are keenly observing the movements of the government. The ruling party will have to fulfill the promises made to the people on a war-footing. They ought to prove that the strong leadership at the helm is ready to serve the people rather than rhetoric. The Congress was able to get allies with different ideologies together and rattled the NDA front which only proves that they learnt lessons from previous elections.

M Pradyu, KANNUR



Campaign tacks of record

economic growth and

free-food programmes

were overshadowed by

unemployment, cost of

living and widening gap

in urban, rural economies

due to discontent over a lack of

jobs and inflation in the coun-

Over the past half-century,

the BJP has risen from the

fringes of mainstream politics

to become the country's most

dominant party on the back of

its ideology of muscular

Hinduism, underlined by the

campaign to build the Ram tem-

ple. Its landslide victories since

2014 in a series of general and

state elections. India's stellar

economic growth and Modi's

huge personal popularity may

have led to over-confidence, an-

the temple is not the only de-

ciding factor any more (unlike)

"In a state like Uttar Pradesh,

FRINGES TO DOMINANCE





Ayodhya voters chose jobs over temple



Ayodhya, June 8: The opening of a grand Hindu temple just three months ahead of India's general election was supposed to be a crowning moment for PM Narendra Modi that would carry his party to a dominant victory with its Hindu-first agenda. It didn't work out

Instead, BJP lost the seat in Ayodhya, where the temple is located. In the surrounding state of Uttar Pradesh, a traditional stronghold for the party and one that sends the most lawmakers to Parliament, its tally of seats was nearly halved.

The message from voters in Avodhva and across swathes of Uttar Pradesh is that the BJP's pro-Hindu agenda was not enough. Other campaign tacks of record economic growth and free-food programmes were overshadowed by unemployment, the cost of living and the widening gap between the urban and

"Everyone loves Lord Ram, but without work and income, what can one do?" said Nankan Yadav, a 55-year old Hindu

farmer, one of 18 people interviewed in the town by Reuters. Yadav said he switched to the Opposition Samajwadi Party after voting for the BJP in the last two elections.

He said he was the sole earner in a family of five, with his three children either studying or job-

"Inflation and unemployment are the issues on which people have voted. We have voted to bring the focus back on unemployment," he said, as earthmovers dredged his front yard to widen a public road, a common feature across the city as it grows to accommodate more visitors.

Twenty-four-year-old Mohammad Shahid, whose income driving an electric rickshaw supports his parents, wife and two young children, said he too voted for the Samajwadi Party because he was struggling with high electricity bills, monthly instalments for the loan on his vehicle and other costs.

"Rates for everything keep rising," he said.

The ruling BJP lost a third of its rural parliamentary seats, with analysts saying this was

employment," said Surendra Kumar Dwivedi, a former head of the political science department at Lucknow University. Unemployment and inflation

were the two biggest reasons nationally for people to go against Modi's alliance, according to a survey of 20,000 voters by the CSDS-Lokniti polling agency for the Hindu newspaper. Some 30% of the voters were worried about inflation, a jump from the 20% prior to the election, while unemployment was a factor for

"You are not going to vote because you are swayed by the temple's inauguration," said Ghanshyam Tiwari, spokesperson for the Samajwadi Party that unseated the BJP as the dominant party in Uttar Pradesh.

"You are going to vote because you are uncomfortable about your job situation, you are uncomfortable about the fact that there aren't basic amenities in your house, you are uncomfortable that the government is not doing enough.'

In Ayodhya, where large cutouts of Lord Ram dot the roads and hundreds of people were swarming into the temple despite the scorching summer heat, residents saw things differently.

"They spent crores of rupees for the temple's inauguration," said Awadhesh Prasad, the Samajwadi candidate who won the Faizabad parliamentary seat where Ayodhya is located. "There is so much poverty in our country, this kind of showing off is not for a democracy like ours.

Long-time BJP voter Krishna Shankar Pandey, a 65-year old Hindu priest, said about the party that "whatever votes they got, they got in Ram's name."

"Otherwise they would not have got any," he said, sitting on the street outside his home, shirt-less and clad in a white

TRIPURA: LEFT LOSES BASE AMONG TRIBALS people of Tripura.



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Agartala, June 8: Once a dominating force in the political landscape of Tripura, the organisational base of CPI-M-led Left parties, which governed the state for 35 years in two phases, has been constantly declining both in the tribal and non-tribal bases, enabling the BJP to latch on to it and derive electoral mileage.

The Congress, which last ruled Tripura from 1988 to 1993, also lost its base in Tripura, though the grand old party governed the erstwhile princely state for many years in different phases after it joined the Indian Union in October 1949.

In the recent elections in Tripura's two Lok Sabha seats -- Tripura West and Tripura East, both won by the ruling BJP, the Left parties and the Congress, which jointly fought the polls as INDIA bloc -- got 23.93 per cent votes while the BJP secured 70.72 per cent votes.

Of the total of 60 Assembly constituencies, 30 segments fall in each Parliamentary constituency and except in one Assembly segment (Kailashahar) in all other 59 Assembly seats, the ruling BJP secured much more votes than the Left-Congress

Of the 60 Assembly segments. 20 reserved seats are for the tribals and 10 for the Scheduled Castes. These 30 reserved seats were the strongholds of the Left parties since 1978, when they first came to power in Tripura.

Since 2018, when the BJP led by former Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb (2018-2022) came to power for the first time defeating the Left parties, their bases in tribal and Scheduled Caste dominated regions began weak-

After 2018, the Left parties in the successive elections either won two or three reserved Assembly seats or drew a blank.

On the other hand, the BJP gained the support of the tribal communities on its own, also through its allies -- Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) and Tipra Motha Party (TMP) - both tribal-based parties.

Scripting an electoral history Deb, who secured a record 8,81,341 votes, won the Tripura West Lok Sabha seat, defeating state Congress president and party nominee Ashish Kumar Saha by a margin of 6,11,578 votes.

Political pundits said that Deb, currently a Rajya Sabha member, despite quitting the Chief Ministerial post two years ago following the direction of the central leaders, still enjoys overwhelming support from the

BJP nominee Kriti Devi Debbarman, who bagged 7,77,447 votes, won the Tripura East parliamentary seat defeating CPI-M nominee Rajendra Reang by a margin of 4,86,819 votes.

Kriti Devi Debbarman is the elder sister of TMP supremo Pradyot Bikram Manikya Debbarma.

The 53-year-old Deb became president of the BJP's Tripura unit in January 2016, and two years later, he led the party to oust the CPI-M-led Left Front after 25 consecutive years (1993-2018) in power and became the Chief Minister of the state's first BJPled government, the fourth in the northeast after Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh.

He claimed that there was no strong Opposition party in Tripura, and hence there was no major challenge in the Lok Sabha election from the Opposition.

"My only challenge was to turn the Communists and Congress leaders from negativity to positivity. What have they done after several decades in politics? They only befooled the people and always engaged them in various so-called agitations, Deb told IANS.

"People of Tripura trusted me when I worked as CM, and that role also gave me the opportunity to serve the state and its people."

He further said: "I had started many things (projects and schemes), but I couldn't do everything. Naturally, when I was nominated as candidate for Lok Sabha polls, public aspirations, trust in BJP and 'Modi guarantee', all came together to prompt people to vote, rising above party, identity and religion.

Yogi asks UP ministers to shun VIP culture

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, June 8: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Saturday asked the ministers in the state government to shun the VIP

He instructed the ministers to visit people and gave them the mantra of "dialogue, coordination and sensitivity (samvaad, samanvay, samvedansheelta)."

He said the government is for the people and public interest is paramount for it. In such a situation, the problems, expectations and needs of the person standing at the last rung of the society must be resolved, he said.

A statement issued here said in a special meeting of the Council of Ministers, Adityanath asked them to visit the people, communicate with them with sensitivity and solve their problems by coordinating with the local public representatives and the administration.

During the interaction, the UP CM stressed that whether it is the ministers or other public repre-



sentatives, everyone will have to avoid the VIP culture.

"All of us will have to be alert and cautious so that none of our activities reflect the VIP culture,3 he said.

The UP CM congratulated the formation of the government at the Centre for the third consecutive time under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and also congratulated the ministers who were elected as MPs.

He said the way in which development has gained pace in UP in the 10 years (stint) of Modi, the government will be successful in creating many new records in the

coming five years

He asked the ministers to widely publicise the achievements of the Centre and the state government, increase active participation on social media, make the public aware of the policies, decisions and the positive results of the double engine government

While discussing the departmental action plan, the chief minister said the state government is working towards achieving the target of a trillion dollar

The responsibility of every department is already fixed in this regard. It is the responsibility of the ministers to review the progress according to the target and get immediate correction done wherever there is any discrepancy, he said.

About the future plans, he said in the coming days, there are programmes for massive plantation. School Chalo Abhiyan and communicable disease control. Everyone will have to make their efforts for success. All the ministers should ensure their contribution for this in their respective areas, he said.

Giving priority to 'Jan Sunvaai' (public hearing), he said the satisfaction of the common man and the progress of the state is at the core of all the public welfare efforts of the UP government.

NOTICE

As you are Regtl. No.120210429 CT (GD) Shiba Hembram S/Sh. Chhutari Hembram Adm Cov 55th Bn Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force, absent without prior permission / information of the competent authority from 12 days earned leave sanctioned to you w.e.f. 05.10.2023 (AN) to 20.10.2023 (FN). You were directed to report for duty immediately vide 55th BN Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force Office Memorandum No. 3005 dated 30.10.2023 and Office Memorandum No.8098 dated 07.11.2023, but neither did you report for duty nor has the battalion received any information from you.

2. On your continuous absence, a letter No.885-89 dated 18.12.2023 was sent to the Superintendent of Police, District- Balasore (Odisha) to arrest you and hand over to this battalion. A copy of which was communicated to the Station House Officer, Police Station-Jaleshwar Dist.- Balasore (Odisha), and also to your father with a request to direct you to return to duty immediately, But neither did you return to duty nor did the Superintendent of Police, District Balasore (Odisha) handed over you to this Battalion. In view of the continuous absence without prior permission / information of the competent authority from 20.10.2023 (AN), a COI committee was formed to find out the circumstances of your continued absence vide this office order No. 640 dated 13.03.2024, under sub-section (1) of Section 74 of the Indo-Tibetan Force Act, 1992. According to the findings and recommendations of the Court of Inquiry, under the provisions of sub-section (2) of Section 74 of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force Act, 1992, you have been declared 'Deserter' vide this office order number 2931-3030 dated 22.04.2024. Therefore, it is considered that you are not willing to service further in the Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force.

3. As per the provisions of Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force Act 1992 and Rules 1994, before further action is taken in this matter, you are being provided an opportunity to report to the Battalion Headquarters, 55th Bn. Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force, Rangamati, Tezpur (Assam) within 30 days of the issue of this notice. In case of non-compliance, your services will be terminated from the Force on the grounds of unsuitability.

> Sd./- COMMANDANT **BN, ITB POLICE**

cbc-19112/11/0066/2425

Bank of India

Bank of India

Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of India, Tamando Branch under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrower, Co-Borrower/Legal Heirs/Guarantor in the loan account given below to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest & expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Legal Heirs/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The Borrower/Co-Borrower/Legal Heirs/Guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Bank of India, Tamando Branch for an amount mentioned below with interest & expenses thereon. Amount paid if any after issuance of Demand Notice under SARFAESI Act, would be reckoned for ascertaining the dues payable at the time of realization/settlement. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

	TAMANDO BRANCH /							
	Name	& Add	ress of B	orrower/				
Co-Borrower/Legal Heirs/Guarantor								
<u> </u>	(For	Cach	Credit)	Borrower:				

M/s. Mamata Variety Store, Prop: Mr. Krupasindhu Pradhan, S/o.: Late Karunakar Pradhan / Guarantor: Late Karunakar Pradhan, 2) (For Housing Loan) Borrower: Mr. Krupasindhu Pradhan, S/o.: ate Karunakar Pradhan / Co-Borrower:

Liabilities due Date of Demand Notice as per Notice / Date of Possession ₹ 13,06,242/-30.01.2024 07.06.2024 expenses thereor

Immovable Property All that Part and Parcel of the property consisting of Land and Building situated over

Description of the

House No.: L-1156, Khata No.: 517, Plot No.: LIG-1110(P), Area : Ac. 0.026 Dec i.e. 1125 Sqft, Kissam: Gharabari at Mouza : Dumduma PS: Khandagiri, SRO: Khandagiri, Tahasil: Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, Standing in the name of Late Karunakar Pradhan, Bounded by North: 30 ft wide CC Road, South: L-1157, East: 30 ft wide CC Road, West: L-1155.

Late Karunakar Pradhan, All are At: Plot No.: L-1156, Phase-II, Dumduma Housing Board Colony, Bhubaneswar - 751019 / L<mark>egal Heirs: 1) Mr. Krupasindhu Pradhan (Borrower and Legal Heir of the Deceased Karunakar Pradhan),</mark> S/o: Late Karunakar Pradhan, 2) Dhani Pradhan (Legal Heir of the Deceased Karunakar Pradhan), W/o: Late Karunakar Pradhan, 3) Soudamini Pradhan (Legal Heir of the Deceased Dinabandhu Pradhan and the Legal Heir of the Deceased Karunakar Pradhan), W/o: Late Dinabandhu Pradhan, 4) Soudamini Pradhan (On behalf of Shri Satyajit Pradhan, Minor son of the Deceased Dinabandhu Pradhan and the Legal Heir of the Deceased Karunakar Pradhan), W/o: Late Dinabandhu Pradhan, All are At: Plot No.: L-1156, Phase-II, Dumduma Housing Board Colony, Bhubaneswar - 751019, 5) Mrs. Mamata Patra (Legal Heir of the Deceased Karunakar Pradhan), W/o.: Gadadhar Patra, At/PO: Dumduma, Bhubaneswar-751019.

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 09.06.2024

Authorised Officer, Bank of India

Traffic on Maitri Setu to start in Sept



Agartala, June 8: Passenger movement through Maitri Setu which connects India and Bangladesh in South Tripura district will start by September this year, a senior government official

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina virtually inaugurated the Maitri Setu March 9, 2021. The

bridge is built over the Feni river which flows between the Indian boundary in Tripura state and Bangladesh. The 1.9 km long bridge joins Sabroom in India with Ramgarh in Bangladesh.

'The Maitri Setu has already been inaugurated. The land port is almost ready... The movement of passengers through the bridge will commence in September. It will take two or three months to introduce goods movement after passenger movement gets underway," Tripura's Industries and Commerce department secretary Kiran Gitte said at a press conference Fridav.

The goods movement through the bridge is seen as strategically important not only for the state but also for the entire northeast as Chittagong port of Bangladesh is just 80 km from Tripura's Sabroom.

Gitte said Kamalasagar border haat in Tripura's Sepahijala district, which was closed down due to the Covid pandemic, will be reopening shortly. At present, Srinagar border haat, located in South Tripura district is operational. Asserting that setting up of in-

dustrial estates along the national highways is the top priority of the government; Gitte said the national highways have developed a lot during the past few years.

"If trade and business do not gain momentum, the objective of a facelift of national highways will be in vain. Therefore, we are laying stress on setting up industrial estates along national highways to assist the existing industrial estates," he said.

national



During every summer, there is a loss of around 59 to 60 cusecs of water due to evaporation. If 840 cusecs of water is reaching Delhi, it means Haryana is not releasing water in the Munak canal

ATISHI MARLENA | PWD MINISTER OF DELHI

BILL TO RAISE MARRIAGE AGE FOR WOMEN LAPSES

With the dissolution of the 17th Lok Sabha, a bill that aimed to bring uniformity in the age of marriage for men and women has lapsed. The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021 was introduced in the Lok Sabha in December 2021 and was referred to the standing committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports





granted reservations by the BJP-led government on both



Coalition governments are a part of democracy. This is the speciality of democracy. Modi hai to mumkin hai (with modi, everything is possible)

MOHAN YADAV CM, MADHYA PRADESH Narendra Modi

will become Prime Minister for the third time and he is the only person after Jawaharla Nehru to achieve this

feat. He will again become Prime Minister for the fourth time after the 2029 Lok Sabha elections

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA CM. ASSAM

SHORT TAKES

Delhi court grants interim bail to Amit

New Delhi: A Delhi court has granted two-week interim bail to businessman Amit Arora, the director of Gurugram based Buddy Retail Pvt Limited, in a money laundering case related to the alleged excise scam. Special judge for ED and CBI matters. Kaveri Baweja, noted in an order passed June 6 that the accused's wife had to undergo a surgical procedure and he needed to take care of her. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia and BRS leader K Kavitha, among others, are currently in judicial custody in the case.

Woman murdered in broad daylight

Chandigarh: A 31-year-old woman was brutally killed by a man with a sword in broad daylight in the Phase-5 area of Puniab's Mohali Saturday. police said. The woman was identified as Baljinder Kaur, a native of Fatehpur Jattan village in Fatehgarh Sahib district. She worked at a call centre in Mohali. The incident was captured on CCTV cameras installed in the area. The footage captured the assailant, identified as Sukhchain Singh (36), waiting for the woman under a tree as she was on her way to work, the police said.

Jarange to contest all Assembly seats

Jaina (Maharashtra): Talking tough, Shivba Sanghatana chief Manoj Jarange-Patil -who started a fresh hunger strike -- threatened to contest all seats in the Maharashtra assembly elections in October if the government fails to implement the Maratha community's demands, here Saturday. Speaking to media persons, Jarange-Patil said that the government must adhere to its promises made in January of giving the Maratha quotas, implement the decision of 'sage-soyare' (bloodline) and other points.

Rains lash Pune

Pune: Torrential rains lashed Pune city Saturday evening with some areas receiving more than 65 mm of rainfall in just two hours, officials said. Many areas witnessed waterlogging and at least 31 incidents of tree fall were renorted. Shivaiinagar area recorded 101.7 mm of rainfall between 5:30 PM and 8:30 PM. while Baner and Wadgaon Sheri areas experienced 56.8 mm and 61.5 mm of rainfall, respectively, officials said. Municipal commissioner Raiendra Bhosale said in a statement that some parts of the city received more than 65 mm of rainfall in just two hours

Militants torch houses, police outposts OPS supporters quit

MORE THAN 230 PEOPLE FROM MONGBUNG, LAMTAI KHUNOU AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES IN MANIPUR'S JIRIBAM DISTRICT HAVE FLED THEIR HOMES AND TAKEN REFUGE IN RELIEF CAMPS

TENSIONS SURGE IN MANIPUR

Imphal, June 8: Tensions heightened in Manipur's Jiribam district Saturday after suspected militants torched two police outposts, a forest office and at least 70 houses, prompting the authorities to transfer the superintendent police, officials said.

A contingent of more than 70 state police commandos was airlifted from Imphal to Jiribam to assist security personnel in their operations against militants, they said.

Meanwhile, around 239 Meitei people, mostly women and children, were evacuated from peripheral areas of Jiribam Friday, and moved to a newly set up relief camp at a multi-sports complex in the district, the officials said.

According to a senior officer, suspected militants torched more than 70 houses in Lamtai Khunou, Dibong Khunou, Nunkhal and Begra villages. He said the villagers vacated their residences and took shelter in a relief camp. The SP's transfer order was issued hours after police outposts of Jiri Mukh and Choto Bekra and the Goakhal forest beat office were set on fire this morning, the of-

Kangana slams those praising CISF constable

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 8: Actor-politician Kangana Ranaut Saturday criticised people praising the CISF woman constable who allegedly slapped her, asking if they also justify "rape or murder".

Ranaut, in a video message Thursday, said she was hit in the face and abused by the constable during a security check at the Chandigarh airport.

"If you are aligned with the criminals strong emotional impulse to commit a crime violating all laws of the land.'

"Remember if you are ok with breaking in to someone's intimate without permission touching their bodies and assaulting them then deep down you are ok with rape or murder also because that's also just penetration or stab only what big deal, you must look deeper in to your psychological criminal tendencies (sic)," the 37-year-old posted on X.

In her video message, Ranaut said she was hit in the face and abused by a CISF constable, who appeared to be upset with the actor over her stance on the farmer protests, during security check at the Chandigarh airport.

The ugly fracas broke out two days after she was elected to the Lok Sabha from Mandi in Himachal Pradesh. Kulwinder Kaur, the accused CISF personnel, has been suspended and an investigation has been launched. The CISF, tasked with providing security at airports, has also ordered a court of inquiry into the incident. In her latest post, Ranaut also advised people to "take up yoga and meditation or else life will become a bitter and burdensome experience".



The state government perintendent of police of Violence Jiribam district. transferred Jiribam Reacting to the inbroke out in Ghanashyam cidents of fresh Jiribam in the ethnic Sharma to the post of addistrife-torn state Thursday tional director evening after suspected militants killed a Manipur Police Training Angomcha Bimol 59-year-old man College, accord-Akoijam urged the ing to an order isstate government to sued by the Department protect the lives and prop-

of Personnel and Administrative

Reforms.

M Pradip Singh, who was serv-"I have talked to district officials of Jiribam. Those in the ing as the additional director of the police training college, town are being provided security, will take charge as the senior suwhile those in peripheral areas

erties of the people of Jiribam

violence, newly

elected Congress

MP from the

Inner Manipur

Lok Sabha seat

are not being provided security," Akoijam told reporters

Violence broke out in Jiribam in the ethnic strife-torn state

Jiribam, which has a diverse ethnic composition comprising Meiteis, Muslims, Nagas, Kukis and non-Manipuris, has remained unaffected by the ethnic strife that has been raging in Manipur since May last year. The ethnic conflict between Imphal valley-based Meiteis and hills-based Kukis has led to the deaths of over 200 people and rendered thousands of people

Thursday evening after suspected militants killed a 59-yearold man The man, identified as Soibam

Saratkumar Singh, went missing after he had gone to his farm June 6 and later, his body was found, with wounds made by a sharp object, one officer said. Prohibitory orders were clamped there after locals set a

few abandoned structures on fire following the recovery of the body of Singh. Locals had also staged a protest in front of the Jiribam Police Station, demanding that their licenced firearms taken from them in the wake of elections be returned to them after the completion of

his faction, call for unity in AIADMK



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, June 8: Two supporters of former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and ousted AIADMK leader Panneerselvam, announced thev were quitting his faction Saturday, and faulted him for 'choosing a wrong path.'

They teamed up with a former AIADMK leader K C Palanisami and appealed to the AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami and Panneerselvam to merge their factions and strive for the united AIADMK's victory in the 2026 Assembly election.

Former Villivakkam legislator J C D Prabhakar, Panneerselvam, and another supporter V Pugazhendhi, said they have decided to quit the AIADMK Workers' Rights Retrieval Committee launched Panneerselvam.

Along with K C Palanisami, they would start a coordination committee to unite the AIADMK factions, they said while addressing a joint press conference here. No one had the guts to

criticise late Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa when she was alive. Now they (the BJP) are going overboard in criticising her,' Pugazhendhi said. He asserted that there was

an imperative need to retrieve the party's image and be united

AAP demands SC-monitored SIT probe

in order to reinstall its rule in the state. "We don't agree with the path chosen by Panneerselvam. We want the party to become a strong political force in the state," he said and appealed to Edappadi Palaniswami to reconsider his decision and amalgamate the various groups.

"Our cadres cannot tolerate defeat anymore. Edappadi Palaniswami should bring about unity without allowing his stature to come in the way,' Pugazhendhi appealed.

Palanisami, a former MP, said the Lok Sabha election results landed like "a

Palanisami thunderbolt" on the AIADMK a former MP. cadres. "Though a key aide of said the Lok Sabha the party has lost elections in election results the past, the landed like "a AIADMK never saw such a thunderbolt" on major decline in its vote share as the AIADMK it witnessed now. The people

have taught a lesson to the AIADMK to remain united," he said.

Announcing the decision to quit Panneerselvam's committee, Prabhakar said the three of them would launch a coordination committee to ensure unification among the groups. 'We will attempt to speak to Palaniswami, Panneerselvam and V K Sasikala to bring about a merger as our sole objective is to unite AIADMK and make it the ruling party in the 2026 Assembly elections," he said.

Navy gets 1st woman helicopter pilot

Workers pluck green chillies amid rains at Byrapura in Chikmagalur district, Karnataka

New Delhi, June 8: Sub-Lieutenant Anamika B Rajeev has become the Indian Navy's first woman helicopter pilot after she received the prestigious "Golden Wings" at the passing-out parade at a naval air station in Tamil Nadu's Arakkonam.

In another feat, Lt Jamyang Tsewang, the first commissioned naval officer from Ladakh, also successfully graduated as a qualified helicopter pilot, according to the Indian Navy.

Sub-Lieutenant Rajeev and Lt Tsewang are among 21 officers awarded the "Golden Wings" by Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar, the Flag Officer Commandingin-Chief of the Eastern Naval Command, at the passing-out parade at INS Rajali, the Navy said Saturday. The parade Friday

marked the successful culmination of an intensive 22 weeks of training programme encompassing rigorous flying and ground training at the Indian Naval Air Squadron 561, the alma mater of all helicopter pilots of the Indian Navy, it said.

"Highlighting Indian Navy's commitment to gender inclusivity and expanding career opportunities for women, Sub-Lieutenant Anamika B Rajeev created history by graduating as the first woman naval helicopter pilot,"the Navy said in a statement.

The Navy has already deployed women pilots for its Dornier-228 maritime surveillance aircraft. Sub-Lieutenant Rajeev became the first woman pilot who will be allowed to fly helicopters such as Sea Kings, ALH Dhruvs, Chetaks and MH-60R

NEET 'irregularities'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 8: The AAP Saturday demanded a Supreme Court-monitored SIT probe into the alleged irregularities in NEET-UG, saying it is a serious matter concerning the future of the country's youths.

The BJP, however, called out AAP for its "double standards" on the exam results. During a press conference, AAP leader Jasmine Shah slammed the BJP, saying most of the allegations that point to a "big scam" in the exam have come from states ruled by the saffron party.

He said the first reports of paper leaks came from Bihar and Gujarat. Then it was found that out of the 67 toppers, six



were from one centre in Haryana's Jhajjar. The results for the medical entrance exam the National Eligibilitycum-Entrance Undergraduate (NEET-UG) were announced by the National

Testing Agency (NTA) Tuesday. "The National Testing Agency is silent over questions on the paper leak and its scope, which could be extensive. Again, grace marks given to some students is also inexplicable and there is no transparency in it," Shah charged. AAP resolutely stands with the country's youth in this matter as it concerns the future of lakhs of students, he said.

"We demand a Supreme Courtmonitored SIT probe into all the irregularities so that the truth comes out," he said. The NTA announced Saturday that the Union 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 comes amid allegations of inflation of marks leading to 67 candidates sharing the first rank in the exam.

The NTA denied any irregularities and said the changes made in National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) textbooks and grace marks for losing time at the examination centres were some of the reasons behind the students scoring higher marks.

Alcohol could worsen mood swings: Study

The researchers found that consuming alcohol more than one's typical levels led to worse depressive and manic or hypomanic moods, along with an affected performance at work

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 8: Drinking alcohol could worsen one's symptoms of bipolar disorder by destabilising mood and affecting efficiency at work, and it is not the other way round that is consuming alcohol because of mood

swings, a new research has found. The mental condition is marked by unusual shifts in emotions, energy and activity levels, and can sometimes be accompanied by hallucinations and delusions.

The researchers, including those from the University of Michigan, US, wanted to understand the long-term effects of consuming alcohol on the mood and functioning of adults having bipolar disorder.

The findings are published in The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Network Open.

For the study, the researchers included 584 adults diagnosed with the mood disorder, who had



been part of the larger ongoing US-based Prechter Longitudinal Study of Bipolar Disorder (PLS-BD) for at least five years. Data for analysis was collected over a follow-up period of 5-16 years.

The participants' alcohol habits were assessed using the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test. a WHO-approved questionnaire to screen patients for problematic and harmful alcohol

standardised questionnaires were used for gauging the patients' depression, mania or hypomania, anxiety, and

The researchers found that consuming alcohol more than one's typical levels led to worse depressive and manic or hypomanic moods, along with an affected performance at work.

"A person reporting alcohol use above their own mean amount tended to experience more depressive symptoms at the next time point, but increased depressive symptoms were not associated with greater subsequent alcohol use," the authors

"Regarding mania or hypomania, alcohol use exceeding one's own mean amount was associated with an increase in manic or hypomanic symptoms at the next time point, but not vice versa," they wrote.

Medication was also a factor, as the researchers found that harmful levels of alcohol consumption impacted the patients not taking antipsychotic and antidepressant medications to a greater extent, compared to those taking these medications.

'Taken together, these results highlight the role that alcohol use may play in ongoing mood instability and functional impairment in bipolar disorder,"the authors wrote.

Therefore, alcohol habits of patients with bipolar disorderneed to be monitored during treatment, they said.





national



The drumbeat to find silver linings in the mandate that has been a "moral, political and personal" defeat for Modi has started. The drumbeaters will look for anything to justify Mr Narendra **Modi's pathetic electoral** performance in 2024

JAIRAM RAMESH | CONGRESS GENERAL

PRAJWAL TAKEN TO HIS HOUSE FOR SPOT INSPECTION

A Special Investigation Team Saturday took suspended JD(S) leader Prajwal Revanna to his house at Holenarasipura in Hassan district for spot inspection. The 33-year-old Prajwal, who lost the Lok Sabha election as an NDA candidate from Hassan is facing sexual assault cases. As a precautionary measure, the entire area was cordoned off.





of combat is continuously with the increasing use of information warfare.

Today's wars are wars of ideas, intellect and innovation. IMA cadets have to be prepared to be in the forefront to meet these challenges

MV SUCHINDRA KUMAR | LIEUTENANT GENERAL





Andhra Pradesh Maharashtra should also follow suit. The BJP is ruling both at the Centre and in Maharashtra, with TDP's support at





stopped watching new channels long back. Many don't even watch TV. Once Boomers and Gen X (WhatsApp

uncle) generation is gone, news channels will lose 70% of their audience. You will see a drastic shift in next 10 years with Millennials, Gen Z and alpha.

SHORT **TAKES**

J&K: Civilian dies in BSF firing

mistaken identity, a 26-yearold man was killed when the Border Security Force (BSF) troops opened fire on observing suspicious movement near a forward post along the International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district, officials said Saturday. The deceased was identified as Vasudeva, a resident of Akhnoor area of Jammu district, who was working as a cook in a company engaged in construction work in the border area, they said.

3 killed in fire

New Delhi: Three workers were killed and six injured after a fire broke out and caused a blast in a food processing unit in the Narela Industrial Area in the early hours of Saturday, the Delhi Police said. The fire engulfed the factory, trapping some workers inside, a police officer said. The police officer said three of them -- Shvam (24). Ram Singh (30) and Beerpal (42) -- were declared dead while the others are undergoing treatment.

3 die in road accident

Surat: Three members of a family were killed and four others injured after a car rammed into a group of people sitting by the roadside in Gujarat's Surat city, police said Saturday. "The car driver lost control of the vehicle, due to which it veered off the road and ploughed into a group of people sitting by the roadside," he said. An eight-year-old boy, identified as Viyan, his father, Devesh Vagjhani (40), and uncle Sanket Bavaria (32) were killed in the accident, the official said.

CWC urges Rahul to take LoP role

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 8: The Congress Working Committee (CWC) Saturday unanimously urged Rahul Gandhi to take on the mantle of the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and he told the party's top brass that he will take a decision on it "very soon".

At a meeting of the CWC, the party's highest decision-making body, chaired by Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge and attended by Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, among others, the party's Lok Sabha polls showing was hailed but it was also decided that separate committees would be set up in states where the performance was not good or below expectations, to take corrective measures.

Kharge said the Lok Sabha poll mandate is a "decisive rejection" of the politics of divisiveness and hate, and stressed that the INDIA bloc must continue functioning cohesively both inside and outside

Two resolutions were unanimously passed by the CWC, including one requesting Rahul Gandhi to assume the position of the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

Asked if had agreed to take on the position, Congress general secretary K C Venugopal said Gandhi took note of the sentiments of the CWC members and told them that he would take a



decision on it "very soon". In the other resolution, the CWC congratulated the people for voting so powerfully to preserve democracy, protect the Constitution and enhance social and economic justice.

"They have decisively rejected both the substance and style of governance over the past decade. The verdict of the people is not just a political loss but a personal and moral defeat for the Prime Minister who sought the mandate in his name and ran a campaign anchored in lies, hate, prejudice, divisiveness and extreme bigotry," the resolution

The verdict of the people is clearly against the undermining of democracy and democratic institutions that has taken place since 2014, it said.

Separate discussions on each such state will be held soon, the Congress chief said.

"People have spoken against the dictatorial and anti-democratic ways of the ruling party. It is a decisive rejection of the politics of the last 10 years. It is rejection of the politics of divisiveness, hate and polarisation," Kharge said.

The issues that we raised in the election campaign are issues that are bothering the people of India. We have to continue to raise them both in Parliament and outside, Kharge said.

In its resolution, the CWC noted that the people of the country had placed the party "firmly on the path of revival"

"The party fought a superb campaign the heart of which was a vigorous defence of our republic's Constitution and the provisions for reservations for scheduled castes, scheduled

People have spoken against the dictatorial and anti-democratic wavs of the ruling party. It is a decisive rejection of the politics of the last 10 years. It is rejection of the politics of divisiveness, hate and polarisation

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE I CONGRESS CHIEF

tribes and OBCs. We provided a clear alternative political, economic and social vision, it said.

"The campaign had a distinctive pro-poor focus and highlighted the urgent need for a nation-wide socio-economic caste census to deepen social justice and empowerment and for addressing the demands of youth and farmers immediately," the CWC resolution said.

The CWC also hailed the roles played by Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Privanka Gandhi during the Lok Sabha polls. The CWC said that former Congress president Rahul Gandhi has to be singled out largely because of the Bharat Jodo Yatra and the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra that he designed and led.

Rahul Gandhi election campaign was single-minded, sharp and pointed and more than any other individual it was he who made the protection of our republic's Constitution the central issue in the 2024 elections,

Normalisation efforts will continue: MEA

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 8: Thanking Beijing for congratulating Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the BJP-led NDA's win in the just-concluded Lok Sabha elections, India said Saturday that it would continue to pursue efforts towards normalisation of ties between the two nations "based on mutual respect, mutual interest and mutual sensitivity".

Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning had extended congratulations to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP and the National Democratic Alliance on the election victory while holding a regular media briefing in Beijing, Wednesday.

"A healthy and stable China-India relationship is in the interest of both countries and conducive to the peace and development in this region and beyond," she said.

China stands ready to work with India to act in the fundamental interests of the two countries and the two peoples, bear in mind the overall interest of our ties, look to the future and advance bilateral relations on a healthy and stable track," the spokesperson mentioned.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) thanked the Chinese Foreign Ministry (MFA) for its wishes Saturday.

Thank you MFA China for con-



A healthy and stable **China-India relationship** is in the interest of both countries and conducive to the peace and development in this region and beyond

MAO NING I CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY

gratulating PM Narendra Modi on his election victory. Will continue to pursue efforts towards normalisation of India-China ties based on mutual respect, mutual interest and mutual sensitivity," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal posted on X.

Earlier this week, Xu Feihong, China's new Ambassador to India, had also congratulated PM Modi on the BJP-NDA's win in the elections.

'Congratulations to Prime Minister Modi Narendra Modi, BJP and BJP-led NDA on the victory in the Lok Sabha election. Look forward to making joint efforts with the Indian side for a sound and stable China-India relationship, which is in line with the interests and expectations of both countries, the region and the world," he said in a post on X.

Jharkhand CM,

Hemant in jail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JMM leaders meet

Delhi HC flags deepfake, says photo doesn't prove adultery

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 8: In the era of deepfakes, photographs placed by a spouse alleging adultery by the other partner would have to be proved by way of evidence before the family court, the Delhi High Court

The court's observation came while dealing with a man's contention that his estranged wife was living in adultery.

The high court dismissed the appeal of the husband challenging a family court's order directing him to pay ₹75,000 maintenance to his wife and minor daughter.

As the counsel for the husband drew the court's attention to certain photographs of his wife, a bench of justices Rajiv Shakdher and Amit Bansal said. "It is not clear as to whether the respondent/ wife is the person in the photographs, as alluded to by the counsel for the appellant/ husband."

"We may take judicial notice of the fact that we are living

in the era of deepfakes and, therefore, this is an aspect that the appellant/ husband, perhaps, would have to prove by way of evidence before the family court," the bench said.

Deepfake technology allows for the creation of realistic videos, audio recordings and images that can manipulate and mislead viewers by superimposing the likeness of one person onto another, altering their words and actions, thereby presenting a false narrative or spreading misinformation.

Asked by the bench whether this averment of adultery found mention in the husband's reply to the wife's plea under the Hindu Marriage Act, the man's counsel conceded that there was no mention of this aspect in the reply.

The bench noted that since the petition instituted by the husband for divorce is pending adjudication, if this issue is pressed, the court may give opportunity to the parties to place their evidence on record in support of their respective cases.



the alleged irregularities in the NEET-UG 2024 entrance exam results in Bhopal, Saturday

'2 UBT faction MPs in touch with Shinde'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/ Mumbai, June 8: The Shiv Sena Saturday claimed two newly elected Lok Sabha members from Uddhay Thackeray's Shiv Sena (UBT) were in touch with Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde

Hitting back, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sachin Ahir said the claim is being made out of fear and desperation as Shiv Sena lawmakers are now apprehensive over who will be their alliance face when they contest polls in the state, which will be held in the



second half of the year. Addressing a press conference here, Shiv Sena spokesperson Naresh Mhaske refused to name the two Lok Sabha members cit-

ing the anti-defection law, but

said that four more lawmakers would soon join the two and cross over to the Shinde-led party.

"The two Lok Sabha members were unhappy with the manner in which Uddhav Thackeray sought votes from a particular community, who came in busloads," Mhaske, the newly elected Lok Sabha member from Thane, said.

Mhaske said while two Lok Sabha members from Thackeray camp were in touch, four more would join them and support Prime Minister-designate Narendra Modi.

Ranchi, June 8: Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren and senior JMM leaders including Assembly Speaker Rabindra Nath Mahto met former CM Hemant Soren at Birsa Munda Central Jail here Saturday. Party sources said the JMM leaders discussed the Lok Sabha

election results as well as the party's strategy in view of the Assembly polls which are due Hemant Soren's wife Kalpana,

who is a newly-elected MLA, was also in the team of JMM leaders. This is the first meeting of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha leaders with the former CM after the Lok Sabha elections, a JMM leader said. In the Lok Sabha elections, the BJP won eight seats and its ally AJSU Party one, while JMM emerged victorious in three constituencies and the Congress in one. Kalpana Soren won the Gandey assembly bypoll by 27,149 votes over her nearest BJP rival Dilip Kumar Verma. The seat had fallen vacant following the resignation of JMM MLA Sarfaraz Ahmad.

Attacking Champai Soren for meeting with the former CM in the prison, Jharkhand BJP spokesperson Pratul Shah Deo said, "This government is being run from jail secretariat and not the CM secretariat."

Besides Champai and Kalpana, those who met Hemant Soren included MPs Joba Majhi, Vijay Hansdak and Assembly Speaker

Awareness, early detection key to battling brain tumours: Experts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 8: On the Brain Tumour Day, experts emphasised that awareness and early detection is crucial in the treatment of brain tumours.

Early intervention not only increases the chances of successful treatment but also helps patients maintain a better quality of life, they said.

The GLOBOCAN 2020 data estimates 2,51,329 deaths due to brain and central nervous system tumours in India, Dr Manish Vaish, senior director of neurosurgery at Max Super Speciality Hospital, Vaishali said.

Dr Vaish said brain tumours can be sneaky and early signs

often feel like everyday issues one might brush off. New or worsening headaches, especially those worse in the morning and accompanied by nausea, could be a red flag, he said. "Difficulty in concentrating,

struggling to speak clearly or not understanding others might signal a problem. Watch for personality changes, weakness on one side of the body, or blurry vision.' "Even slight dizziness or bal-

ance issues shouldn't be ignored. If you experience any of these symptoms persistently, don't hesitate to see a doctor," he said. Early detection of a brain tu-

Dr Yashpal Singh Bundela, mour is crucial for a better senior consultant at Sushrut chance of successful treatment. Brain and Spine, New Delhi,

can make a big difference," he



estimates 2,51,329 deaths due to brain and central nervous system tumours

2020 data

The GLOBOCAN

in India stated that a brain tumour diagnosis can be scary, but early de-

tection is key to a brighter future.

The sooner one identifies the

tumour, more treatment options

become available, he added.

He said with early diagnosis, surgery can be more precise and can minimise side effects. Additionally, radiation and medication are often more effective when the tumour is smaller. While treatment can cause fatigue, weakness or thinking changes, rehabilitation and support groups are there to help a patient manage them, he said. "You might need to adjust to

your daily routine or work, but open communication with the loved ones and employers can ease the process. Remember, many people thrive after an early brain tumour diagnosis. By focusing on healthy habits, emotional well-being and staying connected, you can continue to live a fulfilling life," Dr Bundela said.

Brain Tumour Day serves as a critical reminder of the importance of awareness, early detection and support for those affected by brain tumour.

"By educating ourselves about the symptoms and seeking timely medical advice, we can improve outcomes and offer hope to many." Dr Vaish said.

"Let us use this day to advocate for better healthcare access, support research initiatives and extend our solidarity to those battling brain tumours. Together, we can make a significant difference in the fight against this devastating disease," he said.

international



EDUARDO ANO | NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER,

KATE APOLOGISES

Kate, Britain's Princess of Wales who is undergoing preventative chemotherapy for cancer, has written to an army regiment to apologise for missing a military parade Saturday, adding that she hoped to be back very soon





There's always tension in Franco-American relations because the French try to do stuff. They're bold, they

throw up proposals, and that leads to some friction when we push back MAX BERGMANN FORMER US STATE

Bulgaria, like

many European countries, has been facing the issue of low turnout in elections and they all congratulate me on the high turnout we see

SANJAY RANA INDIAN ENVOY TO SOFIA

In Sri Lanka, we do see macroeconomic policy reform starting to bear fruit



DEPARTMENT), IMP





2-year-old tests positive for H5N1

Geneva: A two-and-a-halfyear-old girl tested positive for H5N1 bird flu and needed hospital intensive care treatment in Australia after travelling to India, the World Health Organization said Friday. "This is the first confirmed human infection caused by avian influenza A(H5N1) virus detected and reported by Australia," the WHO said in a statement. The girl had travelled to Kolkata from February 12 to 29. She did not have any known exposure to sick people or animals while in the city.

Hunter Biden's daughter testifies

Wilmington: Hunter Biden's daughter Naomi testified Friday in his federal gun trial about visiting her father while he was at a California rehab centre, telling jurors that he seemed to be improving in the weeks before he bought the revolver in 2018. "I hadn't seer my dad in a long time, and I knew he was in a rehab facility there. He reached out," she told jurors softly, explaining that they met at a coffee shop, along with his "sober coach".

15 terrorists held

Lahore: As many as 15 terrorists from banned militant outfits have been arrested by police in Punjab province of Pakistan as it foiled a major terrorist attack, an official said Saturday. "During intelligence-based operations, 15 terrorists belonging to Daesh (ISIS), Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ) have been arrested. The terrorists wanted to target important installations in Punjab," a spokesperson for the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) said in a statement.

Apollo 8 flyer dies

Washington: Retired astronaut William Anders, one of the first three humans to orbit the moon, who captured the "Earthrise" photo during NASA's Apollo 8 mission, died Friday when the small plane he was piloting crashed in Washington state, local media reported. Anders, 90. was the only person aboard the aircraft when it went down off the coast of Jones Island, part of the San Juan Islands archipelago between Washington and Vancouver Island, British Columbia, The Seattle Times reported, citing his son, Grea, According to television station KCPQ-TV, a Fox affiliate in Tacoma. Anders, a resident of San Juan County, was at the controls of a vintage Air Force single-engine T-34 Mentor that he owned.

Israel's bloodiest assault on Gaza

ISRAEL RESCUES FOUR HOSTAGES IN GAZA RAID THAT HAMAS SAYS KILLED **210 PALESTINIANS**

Jerusalem, June 8: Israeli forces rescued four hostages held by Hamas since October in a raid in Gaza on Saturday that Palestinian officials said killed more than 200 people, one of the single bloodiest Israeli assaults of the eight-month-old war.

The hostage rescue operation and an intense accompanying air assault took place in central Gaza's al-Nuseirat, a densely built-up and often embattled area in the conflict between Israel and Hamas, the Palestinian territory's ruling Islamist group.

An Israeli military spokesperson said the operation took place in the heart of a residential neighbourhood in Nuseirat where Hamas had kept the hostages in two separate apartment blocks. Israel's forces came under intense fire during the assault and responded by firing "from the air and from the



street," the spokesperson, Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari, said.

"We know about under 100 (Palestinian) casualties. I don't know how many from them are terrorists," he said in a briefing with journalists. A Israeli special forces commander was killed during the operation, a police statement said.

Gazan paramedics and residents said the assault killed scores of people and left mangled bodies of men, women and children strewn around a market-

Israel named the rescued hostages as Noa Argamani, 26, Almog Meir Jan, 22, Andrey Kozlov, 27, and Shlomi Ziv, 41. They were taken to hospital for medical checks and were in good health, the military said.

They were all kidnapped from the Nova music festival during the deadly raid by Hamas-led Palestinian militants on Israeli towns and villages near Gaza October 7, which precipitated the devastating war.

Hamas' raid killed some 1.200 people, according to Israeli au-

thorities, and Israel's subsequent bombardment and invasion of Gaza has killed at least 36,801 Palestinians, according to an updated tally by the territory's health ministry Saturday. **CALL TO PRESIDENT**

Gunmen took around 250 hostages back to Gaza October 7, more than 100 of whom were released in exchange for about 240 Palestinians held in Israeli jails during a week-long truce in November: There are 116 hostages left in the coastal enclave, according to Israeli tallies, including at least 40 whom Israeli authorities have declared dead in absentia.

The spokesperson for Hamas' armed al-Qassam Brigades, Abu Ubaida, said some hostages were killed during the rescue operation. Hamas had earlier said it still held a large number of hostages.

Attempts by the United States and regional countries to forge a deal that would release all remaining hostages in return for a ceasefire have repeatedly failed as Israel presses its assault in Gaza. Fresh airstrikes in the southern city of Rafah hit homes later Saturday, residents and Hamas officials said.



Head of the Pontifical Household Bishop Leonardo Sapienza picks up Pope Francis's walking stick during an audience with members of choirs from different countries in the Paul VI Hall at The Vatican

SNIPPETS

Sharif, Xi agree to upgrade CPEC

Islamabad: Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese President Xi Jinping in their meeting have affirmed consensus on the upgradation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and advancing high-quality development of the multi-billion dollar project in

the second phase. The two leaders held an in-depth discussion at the historic Great Hall of the People in Beijing Friday during the five-day official visit of Sharif which began June 4. The two leaders were accompanied by the ministers and senior officials. This was the first meeting of Sharif with President Xi since assuming office in 2024. According to the state media, the two leaders showed consensus on up-gradation of the CPEC and advancing the development of the mega project in the second phase. The CPEC, which connects Gwadar Port in Pakistan's Balochistan with China's Xinjiang province, is the flagship project of China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Attacks in Russia-occupied Ukrainian regions leave 27 dead, says Moscow

Kyiv: Russia-installed officials in the partially occupied Ukrainian regions of Kherson and Luhansk say Ukrainian attacks left at least 27 people dead as Russia and Ukraine continued to exchange drone attacks overnight into Saturday. A



Ukrainian attack Friday on the small town of Sadove in Ukraine's partially occupied Kherson region killed 22 and wounded 15 people, Moscow-backed governor Vladimir Saldo said. Russian state news agency Tass cited Saldo as saying that Ukrainian forces first struck the town with a French-made guided bomb, then attacked again with a US-supplied HIMARS missile. He said Ukrainian forces had "deliberately made a repeat strike to create greater numbers of casualties" when "residents of nearby houses ran out to help the injured".

Danish PM attacker jailed for 12 days

Copenhagen, June 8: A 39-year old man who assaulted Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen in Copenhagen Friday causing her to suffer a neck injury was sentenced Saturday to 12 days in custody, Danish police said

The assault took place in a square in the city centre Friday when a man walked up to the Prime Minister and hit her.

Frederiksen's office said the incident had left the politician 'shocked" and suffering a minor whiplash injury.

All the Prime Minister's official events Saturday have been cancelled, her office added Saturday.

The assault comes two days before Danes head to the polls in the European Union election.

A month ago, three German politicians suffered assaults ahead of European Parliament and district council elections and more attacks followed earlier this week

Several EU leaders condemned the incident, which happened just three weeks after Slovakia's Prime Minister Robert Fico was seriously injured in an assassi-

INDIRA ASSASSINATION POSTERS

Canada min slams Khalistani supporters



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ottawa, June 8: Promotion of violence is never acceptable in Canada, a minister has said after posters depicting the assassination of India's former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi were reportedly put up by Khalistan supporters in Vancouver.

An Indian-origin Canadian lawmaker also expressed concern over the issue, saying by doing so, the Khalistan supporters are trying to instil fear of violence in Hindu Canadians.

"This week, there were reports of imagery depicting the

assassination of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in Vancouver," Dominic A LeBlanc, the Minister of Public Safety, Democratic Institutions and Intergovernmental Affairs said on X. "The promotion of violence is never acceptable in Canada," he said.

Gandhi was assassinated by her Sikh bodyguards in 1984. Meanwhile, Indo-Canadian

lawmaker Chandra Arya, who represents the electoral district of Nepean in the House of Commons of Canada, said Khalistan supporters in Vancouver with posters of

This week, there were reports of imagery depicting the assassination of Indian **Prime Minister Indira Gandhi** in Vancouver. The promotion of violence is never acceptable in Canada

DOMINIC A LEBLANC | MINISTER OF PUBLIC SAFETY, DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS, CANADA

Hindu Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's body with bullet holes with her bodyguards turned assassins holding their guns, are again attempting to instil fear of violence in Hindu-Canadians.

This is a continuation of___ threats with a similar float in Brampton a couple of years back and a few months back (Gurpatwant Singh) Pannun of Sikhs for Justice asking Hindus to go back to India, Arya, the lawmaker from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's party said.

Pannun is one of the main lead ers of the Khalistan movement and the legal advisor and spokesperson for Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), which aims to promote the idea of a separate Sikh state.

N Korea, China, Russia expanding N-weapons at breakneck pace: US

Pranay Vaddi, senior director for arms control, disarmament and nonproliferation at the National Security Council, made the remarks at a forum, noting that the three countries are driving the US and its allies into bracing for a "world where nuclear competition occurs without numerical constraints'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Washington, June 8: North Korea, China and Russia are expanding and diversifying their nuclear weapons stockpiles at a "breakneck" speed, a White House official has said, warning that absent a change in the trajectory of their arsenals, the US may have to increase its own.

Pranay Vaddi, senior director for arms control, disarmament and nonproliferation at the National Security Council, made the remarks at a forum Friday, noting that the three countries are driving the US and



its allies into bracing for a "world where nuclear competition occurs without numerical constraints", Yonhap news agency reported.

"Russia, the PRC and North Korea are all expanding and diversifying their nuclear arsenals at a breakneck pace, showing little or no interest in arms control," he said at the event hosted by the Arms Control Association, a US-based nonpartisan organization. PRC stands for China's official name, the People's Republic of China.

'Those three, together with Iran, are increasingly cooperating and coordinating with each other in ways that run counter to peace and stability, threaten the United States, our allies and our partners, and exacerbate regional tensions," he added.

The official pointed out that to deal with the realities of a "new"

nuclear era. President Joe Biden recently issued an updated nuclear weapons employment guidance. "It emphasises the need to account for the growth and diversity of the PRC's nuclear arsenal and the need to deter Russia, the PRC and North Korea simultaneously," he said. "It also reaffirms our commitment to use arms control and other tools to minimize the number of nuclear weapons needed to achieve US objectives.

Vaddi warned that the US will need to adjust its posture and capabilities to ensure its ability to deter growing threats from the three countries should there be no change in their current

nuclear weapons policy trajectory. Vaddi stressed that Washington has already taken "prudent" deterrence steps, including pursuing a modern variant of the B61 nuclear gravity

bomb, and seeking to extend the life of certain Ohio-class ballistic missile submarines during the transition from legacy to modern capabilities.

He also pointed out that the US has "fully" invested to ensure that its "extended deterrence' commitment to using the full range of its military capabilities, including nuclear, to defend allies, continues to contribute to nonproliferation efforts.

He mentioned the Washington Declaration between the US and South Korea as an example of efforts to "jointly approach nuclear scenarios" with allies as "equal partners". South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and Biden adopted the declaration last April as part of efforts to enhance the credibility of extended deterrence.

The official criticised Russia and China for their "outright refusal" to even discuss arms control, and North Korea for answering the US' attempts to engage on risk reduction and nuclear issues with "more missile tests and greater hostility"

"Practically speaking, they are forcing the US, our close allies and partners to prepare for a world where nuclear competition occurs without numerical constraints," he said.

Biden calls France 'our first friend' during his state visit



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, June 8: President Joe Biden said France was America's "first friend" at its founding and is one of its closest allies more than two centuries later as he was honored with a state visit Saturday by French President Emmanuel Macron aimed at showing off their partnership on global security issues and easing past trade tensions.

Biden and Macron attended ceremonies marking the 80th anniversary of D-Day Thursday and met separately the following day with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Paris. The leaders used those engagements to underscore the urgent need to support Kyiv's fight against Russia's invasion.

But Macron and Biden have often chafed at the pace of support for Ukraine, especially as the United States, by far the largest contributor to Kyiv's defense, was forced to pause aid shipments for months while congressional Republicans held up an assistance package.

The state visit began with a ceremony at the Arc de Triomphe, including a wreath-laying at France's tomb of the unknown soldier, and a military parade along the Champs-Élysées leading to the Élysée Palace, where the two held official meetings

and delivered public statements. Later, there is a state dinner at the palace for Biden and his wife, Jill.

Biden and Macron put the war in Ukraine at the top of Saturday's agenda, but it was the strength of the countries' long alliance, fortified at Normandy 80 years ago but with roots far deeper, that was the centerpiece of the weekend.

business



The curriculum of many of these engineering colleges and our IITs needs to be totally reoriented and restructured to align with the demands of today, to address the supply chain issue. The next five years of the Government will focus on skilling and apprenticeship to create a vast number of new jobs AMITABH KANT I G20 SHERPA

BAJAJ CHETAK 2901 HITS ROADS

Baiai Auto has expanded its electric scooter lineup with the launch of the Chetak 2901. This new model is priced at ₹95,998 (ex-showroom, Bangalore). The Chetak 2901 is now available in five colors: Red, White, Black, Lime Yellow, and Azure Blue





With the Indian used car projected to grow at and currently being

the new car market, the sector holds significant growth potential

TAKASHI TAKAMIYA

VP, TOYOTA KIRLOSKAR MOTOR

Space infrastructure and geointelligence are vital for developing key capabilities towards national and regional



SANJAY KUMAR CEO, GEOSPATIAL WORLD

The UDAAN programme will provide startups with access to world-class resources and mentorship and help



ANKUSH SHARMA

PROFESSOR IN CHARGE AT SIIC, IIT KANPUR

SHORT TAKES

10,000 FPOs to be converted into CSCs

New Delhi: E-governance service provider CSC SPV and the Agriculture Ministry have signed a memorandum of understanding to convert 10,000 farmer producer organisations into common service centres, an official statement said Friday. CSC SPV will enable them to provide the services that are available on the Digital Seva Portal. "An MoU between CSC SPV and Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare was signed here today to convert FPOs registered under 'Formation & Promotion of 10,000 FPOs scheme' into common service centres (CSCs) and help them to deliver citizen-centric services," the statement said. The training and capacity building of FPOs will be done

PTC India net profit plunges 30% in O4

New Delhi: Power trading solutions provider PTC India Friday reported almost 30 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to ₹91.11 crore in the March quarter, Consolidated profit after tax (PAT) in FY24 was ₹533.16 crore compared to ₹507.15 crore in FY23, the company said in a statement. "Consolidated PAT in Q4FY24 was ₹91.11 crore compared to ₹129.34 crore in Q4FY23," it said. The company said it saw 10 per cent increase in total volumes for the quarter under review to reach 18.02 billion units (BUs), up from 16.39 BUs in the year-ago

Looking forward to doing exciting work in India'

The tech billionaire congratulates Modi on his election win

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, June 8: American tech billionaire Elon Musk has said he is looking forward to his companies doing "exciting work" in India, as he congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his historic election victory.

Modi will be administered the oath of office June 9, his third consecutive term as Prime

"Congratulations @narendramodi on your victory in the world's largest democratic elections! Looking forward to my companies doing exciting work in India," Musk, 52, said in a post on X Fridav.

Responding to Musk's post, Prime Minister Modi said: "Appreciate your greetings @elonmusk.

Modi said the talented Indian youth, the country's demography, predictable policies and stable democratic polity would continue to provide the business environment for all its partners.

The congratulatory message came two months after the CEO of the electric carmaker Tesla and microblogging platform X in April postponed his proposed visit to India due to "very heavy Tesla obligations"

Musk - who was expected to be in India April 21 and 22 and sched-



Fresh

hopes rise for

Tesla's potential

entry into the

uled to meet Prime Minister Modi -- later wrote on X that he is looking forward to coming to India later this year.

In June last year. **Indian** Musk met with Modi market during the latter's US visit and stated that he planned to visit India in 2024 while expressing confidence that Tesla would enter the Indian market soon.

His proposed visit had raised expectations that he would announce plans for electric car maker Tesla to set up shop in the country, along with his satcom venture Starlink.

It was also expected that Musk would announce plans for Tesla to set up its manufacturing unit in India and investments could be to the tune of billions of dollars and the way forward for selling Tesla electric cars in India at the earliest. Not just electric cars, he is also eyeing the Indian market for his satellite internet business Starlink

for which regulatory approvals are awaited. Musk had in the past sought import duty reduction in India for it to be able to sell Tesla cars in the country.

Musk's plan to visit India in April came on the heels of the government announcing a new electric vehicle policy, under which import duty concessions will be given to companies setting up manufacturing units in the country with a minimum investment of \$500 million, a move aimed at attracting major global play-

CCI plans tweaks to general rules

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 8: Fair trade regulator Competition Commission of India (CCI) has sought stakeholder comments on the proposed amendments to the CCI (General) Regulations, 2009, following recent changes to the Competition Act.

The amendments came from the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2023, which introduced new provisions and updating the existing ones in the Competition Act, 2002. The CCI has proposed updates to align the general regulations with the latest framework.

As part of the proposed changes, the competition watchdog has detailed a process for implementing and monitoring its orders under various sections

This includes the appointment of independent agencies to oversee the implementation of the orders

These agencies, which could include, accounting firms, management consultancies, or professional organisations, will ensure compliance and reporting to any non-implementation to the CCI.

Further, it will also maintain the confidentiality and avoid conflicts of interest.

Additionally, CCI also holds the authority to suspend or terminate the engagement of these agencies as necessary. Such decisions, including revocations, will be recorded in writing and are not subject to



Competition Commission of India

judicial review.

Further, payment to the agencies will be made by individuals or entities involved in proceedings, who have filed applications under the CCI (Settlement) Regulations, 2024. or the Competition Commission of India (Commitment) Regulations, 2024.

The payments are to be deposited with the regulator or as directed, contingent on the satisfactory performance of the agencies' responsibilities.

In addition, one major change under the new draft is the procedure for imposing penalties. The amendments stipulate that no penalty order or direction under the norms will be made unless the affected party has received a show cause notice or has been given a reasonable opportunity to present their case.

In April 2023, "the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2023 was passed by the government incorporating certain new provisions in the Act and amending certain previously existing ones. This created a need for amendment/ repeal/ overhauling of the various regulations framed by the CCI as well as for introduction of certain new ones,' CCI said in a consultation note.

Startups in India raise over \$97mn

INDOA-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 8: The Indian startup ecosystem, the world's third largest, saw \$97.3 million in funding across 10 deals this week as Lok Sabha election results were declared, paving the way for the BJP-led NDA to return to power. The fintech sector led the overall startup funding. Digital lending platform Fibe secured \$90 million (\$65.5 million in primary capital and the rest via secondary transactions) led by TR Capital, Trifecta Capital and Amara Partners.

Akshay Mehrotra, Co-founder and CEO, Fibe, said with this capital injection, the startup is set to expand its reach, strengthen technological infrastructure and deepen its impact across the country.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)driven, low-code test automation platform Testsigma raised \$8.2 million in funding led by MassMutual Ventures. It had earlier raised \$4.6 million led by VC firm Accel.

Another Al-driven sales prospecting platform Clodura.AI raised \$2 million led by the Bharat Innovation Fund with additional backing from Malpani Ventures.

The funding will help the startup further develop its AI capabilities and expand its user base. Apart from primary startup funding, leading eyewear retailer Lenskart raised \$200 million in secondary investment from global investment firms Temasek and Fidelity Management and Research Company (FMR).

With this funding, Lenskart's market valuation has touched

GSTN rolls out form for tobacco makers

THE MOVE TO OVERHAUL THE REGISTRATION, RECORD-KEEPING, AND MONTHLY FILING OF SUCH BUSINESSES WAS AIMED AT IMPROVING GST COMPLIANCE FOR MANUFACTURERS OF PAN MASALA AND TOBACCO PRODUCTS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 8: The GST Network (GSTN) has rolled out a special form for manufacturers of pan masala and tobacco products to report inputs and outputs procured with tax authorities to check evasion. This new form GST SRM-II

ame within a month of GSTN rolling out form GST SRM-I for registering machines of such manufacturers.

The second form namely Form GST SRM-II is also available on the portal. Taxpayers dealing in the manufacture of Pan Masala and Tobacco products can now report the details of inputs and outputs procured and consumed for the relevant month," GSTN said in an update to its taxpayers June 7.

Moore Singhi Executive Director Rajat Mohan said the newly available Form GST SRM-II requires detailed monthly reporting of inputs and outputs.

"This form aims to enhance transparency and accountability

CHECK ON GST EVASION



in the manufacturing process of Pan Masala and Tobacco products. Taxpayers must meticulously document their procurement and consumption of inputs to avoid any discrepancies and ensure accurate tax filings, Mohan said.

Taxpayers are advised to familiarise themselves with the details and instructions provided in these forms to ensure seamless compliance and avoid any potential penalties, he added.

In January, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) announced the introduction of a new registration and monthly return filing procedure to improve GST compliance for manufacturers of pan masala and tobacco products effective April 1. The date was later extended to May 15.

The GST law was also amended via Finance Bill 2024 to say that manufacturers of pan masala, gutkha and similar tobacco products will have to pay a penalty of up to ₹1 lakh, if they fail to register their packing machinery with GST authorities with effect from April 1.

However, this penalty provision is vet to be notified.

The procedure was to be applicable for manufacturers of an-masala. unmanufactured tobacco (without lime tube) with or without a brand name, 'Hookah' or 'gudaku' tobacco, smoking mixtures for pipes and cigarettes, chewing tobacco (without lime tube), filter khaini, jarda scented tobacco, snuff and branded or unbranded 'Gutkha', etc.

The manufacturers of such tobacco products were required to furnish the details of packing machines being used for filling and packing of packages in Form GST SRM-I, electronically within 30 days of the notification coming into effect ie, April 1, 2024.

The input and output statement GST SRM-II was to be filed by the 10th of the succeeding month.

Maha, K'taka, Delhi top UK's investment flows from India

India was the 12th-largest trading partner and the second-largest source market for the UK, bringing in 118 new projects and creating 8,384 jobs

Union Bank holds retail expo, MSME outreach programme

BHUBANESWAR: Union Bank of India, Regional Office, Cuttack organised a retail loan expo June 7 at celebration mandap, Mahanadi Vihar, Cuttack. In the presence of regional head Saroj Kumar Rout, retail loan Processing head Amrita Lala and other local branch heads, the expo was inaugurated by zonal manager, Union Bank of India of Bhubaneswar Office Sarvesh Ranjan and assistant director Prakash Chandra Sahoo of National Statistical Survey



Organisation, Cuttack. Ranjan addressed the customers and informed them about various loan products and other developmental initiatives taken by the bank for society and its customers More than 400 customers had visited the expo and many had expressed their interest to avail loan from Union Bank of India having enquired and come to know the facilities provided by the bank. Likewise regional office. Cuttack had organised a MSME Outreach program at Malgodown, Cuttack which was inaugurated by Jetender Sharma, Asst General Manager from central office, Mumbai and HS Sandhu, Deputy Zonal Head, Bhubaneswar in the presence of Cuttack Regional Head Saroj Kumar Rout and MSME loan processing head Sumit Jaiswal, credit head Harekrushna Sahoo and local branch heads. Many established as well as aspiring industrialists, traders, business men, had attended the program for discussion to avail the loan facility from the bank. In both the programmes, loan sanction letters were handed over to many customers on the spot. Few customers expressed their satisfied long standing relationship with the bank and customer service. In the retail expo, free health check up and eye check up camp was also organised by the bank under two reputed specialist doctors.

Expect CV volumes to see 4-7% drop in FY24: Icra

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 8: Hit by a high base of last year and weakness in demand, the domestic commercial vehicle industry is expected to witness a dip of 4-7 per cent in wholesale volumes in the current fiscal as compared to FY23, rating agency Icra said Friday.

The medium and heavy commercial vehicle (trucks) volumes are expected to contract by 4-7 per cent year-on-year given the high base effect and the impact of the Lok Sabha polls on infrastructure activities in the first few months.

Similarly, the volume of light commercial vehicles (trucks) wholesale volumes is likely to decline by 5-8 per cent in FY2025 due to factors such as a high base effect, sustained slowdown in ecommerce, and cannibalisation from electric three-wheelers,

The rating agency expects the domestic CV industry's uptrend to be arrested in FY2025, with a



decline of 4-7 per cent in wholesale volumes, it stated.

This follows a muted yearon-year growth of 1 per cent and 3 per cent for wholesale and retail sales, respectively, in FY2024, it added.

"FY2022 and FY2023 had witnessed a very sharp growth in volume as well as tonnage terms, enlarging the base. The domestic CV volume growth momentum slowed down in FY2024 and is expected to dip in FY2025 amid the transient moderation in economic activity in some sectors in the backdrop of the General Elections," Icra Ratings Senior Vice President & Co-Group Head Kinjal Shah said.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

are the top three states of India bringing in foreign direct investment (FDI) into the UK, according to a new joint report produced by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the High Commission of India in the UK.

"Indian Assets: Charting the Journeys of Indian Companies in the UK", launched in London earlier this week, revealed that companies headquartered in Maharashtra brought in the highest amount of FDI into the UK at 20 per cent in 2023, followed by Karnataka (12 per cent) and Delhi (8.6 per cent).

Completing the top 10 tallies are the states of Gujarat (7.1 per cent), Tamil Nadu (6.7 per cent), Telangana (6.5 per cent), Uttar Pradesh (5.9 per cent), Haryana (4.5 per cent), West Bengal (3.14 per cent) and Kerala (3.05 per cent)



-- making up 78 per cent of the total FDI from India into the UK.

The analysis finds the leading sector bringing in FDI from India in terms of the number of companies and employees is IT and software, highlighting the achievements of Indian companies in the UK across sectors such as automotive, electric car batteries, diagnostics and healthcare, and technology.

It also spotlights the positive impact Indian companies can have on heritage British brands and how the value of these legacy brands is retained and protected when acquired by Indian companies.

Today, Indian companies with operations in the UK have integrated themselves into the British economy, making their mark in industries in almost all



As India and the UK continue to evolve and navigate the complexities of a rapidly changing global landscape, I believe that our businesses reimagining the India-UK corridor will realise our shared vision and aspiration for a secure and sustainable future prosperity

VIKRAM DORAISWAMI

leading sectors. Their ability to adapt, innovate, and forge meaningful partnerships has not only propelled their growth but has also enriched the economy of the UK and its regions, promoting job creation, driving investment, and fostering a culture of diversity and inclusion," said CII Director

General Chandrajit Banerjee. Among some of the other findings of the report, new Indian students cumulatively contributed an estimated GBP 4.3 billion to UK universities against the backdrop of a 5 per cent increase in UK student visas last year.

It also showcases the robust relationship that Indian companies have across different UK regions, with the West Midlands, London and the north-west being the top recipients of Indian FDI in the UK across the fields of automotive, software and IT serv

cial data from the UK's Department of Business and Trade, total trade in goods and services (exports plus imports) between the UK and India was GBP 39.0 billion in the four quarters to the end of Q42023, an increase of 4.8 per cent or GBP 1.8 billion in current pricesfrom the four quarters to the end of Q4 2022.



Spirited Afghans clip Kiwi wings



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Georgetown, June 8: A determined Afghanistan rode on splendid spells from their skipper Rashid Khan and left-arm pacer Fazalhaq Farooqi to stun an under-prepared New Zealand by 84 runs and make a strong case for a Super Eight berth in the T20 World Cup here.

Chasing a tricky 160 at the Providence Stadium here, 2021 runners-up New Zealand were shot out for a lowly 75 in an innings that lasted a mere 15.2 overs with only Glenn Phillips (18) and Matt Henry (12) managing double-digit scores.

The decision to bowl after winning the toss backfired on the Black Caps as the Afghans relied on openers Rahmanullah Gurbaz's 56-ball 84 and Ibrahim Zadran's 44 off 41 to post a reasonably good total of 159/6 in the low-scoring tournament.

Gurbaz was expectedly adjudged player of the match for his knock

The triumph was a reminder of Afghanistan's first big upset win in 2016 when they defeated West Indies by six runs in Nagpur after restricting the eventual winners to 117/8 in their defence

Farooqi, who snared five wickets for nine runs against Uganda, returned figures of 17/4 off his 3.2 overs, including the matchsealing dismissal.

Rashid was also lethal as he collected the prized scalp of Kane Williamson (9 off 13) with his first ball. He finished overall figures of 17/4 off his four overs.

It took Afghanistan to four points from two matches, having earlier beaten Uganda by 125

The West Indies and Uganda occupy the next two spots, while Papua New Guinea and New

Afghanistan next face PNG Friday, while NZ will be up against the co-hosts West Indies

whi haven't opened their ac-

"One of the greatest performances from us in T20I cricket against a big team," said Afghan skipper Rashid Khan terming it a "great team effort." "Great win for Afghanistan and it is a privilege to be leading this side and winning against NZ."

Williamson acknowledged that Afghans "outplayed them". "To get a total like that on a fiddly surface, they kept wickets in hand and played it beautifully. Not good enough from us. Quick turnaround, we have to regroup quickly and onto the next challenge," Williamson said.

Farooqi triggered the New Zealand collapse with the devastating new ball spell.

Miller, Stubbs power SA to win over Netherlands

New York: David Miller struck a high-quality 59 not out to help South Africa recover from a terrible start and post a four-wicket win over the Netherlands in their T20 World Cup match here Saturday. Miller hit a 51-ball 59 to guide SA to their second win in as many matches, while putting on a crucial stand for the fifth wicket with Tristan Stubbs. The Proteas finished at 106 for six n 18.5 overs chasing 104. South Africa were reduced to 12/4 inside the powerplay but they recovered strongly, riding on a 65-run stand between Miller and Stubbs (33, 37 balls, 1x4, 1x6). Earlier, pacer Ottneil Baartman returned a four-wicket

restricted the Netherlands to 103 for 9. **Baartman** produced a measly spell to record 4-0-11-4 while Anrich Nortje (2/19) and Marco Jansen (2/20) provided strong support as the Proteas bowlers dominated the Dutch batters.

haul as SA



He first cleaned up opener Finn Allen for a golden duck with his very first ball, a full delivery on middle stump that darted in late, knocking the leg

stump out of the ground. Farooqi followed it up with the wicket of the dangerous Devon Conway in his next over as the Kiwi wicketkeeper-batter chipped a catch to short extra

He ended his dream spell of 3-0-17-3 taking the wicket of Daryl Mitchell who edged a back-of-alength delivery that angled in to have New Zealand reeling at 30/3 inside five overs.

The skipper, who also took 4/17, then weaved his magic after the power-play further pegging New Zealand back when he

struck off his first delivery, dismissing his counterpart Williamson for 9 with a Gulbadin Naib taking a smart catch at slip.

The NZ top four batting card at that moment read a sorry 0, 8, 9, 5 by Allen, Conway, Williamson and Mitchell in that

Rashid cleaned up Mark Chapman (4) with a delivery that kept a little low and crashed into the stumps. Half the Kiwi side was back in the dugout for 43 in nine overs.

Earlier, opting to field first under overcast conditions, New Zealand found themselves on the back-foot as Afghanistan's openers, buoyed by fielding lapses, capitalised on every opportunity.

groundsman Damian Hough, are yet to settle down properly.

Steady India take on wounded Pak

The uneven bounce of the surface has also raised safety concerns for the batters, especially after Indian skipper Rohit Sharma was hit on his shoulder, forcing him to stop batting during the tournament-opener against Ireland June 5.

"I don't know what to expect from the pitch to be honest. We will prepare as if the conditions are going to be like this (for Pakistan game). This is going to be a kind of game where all XI of us will need to contribute,' Rohit had said after the game against Ireland.

A day after India's game, the ICC had to release a statement, addressing the growing concerns surrounding the pitches prepared for the New York-leg of this T20 World Cup.

"The ICC recognise that the pitches used so far at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium have not played as consistently as we would have all wanted," the statement read.

The Pakistan team, however, is yet to acclimatise to the conditions at Nassau Stadium.

They arrived in New York Thursday night following their shocking defeat to tournament debutants USA and took the next day off.

As a result, Babar Azam and his squad have had limited time to adjust to these challenging conditions, which could be a disadvantage heading into this crucial encounter.

And a defeat against India could significantly complicate their qualification prospects.

Pakistan, on the other hand, would be hoping to get their act together after the opening shock.

Their legendary unpredictability was on full display against the USA, who pipped them in the Super Over for a memorable win.

Malik settles for silver **Budapest:** Indian woman wrestler Anshu Malik could not match the skills of her 21-year-old Chinese

rival Kexin Hong in the final, bowing out tamely to settle for a silver in the 57kg category of the Budapest Ranking Series here. Competing against the No 1 ranked Chinese, Anshu lost 1-12 on technical superiority against the Hangzhou Asian Games bronze medallist in the 53kg category. India's Antim Panghal had earlier fought hard to settled for a silver in the 53kg category, while star wrestler Vinesh Phogat lost to Jiang Zhu of China 0-5 in the quarterfinals in the 50kg category. Anshu started with an incredible bout against Anastasia Nichita of Moldova, winning 6-5 on points to secure a place in the semifinal. With Nichita leading 5-4 and just 19 seconds remaining on the clock, Anshu scored a takedown on the edge to claim a 6-5 lead to win the close contest.

Divya surges ahead

Gandhinagar: Capitalising on an optical blunder by Ayan Allahverdiyeva of Azerbaijan, top seed Divya Deshmukh nosed ahead of the field in the World Junior Girls' chess championship here. The Sicilian Najdorf came in handy for the top-rated Indian, who is seeking her maiden world junior title and is by far the favourite with her accomplishments and rating. Divya got what she wanted out of the opening, an open white king and the dynamics that help her calculation skills. Allahverdiyeva got some chances to hold as the endgame approached but her knight was left unattended and Divya did not give a second

Ortega extends deal

Manchester: Manchester City goalkeeper Stefan Ortega has signed a one-year contract extension, saying he feels "motivated and challenged" at the English champion. The 31year-old German, who joined the club in 2022, extended his stay to the summer of 2026. Ortega is City's backup goalkeeper, but an injury to Ederson meant he came on against Tottenham Hotspur in a crucial Premier League match when he denied Son Heung-min with a fine save late on, featured in City's final league game and made his 20th appearance of the campaign in the FA Cup final defeat to Manchester United.

Indian women go down to Germany

Eves suffer seventh consecutive loss in FIH Pro League

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, June 8: The Indian women's hockey team could not break its sequence of half-adozen consecutive losses in the FIH Pro League, losing to Germany 2-4, its seventh consecutive defeat in the tournament here Saturday.

The Indians squandered a twogoal advantage when Sunelita Toppo and Deepika scored excellent field goals in the opening quarter to give the Harendra Singh-coached side the the best chance to break the jinx.

Sunelita (9th) and Deepika (15th) scored superb field goals to give India a huge moraleboosting 2-0 lead but soon saw it being cancelled out by Germany's Viktoria Huse, who converted penalty corners in the 23rd and 32nd minutes to bring her team on level terms

Stinne Kurz (51st) then converted a penalty corner before



Jule Bleuel scored a field goal in the 55th minute to pile on more misery on the Indians.

The latest defeat comes after India had lost all their four matches against Belgium and Argentina in Antwerp last month and then succumbed to defeats against Germany (1-3) and Great Britain (2-3) here last weekend.

Stung by half-a-dozen losses over the course of a fortnight, India started much better Saturday with Lalremsiami leading the way in the initial minutes.

India will play Great Britain in their last Pro League match

Praggna finishes third; Carlsen takes title home

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, June 8: A confident

and well-adjusted India would

look to capitalise on an unpre-

dictable Pakistan's vulnerable

state and lack of familiarity

with the tricky conditions here

when the traditional rivals lock

horns in their eagerly-awaited

The marquee game, which is

expected to draw the biggest

crowd of the tournament so far,

will be held at the newly con-

structed 34,000-seater Nassau

County International Cricket

Stadium at the Eisenhower Park

Heading into this high-pro-

file contest, the 22-yard pitch re-

mains a major talking point,

having already faced significant

criticism for its unpredictability,

which the ICC has officially ac-

In the six innings of the three

matches hosted at the stadium

so far, teams have surpassed the

100-run mark only twice. Some

former players have wondered

aloud whether the low-scoring

conditions would be of any help

in selling cricket to the American

market through the showpiece.

the venue, laid in April under the

supervision of Adelaide Oval

The four drop-in pitches at

knowledged.

on the outskirts of the city.

T20 World Cup clash Sunday.

PRAGGNANANDHAA CAN BE HAPPY WITH THE FACT THAT HE **DEFEATED THE TOP THREE RANKED PLAYERS IN THE** WORLD IN ONE OF THE STRONGEST EVER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Stavanger, June 8: Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa ended his campaign on a positive note by defeating American Hikaru Nakamura in the finale to sign off third even as world number one Magnus Carlsen won the Norway Chess tournament here.

Carlsen walked away with prize money of 7,00,000 NOK (Around \$65,000 reserved for the winner) for ending with 17.5 points in the unique tourna-



ner either through Classical time control or Armageddon if the game ended in a draw.

Nakamura finished second on 15.5 points despite losing to Praggnanandhaa, who concluded third on 14.5

Praggnanandhaa had beaten Carlsen and Caruana under Classical time control earlier in the tournament and his win

he became the first player ever to beat the top three. The fourth place

went to Alireza **Norway Chess** Firouzja (13.5 points) who accounted for reigning world champion Ding Liren of China.

The Iranian turned Frenchman also won under the Armageddon, leaving Liren at the bottom of the standings behind Caruana who finished on 10 points for the fifth place in the six-players double round-robin tournament.

In the Women's section,

Wenjun Ju had no trouble securing the top spot at the expense of compatriot Tingjie Lei. The Chinese won with 19 points in all coming from three wins under Classical time control.

Anna Muzychuk finished second on 16 points, 1.5 points ahead of Lei who in turn was two points clear of R Vaishali. Koneru Humpy on 10 points was a distant fifth ahead of veteran Pia Cramling who tallied eight points in all.

The final round was not devoid of excitement. Carlsen delivers on demand and he did just that yet again against Fabiano

After a regulation draw in the Ruy Lopez as white Carlsen reserved his energy for the final Armageddon and his Queen pawn opening ensured a tangible advantage as the game progressed.

The Norwegian won in the Queen and pawns endgame after 52 moves when his passed pawn in the centre was about to become

Third successive French Open title for Swiatek

SWIATEK WON THE FRENCH OPEN IN 2020 AND THE US OPEN IN **2022 AND IS NOW 5-0 IN MAJOR FINALS**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, June 8: For a few minutes, anyway, it seemed as if Iga Swiatek was a bit off in the French Open final against Jasmine Paolini. Swiatek kept making mistakes and got broken early to trail Saturday at Court Philippe Chatrier.

Might a true surprise be in the offing? Could Paolini not only make a match of this, but actually win it? Um, no. Not even

The top-seeded Swiatek recalibrated her wayward strokes and simply overwhelmed Paolini, grabbing 10 games in a row en route to a 6-2, 6-1 victory that gave her a third consecutive championship at Roland Garros and fourth in five years.

"I love this place, honestly," Swiatek said. "I wait every year to come back here.

She stretched her French Open winning streak to 21 matches, and her career record at the place is now 35-2. The 23-year-old from Poland is

the first woman with three trophies in a row in Paris since Justine Henin from 2005 to 2007. "I have to say congratulations

to you, Iga," said the 12th-seeded Paolini, a 28-year-old from Italy appearing in her first Slam final. "I think to play you here is the toughest challenge in this sport.'

After a scare in the second round last week against Naomi Osaka, when Swiatek needed to save a match point, this represented a fifth straight lopsided win. Swiatek took every set in that span and only ceded a total of 17 games.

Here's just one other indication of how dominant Swiatek is on clay: She added this triumph to those on the slow surface at Madrid and Rome last month, becoming the first woman to win all three events since



Serena Williams did it in 2013.

During Saturday's postmatch ceremony, Swiatek was flanked by a pair of women who each won 18 Grand Slam singles titles, Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova. Evert said before

this French Open that she thinks Swiatek could eventually surpass her women's record of seven championships in Paris.

Paolini had never been past the second round at one of the four most important tennis tourna-



round, so thank you guys for kind of staying behind my back and cheering for me. I also needed to believe that this one is going to be possible. It's been a really emotional **IGA SWIATEK**

ments until getting to the fourth round at the Australian Open in January. Paolini will play in the French Open women's doubles final on Sunday with partner Sara Errani against 2023 US Open singles champion Coco Gauff and Katerina Siniakova.

"The best days of my life, I think," said Paolini, who will rise to a career-best No 7 in the WTA rankings next week. "It's been a very intense 15 days. I'm really happy and I'm proud of me and my team.

Bose, Ranawade, Lalchungnunga not in India squad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, June 8: Indian football head coach Igor Stimac on Saturday named a 23-member squad without the defensive trio of Mohun Bagan veteran Subhasish Bose, Mumbai FC's Amey Ranawade and Lalchungnunga of East Bengal for its away World Cup Qualifier against Qatar Tuesday.

This will be India's first match after the retirement of Sunil Chhetri, who made his last international appearance in a frustrating goalless draw against Kuwait in their second-round World Cup Qualifier at Salt Lake Stadium Thursday.

Stimac chose to give Jay Gupta the debut as both Bose and Ranawade started on the bench and did not get any minutes in their match against Kuwait.

India must win against the two-time Asian champions Qatar to make their maiden appearance in the third round of Asia's top-18 teams.

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