

**Content matters**  
Actor Alia Bhatt shares that she enjoys watching movies that convey the emotions no matter the languages they are made

LEISURE | P2

**Israel's military drive**  
Israel announces a new military campaign against Hamas in central Gaza, Wednesday

INTERNATIONAL | P10

**New shipping firm**  
India plans to set up a new shipping company to expand its fleet by at least 1,000 ships in the next decade

BUSINESS | P11

**Chhetri eyes glory**  
Footballer Sunil Chhetri says he wants to end his career on a winning note ahead of his last game Thursday

SPORTS | P12

**SHORT TAKES**

**9 of trekking team die in Uttarakhand**

**New Delhi/Uttarkashi:** Nine members of a trekking team have died while six have survived after being trapped due to severe weather conditions on their way to Sahastra Tal in Uttarakhand, according to the IAF which carried out a rescue operation Wednesday. The Indian Air Force evacuated three survivors and the bodies of five trekkers, while three Sherpas and the mortal remains of four trekkers will be brought back Thursday, it said.

P9

**Missing Malkangiri doc traced to K'taka**

**Malkangiri/Kalimela:** Days after a doctor of Kalimela community health centre (CHC) in Malkangiri district went missing from his official quarters after being allegedly kidnapped by Maoists, police traced him to Karnataka, Wednesday. The missing physician was identified as Amlan Bhoi, a physician posted at the CHC in this district. He was found missing from his official residence June 1.

P5

**IRREGULAR by MANJUL**



**MARKET WATCH**

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	74382.24	↑ 350.08
NIFTY	22620.35	↑ 2303.19
DOLLAR	83.37	↓ ₹0.16
EURO	90.58	↓ ₹0.26
GOLD	₹72,460	↑ ₹463
SILVER	₹ 90,237	↑ ₹578

**WEATHER**

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	37.6°C	37.0°C
Min Temp	26.8°C	26.0°C
Humidity	66%	66%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

**FORECAST**  
PARTLY CLOUDY SKY



**AT LORD'S SERVICE:** Maharana servitors busy constructing chariot wheels at Rath Yard in Puri, Wednesday

PIC: YAGNESWAR MOHANTY

**Naveen submits resignation to Guv**

**Bhubaneswar, June 5:** Biju Janata Dal (BJD) chief Naveen Patnaik formally submitted his resignation as the chief minister of Odisha to Governor Raghubar Das at Raj Bhavan here, Wednesday.

With the resignation from the CM's post, a long era of Naveen Patnaik, spanning over 24 years in Odisha politics, has come to an end. It was not a happy ending for the 77-year-old politician who took the mantle and entered politics in 1997 after the demise of his father, the legendary leader Biju Patnaik.

He lost the Kantabanji Assembly seat by a margin of over 16,000 votes to Laxman Bag of the BJP and scrapped through his traditional Hinjili Assembly seat by a paltry margin of 4,636 votes. In the 2019 election, he won the Hinjili seat with a margin of 60,160 votes, while in 2014, he registered a winning margin of 76,586 votes.

Naveen had won five times and was expected to take on the mantle for the sixth time to create a history in Indian politics of becoming the longest serving CM to break the record of Pawan Kumar Chamlung, who has served five consecutive terms as the CM of Sikkim, completing a total period of more than 24 years of tenure—the highest so far.

**COALITION AGAIN**

*Outgoing Prime Minister Narendra Modi will soon be sworn in as the next PM but worries will continue to haunt Modi 3.0 with BJP falling short of majority by 32 seats in the 18th Lok Sabha. Apparently, the saffron party, which managed to finish the tally at 240, has no other option than to rely on JDU's Nitish Kumar and TDP's N Chandrababu Naidu who together hold 28 seats. With the fact that these coalition-era veterans - Naidu and Kumar - are highly skilled in the art of bargaining, and they know how to make their support count, they are too dicey as alliance partners to bank upon. NDA would have to stay prepared to pay a big price to appease both the leaders, though there is no guarantee how long they would support the next govt*



(Secular) leader and former Bihar CM Jitan Ram Manjhi said after attending the meeting.

The NDA has won 293 seats in the elections, comfortably above the majority mark of 272 in the 543-member House, paving the way for Modi to take the oath for a third consecutive term, a first for any ruling alliance since 1962. However, it will be a different act for him this time as the BJP has fallen well short of the majority and depends on allies for the government-formation after enjoying a comfortable majority on its own in the previous two terms of his government.

Earlier, senior JD(U) leader KC Tyagi said, "Our support is unconditional. But the unemployment in Bihar will not end till Bihar gets special status. So, keeping in mind the support NDA has received from Bihar, we hope there will be an initiative to give Bihar special status."

Similarly, TDP sources suggested that the party may ask for plum ministries at the Centre. A preferential status for Andhra Pradesh is another key issue that may come up in the negotiations. In fact, it was a dispute over a special status demand that had prompted N Chandrababu Naidu to part ways with the BJP in 2016.

Modi said at the meeting that it was a historic mandate for the NDA's third consecutive government which, he noted, was last received in the country over 60 years back. His allies lauded Modi for his clear vision for "Viksit Bharat" and asserted that they are partners in this goal.

The new government may be sworn in by the weekend.

**'Fight against fascist rule will continue'**

**New Delhi, June 5:** INDIA bloc partners will take appropriate steps at the appropriate time to realise the people's desire not to be ruled by the BJP government, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said Wednesday following the opposition alliance's first meeting after the Lok Sabha poll results. He also said that the INDIA bloc is committed to continue its fight against the 'fascist rule' of the BJP led by Narendra Modi.

Addressing the media after the nearly two-hour meeting which was seen as the alliance keeping its options open and not staking claim at government formation for now, he said the opposition leaders resolved to continue their fight against the 'fascist rule' of the BJP led by Narendra Modi even as they thanked the people for their overwhelming support to the INDIA bloc.

"We will take appropriate steps at the appropriate time to realise people's desire not to be ruled by the BJP's government," Kharge said while reading out a statement adopted by all the alliance constituents after the deliberations at his residence.

He said the decision has been taken by all constituents of the INDIA bloc in one voice. The Congress president had convened the meeting to discuss the political situation and the election results, explore any possibility of government formation and whether to reach out to their old partners Nitish and Naidu.

**Samal's BSKY remark creates row in state**

**Bhubaneswar, June 5:** State BJP president Manmohan Samal Wednesday created a controversy by saying that the main agenda of the new government would be to replace the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) of the BJD government with the Centre's Ayushman Bharat healthcare scheme in the state.

"BSKY has a limited scope. Therefore, the new BJP government would implement the Ayushman Bharat Yojana. It will also benefit around 1.5 crore Odias living outside the state," he said.

BSKY is a health insurance card issued by the previous Naveen Patnaik government, providing free treatment up to ₹5 lakh for male family members and ₹10 lakh for female family members annually.

However, Samal later clarified that 'diseases and patients have no caste, religion, or party affiliation', adding that it is the primary responsibility of every government to provide healthcare facilities to all citizens.

The BJP president remarked that the change of government is a process, and using this as a pretext to deprive people of healthcare is a social and constitutional offense.

He urged private hospital authorities to desist from such actions and provide quality healthcare to the people.

Samal also asked the administration to keep a close watch on these 'false rumours'.

He mentioned that the people of Odisha have reposed their faith in Prime Minister Narendra Modi and voted for a change in government in the state.

Samal said the BSKY health cards introduced by the previous government will be discontinued due to their limited scope. Instead, the Ayushman Bharat scheme will be implemented in the state after the formation of the new government, allowing Odia people living outside the state to benefit from the scheme.

The BJP had accused the Naveen Patnaik government of not implementing the Ayushman Bharat scheme in the state, fearing that the sole credit for the scheme would go to Prime Minister Modi and the BJP-led NDA government.

Speaking to reporters, he also pointed out that PM Narendra Modi during an election rally in Berhampur had said that the new BJP CM would take oath June 10.

"The selection of the CM will be based on the criteria set by the PM – an Odia who will uphold the culture and tradition of the state will be the next chief minister of Odisha," Samal said.

P3

**Nifty, Sensex bounce back 3%**

**Mumbai, June 5:** Rebounding from their worst single-day slide in four years, benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty soared over 3 per cent each on heavy value buying by investors after NDA alliance partners started talks on government formation.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 2,303.19 points or 3.20 per cent to settle at 74,382.24 on value buying in banking, auto and oil shares. All Sensex shares closed in the green. During the day, it zoomed 2,455.77 points or 3.40 per cent to 74,534.82.

The NSE Nifty climbed 735.85 points or 3.36 per cent to 22,620.35 with all its constituents ending with gains. During the day, the benchmark soared 785.9 points or 3.59 per cent to 22,670.40.

Heavy buying in HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and Reliance Industries helped benchmark indices log sharp gains. Investors became richer by ₹13.22 lakh crore Wednesday with markets making a strong comeback.

Senior leaders of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance deliberated on the details of government formation at a meeting here Wednesday, a day after the ruling coalition won a majority in the Lok Sabha election which paved the way for a third term for Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Coalition partner TDP also affirmed that it is with the NDA assuaging investors' concerns over government formation and triggering a sharp value buying in recent losers.

**King Charles currency makes maiden entry**

**THE FOUR BANKNOTES WITH THE KING'S PORTRAIT ON THE FRONT CARRY VALUES OF 5, 10, 20 AND 50 POUNDS**

**London, June 5:** British banknotes bearing the image of King Charles III entered circulation for the first time Wednesday, nearly two years after he succeeded his mother Queen Elizabeth II. The four banknotes with the king's portrait on the front carry values of £5 (\$6.4), £10, £20 and £50 and will be used alongside those bearing the image of Elizabeth, who died in September 2022.

It is worth noting that coins bearing Charles's head entered circulation in the United Kingdom in December 2022. The updates come as Britons



Bank of England Governor Andrew Bailey called it "a historic moment", with the late queen having served a record 70 years on the throne.

increasingly use physical and online bank cards, rather than cash, to make payments. But

but other details remain the same. Based on a photograph owned by the royal household and made available in 2013, Charles in late 2022 approved the final designs of the notes featuring his engraved portrait.

The new currency note – made from polymer that has already been used to replace paper money in the UK since 2016 – will gradually replace the older notes.

Reports claimed that old banknotes can be exchanged. In order to do this, people have to exchange their old notes from June 5 to June 30 up to the value of £300 for the new ones, the reports added.

# leisure



## GWYNETH PALTROW SELLING LA MANSION FOR NEARLY \$30MN

Gwyneth Paltrow is reportedly selling her Los Angeles mansion for nearly \$30 million. Listing agent Lea Porter told the *Wall Street Journal* Gwyneth is now looking to downsize from the eight-bedroom, 11-bathroom home, built in 1950 and renovated in 2009, and is selling it for \$29.9 million.

## BROOKE SHIELDS FEELS MORE YOUTHFUL NOW THAN EVER

American actress Brooke Shields has revealed that she currently feels more energised and more confident than ever before. The actress told *Allure*: "I am more youthful now than I was in my youth. I was under pressure to look a certain way during my younger years."



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL \$5181

**ARIES**  
You may find yourself in a precarious position today, says Ganesha. You may feel challenged and swim against the current, which will be counterproductive. Nothing may seem to work out. Taking a break will ease the stress at such a time.

**TAURUS**  
In all probability, it is a favourable day to begin financial planning, says Ganesha. You will focus on your relations and leave no stone unturned to make them prosper. You may yearn for a quiet getaway and end up spending a small fortune to get what you want.

**GEMINI**  
Today, you may resume your quest for spirituality which you had aborted some time back. However, that doesn't mean you are on your way to sainthood. You are just trying to get close to your inner self. Though you will be frugal while spending on yourself, your lavish treatment to your beloved will stump everyone, including him/her, predicts Ganesha.

**CANCER**  
You are likely to be a little over-zealous and over-analytical today, foretells Ganesha. You should not be too forceful or severe on others. This will help you save a few friendships and will make sure that your reputation remains intact. It is best to avoid conflicts and differences with your peers and bosses, suggests Ganesha.

**LEO**  
There are chances of conflict on the home front today. However you will be able to solve these problems owing to your understanding nature. However, these conflicts would likely not have cropped up if you would have paid more attention to your family. You appreciate the wonderful things in life today, says Ganesha.

**VIRGO**  
Keep an open mind and give vent to your imagination. You will feel very creative today, and will pursue your innovative ideas. Luck will favour you, and some things on which you took some risk will bear fruits. You will be very energetic and enthusiastic about all the work you do. Ganesha says it is an auspicious day to arrange social gatherings.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesha says that your social status will increase now. Today is an auspicious day for venturing in new business or changing your profession. For those involved in the fields of interior designing, or running beauty parlours, now is an especially bountiful time for making progress in your business.

**SCORPIO**  
A cheerful day lies ahead of you especially for the business community. It's a clincher, as good deals not only come to your door step, but yield good business. Feel, that you are the king of the world; bring out the best in you and you are bound to succeed.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Murmurs of discontent will reach your ears, especially from those very near. But if you go about pleasing one and all, you may not defuse the bomb completely. Exercise caution, and a lot of patience, says Ganesha. Your tolerance will not only help you overcome the problem, but also help you in addressing dissent in your cadres.

**CAPRICORN**  
Good news for students! If you have been trying your luck for studies abroad, today is an opportune day, says Ganesha. Also, get your priorities straight and see that you achieve them one by one, for only a well-planned move can take you a step closer to your ambition. Those engaged in stock exchange and dealing with shares can expect a fruitful day ahead.

**AQUARIUS**  
Ganesha advises you to make a simple change in your routine and things will work out superbly. You also get recognition and rewards for past achievements. But that does not mean you become complacent, says Ganesha. Get going, as hard work is still the surest way to salvation!

**PISCES**  
Ferdinand the Bull would be the cartoon character that would most aptly describe you today. Calmness will be second nature to you, and wisdom will ooze from your pores. Communal harmony is something dear to your heart, and your amenability will see you achieve it, says Ganesha.

## Alia on embracing global appeal

**Mumbai:** Alia Bhatt has been making waves globally, not just for her acclaimed Hindi films but also for her debut in the American entertainment industry with the OTT film *Heart of Stone*. Starring alongside Gal Gadot and Jamie Dornan, Bhatt's performance in the action thriller garnered significant attention last year. In a recent interview with a news portal, Alia reflected on what has helped her transition from Bollywood to an international personality.

The actress believes that international appeal transcends language and boundaries. She explained, "The answer to that for me is emotion, which transcends wide and far." She emphasized that the core of any compelling film lies in its

ability to convey emotions that resonate universally. Alia shared that she enjoys watching content in various languages, such as Korean, Malayalam, and German, focusing on the story and the emotions conveyed rather than the language itself.

On the work front, Alia is set to star in and produce the upcoming film *Jigra*. She is also slated to appear in a movie in YRF's *Spy Universe* and reunite with her husband Ranbir Kapoor in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's *Love & War*, which also features Vicky Kaushal in a key role.



**Hyderabad:** Shruti Haasan recently bowed down and touched her father, actor Kamal Haasan's feet, during the *Indian 2* audio launch event in Chennai, and called him the main reason behind her success in both music and acting.

The actress also opened up about her happiness in being a well-known musician and actress.

Analysing her career, she mentioned that she is happy with the work she does. "I love this phase of my life and am taking more risks than before. As a



Taking more risk than before: Shruti

person who was born and brought up in a family of movie stars, I love and enjoy the entertainment field," added the *Luck* actress.

Shruti felt grateful to pay a tribute to her father, actor Kamal Haasan, on the *Indian 2* audio launch by singing his classic movie songs. She further mentioned that there is always a musical bond between her and her father.

On the professional front, she was last seen in Prashanth Neel's *Salaar: Part 1 - Ceasefire* starring Prabhas and Prithviraj Sukumaran.

AGENCIES

**Mumbai:** Shekhar Suman is basking in the praise for his turn in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's *Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar*. The show also stars his son, actor Adhyayan Suman, in a supporting role. In an interview with an entertainment portal, Shekhar recalled the initial days of Katrina Kaif in the industry and shared that Adhyayan can also take inspiration from her journey.

In the interview, Shekhar Suman was accompanied by his son Adhyayan. The latter talked about how he was once written off in the industry and still managed to come forward with a performance in the show. Shekhar said, "Take a cue from other people's journey. Look at Katrina Kaif. When she came in Boom, she couldn't stand, say her lines, or even dance, but look at where she reached. Look at her performance in *Rajneeti* and *Zindagi Na Milegi Dobaara*. Even in *Dhoom 3*, you could never say that she is the same girl who had started like that. It happens to the best of people."

*Heeramandi* was recently renewed for Season 2. Apart from Shekhar, his son Manisha Koirala, Sonakshi Sinha, Aditi Rao Hydari, Sharmin Segal, Richa Chadha, Sanjeeda Sheikh and Taha Shah Badushah also play pivotal characters in the show.



When Kat 'couldn't say a line, stand or dance'

## Reasons why Anurag can't direct SRK

**Mumbai:** Will Anurag Kashyap ever direct Shah Rukh Khan in a film? The answer is most probably a no, as said by the director in an interview with *Humans of Cinema*.

Anurag said, "We are a country of hero worshippers. We are deprived of many things and have low self-esteem and confidence. We need heroes. Why do our films have larger-than-life heroes? We are the only country where actors won't cover their faces while play-



ing superheroes. The masks would be so small because it is impor-



tant to show their faces." Speaking of Shah Rukh and

whether he will make a film with him, he then added, "In this day and age of social media, I am terrified by the fanbases big stars have. Actors get typecast because of fans, and the fans want the same things from them again and again. If that doesn't happen, fans reject it, so even actors get apprehensive about trying new things. So it's not in my capacity to cater to Shah Rukh Khan's aura or enigma. If his film *Fan* had worked, I could have said that I too have the courage to work with him."

Shah Rukh had a blockbuster 2023, with *Pathaan*, *Jawaan* and *Dunki*. Meanwhile, Anurag premiered his latest film *Kennedy* at the 2023 Cannes Film Festival.

AGENCIES

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

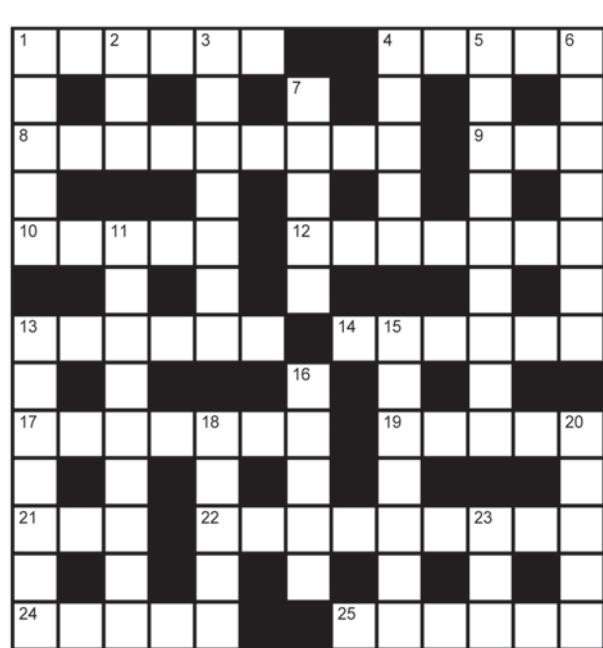


### BREVITY



### FUN post

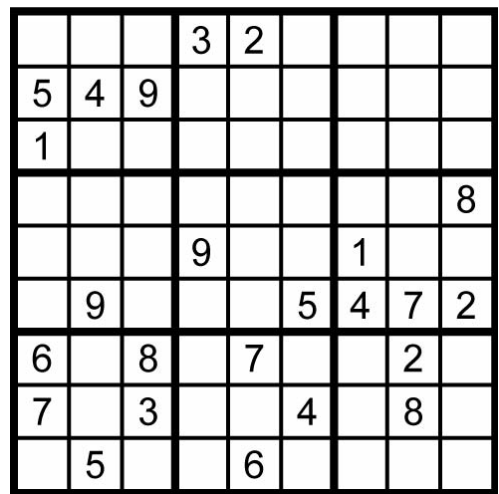
### CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Doorbell has one
  - 4 Pretend
  - 8 Derby (6,3)
  - 9 Ballet step
  - 10 Word of surprise
  - 12 Set aside
  - 13 Type of calf or boy
  - 14 Summing up
  - 17 Mongoose-like viverrine
  - 19 Fragrant flower
  - 21 Chafe
  - 22 Contact sport
  - 24 Nettle
  - 25 Exacting
  - 6 Savings account (4,3)
  - 7 Mentally acute
  - 11 Dangerous African insect (6,3)
  - 13 Sweet treat
  - 15 Distribute (4,3)
  - 16 Express
  - 18 Panga, e.g.
  - 20 Burial chamber
  - 23 Colorful ornamental carp
- Down**
- 1 British policeman
  - 2 Haul
  - 3 Supervise
  - 4 Celebrates
  - 5 Unprejudiced

### SUDOKU

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

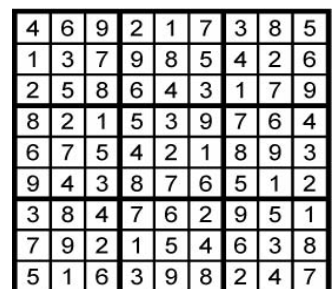


### SOLUTIONS

#### CROSSWORD



#### SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

A CMC council meet discusses perennial waterlogging issues in the Silver City, Wednesday



# downtown

## Nothing to be ashamed of: Naveen to BJD MLAs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, June 5:** Outgoing CM Naveen Patnaik Wednesday said that when he took charge of Odisha, 70 per cent of the state's population was living below the poverty line, and during his 24-year tenure, he brought it down to 10 per cent.

Meeting the newly-elected MLAs of his party, he said the BJD would continue to work for the state. "When I first became the CM, 70 per cent of the people of Odisha were living below the poverty line. Now, only 10 per cent people are below it. Our efforts in agriculture and irrigation sectors and women empowerment have led to this achievement. We have nothing to be ashamed of," he told the MLAs.

Patnaik, who also heads the BJD as its president, said that his party has served the people of Odisha for the last 24 years and would continue to work



### Committee to examine cause of election defeat

The BJD Wednesday decided to form a committee to examine the cause of its defeat in the elections in Odisha, a party leader said. BJD's Kendrapara MLA Ganeswar Behera said the decision was taken at the meeting chaired by party president Naveen Patnaik with the newly-elected legislators. "The party has decided to form a committee which will submit its report to the president," he said. "All have to wait for the report of the committee on the cause of the defeat," he added.

for the state.

Earlier in the day, Patnaik tendered his resignation to Governor Raghubar Das, following the defeat of his party in the Assembly polls.

BJP stormed to power in Odisha by securing 78 of the 147 assembly seats, while the BJD managed to win 51 seats. Congress bagged 14 constituencies and CPI (M) secured one, while three Independent candidates also emerged victorious. The results were announced on Tuesday.

Patnaik's resignation marks the end of an era in Odisha's politics. He took oath as the chief minister of Odisha for the first time March 5, 2000, and, was re-elected four times since then.

Meanwhile, BJD MLA Arun Sahoo, who met Patnaik in the morning, said, "Naveen Patnaik has a big heart. He has asked us to serve the people of the state. We are grateful to him."



**SABITRI AHEAD:** People buy fruits on the eve of Sabitri Brata at Unit I market in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

PIC: MANORANJAN MISHRA

## 'CM NAME IN A DAY OR TWO'

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, June 5:** Amid speculations over who would be the next CM of Odisha, state BJP president Manmohan Samal Wednesday the party's parliamentary board will take a decision on it in a day or two.

Speaking to reporters, he also pointed out that PM Narendra Modi during an election rally in Berhampur had said that the new BJP chief minister would take oath June 10.

"The selection of the CM will be based on the criteria set by the PM -- an Odia who will uphold the culture and tradition of the state will be the next chief minister of Odisha," Samal said.

Maintaining that all commitments made by the BJP before the polls would be fulfilled, he said that the assembly election was fought to protect Odia pride, culture and tradition.

"The people trusted BJP's assurances and the new government will certainly work for those. People have rejected the idea of a non-Odia CM and voted for the BJP," he added.

Stating that the BJP was confident of its victory, he said it was people who fought the elections as they were fed up with the 'corrupt' BJD government.

Samal said the main agenda of the new government would be to replace the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) of the BJD government with the Centre's Ayushman Bharat healthcare scheme.

## 6% rise in elephant population since '17

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, June 5:** Odisha has witnessed around six per cent rise in the elephant population since 2017, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) Susanta Nanda said here, Wednesday.

Releasing the 'All Odisha Elephants Census 2024' during an event at Prakurti Bhawan in the City, Nanda said the population of elephants in the state has risen to 2,098, an increase of 122 in the last seven years.

"The census was undertaken from May 22 to 24, 2024 in 48 divisions across 28 districts of the state. During the latest exercise, as many as 2,098 elephants were spotted in 38 forest divisions as against 1,976 counted in 2017, signifying a 6.17 per cent growth," Nanda said.

Of the 2,098 elephants, 313 are adult tuskers, 13 adult Makhnas, 748 adult females, 148 sub-adult males, 282 sub-adult females, 209 juveniles and 385 calves. There was no presence of elephants in almost 13 forest divisions, he said.

Out of the 1,976 elephants counted in 2017, 212 were adult tuskers, 10 adult Makhnas, 816 grown up adult, 122 sub-adult males, 276 sub-adult females, 38 of unknown sex, 203 juveniles and 299 calves.

"While there has been a 3 per cent rise in the adult elephant population since 2017, the tusker population rose by 40 per cent during the period. This has resulted in a healthy ratio of adult male to female and also a significant number of young ones in the entire population," Nanda said.

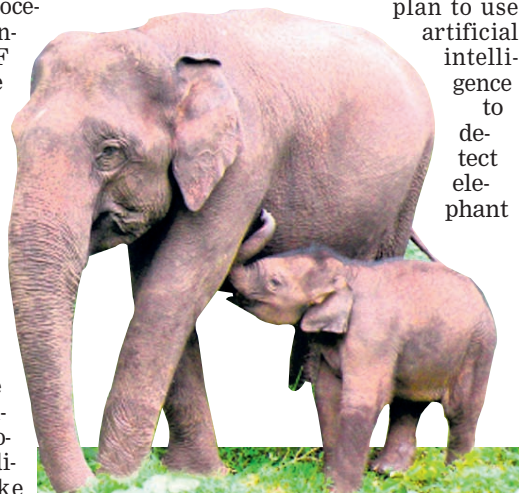
About the procedure of the census, the PCCF said that the three-day exercise followed traditional method of count by direct sighting.

Though there has been a marginal increase in elephant numbers in the state, a significant rise was noticed in a few divisions like Angul, Athgarh, Dhenkanal, Baripada, Chandaka, Khurda, Bonai and Keonjhar. "Similipal North, Similipal South, Balasore WL, Rairangpur, Bolangir, Parlakhemundi and a few other divisions witnessed a decline," Nanda said. As many as 584 elephants were counted in three reserves, about 28 per cent of

total elephant population of the state, the PCCF said.

Elephant deaths during the last five years have been within the range of 3 per cent to 4.5 per cent of the total population, PCCF informed.

"Elephant death is a concern for us and we are taking measures to control it. We plan to use artificial intelligence to detect elephant



movement. Trail will be done in Angul and Dhenkanal areas very soon to control the train-hit deaths," Nanda said.

More than 5,700 people were engaged in the census exercise. Besides, wildlife enthusiasts, NGOs, research scholars, and academicians have also participated in the census.

## Mother-son, husband-wife, ex-CM's children face defeat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, June 5:** Politicians and their families have been shown the door in the simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha and Assembly in the state, whose results were declared Tuesday.

Powerful BJD leader Pranab Prakash Das and his mother, minister Sudam Marndi and his wife, and children of two former Congress chief ministers were defeated during the elections.

BJD organisational secretary Pranab was defeated from the Sambalpur Lok Sabha seat by Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan by a margin of 1,19,836 votes.

Pranab's mother Sandhyarani also lost to her nearest rival candidate Akash Das Nayak of the BJP by a margin of 5,646 votes from the Korai Assembly seat.

Similarly, Sudam Marndi, who was a minister in Naveen Patnaik's Cabinet, was defeated from the Mayurbhanj Lok Sabha seat.

BJP candidate Naba Charan Majhi won the Mayurbhanj seat by a margin of 2,19,334 votes.

In place of Sudam Marndi, the BJD had nominated his wife Ranjita Marndi from the Bangriposi Assembly seat. Marndi lost the seat to BJP candidate Sanjali Murmu.

Former chief minister late JB Patnaik's son, Pruthvi Ballav Patnaik contested from the Begunia Assembly seat on a Congress ticket.



However, he lost the seat and remained in third position, securing only 18,144 votes, 72,820 less than the votes of the winning BJD candidate.

The BJD remained in second position in the Begunia MLA seat, which was represented once by Pruthvi's father in 1995 (bypoll) and 2004.

Similarly, former chief minister late Hemananda Biswal's daughter Amita, who contested from Jharsuguda Assembly seat on a Congress ticket, faced a humiliating defeat.

While BJP's Tankadhar Tripathy won the seat, BJD's Dipali Das remained in second position and Amita got only 5,775 votes.

Though senior Congress leader and former union minister Bhakta Charan Das lost the Assembly seat from Narla, his son Sagar Das managed to win the Bhawanipatna Assembly segment.

Moreover, former Odisha Congress president Niranjan Patnaik and his younger brother Soumya Ranjan Patnaik (Independent) were defeated from the Bhandaripokhari and Ghasipura Assembly constituencies in this election.

Soumya is also the son-in-law of former CM JB Patnaik.

## Former CMs, film stars among 280 first-term Lok Sabha members

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, June 5:** Former chief ministers, film stars, political activists and a former high court judge figure among the 280 first-term members of the Lok Sabha.

Uttar Pradesh, the largest state that sends 80 members to the Lok Sabha, has 45 first-term members of the lower house, which include actor Arun Govil, who played to role of Lord Ram in tele-series Ramayan, from Meerut parliamentary seat, Congress leader Kishori Lal Sharma, who defeated BJP's Smriti Irani in Amethli, and Dalit rights activist Chandrashekhar Azad, of the Azad Samaj Party, a member from Nagina seat.

Maharashtra, where the BJP faced electoral reverses, has 33 first-term members of the Lok Sabha, including school teacher Bhaskar Bhagde, who was fielded by NCP-Sharadchandra Pawar from the tribal seat of Dindori. Bhagde defeated BJP leader Bharti Pawar.

Also among first-term members from Maharashtra are BJP's Piyush Goyal, who was elected to the Lok Sabha from Mumbai North, Congress leader Balwant Wankhede, who defeated BJP's Navneet Rana from Amravati, BJP's Anup Dhotre, the son of former Union minister Sanjay Dhotre, from Akola, and Independent member Vishal Patil from Sangli.

Former chief ministers Narayan Rane (Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg), Trivendra Singh Rawat (Haridwar), Manohar Lal (Karnal), Biplob Kumar Deb (Tripura West), Jitan Ram Manjhi (Gaya), Basavraj Bommai (Haveri), Jagdish Shettar (Belgaum), Charanjit Singh Channi (Jalandhar) are among the first-term members of the Lok Sabha.

Suresh Gopi (Thrissur) and Kangana Ranaut (Mandi) are among the film actors who will enter the Lok Sabha for the first time.

Rajya Sabha members Anil Desai (Shiv Sena UBT), Bhupendra Yadav, Dharmendra Pradhan, Mansukh Mandaviya, and Parshottam Rupala have also made their maiden entry in the Lok Sabha.

Members of the erstwhile royal families - Chhatrapati Shahu (Kolhapur), Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar (Mysore) and Kriti Devi Debarman (Tripura East) will be entering the Lok Sabha for the first time.

Former Kolkata High Court judge Abhijit Gangopadhyay, who won the Talmuk Lok Sabha seat in West Bengal, is also a first-time MP.

## Sunstroke death toll mounts to 36

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, June 5:** The number of sunstroke-related deaths rose to 36 in the state this summer, with two more confirmed cases, an official statement said Wednesday.

A total of 151 cases of sunstroke-related deaths were reported till Wednesday, of which 36 have been confirmed due to heat-related illness, while 31 cases were not due to sunstroke.

The remaining 84 cases are pending inquiry, the statement issued by the state's Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) said.

Two suspected sunstroke deaths were reported during the last 24 hours, it added.

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

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

## WORLD EXPERIENCES HOTTEST MAY

The world experienced the warmest May ever, with record heat, rain and floods wreaking havoc in many countries, according to new data released Wednesday.

It was also the 12 consecutive month of record-high temperatures, a result of the combined effect of now weakening El Nino and human-caused climate change, the European Union's climate agency Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) said.

The update from Copernicus coincided with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) prediction that there is an 80 per cent chance that one of the next five years will be at least 1.5 degrees Celsius warmer than it was at the start of the industrial age.

It also said there is an 86 per cent chance that at least one of these years will set a new temperature record, beating 2023 which is currently the warmest year.

The global average temperature for May 2024 was 1.52 degrees Celsius above the 1850-1900 pre-industrial average, marking the

11th consecutive month (since July 2023) at or above 1.5 degrees Celsius, Copernicus said.

A permanent breach of the 1.5 degrees Celsius limit specified in the Paris Agreement, however, refers to long-term warming over many years.

The European climate agency said the global average temperature for the last 12 months (June 2023-May 2024) is the highest on record, at 0.75 degree Celsius above the 1991-2020 average and 1.63 degrees Celsius above the 1850-1900 pre-industrial average.

Carlo Buontempo, C3S Director, said: "It is shocking but not surprising that we have reached this 12-month streak. While this sequence of record-breaking months will eventually be interrupted, the overall signature of climate change remains and there is no sign in sight of a change in such a trend."

"We are living in unprecedented times, but we also have unprecedented skill in monitoring the climate and this can help inform our actions. This string of hottest months will be



remembered as comparatively cold but if we manage to stabilise the concentrations of GHGs in the atmosphere in the very near future we might be able to return to these 'cold' temperatures by the end of the century," he said.

According to climate scientists, countries need to limit the global average temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial period to avoid the worst impacts of climate

change.

Earth's global surface temperature has already increased by around 1.15 degrees Celsius compared to the average in 1850-1900 due to the rapidly increasing concentration of greenhouse gases - primarily carbon dioxide and methane - in the atmosphere.

This warming is considered the reason behind record droughts, wildfires, and floods worldwide.

According to a recent study by scientists at Germany's Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, climate impacts could cost the global economy around USD 38 trillion a year by 2049, with countries least responsible for the problem and having minimum resources to adapt to impacts suffering the most.

Globally, 2023 was the warmest year in the 174-year observational record, with the global average temperature at 1.45 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial baseline (1850-1900).

The warming may set a new record in 2024 as scientists say El Nino - periodic warming of the ocean surface in the central

and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean - typically has the greatest impact on global climate in the second year of its development.

The world is witnessing weather extremes under a combined effect of the 2023-24 El Nino and human-caused climate change.

Amid a brutal heat wave, India recorded nearly 25,000 suspected heat stroke cases and 56 deaths due to heat-related illnesses from March to May, PTI reported last week, citing data from the health ministry.

However, the data does not include deaths from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Delhi, and the final numbers are expected to be higher, a source said.

Global weather agencies, including the India Meteorological Department, are expecting La Nina conditions by August-September.

While El Nino conditions are associated with weaker monsoon winds and drier conditions in India. La Nina conditions - the antithesis of El Nino - lead to plentiful rainfall during the monsoon season.

# Netizens term CM's exit as end of an era

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 5:** Several social media users shared their views following Naveen Patnaik's resignation as chief minister, Wednesday.

While many called it an end of an era, others remembered Patnaik as someone who put Odisha on the global map. The netizens thanked him for his work and dedication.

An account named 'Nomadic', in a post on X, wrote, "Since my childhood the meaning of CM I knew was a name, a person. He's none other than our beloved @Naveen\_Odisha. My tongue might fumble to address him as ex-CM or former CM of Odisha. The man who represented Odisha for the last 24 years is going to take



his retirement from the only job he was best in. We'll always keep you in our hearts. The way we still remember Biju Babu, you'll also be remembered Sir."

The above post was captioned 'Legends never die, they become a part of you'.

Naimisha, a social media user thanked Patnaik for his work. She said, "No matter what, as an Odia I will always be proud of Naveen Patnaik ji for his sim-

licity and honesty. People of Odisha did and will always love him but he can't be replaced by any of his 'successor' that's what is the message. He battled many cyclones but lost to the waves."

Another user said, "He was perhaps the last of the old style statesmanlike politicians who carried himself with grace, dignity, composure and never resorted to ugly personal attacks or hate speeches said another user."

Debasis Sarangi wrote, "If not for anything else, Naveen Patnaik Ji you will be remembered for promoting sports, especially Hockey."

Every social media was flooded with words of praises for Patnaik's pivotal role in disaster management and making Odisha the sports capital.



**PLEASING MELODY:** Flautist Jabbar Mishra and group perform at an award function organised by Sangeet Sudhakar Balakrushna Das Foundation at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

# Warming climate affecting snowfall

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 5:** Across the Northern Hemisphere, declining snowfall is affecting seasonal river flows, thereby increasing the risk of summer droughts, a new research has found.

Researchers explained that this could threaten water and food security, ecosystems and hydropower generation.

The team, led by researchers from the University of Bristol, UK, found that as the planet warms, snowy regions in the Rocky Mountains of North America, the Alps in Europe, along with those in northern Europe, are thawing prematurely.

Further, seasonal stream flows in less snowy areas are delayed

as winters are becoming drier and warm-season rain arrives later in the year becoming a more dominant source of river flow, they explained.

"The increased (year-on-year) variability of streamflow seasonality implies greater uncertainty in seasonal streamflow patterns, posing challenges for water resource planning and management," said Ross Woods from the University of Bristol and lead author of the study published in the journal Nature.

"Water managers need different strategies to adapt to this, depending on their location. Future planning for water infrastructure will need to take account of these changes in seasonal river flow," said Woods.

For the study, the researchers looked at climate and river flow data from 1950-2020 for more than 3,000 river basins across the northern hemisphere. For every year, they calculated the amount of precipitation falling as snow, how this amount changed with time, along with its timing in every season, and river flows.

The team then compared these values with those observed during two ten-year periods - one with the highest snowfall amount, and the other with the lowest snowfall amount.

As climate around the world warms, seasonal river flow peaks tend to decrease, thereby resulting in a more uniform river flow over the entire year, said the researchers.

# Odisha expects massive devpt from new regime

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, June 5:** Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is going to form government in the state as it pulled off a convincing victory in the Assembly by securing 78 seats out of 147, restricting the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) at 51.

Post the victory, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "Thank you Odisha! It's a resounding victory for good governance and celebrating state's unique culture. BJP will leave no stone unturned in fulfilling the



dreams of people and taking Odisha to new heights of progress. I am very proud of all

our hardworking party workers for their efforts."

Meanwhile, people of the state expressed hope that the new government in the state will bring development and changes.

Krishna Rath a netizen from the City said, "Odisha has voted for change. We expect jobs and industries here. Our natural resources should be used to build factories and industries here. We need to develop ports in Odisha so that Kolkata port can be decongested. We need more IT developments in the City so that Bangalore and Pune can be saved

from massive overpopulation."

Bidyutkesh Mishra said, "Dear Prime Minister, it's been a long wait. We hope for development of my state. Now time has come for 'walk the talk'. Please don't disappoint us."

Satyajit Routray said, "We have trusted you this time to see the massive development in Odisha. We want employment opportunities, developed railway stations, neat and clean highways as well as village roads, improved educational institutions and facilities for down-trodden villages."

# Aakash honours 35 top NEET achievers



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 5:** Aakash Educational Service Limited (AESL) regional office organised an event to congratulate the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Undergraduate) achievers here, Wednesday. Academic director Krishana M Medesethi and CEO Pravin Kumar and other institutional delegates were also present on the occasion.

The state produced outstanding results, with 35 students of AESL scoring 695 marks and above. Congratulating the students on the extraordinary achievement, regional director of AESL Ajay Bahadur Singh said, "We congratulate the students for their exemplary feat."

# Outfits observe World Environment Day

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, June 5:** The World Environment Day was observed Wednesday by different organisations in the Capital city. The theme for this year was 'Land restoration, desertification and drought resilience' and the slogan 'Our land, our future. We are Generation Restoration.'

The Orissa Environmental Society (OES) observed the day at the society's conference hall under the chairmanship of OES president Sundara Narayana Patro. Institute of Life Sciences (ILS) director Debasis Dash attended the programme as chief guest and director of Centre for Environment and Climate in SOA University, Sarat Chandra Sahu attended as chief speaker.

Dash, in his speech said, "Land being the source of food pro-



duction and other resources for humans as well as all terrestrial living organisms, we need to undertake restoration activities and prevent its degradation."

Speaking at the occasion, Sahu narrated how land degradation and desertification are intensifying as a consequence of repeated occurrence of droughts sequel to climate change.

In his address, Patro highlighted how increased pollution and degradation of land is causing various health issues for human beings as well as for other organisms.

On this occasion, former engineer-in-chief and eminent water resources management expert Ramesh Chandra Tripathy was conferred with the 'Water

Man of Odisha Award' and Pravat Kumar Dash, distinguished cardiologist and director of cardiology, PGIMER Capital Hospital was awarded with the 'Lifetime Contribution to Health Services Award'.

Similarly, Baman Chandra Acharya, former professor of Botany was presented the 'Environmentalist of the Year Award' and Sukant Patnaik was awarded with 'Green Crusader Award' by the chief guest.

On the occasion, the Young Climate Leaders Action Project (YCLAP) was launched at the Bakul Library.

YCLAP started as a joint initiative between Bakul Foundation and the US Consulate General, Hyderabad in 2021 after the US President Joe Biden took office and renewed his country's commitment to climate action.

Fifteen young people had been selected from the state for the YCLAP on the basis of their demonstrated environmental consciousness and a commitment towards environmental action. Few of them received the opportunities to be recognised as the climate leaders internationally. Three of them, Deepsha Dhal, Soumya Ranjan Biswal and Jayprakash Nayak were among the 20 Climate Champions from India who were chosen to be a part of the International Climate Action Champions Network (CACN) created by ORF and the US Embassy.

The CSIR-Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology here also celebrated WED as part of the JIGYASA programme. On the occasion, tree plantation drive was conducted in the campus.

# Man arrested for assaulting daughter

**Bhubaneswar:** The Airfield police station here Wednesday arrested a 65-year-old man for allegedly sexually assaulting his daughter, in an inebriated state. IIC Airfield police station, Sashikanta Rout said the accused has been identified as Aruna Kumar Jena, a resident of Sundarapada area. Initial enquiry has confirmed that he was an alcoholic and had frequent argument with family members every night. On June 6, Aruna, after reaching home, went inside the room where his daughter was sleeping along with other members, and started touching her inappropriately. While the victim protested, Aruna attempted to assault her with sharp objects, causing minor injuries in her neck, Rout added. The victim later went to the police station and registered a complaint against the accused, Rout said. The Airfield police station has booked Aruna under Sections 341, 323 and 294 of IPC, and has produced him before a local court Wednesday.

# Groundwater to get over 3°C warmer by century's end

**G**roundwater is projected to warm by 2 to 3.5 degrees Celsius before the turn of this century, potentially risking water quality and safety, apart from threatening ecosystems depending on the resource, a new research has found.

The 'world's first global groundwater temperature model' predicted the highest warming rates in Central Russia, Northern China and parts of North America, and the Amazon rainforest in South America.

A team of researchers, led by those from the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany, said while a lot of focus on climate change concerns weather events and water availability, we also need to think about how it impacts groundwater, critical to life on the planet.

Warming of groundwater can

adversely impact ecosystems relying on them, they said.

"Rivers rely on groundwater to keep flowing during dry times. Warm waters hold less dissolved oxygen," explained study co-author Gabriel Rau from the University of Newcastle, UK.

The model also estimated that by 2100, 60-600 million people globally could be living in areas where groundwater exceeds the highest threshold for drinking water temperature guidelines set by any country.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), currently only 18 out of 125 countries have temperature guidelines for drinking water. Warmer groundwater raises the risk of disease-causing microbial growth, thereby, affecting drinking water quality and potentially the lives of people, said Rau.



"This is especially concerning in areas where access to clean drinking water is already limited, and in areas where groundwater is consumed without treatment," he added.

Based on how heat spreads in water, the researchers modelled current groundwater temperatures and also projected changes

between 2000-2100 around the world. Groundwater is present beneath the Earth's surface in pore spaces in rocks and soils.

"We show that groundwater at the depth of the water table (excluding permafrost regions) is conservatively projected to warm on average by 2.1 degrees Celsius between 2000 and 2100 under a

The 'world's first global groundwater temperature model' estimated that by 2100, 60-600 million people globally could be living in areas where groundwater exceeds the highest threshold for drinking water temperature guidelines set by any country

Warmer groundwater raises the risk of disease-causing microbial growth, thereby, affecting drinking water quality and potentially the lives of people. It can also impact water quality by affecting its chemistry and microbiology

medium emissions (scenario)," the authors wrote in the study published in the journal Nature Geoscience. Under this scenario, emissions trends do not markedly change from historical patterns.

The model, however, showed that under a high-emissions sce-

nario, or fossil fuel-driven development, the groundwater temperature could rise by 3.5 degrees Celsius.

The warming of groundwater can be a cause for concern, although it depends on whether the climate change issue can be mitigated by cutting down greenhouse gas emissions, the researchers said.

Warmer groundwater can also impact water quality by affecting its chemistry and microbiology, they said.

"If temperatures increase, we may see significant impacts to our local aquatic animals, including their spawning processes which will impact industries and communities that are reliant on these ecosystems," said co-author Dylan Irvine, Charles Darwin University, Australia.

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**RALLY FOR ENVIRONMENT:** Women take out a rally on the occasion of World Environment Day organised by the Paradip Port Authority, Wednesday OP PHOTO

# Missing Malkangiri doctor safe, traced to Karnataka

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Malkangiri/Kalimela, June 5:** Days after a doctor of Kalimela community health centre (CHC) in Malkangiri district went missing from his official quarters, police have traced him to Karnataka, sources said Wednesday. The government doctor was suspected to have been kidnapped by Maoists. "He has been traced and is safe and sound. The mystery surrounding his disappearance will be clear once the police team arrives with him," Malkangiri SP Nitish Badhwani said Wednesday. Meanwhile, a team comprising district police personnel have left for Karnataka to bring him back to the district. The missing physician was identified as Dr Amlan Bhoi, a



doctor posted at the Kalimela CHC in the Malkangiri district. He went missing from his official residence, June 1, Friday. He had attended hospital duty and returned to his official residence

in the afternoon on the fateful day. However, he was found missing from his residence the next morning, the SP said. Based on a complaint filed by the CHC authorities, Kalimela police launched an investigation and launched a manhunt for Bhoi. During probe, a letter purportedly written by Maoists in English and some posters were found at his residence along with one of his mobile phones. However, Malkangiri SDPO Sachin Patel had then denied any role of Maoists in Bhoi's disappearance. The letter was found to be fake as there is no instance of Maoists writing letters in such style. Moreover, when someone is kidnapped by the Red rebels, they usually inform the media within 24 hours of the incident, the SP added.

# 3 killed, 12 injured as trailer rams into vehicles on NH-49

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, June 5:** At least three persons were killed and 12 others were injured in a series accident that took place on National Highway-49 under Sadar police limits of Keonjhar district. The deadly mishap occurred after a speeding trailer truck ploughed into several bikes, cars and auto rickshaws plying on the NH, Wednesday.



admitted to Keonjhar district headquarters hospital, of whom one was shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital after his health condition deteriorated.

The mishap took place Wednesday at about 11am in between Thakurdihi and Putulupani Chhak under Sadar police station limits. The mishap occurred when a Kolkata-bound trailer truck from Mumbai first hit a moped killing the rider on the spot. The deceased, a scrap trader of Nayagarh district, is yet to be identified. While two dies on the spot, injured Khageswar succumbed on the way while being rushed to the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack. The rest of the injured were

spot while rendering another person critical. According to sources, the accident took place when the trailer truck tried to overtake trucks parked in a long queue on the national highway. The vehicle further rammed into two cars and one auto rickshaw, injuring 12 persons on board.

Sadar police station IIC Trinath Sathy said an investigation has been launched after registration of a case after seizure of the vehicle.

Sources said frequent accidents are happening due to illegal parking of trucks on the NH-49 for loading of minerals. Locals alleged that despite repeated accidents, the district administration and police have failed to take action against the rule violators. The administration is showing a soft corner to the truck drivers leading to loss of many lives under the wheels, they alleged.

# Construction of Mantei bridge begins

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Basudevpur, June 5:** After initial hiccups, construction of a bridge on Mantei river in Bhadrak district got off to a kick start spreading cheer among the local residents, sources said Wednesday.

The bridge on the Mantei river, which flows through Basudevpur, Chandbali and Tihidi blocks in Bhadrak district, will benefit lakhs of residents of these three blocks when completed. It will ensure direct connectivity between Bhadrak, Balasore and Kendrapara districts and reduce the distance between these places.

Notably, Mantei river has a fond memory linked to Mahatma Gandhi as he crossed the river on a boat and visited Charbatia village in 1927.

The bridge will be constructed at an expense of ₹60 crore by a private consultancy agency Bekem Infra Projects Private Ltd. Basudevpur block lies on one side of the river while Tihidi



and Chandbali blocks are on the opposite side. The river has been termed as the sorrow of the people here as travelling by boats across this river was a risky proposition due to presence of crocodiles in the water body. Several lives have also been lost in the past to boat mishaps in the river.

Realising the problems, caretaker Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had given green signal for construction of a bridge on the river on public-private partnership (PPP) mode.

As the river was under the Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, the state government had floated tenders for over 10 times but none of the consultancy agencies were able to take up its construction due to a host of reasons. The bottlenecks in construction of a bridge on the river were removed after Union Minister Nitin Gadkari and former Basudevpur MLA late Bijayshree Routray stepped in. The two made consistent efforts and removed all the bottlenecks

that were hindering the construction of the bridge. Routray's son and former Basudevpur MLA Bishnubrata Routray also continued his father's efforts. As a result, the foundation stone for the bridge was laid at Karanjaadia in Charbatia, three months back. In the absence of a bridge, scores of people along with their vehicles cross this river daily by boats endangering their lives to reach their destinations. Balimeda panchayat of Basudevpur block manages the river ghat for one year while Tihidi block does it in the next year. Similarly, hundreds of people also travel from Karanjaadia river ghat to their destinations by holding onto a rope of the country boat. Here also, Karanjaadia panchayat and Chandbali block alternatively manage the ghat one year each. While several boat mishaps in past have claimed the lives of many, the river being infested by crocodiles makes it even more dangerous.

# Wild bear mauls Keonjhar man to death

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, June 5:** Panic spread in Ghatgaon forest range area after a man was mauled to death by a wild bear at Binajhari village under Ghatgaon police limits of Keonjhar district. The incident occurred when the victim identified as Chaitanya Naik, 58, a native of Binajhari village, went to a nearby pond surrounded by Atei reserve forest to attend nature's call in the wee hours of Wednesday. Later vil-

lagers found his mutilated body lying in a pool of blood on the ground at some distance from the road and informed the Forest personnel. On being informed, Forest personnel rushed to the spot and launched an investigation.

Later police also visited the spot and sent the body to the Ghatgaon community health centre (CHC) for post-mortem.

Villagers revealed that Chaitanya was mauled to death by a wild bear while going to the nearby pond through the

forest road from Tikarpada Sahi at 4am Wednesday. The bear attacked Chaitanya and fatally injured him on the head and chest. He reportedly bled to death on the spot.

Forest and police officials said that circumstantial evidences are indicative of the villager's death due to bear attack. Evidences suggested that Chaitanya had a desperate scuffle with the bear to survive. But finally he gave up and died after being critically mauled by the animal. Additional Conservator of Forests in-charge of the Ghatgaon range, Pravat Kuanr, said that the deceased is not survived by any of his kin to be compensated.

Kuanr said the wild bear often comes from the Atei reserve forest area to the nearby village to eat ripe mangoes. Therefore, people have been warned through public address system to remain vigilant and not to step out of their homes in early morning or evening.

# All parties take something home in Sundargarh



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, June 5:** The poll results have brought cheers for all the political parties in Sundargarh district as all of them, including BJD, BJP and those in the INDIA bloc, took something back home and had reasons to be happy.

The Sundargarh Parliamentary seat remained in the saffron kitty as BJP's sitting Member of Parliament (MP) Jual Oram defeated his nearest rival, former Indian Hockey Team captain and president of Hockey India, BJD's Dilip Tirkey.

In the beginning, it was expected to be an even fight with Dilip having some edge, but Jual, the old war horse of BJP, secured the seat quite comfortably. Jual was leading by a margin of over 50,000 votes with a few rounds remaining.

In Biramitrapur, where the battle was evenly poised for some time as initial counting suggested, the lead needle kept on changing sides. Finally, Rohit Joseph Tirkey of BJD defeated his nearest rival BJP's sitting MLA Shankar Oram.

The battle for Raghunathpalli was evenly balanced between BJD and BJP. Archana Rekha Behera, wife of sitting BJD MLA Subrat Tarai, lost to BJP's Durga Tanty by a margin of 5,774.

In the fight for Talsara Assembly constituency, Bhimsen Bhoi, the sitting BJP MLA retained his seat by defeating Binaya Toppo of BJD by a margin of

15,673 votes. Talsara has remained a classic case for psephologists because despite a good presence of tribal Christians, the seat has always elected a Hindu candidate.

The INDIA bloc parties won two Assembly seats. Congress candidate Rajan Ekka defeated his nearest rival from BJP Narasingha Minz as BJD was in the third place.

Another INDIA bloc candidate Laxman Munda of CPM won consecutively for the third time from Bonai. He defeated his nearest rival Bhimsen Choudhury, a former MLA of BJD. At the end of 22nd round, Munda was leading by over 25,000 votes.

In Sundargarh, Yogesh Singh defeated his nearest rival Kusum Tete of BJP in a close fight. Kusum was a surprise winner last time and this time she fought valiantly. However, she was trailing by over 8,000 votes with two more rounds remaining.

The most keenly watched and contested Rourkela Assembly constituency has been retained by former minister and sitting MLA Sarada Nayak. He defeated BJP heavyweight and former central minister Dilip Ray. This was a closely contested fight for both as it became evident during the counting of votes.

At one point, luck was in favour of BJP, but soon it sided with BJD. Sarada got the edge during the last three rounds of counting. Finally, Sarada defeated Ray by a margin of 3,552 votes.

# Man dies in croc attack

**Kendrapara:** A man was killed in crocodile attack at Singidi village of Katanabania panchayat under Rajkanika police limits of Kendrapara district late Tuesday night. The deceased has been identified as Sanatan Samal. Sources said Sanatan went to a pond to bathe Tuesday night but did not return home. While searching for him, family members found his bicycle and slippers on the bank of the pond. Upon seeing a crocodile devouring Sanatan's body near the pond Wednesday, villagers informed the latter's family. The deceased's family members and other villagers reached the spot and recovered the body from the grip of the crocodile. On being informed Rajkanika police launched an investigation into the matter.

# Two killed as truck rams into roadside house

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Balasore, June 5:** Two persons were killed as a truck rammed into their house, which is located on a roadside, in Balasore district, police said Wednesday. The incident happened at Patnasahi near Ambaliatha in Jaleswar police station area late Tuesday night, they said.

The truck rammed into the kuchcha house and killed a 58-year-old man and his wife. Their daughter-in-law and grandson narrowly escaped as they were sleeping in another room, police said.



Following the accident, agitated locals blocked the Ambaliatha-Solpata road demanding compensation for the family. The blockade was lifted after police intervened.

The driver fled the spot after the accident, police said, adding that an investigation was underway.



**SELF SERVICE:** Locals repair the village road connecting Raipur Square to Talagadia in Baniadiha panchayat of Baliaapal block under Balasore district after the administration failed to address their pleas, Wednesday OP PHOTO

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
**E-AUCTION FOR PAY & USE TOILET**  
 No. SDCMKUR/Pay & Use Toilet/  
 E-auction/Publication/3428, Date: 31.05.2024  
 Station & Locations: (1) Cuttack (on Platform-1, Bhadrak end).  
 Auction Start Date & Time: 14.06.2024 at 1100 hrs.  
 Auction End Date & Time: 14.06.2024 at 1130 hrs.  
 Note: Prospective bidders are advised to visit the <https://reps.gov.in> and check the upcoming e-auction leasing tab to get all required information regarding this e-auction.  
 Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/  
 PR-181/P/24-25 Khurda Road

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**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
 e-Tender notice No.: e-Tender-Elect-G-09-24  
 Name of Work: COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR RMPUs FITTED IN LHB/SGAC TYPE AC COACHES, POWER CARS, PANTRY CARS, HYBRID TYPE LHB AC COACHES AND OTHER SPECIAL COACHES LIKE RA/ OBSERVATION CAR/WC/DLOMS COACHES AT BHUBANESWAR COACHING DEPOT OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS.  
 Approx cost of work: ₹11,06,21,484.39, EMD: ₹7,03,100/-, Completion Period: 36 Months.  
 Tender closing date & Time: 1500 hrs of 19.06.2024.  
 No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-Tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.  
 Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-Tenders is available in website <http://www.reps.gov.in>  
 Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website ten days before the date of closing of tender to note any Changes/Corrigendum issued for this tender.  
 Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer(G)/  
 PR-179/P/24-25 Khurda Road

FOCUS NDA 3.0

# UNFINISHED AGENDA



India is a diverse democracy, in which no party has ever won more than half the vote. Leaders cannot bulldoze everything through. That is why building a lasting consensus around reforms is essential to sustaining India's rise

by the Centre and states remains a major drawback in our public policy budget priority in the social sector. This is a major bottleneck for improving factor productivity and gainful employability.

Prof Sumantra Sen of the London School of Education believes that many reforms' non-realisation is due to a lack of synergy between the Centre and the states. The division of power between the Centre and states makes consensus building an inescapable imperative. Arun Jaitley was crucial to the passage of GST, as he could convince state governments to sacrifice autonomy for the sake of the national market. The need for such bridge builders is great. The national labour code is still restrictive. Reforms in the farm sector need proper consultation between states and the Centre. Reformers like Deng Xiaoping realised this early on. India has yet to grasp the nettle.

A big divide between rural and urban areas, between the Centre and the southern states, and between the farming community and corporate needs to be bridged. In 2020, Modi tried to reform agriculture without consulting anyone, causing massive protests, and ended up backing down. India is a diverse democracy, in which no party has ever won more than half the vote. Leaders cannot bulldoze everything through. That is why building a lasting consensus around reforms is essential to sustaining India's rise. It has to be built around the premise of shared prosperity, equity, and socioeconomic justice. The public delivery mechanism and accountability in governance must be improved and the future fabric of reforms must be based on collaboration between government, corporations, and the local community, where technology and capability development can pave the way for Viksit Bharat.

The writer teaches Macro Economics. Views are personal.

The idea that PM Modi is a strong economic manager is one of the prime reasons that Indians have given him a third term in office, cementing his status as India's most important leader since Nehru. The electoral success reflects the potency of his Hindu nationalist ideology but more importantly, a reflection of a sense among Indian voters that he is bringing prosperity and power and India is truly a rising global economic power. India is expanding at a blistering annual rate of 6-7%. Private sector confidence is at its highest since 2010.

While the overall GDP numbers are credible, it masks that we are the lowest-ranking country in terms of per capita income amongst the G20 countries. The likelihood of India becoming a developed country by 2047 with a per capita GDP of \$14000 is remote. Very few believe that the country can achieve double-digit growth. The East Asian tigers benefited from a huge inflow of foreign investment and export of a job-rich low-skill manufacturing sector. India's path has been different. Its exports have been led not by manufacturing but by a productive yet job-poor IT and services sector. Its companies are led by a handful of sprawling conglomerates and a long tail of small informal businesses.

Modi's two terms have witnessed a massive programme of infrastructure that knits together a vast single market. India has 149 airports, double the number a decade ago. It adds 10,000 km of roads annually and 15 GW of solar energy capacity. This is due to a sharp spurt in CAPEX in successive budgets and the fast execution of national highways, railways, housing, and ports. CAPEX as a share of Central government expenditure has increased from 12% in FY13 to 22% by 2023. But it has not crowded out private investment. Some of this infrastructure

is intangible, including digital payments, modern capital markets, banks, and a unified digital tax system. Stock markets are booming. Ten years ago, India's stock market capitalised less than Spain's. Now it's neck to neck with Hongkong's. The proportion of the population owning shares has risen from 7% to 20% since 2019. A study by Deepak Parekh, one of the architects of India's financial system, found that fund assets equate to only 17.5% of GDP compared to an average of 80% in developed markets. The under-penetration is clear in other areas such as consumer credit, totaling 37% of GDP compared with 62% in China.

Not everything is rosy. The difficulty of doing business in India and the lack of broadly available finance are why large conglomerates have dominated the economy. They have been able to obtain finance and handle a prickly state. All the same, the big conglomerates are still influential.

The unfinished agenda is how to increase tax to GDP ratio, improve allocation to research and innovation, and most fundamentally enhance the quality of basic education, vocational training, and skilling and im-

prove Centre-state synergy. India's tax-to-GDP ratio is around 18% and has barely budged. Interest payment eats up 25% of the annual budget. The government must move away from debt-fueled growth to a propelled growth strategy.

Research and innovation have been a major factor in triggering growth in advanced countries. India spends only 0.8% of GDP on R&D as against 2.4% in China and an average of 2.7% in OECD countries. The resounding rise of South Korea and Israel as global powers in export is a testimony to their massive investment in R&D.

Any serious plan to boost Indian growth requires far deeper human capital beyond the elites. India has a near-universal primary school enrollment. But ASER, a nationwide survey, suggests that learning outcomes plateaued in the 2010s and fell during the pandemic. In 2022 only 40% of students leaving primary school in rural India could read a text intended for seconders. Vocational training in secondary schools continues to be a bugbear. The promised allocation of 6% of GDP to education as recommended by the Kothari Commission in 1966 against around 3% every year



Satya Narayan Misra  
THE LIKELIHOOD OF INDIA BECOMING A DEVELOPED COUNTRY BY 2047 WITH A PER CAPITA GDP OF \$14000 IS REMOTE



Daron Acemoglu  
AI is what economists call a general-purpose technology. We can do many things with it, and there are certainly better things to do than automate work and boost the profitability of digital advertising

## The AI Hype

Let all circumstances, all happenings in life be occasions, constantly renewed for learning more and ever more

THE MOTHER



According to tech leaders and many pundits and academics, artificial intelligence is poised to transform the world as we know it through unprecedented productivity gains. While some believe that machines soon will do everything humans can do, ushering in a new age of boundless prosperity, other predictions are at least more grounded. For example, Goldman Sachs predicts that generative AI will boost global GDP by 7% over the next decade, and the McKinsey Global Institute anticipates that the annual GDP growth rate could increase by 3-4 percentage points between now and 2040. For its part, The Economist expects that AI will create a blue-collar bonanza.

Is this realistic? As I note in a recent paper, the outlook is far more uncertain than most forecasts and guesstimates suggest. Still, while it is basically impossible to predict with any confidence what AI will do in 20 or 30 years, one can say something about the next decade, because most of these near-term economic effects must involve existing technologies and improvements to them.

It is reasonable to suppose that AI's biggest impact will come from automating some tasks and making some workers in some occupations more productive. Economic theory provides some guidance for assessing these aggregate effects. According to Hulten's theorem (named for economist Charles Hulten), aggregate "total factor productivity" (TFP) effects are simply the product of the share of tasks that are automated multiplied by the average cost savings.

While average cost savings are difficult to estimate and will vary by activity, there have already been some careful studies of AI's effects on certain tasks. For example, Shakked Noy and Whitney Zhang have examined the impact of ChatGPT on simple writing tasks (such as summarizing documents or writing routine grant proposals or marketing material), while Erik Brynjolfsson, Danielle Li, and Lindsey Raymond have assessed the use of AI assistants in customer service. Taken together, this research suggests that currently available generative-AI tools yield average labor-cost savings of 27% and overall cost savings of 14.4%.

What about the share of tasks that will be affected by AI and related technologies? Using numbers from recent studies, I estimate this to be around 4.6%, implying that AI will increase TFP by only 0.66% over ten years, or by 0.06% annually. Of course, since AI will also drive an investment boom, the increase in GDP growth could be a little larger, perhaps in the 1-1.5% range.

These figures are much smaller than the ones from Goldman Sachs and McKinsey. If you want to get those bigger numbers, you either must boost the productivity gains at the micro level or assume that many more tasks in the economy will be affected. But neither scenario seems plausible. Labor-cost savings far above 27% not only fall out of the range offered by existing studies; they also do not align with the observed effects of other, even more promising technologies. For example, industrial robots have transformed some manufacturing sectors, and they appear to have reduced labor costs by about 30%.

Similarly, we are unlikely to see far more than 4.6% of tasks being taken over, because AI is nowhere close to being able to perform most manual or social tasks (including seemingly simple functions with some social aspects, like accounting). As of 2019, a survey of essentially all US businesses found that only about 1.5% of them had any AI investments. Even if such investments have picked up over the past year and a half, we have a long, long way to go before AI becomes widespread.

Of course, AI could have larger effects than my analysis allows if it revolutionizes the process of scientific discovery or creates many new tasks and products. The recent AI-enabled discoveries of new crystal structures and advances in protein folding do suggest such possibilities. But these breakthroughs are unlikely to be a major source of economic growth within ten years. Even if new discoveries could be tested and turned into actual products much faster, the tech industry is currently focused excessively on automation and monetizing data, rather than on introducing new production tasks for workers.

Moreover, my own estimates could be too high. Early adoption of generative AI has naturally occurred where it performs reasonably well, meaning tasks for which there are objective measures of success, such as writing simple programming subroutines or verifying information. Here, the model can learn on the basis of outside information and readily available historical data.

But many of the 4.6% of tasks that could feasibly be automated within ten years - evaluating applications, diagnosing health problems, providing financial advice - do not have such clearly defined objective measures of success, and often involve complex context-dependent variables (what is good for one patient will not be right for another). In these cases, learning from outside observation is much harder, and generative AI models must rely instead on the behavior of existing workers.

Under these circumstances, there will be less room for major improvements over human labor. Thus, I estimate that about one-quarter of the 4.6% tasks are of the "harder-to-learn" category and will have lower productivity gains. Once this adjustment is made, the 0.66% TFP growth figure declines to about 0.53%.

What about the effects on workers, wages, and inequality? The good news is that, compared to earlier waves of automation - such as those based on robots or software systems - the effects of AI may be more broadly distributed across demographic groups. If so, it will not have as extensive an impact on inequality as earlier automation technologies did (I estimated these effects in my previous work with Pascual Restrepo). However, I find no evidence that AI will reduce inequality or boost wage growth. Some groups - especially white, native-born women - are significantly more exposed and will be negatively affected, and capital will gain more than labor overall.

Economic theory and the available data justify a more modest, realistic outlook for AI. There is little to support the argument that we should not worry about regulation, because AI will be the proverbial rising tide that lifts all boats. AI is what economists call a general-purpose technology. We can do many things with it, and there are certainly better things to do than automate work and boost the profitability of digital advertising. But if we embrace techno-optimism uncritically or let the tech industry set the agenda, much of the potential could be squandered.

The writer is Institute Professor of Economics at MIT.

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### WISDOM CORNER

- Life is pleasant. Death is peaceful. It is the transition that's troublesome - ISAAC ASIMOV
- Despite everything, I believe that people are really good at heart - ANNE FRANK
- Clouds come floating into my life, no longer to carry rain or usher storm, but to add colour to my sunset sky - RABINDRANATH TAGORE

### SPECTRUM DISPUTE RESOLUTION

## Much ado about institutional arbitration



P Madhava Rao  
ARBITRATION PRESERVES TIME, MONEY, AND RELATIONSHIPS

On 30 July, 2017, Justice BN Srikrishna, Retired Judge, Supreme Court of India, Chairperson of the High Level Committee to Review the Institutionalisation of Arbitration Mechanism in India, submitted his report on the need to institutionalise arbitration mechanisms in India. The Government of India took prompt notice of the report and made the necessary amendments to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, which have yet to be notified in order to become operational.

With the amendments to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act 1996 in 2019 and 2022, the government ushered in a new era in India's arbitration system, which was previously limited to courts and individual choices. Historically, disputes within families and communities have been resolved by elders. In feudal societies, only a few cases were resolved by monarchs or other formal dispute resolution systems. Formal judicial systems, or today's courts, evolved alongside the development of democracies and other widely accepted forms of government. India is not exempt from this rule. As the rights-based approach to justice delivery gains

traction on a global scale, bureaucratic processes stifle access to justice. The growing burden of over 4.9 crore pending cases in Indian courts has prompted policymakers to consider strengthening alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms.

The institutionalisation of arbitration was expected to bring about a paradigm shift in Indian arbitration jurisprudence, allowing arbitration centres to professionally manage arbitration cases directly from disputants without interference or reference by courts. The only requirement for these institutions to arbitrate a dispute is the existence of an arbitration clause in the disputants' contracts or their mutual agreement to arbitrate.

The Justice Srikrishna committee examined the operations of the International Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ICADR), India's only international arbitration centre overseen by the Government of India and the Supreme Court of India. This was India's first International Arbitration Centre, with headquarters in New Delhi and regional centres in Bangalore and Hyderabad.

The ICADR was established

in 1995 under the Ministry of Law and Justice with the goal of promoting alternative dispute resolution methods and providing facilities for them. This was part of a larger agenda to facilitate quick dispute resolution and reduce the burden on courts.

However, no one is aware of ICADR's presence anywhere in the country, and it is unclear whether it died naturally or was suffocated by private institutions. Be that as it may.

Arbitration, and more specifically institutional arbitration, provides an opportunity for parties to dispute the performance or non-performance of agreed-upon activities under any contract that binds them. Property disputes, financial disputes, partnership disputes, franchisee disputes, construction disputes, and any other commercial or business disputes may be arbitrated if a contract includes arbitration as a dispute resolution mechanism. The arbitration institutions maintain complete confidentiality throughout the procedure. Small and medium-sized businesses, the construction industry, civil contractors, families seeking property division among siblings, and others with arbitrable cases can walk into the offices of arbitration institutions and file

their cases for arbitration without the assistance of lawyers or advocates, as opposed to litigating. Arbitration preserves time, money, and relationships.

Despite much talk about institutionalising arbitration through seminars, workshops, and arbitration weeks, as well as comments from none other than India's Vice-President that it was becoming an "old boys club," the speed with which the Act was amended is not evident in its implementation. Four years after the law was passed, the promised Arbitration Council of India, which would authorise and regulate arbitration institutions, has yet to be fully operational. Except for a small number of arbitration institutions founded and funded by well-known law firms, state governments do not provide support for other professionally established arbitration institutions. Thus, there is an urgent need for the Centre and all High Courts in the country to take note of the arbitration institutions operating in each state and designate them in order to alleviate the much-discussed burden on courts and make India a hub for ADR.

The writer is a former Senior Advisor, UNDP.

### Success of democracy

Sir, The results of the general elections were drastically different from the exit poll forecast, and they stunned the entire country. The BJP, which won a large majority in the last two general elections, fell short of achieving a full majority this time around. Though the BJP is not a party that often accepts compromises, it will now require the backing of its allies to remain viable. It is unclear how this will affect the operation of the new government. Much to everyone's surprise, despite all its obstacles, the Opposition INDIA alliance was able to compete with the BJP-led NDA across the country. The Congress-led coalition has outperformed expectations. The country is no longer in danger of being Opposition-free. The BJP is expected to be kept on its toes by both its partners and the Congress. The mandate has made it clear that the public does not tolerate any party acting freely in a democracy. In its truest sense, this mandate is about the success of democracy rather than any individual's victory or defeat, and it will have far-reaching effects.

Abhijit Roy, JAMSHEDPUR

### Unambiguous mandate

Sir, The 2024 Lok Sabha election result is an unambiguous anti-incumbency mandate against the Narendra Modi government. However, the desire for a change was neither strong enough to root the incumbent government out nor was there a meticulous homework on the part of the INDIA bloc. Only the last moment seat alignment between the Congress and the Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh helped the bloc. But for the egoistic tussle between leaders and a distinctly unambitious looking Rahul Gandhi, things could have been worse for the NDA. They need not look beyond the well-oiled election machinery of the BJP and its shrewd think-tank that not only brought Nitish Kumar back into the NDA fold but also gauged the ground reality in Andhra Pradesh to join hands with the beleaguered N Chandrababu Naidu who had just returned from a brief stint in jail. The outcome is there to see: the INDIA bloc lost a golden chance to garner glory.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

## Letters

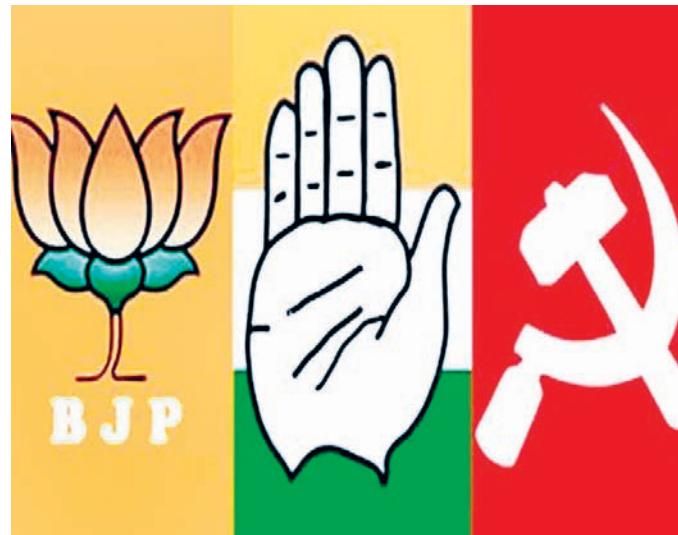
### TO THE EDITOR

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

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

LS POLL AFTERMATH

# Three Kerala political fronts at crossroads



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Thiruvananthapuram, June 5:** A day after the results of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls were declared, all the three political fronts in Kerala are mulling the way forward.

The biggest highlight of the Kerala Lok Sabha polls was the Lotus blooming in the state, with actor Suresh Gopi winning from Trissur.

The Congress-led UDF got 18 seats and the ruling CPI(M)-led Left ended up with one seat.

In the 2019 polls, out of the 20 Lok Sabha seats in the state, the Congress won 19 and the CPI(M) one. The BJP-led NDA did not win any seat and finished second in just one and a distant third on

the remaining seats.

This time the NDA managed to increase its vote share from 15.56 per cent in 2019 to 19.18 per cent, while the UDF saw its share decline from 47.24 per cent to 46.22 per cent and the Left share slipped from 35.11 per cent to 34.63 per cent.

In terms of numbers, though the Left managed to keep status quo with regards to 2019, the Congress candidates increased their victory margins in the traditional strongholds of the CPI(M).

It included constituencies like Kasargod, Kannur, Kozhikode, Vadakara and Palakkad.

The CPI(M) plans to introspect and Chief Minister Vijayan will have to find a replacement

for his Cabinet colleague and Minister of ST/SC, K Radhakrishnan who was the party's lone winner.

Since Radhakrishnan belongs to the SC community, it remains to be seen if CM Vijayan will induct an SC MLA of his party into the Cabinet.

He also has to find a party candidate for the Chelakara Assembly constituency which Radhakrishnan represents.

Then comes the need for finding a suitable party candidate for the Palakkad Assembly constituency as the Congress' Shafi Parambil won big from the Vadakara Lok Sabha constituency.

The UDF will first have to find a candidate to replace Parambil in his Assembly constituency. Then they have the onerous task of placating K Muraliedharan who lost the sitting Congress seat to Suresh Gopi at Trissur.

K Muraliedharan has already gone public saying that he will no longer be available to contest and will not attend party meetings.

As for the BJP state unit, though they can claim that they played a crucial role in increasing the party's vote share and making the lotus bloom, it remains to be seen if there is going to be a shake-up in the party organisation.

Now, all eyes are on what CM Vijayan has to say as he was peeved when asked if the Lok Sabha polls would be an assessment of his governance.



Waves crash against the Vizhinjam Seaport during high tide, in Thiruvananthapuram, Wednesday

PTI PHOTO

# INDIA bloc dominates Shekhawati belt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jaipur, June 5:** The INDIA bloc bagged all four seats in Rajasthan's Shekhawati region where farmers' issues and the Agnipath scheme dominated the electoral discourse.

The opposition bloc got a morale booster in Rajasthan after winning 11 seats in the state, which had seen the BJP-led NDA winning all 25 Lok Sabha seats in the last two general elections.

Having lost the assembly polls in December last year, the good performance in the Lok Sabha polls has enthused the Congress and its allies.



The BJP Tuesday won 14 seats while the Congress got eight. At the same time, INDIA bloc partners CPI(M), Rashtriya Loktantrik Party (RLP) and Bharat Adivasi Party (BAP) won one seat each.

The Congress had forged alliances with the CPI (M) in Sikar and RLP in Nagaur and supported Bharat Adivasi Party (BAP) in Banswara-Dungarpur, while the BJP contested all 25 seats independently.

In the Shekhawati region comprising Churu, Jhunjhunu, Sikar and Nagaur districts, all the four seats have gone to INDIA bloc.

While the Congress emerged victorious in Churu and Jhunjhunu, INDIA bloc partners CPI(M) won Sikar and RLP won Nagaur seat.

Shekhawati is considered a land of warriors as it sends a large number of youths to the armed forces but youths aspiring to join the Army were disappointed with the central government due to the Agnipath scheme. Besides the Agnipath scheme, the Congress had also focused on the issues facing the farmers in this belt.

# Bharat Adivasi Party gains momentum in Rajasthan's tribal belt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jaipur, June 5:** The just-ended elections marked the rise of the Bharat Adivasi Party (BAP) in Rajasthan's tribal belt with the party making its debut in the Lok Sabha and also winning the Bagidora assembly by-election.

Rajkumar Roat, the BAP MLA from the Chaurasi seat, secured a decisive win in the Banswara-Dungarpur Lok Sabha constituency, defeating BJP nominee Mahendrajeet Singh Malviya by 2.47 lakh votes. Roat's victory highlights the party's growing appeal among tribal voters.

It was the Banswara-Dungarpur parliamentary segment where Prime Minister Narendra Modi suggested that if the Congress came to power, it would redistribute the wealth of people to Muslims and cited former PM Manmohan Singh's remark that the minority community had the first claim on the country's resources.

"This urban-naxal mindset, my mothers and sisters, they will not even leave your 'Mangalsutra'. They can go to that level," Modi had said, addressing a rally in Banswara ahead of the elections.

The BAP made its presence felt in the 2023 Rajasthan Assembly election by winning three seats, indicating its significant potential to shape regional politics.

Its origins can be traced back to the Bharatiya Tribal Party (BTP), established by Chhotubhai Vasava in Gujarat in 2017. Roat and Ramprasad Dindor, formerly BTP MLAs, broke away to form the BAP in September 2023.

BAP candidate Jaikrishn Patel won the recent Bagidora assembly by-election with a significant margin of 51,434 votes, cementing its presence in Rajasthan's political landscape.

According to the Election Commission, Patel polled 1,22,573 votes, while BJP candidate Subhash Tambolia secured 71,139 votes. The Congress extended support to the BAP in this contest.

The Bagidora seat fell vacant following the resignation of Congress MLA Mahendrajeet Malviya, who joined the BJP and contested the Lok Sabha election from the Banswara seat.

The BAP's rise reflects the increasing political mobilisation and aspirations of Rajasthan's tribal communities.

With this by-election victory, the number of BAP MLAs in the Rajasthan Assembly has now increased to four.

The BJP has 115 MLAs in the state Assembly, Congress 69, Bahujan Samaj Party two and the Rashtriya Loktantrik Party and Rashtriya Lok Dal one each. There are eight independent MLAs in the House.

# Ashok Gehlot reflects on son Vaibhav's defeat in LS polls

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Jaipur, June 5:** A day after the declaration of Lok Sabha election results, former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot Wednesday spoke about his son Vaibhav Gehlot's defeat from Jalore, saying that it was a tough seat.

The former CM said, "Jalore seat was already a tough seat. It is a seat adjacent to Gujarat. The language spoken there can be understood by Gujaratis. We have not won that seat in the past 20 years."

"We already knew that the seat was tough, but in those circumstances, Vaibhav Gehlot came forward and accepted to contest the election. It is our duty to stand with the party in tough times, so despite knowing that the seat is tough, Vaibhav contested. Vaibhav Gehlot accepted to contest the election, and he gave a good fight there."

On election results, he said, "This election was between the common people and the NDA government, and the public has smashed the pride of BJP. I had assured the leaders that surprising results will come in Rajasthan, that is what happened."

Of the 28 LS seats, BJP secured 14, Congress eight and INDIA bloc partners three.

# Congress scion may choose Wayanad over Raebareli

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Wayanad (Kerala), June 5:** The Wayanad Lok Sabha seat, where Rahul Gandhi won for the second time in a row, comprises three Assembly constituencies each in the tribal district of Wayanad and the Muslim-dominated Malappuram, as well as one in Kozhikode district where Christians hold a significant vote base.

Gandhi romped home with a margin of over 3.64 lakh votes against his nearest rival, Annie Raja of the CPI.

With the Congress scion winning handsomely from Raebareli as well, questions remain which constituency he will now forego, although he has said he has not taken a decision on which seat he will represent in the Lok Sabha.

Asked about which seat he would represent in Lok Sabha, Gandhi said Tuesday, "I have won from both the seats and I want to wholeheartedly thank the voters of Raebareli and Wayanad. Now I have to decide which seat I will stay on, will discuss and then decide. Can't hold on to both the seats, but I haven't decided yet."

I am being asked whether I would remain the MP of Wayanad or Raebareli, I want



to remain MP for both. Congratulations to all of you, the former Congress president had said.

The Congress-led UDF was always confident about the victory of their leader, widely perceived to be the Prime Ministerial candidate of the INDIA bloc, from their stronghold Wayanad in the polls held April 26.

The BJP and the Left, who had fielded strong candidates to challenge Gandhi, claim he will abandon Wayanad if he wins from Raebareli in Uttar Pradesh. Interestingly, there was no confirmation until the completion

of the second phase of the election, when Kerala voted for Lok Sabha polls, about his plans to contest from another seat in the country's northern region.

Senior CPI leader Annie Raja was the Left candidate from the constituency, while the BJP's state chief K Surendran was tasked with taking on Gandhi and Raja, both leaders of INDIA bloc partners.

Famous for its lush green hills, diverse cultural heritage, and significant tribal population, the Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency has been a focal point of Indian politics since it gained national attention with Rahul Gandhi's candidacy in 2019.

While the UDF campaign focused on Rahul Gandhi's work in the constituency, highlighting his significant impact on Wayanad since his election in 2019 and his ability to bring a global perspective to local issues, the BJP and the Left countered it, alleging his long absence from the constituency and failure to address key issues affecting the people, including the human-animal conflict.

The Congress, however, argued that Gandhi had championed several initiatives aimed at improving the lives of people, particularly tribals and the poor, in his constituency.

# Cong's Sanjana Jatav, one of India's youngest MPs



AGENCIES

**Jaipur, June 5:** Twenty-five-year-old Sanjana Jatav of the Congress is set to be one of the youngest Members of Parliament (MPs) after her victory in the Bharatpur Lok Sabha seat of Rajasthan. Ms Jatav registered an impressive win over BJP's Ramswaroop Koli by 51,983 votes.

Sanjana Jatav, 25, is a member of the Dalit community and is one of the youngest Members of Parliaments elected to the 18th Lok Sabha.

In her affidavit submitted to the Election Commission, Ms Jatav declared total assets worth ₹23 lakh and liabilities amounting to ₹7 lakh.

In the 2023 Rajasthan Assembly elections, Ms Jatav lost to BJP's Ramesh Khedi by a minuscule margin of 409 votes. Putting the disappointment of defeat behind her, she ran a spirited campaign for Lok Sabha elections and registered a historic win for the grand old party, which had failed to open its account in the 2019 polls.

# Kerala schools embrace gender neutrality in textbooks

The new initiative is yet another move by the CPM government in Kerala to ensure gender neutral education

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Thiruvananthapuram, June 5:** A father grating coconut in the kitchen and cooking snacks for his daughter may sound a bit odd in a patriarchal society.

But what if the message appears in school textbooks?

That is what has happened in Kerala, where the state government has introduced innovative textbooks comprising gender neutral messages.

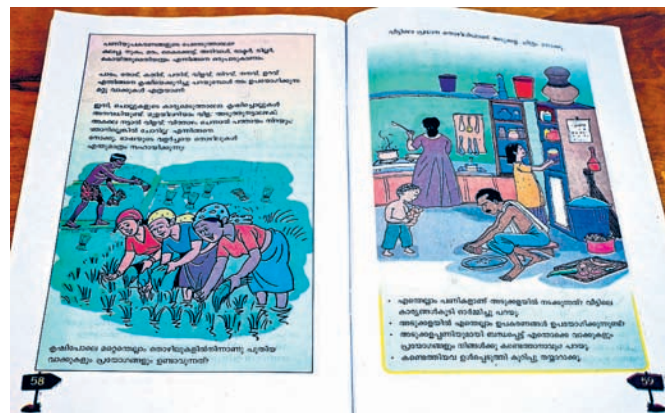
The objective is to inculcate the message of gender neutrality in the minds of children, au-

thorities said. As schools in the state reopened Monday after two month-long summer vacation, the textbooks, with pictorial representation of family members cutting across genders involved in cooking and other kitchen chores, are drawing widespread attention.

The innovative textbooks caught wide attention after state General Education Minister V Sivankutty shared a page from one of such textbooks in his Facebook post the other day.

The minister shared the page from the Malayalam medium textbook of Class 3 which shows the father sitting on the floor grating coconut while the mother is seen cooking dishes.

In the English textbook, the father could be seen cooking snacks for the daughter.



Teachers and students wholeheartedly welcomed the gender equality concept included in textbooks and hailed it as a "positive" step.

Pavithra Krishna, a lower primary student of a government school in nearby Vithura, said

was amused seeing the pictures in her new Malayalam textbook.

"I was turning the pages of the new book and was surprised to see the pictures of a father grating coconut in the kitchen. I showed this to my father and asked why he doesn't do this at

home," she told PTI. Sindhu, teacher of a state-run school in the capital city, said it would surely give a positive message among students, cutting across genders.

"This is very positive. Knowingly or unknowingly, there is a general impression in our society that cooking and household work are the sole responsibilities of women. Children are also growing with this sense of feeling because that is what they see in their home," she told PTI.

But the chapters and pictures in the new textbooks give the message that cooking and other household work are the collective responsibility of both father and mother, she said.

The teacher further said women are the ones who usually toil the most when it comes to household duties.

# national

## of the day uote

Safe to assume that youth here participated in the political process by exercising their right to vote. There is most certainly a yearning & churn for change

**MEHBOOBA MUFTI** | PDP PRESIDENT

History that even the Master Distortion cannot rewrite is that Nehru was elected PM in 1952 with 364 seats, in 1957 with 371 seats and in 1962 with 361 seats. Mr Narendra Modi has got 240 seats in 2024. It is a big mandate AGAINST him. But he is intent on sabotaging this mandate

**JAIRAM RAMESH** | CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY

Bihar has emerged as the kingmaker. Whichever government comes, the kingmaker should ensure that Bihar gets a special status, the 75 per cent reservation we gave, that should be brought under Schedule 9, and caste census should be conducted across the country

**TEJASHWI YADAV** | RASHTRIYA JANATA DAL LEADER



**INDIA bloc will take up the task of leading the country in protecting the constitutional principles and the great victory of DMK and its allies which have won all the 39 seats in Tamil Nadu and one in Puducherry, 'the 40 out of 40 win' will be greatly helpful in that endeavour**

**M K STALIN** | TAMIL NADU CM

**WANT TO QUIT AS DY CM: FADNAVIS**

After the BJP's Lok Sabha tally came down from 23 to 9 in Maharashtra, Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis Wednesday offered to quit the post so that he could work "full time" for the party ahead of assembly elections



NCP(SP) Chief Sharad Pawar with party leader Supriya Sule arrives for the INDIA bloc leaders' meeting in New Delhi



President Droupadi Murmu greets Prime Minister Narendra Modi as he arrives to tender his resignation letter following the end of 17th Lok Sabha, at Rashtrapati Bhavan



Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray talks to the media as he meets supporters in Mumbai

# SP, Cong game changers

The construction of the Ram temple was a main plank of the BJP campaign across the country. Ironically, the poll pitch didn't work in Ayodhya itself

AGENCIES

**Lucknow, June 5:** The almost spectacular resurgence of the Samajwadi Party and Congress in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections in Uttar Pradesh was a result of a conscious effort made by both, Rahul Gandhi and Akhilesh Yadav, to make the alliance work. After their alliance turned out to be a fiasco in 2017, Congress MP Rahul Gandhi and Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav worked afresh on their strategy and made sure that they emerged as political game-changers on BJP's turf in Uttar Pradesh.

In 2017, there was a visible discomfort in their relationship which percolated down to their respective cadres and made the alliance come a cropper.

After the initial hiccups over seat-sharing Rahul Gandhi and Akhilesh Yadav made sure to campaign together and, more importantly, speak in one voice on all issues.

Both the leaders chose to ignore the barbs hurled at them by the BJP on issues like appeasement and nepotism. Not once during the campaign, did they respond to the allegations. They remained faithful to their narrative on unemployment, inflation and the Constitution.

The camaraderie that the two leaders displayed in public, worked as an adhesive for their cadres who finally decided to



**The aim of samajwadis was to stop the BJP and they succeeded in this fight. People have given votes in the hope to save the constitution, reservation and democracy and remove those doing negative politics**

**AKHILESH YADAV** | SAMAJWADI PARTY (SP) CHIEF

**People have rejected the BJP. People have understood that the state cannot progress in the hands of the BJP**

**DIMPLE YADAV** | SAMAJWADI PARTY MP

work together in elections.

Though SP changed candidates frequently at one point in time, Akhilesh Yadav made sure that it did not develop into a revolt of sorts. He also fortified his party in segments where his MLAs had crossed over to the BJP just ahead of the elections. Rahul Gandhi, on his part, did not allow a lack of party work-

ers in the Congress to hamper his campaign. He did not bank on local leaders and managed things with help from his core group in Delhi.

More importantly, the two leaders did not react to issues like Ram temple and appeasement which could have communalised the entire campaign. Neither did they go overboard with their

## UP to face bypolls as MLAs win LS polls

**Lucknow:** With as many as nine legislators from Uttar Pradesh including eight MLAs registering a win in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, a sort of mini-Assembly election is on the anvil in the state which threw surprising poll results. Altogether, 13 MLAs and four MLCs contested the Lok Sabha elections from the politically crucial state of UP. Eight legislators including three MLCs eventually ended up losing the elections. Apart from these three MLCs who lost the Lok Sabha polls, luck did not smile on five MLAs of UP also. According to the Election Commission of India, the Samajwadi Party (SP) bagged 37 out of 80 seats, the highest number of Lok Sabha seats in the state, while its ally the Congress bagged six seats.

PDA -- Pichhda, Dalit, Alpasankhyak formula -- but addressed a broader segment of unemployed youth, BPL families and Agniveers that cut caste lines.

"In 2017, there was a visible strain in the relationship between the two parties and we sensed it but this time, Rahul and Akhilesh got along like the proverbial house on fire. We hope that the bonhomie continues till the next Assembly polls in 2027," said a senior SP functionary.

## Minority consolidation, strategic moves help TMC seal huge win in Bengal



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, June 5:** The TMC's victory in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections in West Bengal was facilitated by strategic manoeuvring, welfare schemes, consolidation of minority support and division of votes.

The result solidified the party's hold over the state ahead of the assembly polls to be held two years later. Three years after halting the BJP's advancement in the state in the assembly election, the TMC coasted to another memorable victory in parliamentary elections, defying exit-poll predictions, securing triumph in 29 out of 42 Lok Sabha seats in West Bengal.

Despite facing numerous challenges including internal conflicts and scandals such as the school jobs scam and the Sandeshkhali issue which threatened the party's image, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) secured a striking victory.

Apart from strategic manoeuvring and minority consolidation, the TMC leaders attributed a critical factor in its success to welfare schemes targeting women like 'Lakshmi Bhandar' and 'Kanyashree', pivotal in securing support from female voters, which comprise 50 per cent of the state electorate, and mitigating the repercussions of corruption allegations while bolstering

grassroots backing. According to a TMC leader, with the BJP's tally going down both at the state and its government at the Centre likely to be dependent on allies, "the TMC will further solidify its stronghold over Bengal ahead of the assembly polls in 2026."

A significant aspect of the TMC's success was its strategic electoral manoeuvring. The breakdown of seat-sharing talks between the TMC and the Congress in January worked to the TMC's advantage, setting the stage for a three-cornered contest.

This fragmentation of Opposition votes allowed the TMC to consolidate nearly 30 per cent of the minority and anti-BJP votes, which proved decisive in many constituencies.

This strategic positioning helped the TMC capture votes that might have otherwise gone to the fragmented opposition.

Local issues like the cancellation of school jobs, and the contentious implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), significantly reshaped election dynamics as the BJP's propagation of corruption allegations failed to resonate with voters, while the CAA, intended as a BJP electoral strategy, unexpectedly prompted minorities previously undecided between the TMC and the Left-Congress alliance to consolidate behind the Trinamool Congress.

## North-West Delhi seat records highest number of NOTA votes in city

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 5:** Of the 45,554 'None of the Above' (NOTA) votes cast in the seven city seats in the Lok Sabha elections, the North-West Delhi constituency recorded the highest number of such votes at 8,984, the Election Commission data shows.

In the constituency, BJP's Yogender Chandoliya won by a margin of 2,90,849 votes against Congress' Udit Raj.

This election, however, saw a negligible dip in the total number of NOTA votes to 45,554 from 45,629 in 2019.

The lowest count of NOTA votes were cast in the New Delhi constituency where BJP's Bansuri Swaraj was pitted against AAP's Somnath Bharti. A total of 4,813 voters in the constituency opted for this option.

## New Parliament to have many celebrity faces

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi:** With voters favouring many celebrity faces -- trusted and new -- this election season, eyes will be on the performance of first-time MPs like Kangana Ranaut and Arun Govil as they take their place in the 18th Lok Sabha along with returning star-politicians Hema Malini and Manoj Tiwari. The country went to the polls from April 19 to June 1 in seven phases to elect the 543 members in the lower house of the Parliament and many from the showbiz were in the fray. Ranaut, a popular face from Bollywood and a long-time supporter of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, won her first ever election as she was elected from Mandi in Himachal Pradesh, her home state. She defeated Vikramaditya Singh, the son of six-time Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh and state Congress chief Pratibha Singh. The actor, who has often found herself at the centre of controversies and always vocal about her opinions, had spoken about devoting her life to public service post her win. There is a lot of curiosity about Ranaut's tenure as an MP. Not just Ranaut, "Ramayan" star Govil was another celebrity face fielded by the BJP.

## 74 women elected to Lok Sabha, lower than 2019

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 5:** A total of 74 women have won the Lok Sabha elections, a slight dip from 78 elected in 2019.

Of the total women MPs elected to the Lower House from across the country, West Bengal is leading with 11 female MPs.

A total of 797 women candidates had contested the elections with the BJP fielding the maximum at 69 followed by the Congress at 41. This is the first election since the passage of the women's reservation bill in the Parliament to reserve one-third of seats in the Lok Sabha and

state assemblies for women. The law is yet to come into effect.

According to an analysis by think-tank PRS, 16 per cent of these women MPs are below the age of 40.

The analysis said 41 per cent of women MPs (30 MPs) have previously been members of the Lok Sabha. Of the others, one MP has been a member of the Rajya Sabha.

"While there has been a slow increase in the number of women in the Lok Sabha over the years, India still lags behind several countries. For example, 46 per cent of MPs in South Africa, 35 per cent in the UK, and 29 per cent



in the US are women," the analysis said. According to an analysis of the Election Commission data, BJP's 30 women candidates

won the polls this time, Congress' 14, TMC's 11, four of the Samajwadi Party's, three of the DMK, and two each of the JDU

and LJP(R). With over 13.62 per cent female MPs, the 18th Lok Sabha will have one of the highest number of women members since 1952.

The 17th Lok Sabha had the highest number of women parliamentarians at 78, constituting over 14 per cent of the total strength. In the 16th Lok Sabha, 64 women were its members, while 52 women were elected to the 15th Lok Sabha.

A total of 8,360 candidates were in the fray in the parliamentary polls. Three transgender candidates contested the elections independently. But all of them lost in the polls.



# national



The elections have shown that the BJP can be defeated. The myth (that it cannot be defeated) has been broken

UDDHAV THACKERAY | SHIV SENA (UBT) CHIEF

## 2 MORE INDIAN WETLANDS ADDED TO RAMSAR LIST

India celebrated World Environment Day with the addition of the Nagi Bird Sanctuary and the Nakti Bird Sanctuary in Bihar to the global list of important wetlands. These newly designated Ramsar sites are man-made reservoirs located in the Jhajha forest range of Jamui district in Bihar. Their catchments feature dry deciduous forests surrounded by hills



### of the day quote

People's blessings gave us a big boost and increased our confidence levels. They encouraged us to deliver more effective governance. The election results have once again proved that people of the state are with the Congress party

A REVANTH REDDY | TELANGANA CM

The Muslim community, which is an important part of the Bahujan Samaj Party, is not able to understand the BSP properly despite being given proper representation in the past elections and this time also in the Lok Sabha general elections

MAYAWATI | BSP PRESIDENT

Let us meet first. Once I come to know I will certainly share with you (media) the details. I am looking forward to the meeting with a positive mindset

ABHISHEK BANERJEE | TMC NATIONAL GENERAL SECRETARY

## X POST OF THE DAY

If RSS had a role in humbling BJP in Uttar Pradesh + Maharashtra seats and if RSS is in charge right now, i.e. has an upper hand in sanghi ecosystem, then Modi is resigning on 17th September 2025 on his 75th birthday cause the RSS is pretty strict about retiring by the age of 75.

### SHORT TAKES

#### PS Tamang to take oath Jun 9

Gangtok: Sikkim Krantikari Morcha supremo Prem Singh Tamang Wednesday said he would take oath as the chief minister of the state for the second term June 9. The swearing-in ceremony of Tamang and his cabinet will be held at Paljor Stadium in the state capital Gangtok. "The swearing ceremony of the new council of ministers will take place June 9 at Paljor Stadium as it had happened five years ago," he told a media outlet here.

#### NEET aspirant dies by suicide

Dausa (Rajasthan): A NEET aspirant died by suicide after jumping in front of a train in Dausa soon after the exam results were declared on Tuesday evening (June 4), the police said today (June 5). The police said that the deceased Ajit Meena went out Tuesday evening after informing his parents that he was going to the e-mitra centre and did not return home.

#### 31 fishermen rescued

Kozhikode (Kerala): A group of 31 fishermen, who were stranded in the sea off Parappanangadi coast as their boat developed a technical snag, were rescued and brought back to the shore, the Fisheries Marine Enforcement wing here said Wednesday. Personnel of the Fisheries Marine Enforcement wing's unit in Bepore brought the stranded fishermen and their vessel, which got stuck mid-sea due to an engine failure, to safety, an official statement said. A rescue mission was launched based on information that the vessel "Nathan" which had ventured into the sea from Bepore harbour, was stuck in the waters off Parappanangadi area due to an engine failure, it said.

# Court rejects Kejriwal's bail plea

SPECIAL JUDGE KAVERI BAWEJA DIRECTED THE TIHAR JAIL AUTHORITIES TO TAKE CARE OF HIS MEDICAL NEEDS IN JUDICIAL CUSTODY. THE JUDGE ALSO EXTENDED KEJRIWAL'S JUDICIAL CUSTODY TILL JUNE 19

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 5: In yet another setback to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, a city court Wednesday dismissed his application for interim bail on medical grounds in the money laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy scam.

Special Judge Kaveri Baweja directed the Tihar jail authorities to take care of his medical needs in judicial custody. The judge also extended Kejriwal's judicial custody till June 19.

The court is scheduled to take up June 7 his application seeking default bail in the case. During the hearing Saturday, the ED had opposed the application, saying he campaigned throughout the Lok Sabha elections but "now when he has to surrender, he suddenly claims to be ill".

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener surrendered Sunday at the Tihar jail as the tenure of his interim bail granted by the Supreme Court expired June 1.

The case relates to alleged corruption and money laundering in the formulation and execution of the Delhi government's now-scrapped excise policy for 2021-22. The judge had observed that the application was for grant of interim bail on medical grounds and not for the extension of the interim bail granted by the Supreme Court.

The top court had May 10



THE CASE RELATES TO ALLEGED CORRUPTION AND MONEY LAUNDERING IN THE FORMULATION AND EXECUTION OF THE DELHI GOVERNMENT'S NOW-SCRAPPED EXCISE POLICY FOR 2021-22

granted 21-day interim bail to the chief minister to enable him to campaign during the Lok Sabha polls. It had directed him to surrender June 2, a day after the last phase of the seven-phase poll got over. Kejriwal campaigned in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Delhi and Maharashtra after being released on interim bail. During the hearing of his application, Kejriwal's counsel told the court that he was ill and needed treatment.

The ED's counsel opposed the application, citing his campaign during the Lok Sabha polls and his "sudden" claim about being ill.

"Kejriwal campaigned throughout his interim bail period and now he suddenly claims he is ill. Kejriwal suppressed facts and made false statements, including about his health."

"A person who is saying that his condition is serious...look at his conduct. From the day he was released, he is campaigning

everywhere and not like one minute or two minutes, it's for hours. At that time, nothing happens to his health. But when he has to surrender, he is suddenly ill," he said. The ED alleged that Kejriwal wanted to "cheat" the court. "If any tests are required, we'll provide all facilities in jail. If required we will take (Kejriwal) to AIIMS or any hospital," it said.

The ED's counsel said, "A person who claims on TV that I may die, kidney failure etc, didn't go for a basic test since May 25. The entire system cannot be taken for a joy ride. It is a game being played by the litigant with the system. The prayers may not be granted."

Seeking the relief, Kejriwal's counsel told the court that despite his ill health, the AAP leader campaigned because that was the purpose for which the interim bail was granted by the Supreme Court.

"Stress due to the campaign increased his sugar level. Today, when I (Kejriwal) go back to jail without tests being done, I am subjecting myself to risks. This is only to ensure the fact that the treatment given to me is in conformity to the ailment I have. I am not asking for interim bail for two months or three months. What is the prejudice that it will cause to them?" the counsel said.

The court has, meanwhile, sought ED's response by June 7 on Kejriwal's another application seeking regular bail in the case.

# 9 trekkers die after losing way due to bad weather in U'khand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Uttarkashi, June 5: Nine members of a trekking team have died while six have survived after being trapped due to severe weather conditions on their way to Sahastra Tal in Uttarkashi in Uttarakhand, according to the IAF which carried out a rescue operation Wednesday.

The Indian Air Force evacuated three survivors and the bodies of five trekkers, while three Sherpas and the mortal remains of four trekkers will be brought back Thursday, it said.

The 22-member trekking team was sent by Himalayan View Trekking Agency, Maneri, May 29 on a 35-km long trek from Uttarkashi, according to officials. The IAF shared some details regarding the rescue operation and also visuals of a helicopter that was deployed for it in a post on X.

"Racing against time, #IAF helicopters have successfully evacuated three survivors and

the mortal remains of five trekkers, out of the 15 trekkers who were trapped in severe weather while trekking to Sahastra Tal, Uttarkashi."

Earlier in the day, an official in Uttarakhand said four members of the trekking team have died and 18 others were stranded on a trek to Sahastratal alpine lake, situated at an altitude of 4,100-4,400 metres in the upper Himalayan region.

The trekking team comprised 18 trekkers from Karnataka and one from Maharashtra, besides three local guides, Uttarkashi District Magistrate Meharban Singh Bisht said. The team was to return by June 7, but lost its way due to bad weather as it approached Sahastratal from the last base camp, Bisht said.

Land and aerial rescue operations were launched in search of the trekkers, he said. The IAF has been requested to rescue the stranded trekkers and find the bodies of those who died during the Malla-Silla-Kushkalyan-Sahastratal trek, he earlier said.

# IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi among world's top 150 universities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 5: The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) Bombay and Delhi are among the top 150 universities in the world, while the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) retained the top rank globally for the 13th time, according to the QS World University Ranking, 2025 announced Wednesday.

While IIT Bombay has climbed from 149 last year to 118, up by 31 ranks, IIT Delhi improved its rank by 47 points to bag the 150th position globally.

According to the coveted ranking published by the London-based higher education analyst, Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), the University of Delhi stood out



for the employability of its graduates and has been ranked 44th globally in the category of "employment outcomes". Boasting 46 universities in this edition of the rankings, the Indian Higher Education system is the seventh most represented globally and the third in Asia, trailing only Japan (49 universities) and China (Mainland) (71 universities).



Personnel from Fire & Emergency Services rescue people on boats following floods in Guwahati, Assam

# 'EVs are transformative force in fight against climate change'

AS PER A NITI AAYOG REPORT, THE GOVERNMENT IS AIMING FOR EV ADOPTION TO REACH 40% FOR BUSES, 30 PER CENT FOR PRIVATE CARS, 70% FOR COMMERCIAL VEHICLES, AND 80% FOR TWO-WHEELERS BY 2030



New Delhi, June 5: Electric Vehicles (EVs) are a transformative force in the fight against climate change and by significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions compared to traditional combustion engines, EVs play a critical role in mitigating global warming, experts said on World Environment Day Wednesday. World Environment Day is observed every year June 5 in an effort to encourage awareness and action for the protection of

# Police confirm blood sample swap



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, June 5: A forensic laboratory report shows that the blood samples of the mother were swapped with those of her 17-year-old son involved in the Porsche crash that claimed two lives here, police informed a court Wednesday.

In a related development, the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) extended the teenager's observation home remand until June 12, while the sessions court extended the police custody of his parents until June 10, following a request from the police.

During the hearing before the sessions court here, the prosecution informed that a report of the Forensic Science Laboratory confirmed that blood samples of Shivani Agarwal were used to replace those of her teenager son.

Police had earlier arrested two doctors and a hospital employee from Sassoon General Hospital over allegations of tampering with the minor's blood samples to falsify evidence that he was not under the influence of alcohol at the time of the accident May 19. It is suspected that one of the doctors had been in

communication with the teenager's father. The tragic incident occurred in Kalyani Nagar, resulting in the deaths of two IT professionals after the Porsche, allegedly driven by the minor, collided with their two-wheeler. The police have claimed that the juvenile was driving under the influence of alcohol.

The teen's mother was arrested June 1 on conspiracy charges related to the case.

During the proceedings on Wednesday, the parents of the minor, along with the two doctors and the hospital employee, were presented before the court after the completion of their initial police custody.

The court extended the custody of the doctors and the hospital employee until June 7.

Initially, the teenager, identified as the son of real estate developer Vishal Agarwal, was granted bail by the JJB shortly after the incident and was given a directive to write a 300-word essay on road safety.

However, following public outcry, the police revisited the case, leading to a modification of the initial order and the juvenile being placed in the observation home until June 5.

# Massive fire breaks out at kids' eye hosp

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 5: A major fire broke out at a private eye hospital for children in southeast Delhi's Lajpat Nagar area Wednesday, officials said.

No one was injured in the incident, a Delhi Fire Services (DFS) official said. Police said it is suspected that an electrical short-circuit in an air conditioner on the ground floor of the two-storey building caused the fire. Several videos of the hospital fire are doing the rounds on social media. One of the videos showed the hospital building engulfed in flames and thick plumes of smoke rising in the sky.

The call regarding the fire at Eye7 Chaudhary Eye Centre on Ring Road was received at 11.30 am and 12 fire tenders were rushed to the spot. Later, more fire tenders were pressed into service, the officials said.

They said about seven staff



members who were inside the hospital rushed out as soon as the fire broke out. Deputy Chief Fire Officer S K Dua said a total of 20 fire tenders were deployed to douse the fire, which was controlled by 1.10 pm.

The raging flames spread to a cafeteria located on the third floor of an adjacent building but they were soon brought under control by firefighters, he said.

Another officer said three motorcycles parked behind the building were damaged in the fire. The officer said a cooling operation was conducted and the fire department also checked the building. All machines and furniture on both floors of the hospital were gutted in the fire, he said.

Fire officials said the building did not require a no-objection certificate as its height is below nine metres. Police said that they have a registered case under relevant sections and started the probe to ascertain the actual cause of the fire.

# international



As for the French instructors, I think they are already on the Ukrainian territory. Regardless of their status, military officials or mercenaries represent a legitimate target for our armed forces  
SERGEY LAVROV | FOREIGN MINISTER, RUSSIA

**LANKA, MALDIVES HOLD BILATERAL TALKS**  
Sri Lanka and the Maldives have held successful bilateral talks to reaffirm positive diplomatic relations during the ongoing visit of the Maldivian foreign minister Moosa Zameer



## of the day quote

We cannot accept an agreement that does not guarantee and confirm a permanent cease-fire and full withdrawal from Gaza followed by an (prisoners) exchange  
**OSAMA HAMDAN** | FORMER SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE OF HAMAS, LEBANON

I will spare no effort to protect the lives of Chinese workers and assure and guarantee that we will provide them security more than our children. This will never happen again  
**SHEHBAZ SHARIF** | PM, PAKISTAN

We cannot accept a future where the rich are protected in air-conditioned bubbles, while the rest of humanity is lashed by lethal weather in unlivable lands  
**ANTONIO GUTERRES** | UN SECRETARY GENERAL

## SHORT TAKES

### Cops arrested for kidnapping

**Manila:** Four police officers assigned in the Philippine capital region have been arrested for kidnapping for ransom that victimised four foreign tourists, officials said Wednesday. Two of the officers onboard motorcycles flagged down a luxury car carrying three Chinese and a Malaysian over the weekend, while their armed civilian cohorts handcuffed and dragged the four tourists into a van. Two of the Chinese managed to escape and notified authorities, police said.

### Pak to unveil ₹18tn budget

**Islamabad:** The Pakistan government is likely to present the budget with the outlay of around ₹18 trillion for the financial year 2024-25 June 12, a minister said Wednesday. The government will table the budget in the National Assembly after approval from the Cabinet, The Express Tribune newspaper reported, quoting the Minister of State for Finance Ali Pervaiz Malik. The cabinet meeting will also make crucial decisions about any increase in the salaries and pensions for government employees.

### Attack on US Embassy foiled

**Beirut:** A gunman was captured by Lebanese soldiers after attempting to attack the US Embassy near Beirut Wednesday, the military said. A Lebanese security official told The Associated Press that there were four assailants, including one who drove the gunmen to the site and three who opened fire. One shooter was killed, one escaped, and the third was wounded and detained by the Lebanese military. The attack took place as tensions continued to simmer in the tiny Mediterranean country, where months of fighting between Hezbollah militants and Israeli troops has displaced thousands along the border. Local media reported that there was a gunfight involving at least one attacker and lasting almost half an hour at the US diplomatic mission.

### Slovakia's PM posts speech online

**Bratislava:** Slovakia's populist Prime Minister Robert Fico posted a speech online Wednesday in his first appearance since he was seriously wounded in an assassination attempt three weeks ago. In a pre-recording speech posted on his Facebook ahead of the European Parliament election, Fico said the attack caused serious damage to his health and that "it will be a small miracle if I return to work in several weeks".

# Israel pounds Gaza despite Biden's cease fire pressure

At least 44 Palestinians have been killed in Israeli military strikes in central Gaza Strip areas since Tuesday

REUTERS

**Cairo, June 5:** Israel announced a new military campaign against Hamas in central Gaza Wednesday and Palestinian medics said airstrikes there had killed dozens of people ahead of talks between US and Qatari mediators to try to finalise a ceasefire deal.

The armed wings of Hamas and Islamic Jihad said they had fought gun battles with Israeli forces in areas throughout the enclave and fired anti-tank rockets and shells as the two sides sought the upper hand amid pressure to lay down their arms.

At least 44 Palestinians have been killed in Israeli military strikes in central Gaza Strip areas since Tuesday, health officials in the enclave said.

"The sounds of bombardment didn't stop all night," said Aya, 30, a displaced woman in Deir Al-Balah.

Two children were among the dead laid out Wednesday. Mourners said they had been killed along with their mother, who had been unable to leave when others in the neighbourhood did.

"This is not war, it is destruction that words are unable to express," said their father Abu Mohammed Abu Saif.

The Israeli military said jets were hitting Hamas militant targets in central Gaza while ground forces were operating "in a focused manner with guidance from intelligence" in the area of Al-Bureij, one of Gaza's long established refugee settlements.

Residents said Israeli forces had sent tanks into Bureij and planes and tanks pounded the nearby settlements of Al-Maghazi and Al-Nuseirat as well as Deir Al-Balah city, where



tanks have not invaded.

"Every time they speak about new truce talks, the occupation uses one town or refugee camp as a pressuring card. Why should civilians, people safe inside their homes or tents, pay the price? Why can't Arabs and the world stop the war?" Aya told Reuters via a chat app.

### CIA DIRECTOR BURNS DISCUSSES CEASEFIRE IN DOHA

CIA Director William Burns was meeting with Qatar's Prime Minister, an official briefed on the talks said.

White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan told reporters Tuesday the administration was waiting for a response from Hamas through the Qatari mediators to a ceasefire proposal that US President Joe Biden revealed Friday.

Qatar said Tuesday that the proposal was now much closer to the positions of both sides.

Hamas has said it views the contents of the plan positively and has criticised Washington for what it described as attempts to blame the Palestinian militant group for hampering it.

But a spokesman for Hamas, which has ruled Gaza since 2007, reiterated it could not agree to any deal unless Israel makes a "clear" commitment to a permanent truce and complete withdrawal from Gaza. Israel says it cannot do that until Hamas is wiped out.

US officials say that since it is

Slovenia is the latest European country to recognise Palestinian as a state. The country's Parliament voted Tuesday in support of the move, following in the recent steps of Spain, Ireland and Norway. Slovenia's Prime Minister has said he sped up efforts to recognise a State of Palestine in reaction to Israel's expanding invasion of the southern Gaza city of Rafah

an Israeli plan, Israel is likely to accept it. Qatar has said Israel needs to give a clear position on the plan that represents the whole government, parts of which have opposed any kind of truce.

Fighting continued in Rafah, the town on the border with Egypt which Israeli forces swept into last month in what the military said was a limited operation to root out Hamas' last intact combat units.

"The forces found combat means and eliminated armed saboteurs who operated nearby and posed a threat," it said.

Remaining residents in Rafah, from where most of the million people who had taken refuge there have fled again, said Israeli tanks mounted raids into the centre and deeper into the west before retreating east and south again.

The United Nations Palestinian refugee agency (UNRWA) issued a new plea for a ceasefire Wednesday on X, describing the lasting impact of almost eight months of war.

## Boeing launches NASA astronauts for first time after yrs of delays

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Cape Canaveral, June 5:** Boeing launched astronauts for the first time Wednesday, belatedly joining SpaceX as a second taxi service for NASA.

A pair of NASA test pilots blasted off aboard Boeing's Starliner capsule for the International Space Station, the first to fly the new spacecraft. The trip by Butch Wilmore and Indian-origin Sunita Williams was expected to take 25 hours, with an arrival Thursday.

They will spend just over a week at the orbiting lab before climbing back into Starliner for a remote desert touchdown in the western US June 14. Years late because of spacecraft flaws, Starliner's crew debut comes as the company struggles with unrelated safety issues on its airplane side. Wilmore and Williams — retired Navy captains and former space station residents — stressed repeatedly before the launch that they had full confidence in Boeing's ability to get it right with this test flight.

Crippled by bad software, Starliner's initial test flight in 2019 without a crew had to be repeated before NASA would let its astronauts strap in. The 2022 do-over went much better, but parachute problems later cropped up and flammable tape had to be removed from the capsule.

Wednesday's launch was the third attempt with astronauts since early May, coming after a pair of rocket-related problems, most recently last weekend. A small helium leak in the spacecraft's propulsion system also caused delays, but managers decided the leak was manageable and not a safety issue. "I know it's been a long road to get here," NASA's commercial crew program manager Steve Stich said before the weekend delay. Boeing was hired alongside Elon Musk's SpaceX a decade ago to ferry NASA's astronauts to and from the space station.

During the training, the B-1B dropped Joint Direct Attack Munitions while being escorted by South Korean jets, the first such bombing drill for a US bomber since 2017, a ministry statement said.

It said South Korean fighter jets also conducted live-firing exercises to demonstrate the country's readiness to punish North Korea if provoked, it said. The JDAM bombs include "bunker-busters." JDAM is a guidance system that converts unguided, conventional bombs into more precise, GPS-guided weapons. All US fighter jets, bombers and drones can use JDAMs, and the munitions are among the weapons systems the

## NORTH KOREA TENSIONS US B-1 flies precision bomb drill



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Seoul, June 5:** The United States flew a long-range B-1B bomber over the Korean Peninsula Wednesday for its first precision-guided bombing drill with South Korea in seven years, the South said Wednesday.

The drill — seen as a show of force against North Korea — comes as tensions are rising over the North's recent launches of rubbish-carrying balloons toward South Korea and other provocations.

Wednesday's training involved other advanced US and South Korean fighter jets as well as the B-1B aircraft, the second US bomber temporarily deployed over the Korean Peninsula this year. The exercise was meant to demonstrate the US security commitment to South Korea and strengthen the allies' joint defense posture, according to the South Korean Defense Ministry.

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United States has been providing to Ukraine to help it fight Russia's invasion.

North Korea is extremely sensitive to drills using bunker-buster bombs, which could threaten its leadership and complex web of underground military tunnels and structures. North Korea has previously responded to the flights of powerful US aircraft in South Korea with its own missile tests.

A B-1B is capable of carrying a large conventional weapons payload. North Korea has previously called the bomber's deployment proof of US hostility.

In the past week, North Korea floated hundreds of huge balloons to drop manure, cigarette butts, scraps of cloth and waste batteries across South Korea. In response, South Korea vowed "unbearable" retaliatory steps and suspended a fragile tension-reducing military deal with North Korea, restoring its frontline military activities.

The suspension of the 2018 inter-Korean deal allows South Korea to resume military activities like live-fire drills or anti-North Korean propaganda broadcasts via loudspeakers in border areas. Such steps will likely prompt North Korea to take provocative steps in response.

Recently, North Korea launched a rocket in an attempt to place a second spy satellite into orbit in violation of UN resolutions, but it blew up shortly after liftoff. It also test-fired nuclear-capable weapons for a drill simulating a preemptive strike on South Korea, and allegedly jammed GPS navigation signals in South Korea.

## MIGRANTS' CRISIS

### Italian PM visits Albania

**Rome:** Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni visited Albania Wednesday, where her government plans to build reception camps to house thousands of migrants picked up at sea. Looking to curb migration to Italy, Meloni signed a deal with Albania last year to send some asylum-seekers to the Balkan country and process the asylum requests there. The accord, agreed for an initial five years, foresees disembarking 36,000 migrants a year at the Albanian port of Shengjin, about 75 km south of the country's capital, Tirana. Their cases will be processed at a centre being built at a nearby air base in Gjadër, which can hold 3,000 people. Both facilities will be staffed by Italian personnel and will operate under Italian jurisdiction. However, outside security will be provided by Albanian guards.

### Biden prepares order for asylum

**Washington:** The White House is telling lawmakers that President Joe Biden is preparing to sign off on an executive order that would shut down asylum requests at the US-Mexico border once the average number of daily encounters hits 2,500 at ports of entry, with the border reopening only once that number declines to 1,500, according to several people familiar with the discussions. The impact of the 2,500 figure means that the executive order could go into immediate effect, because daily figures are higher than that now. The Democratic president is expected to unveil the actions, his most aggressive unilateral move yet to control the numbers at the border, at the White House Tuesday at an event to which border mayors have been invited.

## GLOBAL TEMPERATURE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**New York, June 5:** The rate Earth is warming hit an all-time high in 2023 with 92 per cent of last year's surprising record-shattering heat caused by humans, top scientists calculated. The group of 57 scientists from around the world used United Nations-approved methods to examine what was behind last year's deadly burst of heat. They said even with a faster warming rate they don't see evidence of significant acceleration in human-caused climate change beyond increased fossil fuel burning.

Last year's record temperatures were so unusual that scientists have been debating what was behind the big jump and whether climate change is accelerating or if other factors are in play.

"If you look at this world accelerating or going through a big tipping point, things aren't doing that," study lead author

Piers Forster, a Leeds University climate scientist, said. "Things are increasing in temperature and getting worse in sort of exactly the way we predicted."

It's pretty much explained by the buildup of carbon dioxide from rising fossil fuel use, he and a co-author said.

Last year, the rate of warming hit 0.26 degrees Celsius per decade — up from 0.25 degrees Celsius the year before. That's not a significant difference, though it does make this year's rate the highest ever, Forster said.

Still, outside scientists said this report highlights an ever more alarming situation.

"Choosing to act on climate has become a political talking point but this report should be a reminder to people that in fact it is fundamentally a choice to save human lives," said University of Wisconsin climate scientist Andrea Dutton, who wasn't part of the international study team.

## SA's ANC pushes for unity govt, meets resistance

REUTERS

**Johannesburg, June 5:** The African National Congress is leaning towards trying to form a government of national unity for South Africa, it said Wednesday, but the second-largest party said it would not join a government that included some of its smaller rivals.

The ANC, which has run the country since Nelson Mandela led it to victory in the 1994 elections that marked the end of apartheid, lost its parliamentary majority in last week's election for the first time in the democratic era. Punished by voters over persistent poverty and joblessness, rampant crime, rolling power blackouts and corruption, the ANC is still the largest

party but can no longer govern alone after the May 29 vote. It has been talking to five parties, ranging from the free-market Democrat Alliance (DA) to the Marxist Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), its spokesperson Mahleghi Bhengu-Motsiri told a press conference in Johannesburg.

"At this point in time the conversation is looking at the government of national unity because this is what the people of South Africa said to us," she said, adding that the party's National Executive Committee would discuss options Thursday.

The ANC will have 159 seats out of 400 in the new National Assembly, while the DA will have 87. The populist uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK), led by former pres-

ident Jacob Zuma, will have 58 seats, the EFF 39, the socially conservative Inkatha Freedom Party 17 and the far-right Patriotic Alliance (PA) nine.

"If the (ANC's) idea is also to extend an invitation to all parties above a certain threshold to serve in the executive, which would include MK, the EFF and the PA, our negotiating team will not be empowered to conclude such an arrangement," said DA spokesperson Werner Horn.



which scientists prefer to single years, the world has warmed about 1.19 degrees Celsius since pre-industrial times, the report in the journal Earth System Science Data found.

The report also said that as the world keeps using coal, oil and natural gas, Earth is likely to reach the point in 4.5 years that it can no longer avoid crossing the internationally accepted threshold for warming: 1.5 degrees Celsius.

That fits with earlier studies projecting Earth being committed or stuck to at least 1.5 degrees by early 2029 if emission trajectories don't change. The actual hitting of 1.5 degrees could be years later but it would be inevitable if all that carbon is used, Forster said.

It's not the end of the world or humanity if temperatures blow past the 1.5 limit but it will be quite bad, scientists said. Past UN studies show massive

"The current decision is that we will not join these parties in a government," he said, adding that any change of position would have to be agreed by the party's federal governing bodies.

An EFF spokesperson declined to comment on whether it was prepared to take part in a government of national unity.

South Africa's rand currency weakened in volatile trade after the ANC's comments, and weakened further after the DA's reaction, reflecting market anxiety over the political uncertainty.

An internal ANC discussion paper, verified by Reuters Wednesday, said a unity government was the most inclusive option and would allow the ANC to avoid choosing a coalition partner that may be unpopular with its base.

## Earth warming at record rate: New study



"To me, that is something worth fighting for."

The team of authors — formed to provide annual scientific updates between the every seven-to-eight-year major UN scientific assessments — determined last year was 1.43 degrees Celsius warmer than the 1850 to 1900 average with 1.31 degrees of that

coming from human activity. The other 8 per cent of the warming was due mostly to El Nino, the natural and temporary warming of the central Pacific that changes weather worldwide and also a freak warming along the Atlantic and just other weather randomness.

On a larger 10-year time frame,

which scientists prefer to single years, the world has warmed about 1.19 degrees Celsius since pre-industrial times, the report in the journal Earth System Science Data found.

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It's not the end of the world or humanity if temperatures blow past the 1.5 limit but it will be quite bad, scientists said. Past UN studies show massive

changes to Earth's ecosystem are more likely to kick in between 1.5 and 2 degrees Celsius of warming, including eventual loss of the planet's coral reefs, Arctic sea ice, species of plants and animals — along with nastier extreme weather events that kill people.

Last year's temperature rise was more than just a little jump. It was especially unusual in September, said study co-author Sonia Seneviratne, head of land-climate dynamics at ETH Zurich, a Swiss university.

The year was within the range of what was predicted, albeit it was at the upper edge of the range, Seneviratne said.

"Acceleration if it were to happen would be even worse, like hitting a global tipping point, it would be probably the worst scenario," Seneviratne said. "But what is happening is already extremely bad and it is having major impacts already now. We are in the middle of a crisis."

# business/international

## NETHERLANDS: INDIA'S 3RD LARGEST EXPORT DESTINATION

The Netherlands has emerged as India's third largest export destination after the US and UAE during 2023-24, even as the country's merchandise shipments dipped by over 3 per cent, according to the commerce ministry data. India's trade surplus with the Netherlands has increased to \$17.4 billion in the last fiscal from \$13 billion in 2022-23. The Netherlands has taken over major destinations such as the UK, Hong Kong, Bangladesh and Germany



## of the day quote

The future trajectory of the market depends on the new government's economic policies, with factors like GDP growth, inflation, and global conditions playing a key role

We expect the government to implement policy reforms and incentives to support the growth and sustainability of the real estate sector. These reforms could include financial incentives for sustainable building practices and subsidies or tax breaks for developers who focus on affordable housing projects

## SHORT TAKES

### Wheat output raised to record in FY24

**New Delhi:** The government has revised upwards wheat production at record 112.92 million tonne for the 2023-24 crop year (July-June) in its third estimate. The output, which has been revised upwards by 0.91 million tonne from the second estimate, is also higher than the previous record high of 110.55 million tonne achieved in the 2022-23 crop year, the agriculture ministry said Tuesday. Wheat, the main rabi (winter) crop, has been harvested and over 26 million tonne has already been procured by the central government at minimum support price. In its third estimate, the agriculture ministry has projected increase in rice output to 136.7 million tonne for 2023-24 from 135.75 million tonne in the previous crop year. However, the total foodgrain output is estimated slightly lower at 328.85 million tonne as compared to the level achieved in 2022-23 but higher by 21.1 million tonne from the last five years' average of 307.75 million tonne. In case of oilseeds, soybean production is estimated at 13.05 million tonne and rapemustard seed at 13.16 million tonne.

## MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VAR.	POINTS
SENSEX	72079.05	↓	4389.7
NIFTY	21884.50	↓	1379.4
DOLLAR	83.54	↑	₹0.44
EURO	90.86	↑	₹0.26
GOLD	₹71,617	↓	₹113
SILVER	₹89,845	↓	₹2,188

## WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
MAX	38.4°C	38.2°C
MIN	27.6°C	26.5°C
Humidity	82%	78%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Partly cloudy sky	

## CLASSIFIED

### AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit No.-1168 dated 01.05.2024, I, Biranchi Narayan Dash, S/o- Late Gour Charan Dash (old name), At-Mishrapada, P.O./P.S./Dist.- Angul, PIN- 759122 have changed my name to Biranchi Narayana Dash, S/o- Late Gour Charan Das (new name). Henceforth, I shall be known as Biranchi Narayana Dash, S/o- Late Gour Charan Das for all purpose.

# BLOODBATH ON D-STREET

On vote counting day, Sensex suffers worst single-day retreat in 4 years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, June 4:** In the biggest single-day fall in four years, benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty plunged by nearly 6 per cent Tuesday as vote counting trends showed the BJP may not have a clear majority in the Lok Sabha polls.

Reversing its Monday's sharp gains of over 3 per cent, the 30-share BSE Sensex nosedived 4,389.73 points or 5.74 per cent to close at a more than two-month low of 72,079.05. In the day trade, the barometer tanked 6,234.35 points or 8.15 per cent to hit a nearly five-month low level of 70,234.43.

The NSE Nifty tumbled 1,982.45 points or 8.52 per cent to 21,884.50 during the day. Later, it ended at 21,884.50, a sharp decline of 1,379.40 points or 5.93 per cent. Sensex and Nifty had previously declined by around 13 per cent March 23, 2020 when lockdown was imposed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Heavy profit booking in PSUs, public banks, power, utilities, energy, oil and gas, and capital goods shares dragged the markets into the deep negative. "The unexpected outcome of the general election sparked a wave of fear selling in the domestic market, reversing the recent substantial rally. Despite



With the NDA still looking to form a government, though with the important support of coalition partners, markets look jittery about the prospects of strong decision making.

MANISH CHOWDHURY  
HEAD OF RESEARCH, STOXBOX

have a positive effect on the rural economy," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

Vote counting trends showed that the BJP was poised to be the single largest party but could be well short of an absolute majority, leaving it dependent on its NDA partners to form government.

When the Narendra Modi government came to power May 16, 2014, Sensex had rallied 261.14 points or 0.90 per cent to settle at 24,121.74, and Nifty jumped 79.85 points or 1.12 per cent to 7,203. The BSE benchmark had hit the 25,000-mark in intra-day trade on that day.

On May 23, 2019, the Sensex declined 298.82 points or 0.76 per cent to settle at 38,811.39, while the Nifty ended 80.85 points or 0.69 per cent lower at 11,657.05. The BSE benchmark had hit the 40,000-mark for the first time ever, while the Nifty breached the 12,000-level on that day.

Among the 30 Sensex companies, NTPC plunged over 15 per cent, while State Bank of India tanked more than 14 per cent, Larsen & Toubro tumbled over 12 per cent and Power Grid dived more than 12 per cent. Tata Steel, IndusInd Bank, Bharti Airtel,

this, the market maintains its expectation of stability within the coalition, led by BJP as the major election winner, thereby mitigating substantial downside in the medium term. This is likely to lead to a major shift in political policy with a focus on social economics, which will

## Bear attack makes investors poorer by ₹31 lakh crore

Equity investors suffered a massive loss of ₹31 lakh crore Tuesday as markets went into a tailspin with the BSE Sensex tumbling nearly 6 per cent as vote counting trends showed the BJP may not have a clear majority in the Lok Sabha polls. In line with weak trend in equities, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies eroded by ₹31,07,806.27 crore to ₹3,94,83,705.27 crore (\$4.73 trillion) Tuesday. Following the huge rally in equities Monday, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms had climbed ₹13,78,630.4 crore to hit an all-time peak of ₹4,25,91,511.54 crore (\$5.13 trillion).

## Iran allies join Middle East war

IRAN'S ALLIES IN IRAQ ARE FIRING AT ISRAEL TRIGGERING A WIDER WAR IN MIDDLE EAST

REUTERS

**Baghdad, June 4:** Iran-backed Shi'ite armed groups in Iraq have ramped up rocket and missile attacks on Israel in recent weeks, raising concerns in Washington and among some Iranian allies of potential Israeli retaliation and regional escalation should they draw blood.

Though the attacks, often from hundreds of miles (kms) away, are not seen by western officials and Israeli experts as posing the same level of threat to Israel as point-blank strikes by Hamas and Hezbollah, they have increased in number and sophistication.

At least two have hit their targets and many have had to be shot down by US and Israeli defences, according to US officials and public statements by the Israeli military.

New weaponry such as cruise missiles have been regularly used since May and are harder for air defences to destroy.

"Overall, the intensity and the types of weapons systems used have steeply escalated," said Mike Knights, a fellow at the US-based Washington Institute for Near East Policy, where



he tracks the attacks. "It complicates the Israeli task and is an increased financial cost," he said.

Reuters spoke to more than a dozen people, including sources in Iraqi armed groups and other factions in Iran's network of regional allies known as the Axis of Resistance, alongside US and other regional officials, most of whom spoke on condition of anonymity to give candid assessments of a sensitive issue.

They said the attacks by Iraqi factions, including Kataib Hezbollah and Nujaba, were a cause for rising concern for Washington and also viewed with unease among some in Iran and its powerful Axis ally Hezbollah in Lebanon, which has carefully calibrated its own engagements with Israel to prevent all-out regional conflict.

"They could get the Axis involved in something it does not currently want," a senior figure in the Axis of Resistance said, describing the view among pro-Iran groups on condition he not be identified.

Iran and Hezbollah, the most organised members of the network, have in the past struggled to rein in Iraqi factions. Hussein al-Mousawi, a spokesperson for Nujaba, one of the main armed Shi'ite factions in Iraq participating in strikes on Israel, told Reuters the strikes were a natural evolution of the role of Iraqi groups and aimed to increase the cost of the war in Gaza. They intend to strike from anywhere, for as long as is necessary.

The Iraqi government, which carefully balances its alliances with both Washington and Tehran, does not officially approve of the strikes but has been unable or unwilling to stop them.

Iraq does not recognise Israel and a 2022 law punishes those trying to normalise ties with death or life in prison. Israel views Iraq as an Iranian vassal state and main corridor for weapons from Iran to other armed groups including Hezbollah.

SENSEX DIPS 4,389.73 POINTS OR 5.74% TO END AT OVER 2-MONTH LOW OF 72,079.05

NIFTY TUMBLES 1,379.40 POINTS OR 5.93% TO CLOSE SESSION AT 21,884.50

ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, Reliance Industries and JSW Steel were the other big laggards.

All the sectoral indices, except for FMCG, closed in the red. Adani group shares also declined. Adani Ports & SEZ tanked over 21 per cent, Adani Enterprises by nearly 20 per cent, Adani Power by 17 per cent, Adani Energy Solutions by 20 per cent and Adani Green Energy by over 19 per cent.

Markets jumped sharply Monday after exit polls predicted a massive win for the BJP-led NDA in the Lok Sabha polls. The BSE benchmark soared by 2,507.47 points or 3.39 per cent to settle at a new closing peak of 76,468.78 Monday, marking its biggest single-day gain in three years. The NSE Nifty climbed 733.20 points or 3.25 per cent to finish at 23,263.90.

POINTS	STOCK	%
331.40	NTPC	-15.45
775.20	SBI	-14.42
3,402.85	L&T	-12.69
295.90	Power Grid	-12.38
158.80	Tata Steel	-8.87
1,408.80	IndusInd Bank	-7.81
1,131.80	Axis Bank	-7.54
2,793.60	Reliance	-7.53
1,073.20	ICICI Bank	-7.51
855.00	JSW Steel	-6.52

## Global public debt hits record \$97tn, says UN

**Geneva:** The United Nations said Tuesday that global public debt rose to a record \$97 trillion last year, with developing countries owing roughly one-third of that — crimping their ability to pay for basic government services like health care, education and climate action. UN Trade and Development, formerly known as UNCTAD, said the value of money owed by governments rose by \$5.6 trillion from 2022.

## EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender No. ET-MCD-BBS-CCTV-AMC-09-24  
Name of the Work: ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT OF CLOSED CIRCUIT SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM PROVIDED IN LHB COACHES OF COACHING DEPOT, BHUBANESWAR, FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR.  
Advertised Value: ₹70,34,834.32, EMD: ₹1,40,700/-, Cost of Tender Document: ₹5,900/-, Completion Period: 12 Months.  
Bidding Start Date: 04.06.2024, Date & time of Tender Closing: 18.06.2024, 1530 hrs.  
Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.  
Complete information including e-Tender documents of the above e-Tenders is available in website <http://www.irps.gov.in>  
Sr. Coaching Depot Officer/ Bhubaneswar  
PR-175/P/24-25

## ₹ plunges 37 paise to settle at 83.51 against \$

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, June 4:** The rupee tumbled 37 paise to close at 83.51 against the US dollar Tuesday as the ruling BJP fell short of the absolute majority in the Lok Sabha elections.

Besides, a massive sell-off in domestic equities and a strong greenback against major currencies overseas added to the gloom, forex traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened weak at 83.25 and oscillated between a high of 83.23 and a low of 83.65 against the greenback during the session.

The domestic currency finally closed at 83.51 against the dollar, registering a fall of 37 paise from its previous close.

On Monday, the rupee closed at 83.14 against the US dollar.

"The rupee depreciated...today as domestic markets fell sharply amid uncertainty over election results outcome. This may have also led to some sell-off by foreign investors. The US dollar recovered from yesterday's losses on the weak Euro, which fell on disappointing employment data. The US dollar fell on Monday on weaker than expected ISM manufacturing PMI and construction spending," Anuj

Choudhary — Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, said.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.17 per cent higher at 104.25.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, dropped 1.88 per cent to \$76.89 per barrel.



Foreign investors were net sellers of Indian equities Monday as they offloaded shares worth ₹12,436.22 crore on a net basis. FIIs bought shares worth ₹26,776.17 crore and sold equities worth ₹39,212.39 crore in the cash segment.

"This uncertainty triggered a panic sell-off across various asset classes, impacting economic growth. The dollar-rupee exchange rate may continue to rise, potentially reaching 83.90, with 83.40 serving as the immediate support level," said Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities.

## Gold jumps ₹450; silver climbs ₹200

**NEW DELHI:** Gold prices jumped ₹450 to ₹72,900 per 10 grams in the national capital Tuesday in line with strong trends internationally, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous session, the precious metal had closed at ₹72,450 per 10 grams. Additionally, silver prices climbed ₹200 to ₹93,100 per kg. It had settled at ₹92,900 per kg in the previous session. "Spot gold prices (24 carats) in the Delhi markets are trading at ₹72,900 per 10 grams, up by ₹450 against the previous close," Saumil Gandhi, senior analyst of commodities at HDFC Securities, said. In the global markets, spot gold at Comex was trading at \$2,335 per ounce, up \$15 from the previous close. Gold rose Tuesday as disappointing US manufacturing data raised hopes that the Federal Reserve will have room to lower borrowing costs this year, Gandhi said. In addition, silver went up to \$30.25 per ounce. It had ended at \$30.19 per ounce in the previous session.



## 35th anniv of Tiananmen crackdown

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Beijing, June 4:** Checkpoints and rows of police vehicles lined a major road leading to Beijing's Tiananmen Square Tuesday as China heightened security on the 35th anniversary of a bloody crackdown on pro-democracy protests.

China has long quashed any memory of the killings, when the Chinese government ordered in the army to end the months-long protests and uphold Communist rule. An estimated 180,000 troops and armed police rolled in with tanks and armoured vehicles, and fired into crowds as they pushed toward Tiananmen Square.

The death toll remains unknown to this day. Hundreds, if not thousands are believed to have been killed in an operation that started the night before and ended on the morning of June 4, 1989.



The crackdown became a turning point in modern Chinese history, ending a crisis in favour of Communist Party hardliners who advocated for control instead of political reforms.

The economy boomed in the ensuing decades, turning a once impoverished country into the world's second largest economy, but societal controls have been tightened since party leader Xi Jinping came to power in 2012.

Across China, the event remains a sensitive and taboo subject that is heavily censored, and any mention or reference on social media is erased.

**बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा**  
**Bank of Baroda**

**Regional Office (Sambalpur Region)**  
1st Floor, G.M. College Chowk,  
Christian Para, Sambalpur-768001

**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
(Immovable/movable Property)

(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the BANK OF BARODA 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 demand notices calling upon the Borrower/Guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notice together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/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 Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned below. The Borrower/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 BARODA for an amount stated herein below plus further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment. The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

SARABAHAL ROAD BRANCH, JHARSUGUDA / Name & Address of the Borrower/Guarantor	Description of the Property	Demand/ Possession Notice Date	Total Dues as on
Borrowers: M/s. Maa Tarini Refrigeration, Prop: Mr. Deepak Kumar Sahu, S/o.: Sri Dukhbandhu Sahu / Guarantor: Mrs. Biswajeeta Pradhan, W/o.: Mr. Deepak Kumar Sahu, Both are residing at: Sarbahal, Near Nice Computer Center, Dist.: Jharsuguda, Odisha, PIN-768021	Equitable Mortgage of Residential Land having Khata No.: 1212/6127, Plot No.: 5797/11587, Area: Ac.0.070 Dec, KISSAM: Gharabarai, situated at Mouza: Jharsuguda Town Unit-5, Tahasil/P.S.: Jharsuguda, Tahasil No.: 212, P.S. No.: 15, Dist.: Jharsuguda, in the name of Mrs. Biswajeeta Pradhan and Mr. Deepak Kumar Sahu, Bounded by North: Plot No.: 5797, South: 20ft wide Road, East: Plot No.: 5797, West: 16 ft wide Road	30.12.2023 / 30.05.2024	₹8,50,223.87 as on 29.05.2024 + further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment

Place: Sambalpur  
Date: 04.06.2024

**Authorised Officer**  
**Bank of Baroda**

# Chhetri wants to end on a high

TALISMANIC INDIAN CAPTAIN DOESN'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT RETIREMENT; EYES VICTORY AGAINST KUWAIT

AGENCIES

**Kolkata, June 5:** Talismanic Indian footballer Sunil Chhetri does not want to talk about his last match in an Indian jersey Thursday. Instead he wants to focus on his last game against Kuwait here Thursday and win. The Indian captain does not want to carry the burden of retirement on his shoulders as he steps on to the field against Kuwait.

"I think most of us have met already 20 days back and we have spoken about my last game. That's done," Chhetri said on the eve of the second round match. "We are here only and only to speak about Kuwait and India and I'm trying really hard to not think about it as my last game. I want to play with a free mind. It's not about me and my last name, it's about India and Kuwait. And inside me I'm fighting a small battle. Please don't make it worse asking 'how are you feeling', again and again. I do not want to talk about retirement," added Chhetri.

Chhetri once more harped on the importance about the game against Kuwait. "We really need to win this game. Once we win, it gives us a great chance to go to the third round, which we have never done. We are happy, we are playing in Kolkata, because we know we will have huge support," Chhetri pointed out.

Chhetri was asked whether he would consider his decision to retire if India enter the third

round of the World Cup Qualifiers. Tongue in cheek he said that he will 'make a suit' to watch the games from the stands.

"No sir, the suits are made, I'm going to go and watch the boys play as a fan. I'm not somebody who just says something that comes on his mind, I've given it my thought. It's been 19 years I had a great ride, and this is it," Chhetri asserted.

"I've played worse sometimes, I played good but I just had a great ride. All I want is the team to win Thursday as it can bring a huge change to Indian football," Chhetri added.

Chhetri was asked whether he contemplates taking up coaching role in future. He came up with a big 'no'. He pointed to coach Igor Stimac sitting beside him and said 'he doesn't want to age like him'. "Five years back I saw this man come, he was very good looking, young and now look at him after five years. He has aged 15 years in five years. I don't think I can be a coach because I'm too selfish and I want to think about myself only," Chhetri asserted.

Chhetri also asserted that he won't be missed as the game is more important than the individual. "There are players like Manvir (Singh), Siva (Sivasakthi Narayanan), Parthib (Gogoi) and Rahim (Ali). They are all ready to step in. They are all quite good," Chhetri stated.



**“I frankly don't want to talk about myself in the game against Kuwait. It's about India and the importance to win the game”**

SUNIL CHHETRI

Stat facts			
Matches for India	150	Goals	94
Matches for clubs	356	Goals	155

- Major clubs: Bengaluru FC, Mohun Bagan, East Bengal, Dempo, Mumbai City, Kansas City (MLS)

# Stimac targets biggest win of football career

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, June 5:** A win in Thursday's crucial match against Kuwait will virtually take India to their maiden appearance in the third round of the World Cup Qualifiers and head coach Igor Stimac said Wednesday that the feat can change the future of the country's football.

Stimac himself is a member of the 1998 World Cup bronze-medal winning Croatian side. He said if India qualify for the third round, it will be the 'biggest moment' of his playing and coaching career, bigger than his feat with the Croatian team.

"This can change the future of Indian football. Although I'm a foreigner in this country but I feel more like an Indian," Stimac said at the pre-match press conference here. "Honestly this is the biggest game altogether in my playing and coaching career and the simple reason is that we have chance to make 1.5 billion Indians happy tomorrow (Thursday). We need to do everything to make it happen," the 56-year-old said.

Currently at second spot in their group with four points, India will consolidate that position if they beat Kuwait here. Afghanistan, who also have four points and play Asian champions Qatar simultaneously Thursday, have a goal difference of minus 10 as compared to minus three of India. It is expected to decide which team go through to the third round as second-place finisher in the group. India had beaten Kuwait 1-0 in the first leg in Kuwait City

**Players on the bench have not been performing. They need to realise that they are more important than those who start**

IGOR STIMAC

in November last year.

Stimac said he was feeling sad as Chhetri will be retiring after the match but added he might still give the ace striker one 'last call' to play for India.

"Of course as a coach I'm sad that Sunil is leaving us. I'm still not sure if I'm going to send him another call, if I feel we need him and he plays well for Bengaluru FC. I'm still thinking about it," Stimac said in a lighter vein.

Senior-most goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu had a sloppy outing against Afghanistan. His foul gave the opponents the winning penalty. However, Stimac backed Gurpreet and named him ahead of Amrinder Singh and Vishal Kaith in the playing XI against Kuwait.

"Gurpreet is starting the game tomorrow (Thursday). I don't question at this level and at such a high important level my goalkeeper who is No. 1. I hope he will prove himself again tomorrow and how crucial he is for the national team. Yes, he didn't do well, but that doesn't mean as a coach I will go with radical changes between the post because experience at international level is a huge factor," Stimac asserted.

## SHORT TAKES

### Sindhu loses

**Jakarta:** India's ace shuttler PV Sindhu went down to Hsu Wen-chi of Chinese Taipei in the first round of the Indonesia Open badminton tournament here Wednesday. Sindhu, a former World Champion lost to Wen-chi 15-21, 21-15, 14-21 in a match that lasted 70 minutes. In women's doubles, the Indian duo of Rutaparna Panda and Swetaparna Panda lost to Korea's sixth-seeded pair of Kim So Yeong and Kong Hee Yong 12-21, 9-21.

### Netherlands win

**Texas:** Netherlands beat Nepal by six wickets with eight balls to spare in a tight contest which was delayed by rain at the Grand Prairie here. The Dutch opted to bowl first and dismissed Nepal for 106 in 19.2 overs, led by captain Rohit Paudel's 37-ball 35. Tim Pringle (3/20) and Logan van Beek (3/18) bowled well for the Netherlands. Dutch opener Max O'Dowd led the successful chase, with an unbeaten 54 as his team scored 109-4 in 18.4 overs.

### Napoli sign Conte

**Milan:** Antonio Conte was confirmed as the new Napoli coach Wednesday, making him the team's fifth manager in little more than a year for the deposed Serie A champions. Napoli announced Conte signed a three-year contract, which Italian media reported will earn the former Italy coach six million euros (\$6.5 million) a season plus bonuses. "Napoli is a club of huge importance on the international stage," Conte said in a statement. "I'm happy and excited by the idea of taking my seat in the Napoli dugout. I'll give my all to develop the team," he added.

### CSK recall Ashwin

**New Delhi:** India's premier off-spinner R Ashwin is set to take charge of Chennai Super Kings High Performance Centre (HPC), potentially paving the way for his return to the franchise that propelled him into national reckoning. CSK CEO Kasi Viswanathan said Wednesday that Ashwin will oversee the centre as well as the team's various academies in India and abroad. "Ashwin is one of the greats of India and Tamil Nadu and his presence will be a big boost to the high performance centre and our academies," he said.

### Powerlifter banned

**New Delhi:** The Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel (ADDP) of NADA has suspended powerlifter Sandeep Kaur for 10 years, one of the longest ban periods handed by the committee, for her second doping offence as well as for using multiple prohibited drugs which constituted aggravating circumstances. Earlier she had been banned in 2019.

# India gobble up Irish cream

AGENCIES

**New York, June 5:** India began their T20 World Cup campaign with a fluent eight-wicket win over Ireland here Wednesday. After restricting Ireland to 96 in 16 overs, India reached the victory target of 97 for the loss of Virat Kohli (1) and Suryakumar Yadav's (2) wickets in 12.2 overs. Skipper Rohit Sharma (52, retired hurt, 37b, 4x4, 3x6) top-scored for India while Rishabh Pant remained unbeaten on 36 (26b, 3x4, 2x6).

Earlier, India's pace quartet, led by Hardik Pandya (3/27), produced a dominant effort on a spicy pitch to bowl out Ireland for 96. Pandya was well-supported by Arshdeep Singh (2/35) and Jasprit Bumrah (2/6).

However, the pitch at the Nassau County Stadium here caused a lot of problems for batters of both sides. Drop-in pitches are known to be dicey and it was no exception Wednesday. It was a two-paced track with uneven bounce. Some of the deliveries bounced awkwardly while others stopped on the batters and made it very difficult to play shots. It was one such delivery which struck Rohit painfully on the upper arm forcing him to retire. However, there was nothing to worry as Pant completed the formalities with a six of Barry McCarthy over the wicket-keepers head.

T20 cricket is all about inno-



### ROHIT INJURED

**New York:** India's victory over Ireland got soured a bit as skipper Rohit Sharma trudged off the field after suffering a blow on his upper arm from a delivery bowled by pacer Josh Little here Wednesday. Rohit was hit on his upper arm on the second ball of the ninth over. Officials stated that Rohit will be taken to the hospital for examination and tests will be carried out to ascertain the extent of the injury.

vative shots and if the pitch is not true enough, it becomes very difficult for the batters. The Indians managed to chase down the target because the batters had the skills to do so. Ireland, with less experience in international cricket, found the going really tough against the skilled Indian bowlers who exploited the conditions to the hilt.

None of the Ireland batters were able to counter the Indian bowlers as wickets fell like ninepins. Only Gareth Delany (26, 14b, 2x4, 2x6) tried to offer some resistance before becoming the last batter to get out. Only three other batters managed double digit scores against the Indian bowlers. The match was as good as lost for Ireland after they were reduced to 49 for seven in the 11th over.

### BRIEF SCORES

Ireland 96 in 16 overs (Hardik Pandya 3/27) lost to India 97 for 2 in 12.2 overs (Rohit Sharma retd hurt 52) by eight wickets.

# Indian eves desperate for victory

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**London, June 5:** Six straight losses in FIH Pro League have completely exposed the Indian women's hockey team's weaknesses. However, vice-captain Navneet Kaur said the players are looking to learn from these setbacks in the last two outings to finish their campaign on a positive note.

India are scheduled to face Germany and Great Britain in their last two games of the FIH Pro League 2023-24 here Saturday and Sunday respectively.

"We have faced tough challenges but each match has been a valuable learning experience for us. Despite the setbacks, our team have shown resilience and improvement, especially in our closely-contested matches against Belgium and Great Britain," Navneet was quoted as saying in a Hockey India (HI) press release, Wednesday.

"As we prepare to face Germany and Great Britain again in our remaining two matches, we are focused on analysing our previous per-

formances and identifying areas for improvement. Our goal is to convert our hard work into positive results. We believe in our abilities and are determined to give our best performances on the field," Navneet added.

So far in the European leg, India suffered a 0-5 defeat against Argentina in their first match, followed by losses to Belgium (0-2 and 1-2). In their rematch against Argentina, India went down 0-3. The team also suffered losses against Germany (1-3) and Great Britain (2-3).

"The journey so far has been challenging, but it has also brought us closer as a team. We are committed to working together, supporting each other and pushing our limits to achieve our goals," Navneet stated.

"The spirit and dedication within the team are strong, and we are motivated to finish the tournament on a high note," asserted Navneet, who has netted two goals so far in the league.

Overall, the Indian team have accumulated eight points from the 14 games they have played so far.

# Pak team engulfed in new controversy

AGENCIES

**New York, June 5:** The Pakistan cricket team and the players continue to find ways to trigger controversies. Right before the start of their T20 World Cup 2024 campaign, Pakistan team are said to have hosted a 'private dinner' in the US, where they invited fans for 'meet and greet'. The initiative, however, wasn't free or for a charity. It had an entry fee of USD 25, leaving many in the Pakistan cricketing fraternity fuming.

Rashid Latif, one of the finest Pakistan cricketers of all time, took to social media to highlight the shocking programme organised by the PCB and the players. "There are official dinners, but this is a private dinner. Who can do this? It's terrible. That means you met our players in 25 dollars. God forbid, had there been a mess, people would have said boys are earning money," Latif said in a video. He blamed the players for 'doing anything for money'.

# Rest of Odisha A trounce Nayagarh



SA Tarini of Rest of Odisha A was the star performer with the ball

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 5:** Rest of Odisha A defeated Nayagarh by 67 runs Wednesday in a match of the OCA Kalahandi Cup Super League at the DRIEMS Stadium in Tangi. The two-day game finished on the first day itself as bowlers enjoyed the friendly conditions. The remaining three matches that started Wednesday will con-

tinue Thursday.

SA Tarini took seven wickets to help Rest of Odisha A win their game. Batting first the winners were all out for 125 with Manoj Prashant (58) emerging the top-scorer. In reply Nayagarh were bowled out for a paltry 58 and they lost the game tamerly.

In another match Cuttack A scored 327 for the loss of seven wickets against ECORSA. Manav Bhattacharya (118) and Rajesh Dhupar (81) batted well for the Cuttack side. The match will continue Thursday.

Meanwhile Rest of Odisha B took firm control in their game against Bhadrak. Opting to bat first, Bhadrak were bowled out for 123. Only Shyama S Bal (52) managed to defy the opposition bowlers among whom Ashish Rai with four and Satyakam Bharadwaj with three wickets stood out. In reply Rest of Cuttack B scored 244 for the loss of two wickets at stumps. T Munde with an unbeaten 109 stood out for the Cuttack B team.

In the fourth match played on the day at the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack, Bhubaneswar A scored 370 with Kartik Biswal (146) emerging the highest scorer against Balasore. Udaynath Patra (4/86) was the best bowler for Balasore.

# Delgado stays on with Odisha FC



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 5:** Defender Carlos Delgado has signed a two-year contract extension with Odisha FC, the club said in a release here Wednesday. The new contract will keep Delgado in Odisha FC till 2026, the release added.

The Spanish defender played a pivotal role in Odisha FC's remarkable 2023-24 season. He played a total of 37 matches across major competitions, including the ISL, AFC Cup and Kalinga Super Cup. He scored two goals for the club. Delgado also stood out by completing the most successful passes among defenders in the 2023-24 ISL season and made 33 interceptions in 24 matches.

"I'm going to continue in the club and I'm very happy to be here, to be part of the family. I feel Odisha FC are like my family and this is the most important for me. I feel at home when I play for Odisha FC and I am hoping to make an impact on the games that I play for the club," Degado said in the release. "Odisha FC are excited to have Delgado for two more seasons and we wish him continued success in the years ahead," the club added.

# Women seeds fall like ninepins

AGENCIES

**Paris, June 5:** The French Open tennis tournament is turning out to be a fairytale for Italian player Jasmine Paolini. Playing some superlative tennis, the Italian stunned fourth seed Elena Rybakina to seal her maiden spot in the semifinals of a Grand Slam, here Wednesday.

Paolini won the match 6-2, 4-6, 6-4 at Court Philippe-Chatrier in 123 minutes. It will also be the first time that both the men's and women's singles semifinals of a Grand Slam in the Open Era will have Italian representations. Jannik Sinner had booked his semifinal berth earlier Tuesday with a straight sets victory over Grigor Dimitrov. The win Wednesday also helped Paolini break into the top 10 in WTA rankings. Paoline will meet unseeded Mirra Andreeva who stunned second seed Aryna Sabalenka 6-7 (5-7), 6-4, 6-4.

Earlier in a match played late Tuesday night, third-seeded Carlos Alcaraz sailed into the men's semifinals with an easy win



Jasmine Paolini is all pumped up after winning a point against Elena Rybakina, Wednesday

PHOTO X

# Bopanna, Ebden enter semifinals

**Paris:** The second seeded Indo-Australian duo of Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden sailed into the semifinals of the French Open with a comfortable victory over Belgium's Sander Gille and Joran Vliegen in the men's doubles quarterfinals here Wednesday. Bopanna and Ebden won the match 7-6 (7-3), 5-7 6-1, at Court Suzanne Lenglen in 64 minutes. After losing the second set to the Belgian duo, the Indo-Australian pair came back strongly in the third set to close out the match.

five meetings Alcaraz has lost only one set to the Greek.

"I'm really, really happy to be back in the semifinals here at Roland Garros," Alcaraz said in his post-match press conference. "It's always special being able to play a semifinal in a Grand Slam. I'm really excited to play Friday against Jannik again. A really difficult challenge and I'm ready for that."