

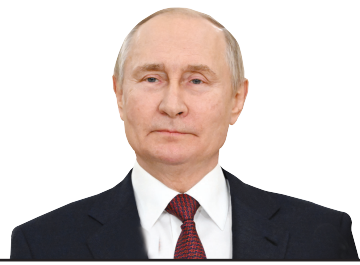
THE ASIAN AGE

NEW DELHI MONDAY 5 JUNE 2023



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Russian President Putin decides to build bomb shelter for country's rich

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Priyanka Chopra Jonas dances her heart out at Beyonce's show in UK



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RNI No. 57290/94, Regd No: DL-SW-05/4189/15-17

Vol. 30 No. 109 | 16 PAGES | ₹5.00

WINDOWS Opposition parties' June 12 meet in Patna postponed

New Delhi: A meeting of Opposition parties, which was scheduled to be held in Patna on June 12, has been postponed, sources said on Sunday. With Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and some other key Opposition figures unavailable for the meeting, there is a view to hold the deliberations at a later date so that they could also participate, giving the event due prominence. Sources said Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and DMK leader and Tamil Nadu chief minister M.K. Stalin were also finding it difficult to attend the meeting on June 12 due to prior commitments. — PTI

Naxal behind 2010 Tadmetla strike dies

Rajpur: Senior politburo member of the outlawed CPI (Maoist) Katakam Sudarshan aka Anand, believed to be the mastermind of the 2010 massacre of 76 CRPF jawans in Tadmetla in Sukma district under Bastar division in Chhattisgarh, died of cardiac arrest on May 31 in a jungle in the state, a Maoist press release issued on Sunday said. Full report on Page 4



Virat Kohli during a practice session ahead of the World Test Championship final against Australia from June 7 at the Oval Stadium in London on Sunday. — PTI

Monsoon misses onset date in Kerala

New Delhi: The monsoon missed its onset date in Kerala on Sunday with the IMD anticipating a further delay of three to four days. The southwest monsoon normally sets in over Kerala on June 1 with a standard deviation of about seven days. — PTI Full report on Page 4

WEATHER

Max: 38°C
Min: 27°C
RH: 46%
Rain: 2

Forecast: Mostly Cloudy

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Uttarayana
Tithi: Jyeshtha Bahula Padyami till 6.38 am;
Star: Mula till 1.21 am
Varjyam: 11.53 pm to 1.21 am
Durmuhurtam: 12.40 pm to 1.32 pm; 3.16 pm to 4.08 pm
Rahukalam: 7.30 am to 9 am
SUNSET TODAY 7.16 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.23 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 9.57 PM
MOONSET TODAY 6.02 AM

COUNTERPOINT



Not me, sir... detain all political leaders to control riots!



Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot interacts with Congress workers in Pali on Saturday. — PTI

Gehlot, Pilot are at daggers drawn after days of silence

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

The ceasefire in the Rajasthan Congress was short-lived. After the initial show of camaraderie between the state chief minister Ashok Gehlot and his bete noire Sachin Pilot, the high command is yet to give clarity on contentious points raised by the warring factions. Mr Pilot is still demanding action against former CM and BJP leader Vasundhara Raje, while Mr Gehlot wants Mr Pilot out of Rajasthan.

Sources say that Mr Gehlot is confident of winning the impending state elections if Mr Pilot is moved out of Rajasthan to the AICC as general secretary in charge of a state. The Rajasthan CM has even conveyed his "request" to the party

SOURCES SAY that Ashok Gehlot is confident of winning the impending state elections if Sachin Pilot is moved out of Rajasthan to the AICC as general secretary in charge of a state

high command. However, it was Mr Pilot who as the Rajasthan Congress president in 2018 brought the Congress back to power, wresting the state from the BJP. His supporters feel that if Mr Pilot moves out of Rajasthan, the constituency that he has built for himself will wither away. Also, Mr Pilot is not moved out of the state as it is his "karmabhoomi" and all the work done by him in the state will be wasted. Mr Pilot has threatened

to launch a massive movement in Rajasthan if action on his demands is not taken at the earliest. He also demanded the disbanding of the Rajasthan Public Service Commission (RPSC) and its reconstitution, compensation for those affected by government job exam paper leak cases and a high-level probe into charges of corruption he has levelled against the previous BJP government.

The Congress, after the meeting of Mr Pilot and Mr Gehlot with party president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi in Delhi, had said the two leaders have agreed to the party's "proposal" and will fight the upcoming Assembly elections unitedly, leaving all issues to be resolved by the high command. ■ Turn to Page 4



US secretary of defence Lloyd Austin arrives in New Delhi on Sunday.

Rajnath, US DefSec meet today; defence relations on agenda

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

US secretary of defence Lloyd Austin arrived in New Delhi on Sunday on a two-day visit to explore ways to further strengthen bilateral defence cooperation and the growing Indo-US defence partnership, especially in areas of the transfer of critical technologies for the co-development of military hardware.

"I'm returning to India to meet with key leaders for discussions about strengthening our major defence partnership. Together, we're advancing a shared vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific," he said after arriving in India for a two-day visit from Singapore. The US secretary of defence will hold bilateral talks with defence minister Rajnath Singh on Monday.

India is keen on finalising an agreement with the US for the manufacturing of jet engines in the country. The transfer of technology from General Electric (GE) to manufacture jet engines is crucial for the indigenous manufacturing of the Light

AT THE bilateral meeting, both ministers are set to discuss a number of new defence cooperation projects that are set to be unveiled after the Prime Minister's talks with US President Joe Biden in Washington later in the month

Combat Aircraft in the country. The US defence secretary's visit comes before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official state visit to the White House next month.

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The growing Chinese threat, increasing cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, implementation of foundational defence agreements, promoting co-development and co-production of military hardware and enhancing military ties will be at the top of the agenda during the bilateral talks. ■ More on Page 4

At NEP launch, Himanta calls it historic day for Assam students

AGE CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI, JUNE 4

Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced the commencement of the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 for the higher educational institutions of the state.

Speaking about the policy at the launch at Gauhati University, Mr Sarma said, "The NEP was envisioned under PM Narendra Modi's vision of preparing our youth for the future and its adoption marks a historic day for Assam. As a part of the policy, we should focus on imparting multi-disciplinary education and preparing our students in a holistic and enabling environment."

The chief minister said: "The policy has paved the way for transformative changes in the education sector of the country." ■ More on Page 4

Death toll revised to 275 ■ Track restoration by Wednesday

Signalling glitch likely cause of Odisha mishap: Vaishnaw

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO with agency inputs BHUBANESWAR/DELHI, JUNE 4

The Indian Railways on Sunday virtually ruled out driver error and system malfunction, indicating possible "signalling interference" and hinting at "sabotage" and tampering of the electronic interlocking system behind the triple train accident that claimed 275 lives in Odisha.

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi inspected the accident site, railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that the root cause behind the tragic train mishap has been ascertained and sought a CBI inquiry into the accident.

"It happened due to a change made in the electronic interlocking and point machine," Mr Vaishnaw told reporters



Union ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw and Dharmendra Pradhan take stock of the ongoing restoration work at the accident site in Balasore on Sunday. — PTI

at the site of Friday's accident in Balasore district. Mr Vaishnaw further stated: "The commissioner of railway safety (CRS) has investigated the matter and let the investigation report come, but we have identified the cause of the incident and the people responsible for it... It happened due to a change in electronic interlocking." "We've identified the

root cause of the train accident and the people responsible for it. The accident happened due to a change in electronic interlocking. Right now our focus is on restoration," Mr Vaishnaw tweeted.

"Our target is to finish the restoration work by Wednesday morning so that trains can start running on this track," Mr Vaishnaw said. ■ Turn to Page 4

Congress attacks PM, asks railway minister to resign

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

Days after the Odisha rail tragedy, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was busy flagging off trains while not paying attention to railway safety and called for fixing the accountability of all posts from top to bottom to prevent such incidents in the future. The Congress party also demanded the resignation of railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw over the rail tragedy and alleged that his "PR gimmicks" overshadowed the "serious deficiencies, criminal negligence and complete disregard for safety and security" of Indian Railways.



Relatives identify photos of the passengers, displayed by the authorities, following Friday's accident in Balasore district on Sunday. — PTI

In a series of tweets, the Congress president posed questions to the Modi government and alleged that PR gimmicks have made the working system of the dispensation hollow. Pointing out that 3 lakh posts are vacant in the

Indian Railways, Mr Kharge asked why these posts have not been filled in the last nine years. The Congress president said that posts at high levels whose recruitment is through the Prime



A large crowd gathers at the Lord Jagannath temple for the grand bathing rituals on the occasion of Deba Snana Purnima in Puri on Sunday. — PTI

No case had been registered against ex-PM yet: Pak DefMin Imran likely to be tried in military court

Islamabad, June 4: Pakistan's defence minister Khawaja Asif has said the chances were that former Prime Minister Imran Khan could be tried in a military court for his alleged involvement in the May 9 incidents in which military and state installations were attacked by his party workers, according to a media report on Sunday.

Mr Khan, 70, could stand trial in a military court if evidence of his involvement in the May 9 violence surfaced in the coming days, Mr Asif was quoted as saying by The Express Tribune newspaper. He also confirmed that no case had been registered against the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief so far in connection with the May 9 attacks. "Definitely...there are chances that Imran Khan can be tried in a military court," the minister said



Imran Khan while responding to a question if the deposed premier could be prosecuted under the Army Act. His remarks came days

after interior minister Rana Sanaulah said that Mr Khan will be tried in a military court as the former Prime Minister was the "architect" of the May 9 incidents.

Mr Khan's party found itself in hot waters when protesters allegedly belonging to the party attacked civil and military properties on May 9 following the arrest of Mr Khan in the Al-Qadir corruption case. — PTI

'Heartbroken', says US Prez in condolences on train crash

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to America, United States President Joe Biden issued a condolence message on the horrific train accident in Odisha, saying he and First Lady Jill Biden were "heartbroken" at the train crash.

The White House issued a statement that read: "Jill and I are heartbroken by the tragic news of the deadly train crash in India. Our prayers go out to those who have lost loved ones and the many who suffered injuries in this terrible incident. The United States and India share deep bonds rooted in the ties of family and culture that unite our two nations — and people all across America mourn alongside the people of India. As the recovery effort continues, we will hold the people of India in our thoughts."

US secretary of state Antony J. Blinken also spoke to external affairs minister S. Jaishankar and expressed his condolences over the tragic accident that claimed 275 lives and left around 1,200 injured.

Acknowledging the US secretary of state's condolences, Mr Jaishankar tweeted, "Thank@SecBlinken for the phone call expressing his support and sympathy on the Odisha railway accident. Such sentiments are deeply valued at this difficult time."

The PM will make an official state visit to the US later this month. During the visit, the US President and the First Lady will host the PM at a state dinner on June 22.

Manipur clash: Shah urges all citizens to lift NH blockades

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

Union home minister Amit Shah on Sunday appealed to the people of Manipur to lift the blockades from National Highway-2 so that basic and essential goods such as food, medicines and fuel can reach the state. Posting a tweet, Mr Shah also asked members of the civil society to take the initiative in this context.

"My sincerest appeal to the people of Manipur is to lift the blockades at the Imphal-Dimapur, NH-2 Highway, so that food, medicines, petrol/diesel, and other necessary items can reach the people," he said.

"Also request that civil society organisations do the needful in bringing consensus," he added. Mr Shah further said in his tweet, "Together only we can restore normalcy in this beautiful state."

Meanwhile, the Centre set up a commission of inquiry, headed by former chief justice of the Gauhati high court Ajai Lamba, to probe the recent series of violence in Manipur that claimed more than 80 lives. ■ More on Page 4