



## END OF EXILE

Actor Shilpa Shetty returns to cinema after 14 years with her new 'superwoman' avatar in *Nikamma*

LEISURE P2



## LANKAN CRISIS

A no-confidence motion tabled by the Opposition against Gotabaya Rajapaksa was defeated in Parliament

INTERNATIONAL P10



## KKR TAKE ON LSG

KKR look to keep their slim IPL playoff hopes alive against LSG, who aim to seal their position in the top four

SPORTS P12

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## Maiden title for Odisha hockey eves

**Bhopal:** Hockey Association of Odisha eves created history of sorts when they won the title at the Senior Women's Championships Tuesday. In the final played here, Hockey Odisha defeated Hockey Karnataka 2-0 with Poonam Barla and Kanchan Barla getting the goals. The final was a closely contested affair between Karnataka and Odisha. Both teams started well, as they created several goal-scoring opportunities. However, solid defensive performances from both the sides ensured that the match remained goalless at the interval. It was a different game altogether in the second half. Odisha were quick to attack and Poonam opened the scoring early in third quarter of the game by hitting the target in the 34th minute. Then Kanchan (59th) sealed the game for Hockey Association of Odisha with a late goal. **P12**



## LIC's lacklustre debut in stock market

**Mumbai:** The country's largest insurer LIC Tuesday made a lacklustre debut on stock exchanges, listing at over 8 per cent discount after a successful initial public offering (IPO) which fetched ₹20,557 crore to the exchequer. As against the issue price of ₹949, shares of LIC listed at ₹872, a discount of ₹81.80 apiece, on the BSE. The stock listed at ₹867.20, showing a discount of ₹77 apiece, on the NSE. The listing price was also below the price at which shares were allotted to LIC policyholders, employees and retail investors. The scrip remained below the issue price throughout the trading hours and closed at ₹873 on NSE and ₹875.45 on BSE. **P11**

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## Fire official kills self in Ganjam

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhanjanagar, May 17:** A Fire Services official allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself at Budhakendu forest under Gangpur police limits here late Monday night, an official said Tuesday.

The deceased identified as Dayanadhi Mohanta, who hailed from Putungaoon under Turumunga police limits in Keonjhar district, had been working as a Driver Havildar at Aska fire station, it was learnt.

A purported suicide note recovered from Mohanta's bag mentioned he was under severe mental pressure for last two years as he was repeatedly denied leave.

"Mohanta was transferred to nearly 400km away from his home. As a result, he was unable to go home for a long and so didn't have any contact with his family. His wife deserted him following frequent quarrels with him. Mohanta's parents also passed away," said a police official quoting the note.

These took a heavy toll on Mohanta's mental health following which he took the extreme measure, added the official.

In the note, Mohanta urged PM Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath to take care of his two children after his death, said the official.

## Heat scorches W Odisha

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, May 17:** Western Odisha was scorched Tuesday as 14 towns in the region recorded temperatures of over 40 degrees Celsius, the weather official said.

Bolangir recorded 43.1 degrees Celsius, the highest in the state, followed by 43 degrees Celsius in Sundargarh and Boudh. The mercury in Bhubaneswar was 36.6 degrees Celsius, while it was 35.8 in Cuttack.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Our policy should be 'one family, 10 tickets'. You see, our party's strike rate is pretty bad

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	54318.47 ↑ 1344.63
NIFTY	16259.30 ↑ 417.00
DOLLAR	78.28 ↑ ₹0.05
EURO	81.06 ↑ ₹0.06
GOLD	₹50,164 ↓ ₹84
SILVER	₹61,097 ↑ ₹171

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX 35.8°C	35.6°C
	MIN 27.6°C	27.5°C
Humidity	84%	84%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Light rain very likely	

## WHEELS OF FAITH



Carpenters construct chariot wheels at Rath Yard in Puri, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

## WPI inflation at record high of 15.08% in April

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 17:** Wholesale price-based inflation soared to a record high of 15.08 per cent in April mainly on account of spiralling prices of food, fuel and other commodities, which may prompt the Reserve Bank to hike interest rates in upcoming monetary policy review next month.

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) at 15.08 per cent is the highest in the new series, the data for which is available since 2012-13. The WPI inflation has remained in double digit for the 13th consecutive month since April last year.

"The high rate of inflation in April 2022 was primarily due to rise in prices of mineral oils, basic metals, crude petroleum & natural gas, food articles, non-food articles, food products and chemicals & chemical products etc. As compared to the corresponding month of the previous year," the commerce and industry ministry said



Inflation in food articles was 8.35 per cent as prices of vegetables, wheat, fruits and potato witnessed a sharp spike over the year-ago period.

In the fuel and power basket, inflation was 38.66 per cent, while in manufactured products and oil seeds, it was 10.85 per cent and 16.10 per cent, respectively.

Inflation in crude petroleum and natural gas was 69.07 per cent in April. Data released last week showed that retail inflation rose to a near eight-year high of 7.79 per cent in April, remaining above the Reserve Bank's inflation target for the fourth straight month.

## Secure 'Shivling' area but don't stop namaz, says SC

The top court, however, did not entertain a plea for stay of proceedings before the trial court, which was scheduled to receive the Court Commissioner's survey report



the 'Shivling' found inside the mosque during the survey needs to be protected, but the restrictions on Muslims entering the mosque to offer namaz is not correct.

It, however, did not entertain a plea for stay of proceedings before the trial court, which was scheduled to receive the Court Commissioner's survey report.

Senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi, representing the petitioner, contended that the trial court was not correct in ordering sealing of 'wuzukhana' - a place for washing hands, feet, and Varanasi, against the Allahabad High Court's April order, which dismissed a petition challenging a Varanasi court's order to appoint an advocate as a Court Commissioner to inspect the Gyanvapi Masjid complex.

The top court, which is likely to take up the matter for further hearing later this week, said that

## OFFICER WHO LED SURVEY SACKED

**Varanasi:** A Varanasi court, which had ordered the videography survey of the Gyanvapi Mosque complex, Tuesday removed advocate commissioner Ajay Mishra on grounds of non-cooperation, an official said. The court also gave two more days to the commission to submit the survey report. "Ajay Mishra, the advocate commissioner has been removed by the court," assistant advocate commissioner Ajay Pratap Singh said. Singh further said Mishra was removed on the grounds of non-cooperation.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Uttar Pradesh government, however, said if anyone put his foot on the 'Shivling' during wuzu, it would disturb law and order, and urged the top court to seal the area. After hearing arguments, the top court ordered sealing of the area.

## 82 ZP members tainted: ADR

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 17:** At least 82 newly-elected Zilla Parishad (ZP) members in Odisha have criminal cases against themselves, the Odisha Election Watch and Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) said in a report Tuesday.

The ADR Tuesday shared the data regarding criminal cases, assets, education and age after analysing the affidavits of 726 out of 851 winning ZP candidates in the just-concluded panchayat elections in Odisha.

The rest of the affidavits were not analysed as they were not available or uploaded on the website at the time of making this report.

Out of the 726 analysed ZP members, 82 members have declared criminal cases against



Out of 661 analysed ZP members from BJD, 66 (10%) have declared criminal cases against themselves while 6 (16%) out of 37 ZP members from BJP are facing similar charges

7 (32%) out of 22 elected members of Congress, 1 (33%) out of 3 members from JMM, 1 (100%) out of 1 member from CPI-M, and 1 (50%) out of 2 independent members have declared criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits

themselves, of which 65 (9 per cent) ZP members are facing serious criminal charges including cases related to attempt to

murder, crimes against women etc, according to the report.

While 15 elected members have declared cases of attempt to murder (IPC Section-307), 12 members are facing cases related to crimes against women.

Out of 661 analysed ZP members from ruling BJD, 66 (10 per cent) members have declared criminal cases themselves while six (16 per cent) out of 37 ZP members from BJP are facing similar charges.

Similarly, 7 (32 per cent) out of 22 elected members of Congress, one (33 per cent) out of 3 members from JMM, one (100 per cent) out of one member from CPI-M, and one (50 per cent) out of two independent members have declared criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits. **Contd... P4**

## CBI books Karti in visa scam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 17:** The CBI has registered a fresh case against Lok Sabha member Karti Chidambaram for allegedly facilitating visas of 263 Chinese nationals for a power company after receiving illegal gratification of ₹50 lakh 11 years ago when his father P Chidambaram was the Union Home Minister, officials said Tuesday.

CBI teams conducted coordinated search operations at 10 locations in multiple cities in the country, including residences of

the Chidambarams in Chennai and Delhi on early morning after registering the FIR, they said.

The searches spread across multiple locations in Chennai, Mumbai, Koppal (Karnataka), Jharsuguda (Odisha), Mansa (Punjab) and Delhi. "I have lost count, how many times has it been? Must be a record," Karti tweeted immediately after the CBI raids.

Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram, in his tweets in Hindi and English, said a CBI team searched his residence in Chennai and his official residence in Delhi.

## Actress dies during fat removal surgery

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bengaluru, May 17:** In a shocking development, a 21-year-old Kannada small screen actress died while undergoing fat removal surgery here, an official said Tuesday.

According to police, the actress identified as Chetana Raj of Abbigerre here was undergoing surgery without the knowledge of her parents.

The hospital authorities maintained that the death occurred due to water getting deposited in her lungs during surgery. Chetana had acted in serials 'Geetha', 'Doresaani' and 'Olavina Nildana'. She had also acted in Kannada movie 'Havayam'. Chetana's father Govinda Raj said she was admitted to the hospital at 8.30am Monday. By the time they got to know about it, the surgery had already started. By the evening, the lungs were filled with water or fat content and she faced breathing issues. There were no proper facilities in the ICU, he said.

Chetana had asked them for permission to undergo fat surgery but the family had told her not to undergo the surgery, he said.

## Remains of 2,500-yr-old civilisation found in Balasore

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Balasore, May 17:** Archaeological excavations have revealed strong evidence of an ancient civilisation that had thrived 2,500 years ago at Durgadevi village under Remuna block of Balasore district.

Four years ago, the state Archaeology department had undertaken excavations at the site. Archaeological remains have been unearthed from various excavation sites in the area. Project director of the Archaeology department

Sunil Kumar Patnaik and two experts took stock of the ongoing survey and excavation, Tuesday. Earlier in 2019-20, excavations had revealed a circular mud fortification in the 4.9 km radius of the village which is surrounded by rivers Sona on south and Budhabalanga on north-east.

Subsequently, the fortification of the entire early historic site and materials related to the civilisation proved its existence. Following the development, the excavation was again carried out March 22 this



The Balasore site

year: Old pottery remains and other materials have been recovered during the excavation. Among items discovered are red

## 'Lion sculpture from Ganga dynasty era'

**Puri:** The lion sculpture recovered during excavation at the Emar Mutt under the Srimandir Parikrama Project here Monday could be dating back to the Ganga dynasty, said ASI superintendent Arun Mallick as he inspected the excavation site Tuesday.

and black potshards, beads, earthen ornaments, toys, wheels, walls made of laterite and iron items. It was found that most of the dwelling places were in circular

forms. Noted artist Keshu Das said there are evidence that a Vedic civilisation had flourished at the confluence of Sona, Gangahar and Budhabalanga rivers.

He claimed that Greek traveler Ptolemy in his travelogue had described Balasore area as Kosamba.

The remains of the civilisation are believed to be of that Kosamba. Patnaik said the civilisation may be more than 1,800 years old and even more than that. Survey and excavation is on. The research will take five more years, he added.

# leisure



## BRITISH TV SERIES **BLACK MIRROR** TO BE RE-CREATED IN NEW FORM

*Black Mirror* is returning, albeit in a new shape and form of an anthology series, the casting for which is currently underway. Three years after Season 5 of the dystopian drama premiered on Netflix in June 2019, as per sources, a new anthology series of *Black Mirror* is in development.

## BLYTH TO PLAY CORIOLANUS SNOW IN **HUNGER GAMES** PREQUEL

Actor Tom Blyth, best known for *Billy the Kid* and *The Gilded Age*, has been cast as young President Coriolanus Snow in *The Hunger Games* prequel *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes*. The movie is based on the 2020 book of the same name.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
You will be very short-tempered today. Your temper is ready to burst at the drop of a hat, but, Ganesh says, it will be of no avail. It would be better to exhaust all that energy in some vigorous swimming or any sort of physical activity. Ganesh suggests that you actually run your way back to home.

**TAURUS**  
You will find it difficult to keep up appearances. Be prepared, says Ganesh. Situations are likely to bring out your inner feelings, your true nature. If someone crosses or confronts you will neither take it lying down, nor be inclined to forget and forgive. Maintain your composure and don't allow anyone to hassle or provoke you. Later, you will get out of this mood and remain cheerful and lively for the rest of the day.

**GEMINI**  
Your health will be your prime concern today, says Ganesh. As a result, you will spend more time doing workouts. Later in the day, you will make huge profits in business. You will treat your soul mate to his/her heart's content in the evening.

**CANCER**  
Today is not a good day to conclude deals related to houses or vehicles, foresees Ganesh. You may get less profit than you expected. You are at the threshold of a new relationship, and Ganesh sees this as a long-term prospect. So don't mess it up.

**LEO**  
Two things define you: your earnestness and authenticity. And today, Ganesh has a feeling that both shall hit their highest point. You may face tiny troubles while at work, which may take mammoth proportions due to your staunch outlook. If you are an entrepreneur, you may end up rotating money gathered from different sources. But all said, Ganesh believes that you shall get your due recognition for your abilities and efforts.

**VIRGO**  
The day will transform from being the usual bore to an exciting evening, predicts Ganesh. Afternoon may hit a snag, though, with stress rising alarmingly. But come sunset and all that will evaporate as you enjoy the warm, loving company of loved ones, says Ganesh.

**LIBRA**  
Respect at work is yours to command, as you come across strongly in a manner like never before, predicts Ganesh. You have the tenacity to bring in a new and successful business strategy. But it's not all work and no play for you today. In the evening, you will delight and dazzle your spouse with your fine sense of styling and taste. After all, one must dress to impress!

**SCORPIO**  
Social circles will be buzzing with your name and reputation today. At work, you may evoke jealousy in some people, and Ganesh advises you to be extremely cautious. Remember to vanquish the enemy and not your enemies, says Ganesh.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Your genial nature and charming smile will captivate many of the opposite sex. Your colleagues will employ your skills to their benefit. Later in the evening, a stroll with your sweetheart will sugar your mood and fill your heart with ecstasy.

**CAPRICORN**  
Your love will be your priority today, and you will pamper your sweetheart to the hilt, but look to your pockets before you set out to splurge on him/her, says Ganesh. At work, you will show consideration towards your colleagues and shield them in times of crisis. You will come across just as amiable in your social circuit too, and will make efforts to keep those around you amused. All in all, it's will be a good day for you.

**AQUARIUS**  
Finally, you realise the importance of thumping others' backs. Your colleagues welcome your appreciation and are thereafter motivated to do their best. You will find even more ways to create a harmonious environment at work. This earns you respect and gratitude, says Ganesh.

**PISCES**  
You will be busy today, watching your colleagues' backs and doing your best to rectify their mistakes. This is not to say you will have substantial success in your endeavours. Indeed, your confidence levels will dip in the same proportion that your frustrations will rise, at the incompetence that others display. An unexpected but wholly welcome surprise is coming your way, says Ganesh.

## Shilpa flaunts her superwoman AVATAR

MUMBAI: Actress Shilpa Shetty who was on a break from social media, returned with a bang as she flaunted her new 'superwoman' avatar (inset). Shilpa posted a new teaser video for her film *Nikamma* where she is dressed as a superhero.

Alongside the post, she wrote: "Now we're talking in a brand new avatar! Who is the REAL 'AVNI'????!! Do show some love & watch this



space for more (Sound On) Remember tomorrow 17th May, launching the NIKAMMA trailer at 11:30 aa #Nikamma #Nikammagiri #SomethingNew #StayTuned."

Shilpa's sister Shamita Shetty wrote, "Hotness personified!"

A fan even called her 'desi Gal Gadot.' Earlier, she had an emotional moment at the trailer launch.

As Shilpa arrived at the event to celebrate her return to theatre and films after 14 years, a special message from her mother was played on the big screen.

Shilpa was teary-eyed and overwhelmed as she saw the video message from her mother. The actress also expressed her gratitude towards the director of the film Sabbir Khan for breaking her 'vanvaas' (exile).

AGENCIES

## PM invites global filmmakers to India

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday said India has a lot of stories to be explored and asked international filmmakers to benefit from the seamless possibilities to make movies in the country.

In a message, he expressed happiness on India's participation as 'country of honour' at the Marche du Films held alongside the Cannes Film festival.

As India celebrates its 75th year of Independence, the 75th anniversary of Cannes Film Festival as well as 75 years of Indo-French diplomatic ties enhance the pride and joy associated with the momentous milestones, Modi said.

He noted India was the largest film producing country in the world with rich heritage and cultural diversity being its strengths.

"We have a lot of stories to be explored. India truly possesses im-

### 75TH CANNES FILM FESTIVAL



mense potential to become the content hub of the world," Modi said.

It was heartening to note that a Satyajit Ray film has been restored for screening in the Cannes Classic Section as India celebrates the birth centenary of the legendary

filmmaker.

As a major highlight of India's participation at this edition of Cannes Film Festival, world premiere of *Rocketry*, produced by R Madhavan, is scheduled to be showcased at the Palais des

Festivals of the market screening on May 19.

Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur is leading the Indian delegation, comprising top personalities from the entertainment sector, to Cannes.

## Deepika attends jury duty in Sabyasachi ensemble

NEW DELHI: Deepika Padukone wowed the world with her Boho look during the opening-day photocall of the 75th Cannes Film Festival jury Tuesday.

Very different from the formal monochromatic look of the other seven members of the jury, Deepika stood tall in flowing lime green pants and a beachy shirt embellished with floral designs, all from fashion designer Sabyasachi Mukherjee's Tropic of

Calcutta collection, as informed by her stylist Shaleena Nathani, complemented by a printed headband, chunky bejewelled necklace and jaunty heels.

French actor and filmmaker Vincent Lindon, who starred in the 2021 Palm d'Or-winning film *Titane*, is the president of the jury, which includes, besides Deepika, Iranian filmmaker Asghar Farhadi, English actress and director Rebecca Hall, Italian actress Jasmine

Trinca, French director and screenwriter Ladj Ly, Swedish actress Noomi Rapace, American director Jeff Nichols and his Norwegian counterpart Joachim Trier.

Earlier Monday, Deepika, a regular at Cannes since 2017, shared a video on her Instagram handle saying that she had landed in French Riviera. In the video, she gave a glimpse of Cannes and talked about her 11-hour flight from Los Angeles.



## Dare to Dream award for 'Adieu GODARD' at UKAFF

The Amartya Bhattacharyya directorial earlier had bagged five more trophies at various international film festivals

BHUBANESWAR: Odia feature film *Adieu GODARD* has bagged the prestigious Dare to Dream award at the 24th UK Asian Film Festival (UKAFF). The festival, which is



supported by the British Film Institute (BFI) and the Arts Council of England, is one of the oldest running Asian film festivals.

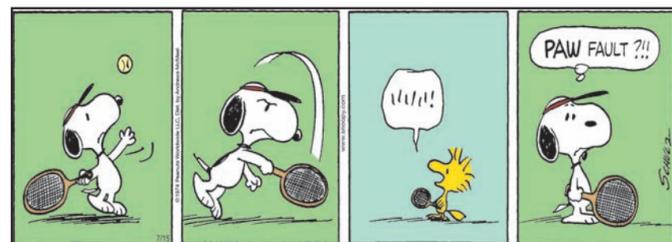
Written and directed by National Award winner Amartya Bhattacharyya, the film is an Indo-French production and has been produced by Swastik Arthouse in collaboration with FilmStop Entertainment and Les Films de la Haute-Vallée.

Elated with this news, actor Dipanwit Dashmohapatra, who plays an important character in the film said, "An Odia film getting recognised in London and earlier at Kolkata International Film

Festival is a silver lining considering the state the Odia film industry is in. I have always believed a movie like *Adieu Godard* is essential for both the communities - people who make cinema and those who watch."

Actor Choudhury Bikash Das, who plays the lead protagonist Ananda in the film, said, "This is the sixth award for the film at an International Film Festival and it shows how well this film connected with the Global Audience."

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

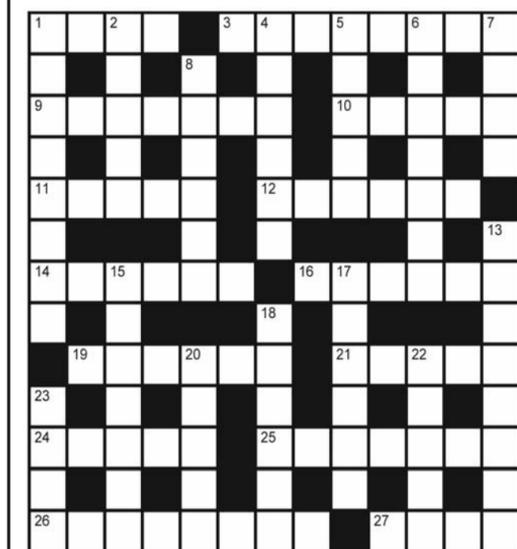


### BREVITY



### FUN post

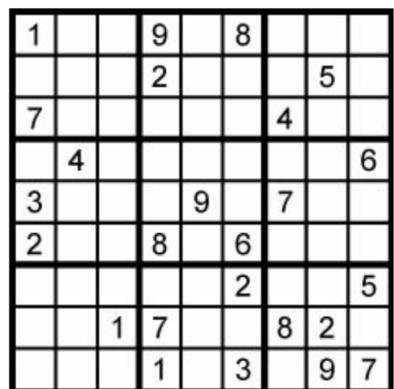
### CROSSWORD



- Across
- 1 Low-lying area
  - 3 Australian state
  - 9 Defeat
  - 10 In good shape
  - 11 Breathers
  - 12 Spain and Portugal
  - 14 Chalice
  - 16 Seal of approval
  - 19 Cane material
  - 21 Scornful smile
  - 24 "The Crucible" setting
  - 25 Type of long grained rice
  - 26 Sample
  - 27 Command to Fido
  - 4 Quick-witted
  - 5 Billiards shot
  - 6 Feed
  - 7 Verdi opera
  - 8 Scrap
  - 13 Forever and a day
  - 15 Sightless aid
  - 17 Help
  - 18 Melancholy
  - 20 Disney fawn
  - 22 Right on
  - 23 Horned goddess
- Down
- 1 Parson's abode
  - 2 Breathing apparatus

### 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

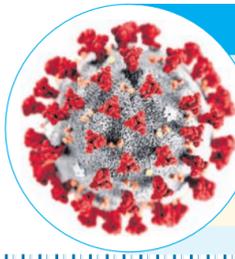


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



## MATTER OF FAITH

Artistes dressed up as mythological characters participated in a religious procession in Potapokhari area of Cuttack, Tuesday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	52,35,44,206	49,34,89,377	62,91,615
India	4,31,25,370	4,25,84,710	5,24,260
Odisha	12,88,314	12,79,025	9,126

# Develop problem solving attitude in students: CM



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and 5T Secretary VK Pandian participated in the orientation programme of newly-recruited lecturers, Tuesday

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 17:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday highlighted the importance of inculcating a problem solving attitude among students while speaking at an orientation programme for the newly-recruited college teachers here.

Joining the programme organised by the Higher Education (HE) department on a virtual mode, Naveen said that a society grows and moves forward by solving its issues. It is therefore essential to inculcate a problem solving attitude among the youth. He advised the teachers to help children and youth develop this critical trait. "We need knowledge that solves our problem and transforms lives," he added.

The orientation programme was organised at the State Convention Centre in the Lok Seva Bhawan here. As many as 908 lecturers have been selected in the latest recruitment drive, out of which 639

**A** TOTAL OF 639 OUT OF 908 NEWLY-RECRUITED TEACHERS JOINED AIDED COLLEGES TUESDAY

**S**TATE WILL RECRUIT 991 MORE LECTURERS IN VARIOUS GOVERNMENT COLLEGES AND TEACHER'S EDUCATION INSTITUTES

joined the aided colleges Tuesday and the rest will join soon.

Congratulating the new lecturers for the appointment, the Chief Minister said, "You are here by the potency of your education. You are also going to make a career in education. So, no one understands the importance of education better than you."

Naveen further said that with a focus to energise higher education, his government has launched recruitment drives to fill up vacant teachers' posts on a massive scale, both in government and non-government aided colleges.

Since 2016, the state has been undertaking recruitment process for 3,768 college teachers, out of which 2,320 college teachers have already been appointed in different aided colleges. Similarly the process is underway to recruit 991 lecturers in various government colleges and teacher's education institutes, he added.

The CM also said that the process to recruit over 1,000 professors, associate professors and assistant professors in various disciplines in all the state universities has already been started and will be completed soon.

"Smart classrooms will be developed in colleges in the line with our school transformation programme," he announced.

Three participants at the orientation programme interacted with the Chief Minister and thanked him for the transparency maintained by the State Selection Board (SSB) in the recruitment process. Speaking on the occasion, Higher

Education Minister Arun Sahoo said that under the direction of the Chief Minister, vacancies in different departments, including Higher Education department, are being filled in a massive way.

Higher Education department is focussing on total transparency as per the 5T mandate, Sahoo said, adding, "We are also initiating the Mo College programme to connect the alumni with their alma maters."

Participating in the discussion, Secretary to CM (5T) VK Pandian said that the Chief Minister gives highest importance to transparency. As is in the case of recruitment, the posting process will also follow merit and counselling, and will be done with absolute transparency.

Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra said that with continued development process in the state, most places have been developed with availability of all requisite facilities. The new appointees will find it comfortable to work at any place in the state.

# Redeveloped Tara Tarini shrine to boost tourism

KUMAR GOUTAM DAS, OP

**Chhatrapur, May 17:** The redeveloped temple complex of Maa Tara Tarini, the presiding deity of Ganjam district, is all set to be inaugurated by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday.

Situated atop the Kumari hills on the banks of river Rushikulya, and around 30-km north of Berhampur, the temple is among the ancient Shakti Peethas of Odisha.

Legend has it that Daksha Parajapati once performed a yajna with elaborate arrangements. However, he didn't invite his daughter Sati and son-in-law Lord Shiva to the auspicious event. Outraged at this humiliation meted out to her by her father, Sati jumped into the sacrificial fire at the yajna. Overwhelmed by grief, Shiva carried Sati's corpse and started performing Tandav. This would have led to universal chaos and to prevent this, Lord Vishnu mutilated Sati's corpse with his discus so that Shiva could regain his equanimity. Various parts of Sati's body fell at various places, all of which are known as Shakti Peethas today. Sati's breasts fell at the Kumari hills, the abode of



A renovated Tara Tarini temple

OP PHOTO

Tara Tarini.

Considered a dream project of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, the temple renovation was completed over 20 years and about Rs 117 crore has been spent for the purpose. The foundation stone for the temple redevelopment project was laid by then Ganjam Collector and current 5T Secretary VK Pandian. The renovation work was done under the supervision of eminent sculptor Padma Vibhushan

late Raghunath Mohapatra.

Speaking on the eve of inauguration programme, Ganjam Collector Vijay Amruta Kulange said: "The Pratistha Mahotsav of the redeveloped temple was being held from May 15 to 20. The construction works of the main temple, the administrative building, the deepa ghar, the bath mandap, munda mandap, the dining hall, lavatories and all other facilities have been completed."

## BRAJARAJNAGAR BYPOLL

# Naveen among 40 star campaigners for BJD

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 17:** The ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Tuesday named Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik among its 40 star campaigners for the May 31 bypoll to Brajaraj Nagar assembly segment in Jharsuguda district.

The regional party made this announcement after the opposition Congress and BJP invited neighbouring Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and its ex-CM Raman Singh to campaign for their party candidates in Brajaraj Nagar assembly seat respectively. Patnaik, who did not campaign in previous by-elections in Pipili, Tirtol and Balasore Assembly seats, may go for campaigning this time, party sources said.

The Brajaraj Nagar Assembly seat is likely to witness a triangular fight between BJD's Alaka Mohanty, former MLA Radharani Panda of BJP and Kishore Patel of Congress.

Apart from Patnaik, the BJD's star campaigners list also com-



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prised two Odia filmstars Arindam Roy and Akash Das Nayak.

The other BJD star campaigners are ministers Niranjan Pujari, Pratap Jena, Arun Kumar Sahoo, Samir Ranjan Dash, Naba Kishore Das, Susant Singh, Tukuni Sahu,

DS Mishra and Cuttack Mayor Subhas Singh

The BJP star campaigner list includes the name of five Union Ministers - Piyush Goel, Dharmendra Pradhan, Pralhad Joshi, Ashwini Vaishnaw and Biseswar Tudu.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Kanhaiya Kumar will campaign for Congress candidate Kishore Patel.

Congress Odisha in-charge A Chellakumar, OPCC president Niranjan Patnaik, Kantabanji MLA Santosh Singh Saluja, former OPCC presidents Sarat Patnaik, Jayadev Jena, and legislators Mohammed Moquim, Narasingha Mishra, Tara Prasad Bahinipati and Suresh Kumar Routray will also participate in the campaign.

A total of 2,14,261 voters are eligible to exercise their franchise in the bypoll, which was necessitated due to the death of BJD's Brajaraj Nagar MLA Kishore Mohanty December 30 last year. The counting of votes will take place on June 3.

## Mock drill to mark Int'l Museum Day

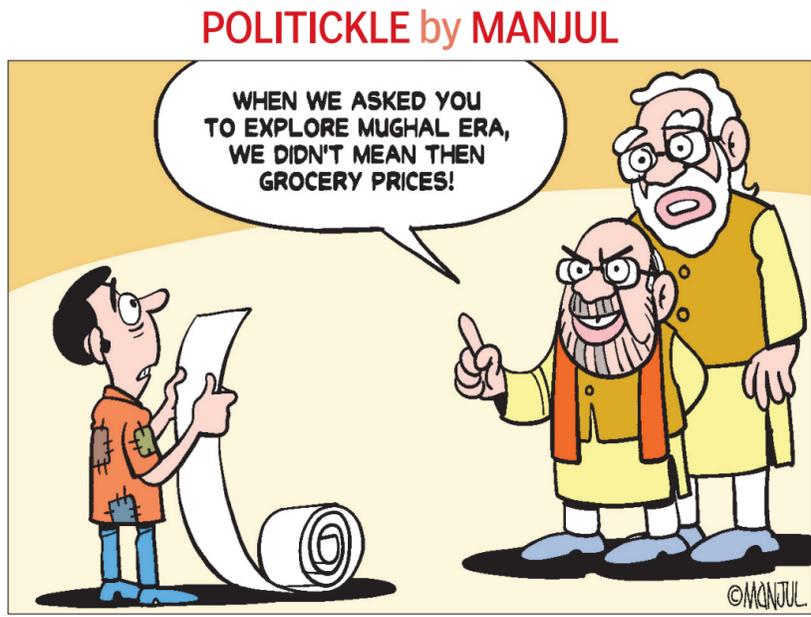
**BHUBANESWAR:** The International Museum Day will be celebrated in city here Wednesday. On the occasion, the Odisha State Museum will organise a mock drill to protect ancient monuments from natural disasters. The officials of Odisha Fire Services department are scheduled to carry out the mock drill, sources said. Ranjan Kumar Das, Director and Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Culture, will be the chief guest of the occasion while Ramesh Chandra Majhi, Principal, Fire Academy, Odisha will be the guest of honor. "We hope that this mock drill will be very helpful in protecting monuments from natural calamities," said State Museum superintendent Bhagyilipi Malla.

# 3,000 challans issued against helmetless riders in 2 days

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 17:** The State Transport Authority (STA) has issued more than 3,000 challans against people who rode two-wheelers without wearing helmets on national and state highways during the ongoing state-wide special drive in last two days.

According to sources, at least 3,190 riders were issued challans for riding two-wheelers without wearing helmets on highways by the enforcement officers of the STA. In the urban areas, altogether 462 rid-



**A**t least 3,190 riders were issued challans for riding two-wheelers without wearing helmets on highways by the enforcement officers of the STA

**I**n the urban areas, altogether 462 riders were issued challans for their helmetless journey. Altogether 793 driving Licences were confiscated for suspension

ers were issued challans for their helmetless journey. Altogether 793

driving Licences were confiscated for suspension, sources added.

"It has been observed that many accidents on the highways are related to two-wheeler riders. Due to continuous enforcement activities, people are using helmets in the urban areas but are unfortunately avoiding wearing helmets on highways, where protection is much more needed," said an official.

As per the data, as many as 1,308 persons, including 868 riders and 440 pillion riders of two-wheelers, were killed in road accidents in

the year 2021. It has been observed that most of them were not wearing helmets.

This apart, at least 1,280 people sustained grievous injuries and 747 suffered minor injuries in motorcycle accidents in 2021.

According to the Motor Vehicles Amendment Act 2019, riding without helmet attracts a penalty of Rs 1,000. If a person riding pillion is not wearing helmet, then the driving licence of the rider will be suspended for three months and a fine of Rs 1,000 will be imposed against him/her.

# Cataract could soon be treated with drugs

**A** revolutionary new treatment for cataract has shown extremely positive results in laboratory tests, giving hope that the condition, which currently can only be cured with surgery, could soon be treated with drugs.

Cataract is a clouding of the eye lens that develops over time and affects the quality of vision. It is caused by a disorganisation of the proteins in the lens that leads to clumps of protein forming, which scatter light and severely reduce transmission to the retina. Cataracts cause vision loss and blindness for millions of people worldwide.

A team of international scientists, led by those at Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) in the UK, has been carrying out advanced optical tests on an oxysterol compound that had been proposed as an anti-cataract drug. In laboratory trials, treatment with the oxysterol compound VP1-001 showed an improvement in refractive index profiles - a key optical parameter that is needed to maintain high focusing



capacity - in 61 per cent of lenses.

This means that the protein organisation of the lens is being restored, resulting in the lens being better able to focus. This was supported by a reduction in lens opacity in 46 per cent of cases.

"This study has shown the positive effects of a compound that had been proposed as an anti-cataract drug but never before tested on the optics of the lens. It is the first research of this kind in

the world," said Professor Barbara Pierscionek, Deputy Dean (Research and Innovation) in the Faculty of Health, Education, Medicine and Social Care at ARU.

"It has shown that there is a remarkable difference and improvement in optics between eyes with the same type of cataract that were treated with the compound compared to those that were not," Pierscionek added.

The results, published in the

**A** team of international scientists has been carrying out advanced optical tests on an oxysterol compound that had been proposed as an anti-cataract drug

**I**n laboratory trials, treatment with the oxysterol compound VP1-001 showed an improvement in refractive index profiles - a key optical parameter that is needed to maintain high focusing capacity - in 61 per cent of lenses

peer-reviewed journal Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science, showed that improvements occurred in some types of cataract but not in all, indicating that this may be a treatment for specific cataracts.

"This suggests distinctions may need to be made between cataract types when developing anti-cataract medications. It is a significant step forward towards treating this extremely common condition with drugs rather than surgery," Pierscionek added.

# Barabati: OHRC seeks fire safety reports from OCA, Cuttack DCP

*Hearing a petition filed by advocate Nishikant Mishra, the rights body has directed the DCP and the OCA secretary to submit their reports by May 26*

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 17:** The Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) Tuesday instructed the Cuttack Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) and the secretary of Odisha Cricket Association (OCA) to submit separate reports regarding the fire safety arrangements in Barabati Stadium ahead of the June 12 T-20 cricket match.

Hearing a petition filed by advocate Nishikant Mishra, the rights body has directed the DCP and the



OCA secretary to submit their reports by May 26.

The petitioner had informed the OHRC regarding 'lack of mandatory fire safety measures' at Barabati Stadium, which is scheduled to host a T-20 cricket match between India and South Africa next month.

Mishra also urged the commission to instruct the authorities concerned to inspect the status of the stadium as it did not have structural safety certificate. The Barabati stadium having a capacity of

around 44,000 spectators was constructed in 1958, said Mishra in his petition.

"He (petitioner) has also drawn the attention to the letter of Fire Officer, Central Range, Cuttack where Odisha Cricket Association has been requested to make application for fire safety certificate under the Odisha Fire Prevention and Fire Safety Rules-2017 read with Odisha Fire Prevention and Fire Safety (Amendment) Rules-2019," OHRC said.

The commission also noted that fire safety at the stadium is a very important in view of the OCA's request to the state government to allow spectators into Barabati during the cricket match.

"Having considered the submission of the petitioner, the commission is of the view that during the Cricket match, fire safety system is very important," remarked the commission.

SCHOOL TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

# Ensure timely completion of projects, CS asks Collectors



Development Commission Pradeep Kumar Jena urged the teachers and school managing committees to make the best use of the assets in enrichment of teaching-learning ambiance in the schools. He also asked the School and Mass Education (S&ME) department to explore the possibilities of integrating English medium teaching systems in schools for making the students at par with English medium students in private schools.

So far, 4,536 high schools across the state have been included under the transformation programme. In the first phase, the transformation work in 1,076 schools has been completed. In the second phase, around 75 per cent of various works in the remaining 3,460 schools are nearing completion.

The Chief Secretary directed the collectors to train the employees and teachers of the schools regarding emergency use and up-keep of the fire safety equipment installed on their campuses.

A number of projects were planned and implemented under the school transformation programme to boost modern academic ecosystem in the schools. The major projects under the scheme include upgradation of school buildings, classrooms, boundary walls, water supply system, toilets and power supply system.

Procurement of IT equipment, furniture, books, e-learning materials and sports equipment was also included under the scheme.

**CHIEF SECRETARY SC MAHAPATRA ASKED THE COLLECTORS TO REVIEW THE PROGRESS OF WORK REGULARLY AND ENSURE COMPLETION OF THE PROJECTS WITHIN THE SCHEDULED TIME**

**MAHAPATRA ALSO ASKED THE COLLECTORS TO MAKE A ROBUST ARRANGEMENT FOR MAINTENANCE AND UPKEEP OF ELECTRICAL SYSTEM, COMPUTERS, LABORATORIES EQUIPMENT, CAMPUS SET-UP, AND SPORTS MATERIALS IN SCHOOLS**

ated under the programme, especially during the night hours, was also discussed at the meeting. The Chief Secretary directed the collectors to train the employees and teachers of the schools regarding emergency use and up-keep of the fire safety equipment installed on their campuses.

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 17:** Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra Tuesday asked the district collectors concerned to ensure completion of the projects taken up under the High School Transformation Programme within the scheduled time frame.

Chairing a high-level meeting on school transformation through digital mode, Mahapatra set timelines for completion of different tasks under the projects. The collectors were asked to review the progress of work regularly and ensure completion of the projects within the scheduled time.

Mahapatra also asked them to make a robust arrangement for maintenance and upkeep of the electrical system, computers, laboratories equipment, campus set-up, and sports materials in schools. Safeguarding of the assets cre-

## 82 ZP members have criminal cases against them: ADR

Continued from P1

Informing about part-wise serious criminal cases, the ADR further said that 53 (8 per cent) out of 661 ZP members from BJD, 4 (1 per cent) out of 37 members from BJP, 6 (27 per cent) out of 22 members from Congress, one (33 per cent) out of three members from JMM and one (50 per cent) of two independent members have declared serious criminal cases against themselves.

Out of the 726 zilla parishad members analysed, 95 (13 per cent) are corepatis, of which highest 90 members are from the ruling BJD. Three BJD members - Rebati Nayak, Gitarani Malik and Kunti Pradhan have declared a total asset worth ₹18.68 crore, ₹17.06 crore and ₹10.21 crore, respectively. These members are at the top of the asset list.

As many as three out of 37 ZP members from BJP and 2 out of 22 ZP members from Congress have declared assets worth more than ₹1 crore. The average of assets per zilla parishad member in Odisha is ₹56.60 lakh, the report said.

The ADR further report said that 451 members have declared their educational qualification to be between 5th pass and 12th pass, while 256 (35 per cent) members have declared having an educational qualification of graduate and above. There are six ZP members who are diploma holders.

Moreover, six ZP members have declared themselves to be just literate and six other members have not given their educational qualification. Out of 726 zilla parishad members analysed, 385 (53 per cent) members are women, it said.

## Missing ex-MLA rescued

**Bhubaneswar:** The Commissionerate Police rescued former Aska MLA and Congress leader Saroj Kumar Padhi from Berhampur. He was missing from his residence at Unit- VI under Capital police limits since May 12. Padhi informed the police that he had gone to Rameswaram to offer a special Pujya. Meanwhile, he failed to contact the family members as he lost his mobile phone while travelling in train. Padhi's son later lodged a complaint with the Capital police that managed to trace him with the help of Railway police and Tamilnadu police. He had also called his son and other family members from another devotee's phone Sunday.

## Lokayukta tells Vig to probe complaint against Remuna MLA

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 17:** Odisha Lokayukta has instructed the state vigilance directorate to investigate the allegations of misappropriation of government subsidy by a firm owned by Sudhansu Sekhar Parida, BJD leader and MLA from Remuna in Balasore. The vigilance has been directed to submit the preliminary enquiry report within two months.

"We, in exercise of our powers conferred under section 20(1) of the Odisha Lokayukta Act, 2014, deem it proper to direct the Director, Vigilance, Odisha, Cuttack to conduct a preliminary inquiry for ascertaining whether there exists a prima facie case for proceeding further in the matter against any public servant(s) or any other persons(s)," directed the ombudsman.

The complainant has alleged that Parida through his firm Nigamananda Associates, engaged in selling of agricultural equipment, had misappropriated



crores of rupees as subsidy for the purchase of farm equipment. The equipment were sold in the name of various Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes beneficiaries in Balasore and Mayurbhanj.

Parida allegedly misappropriated ₹9 crore in subsidy funds were siphoned off between 2017 and 2020. The subsidies transferred into the account of the beneficiaries were later passed on to the account of the firm. However, Parida had earlier rubbished the allegations as conspiracy against him.

# Assistive aids inaccessible to nearly 1 bn specially-abled

*The Global Report on Assistive Technology notes that the number of people in need of one or more assistive products is likely to rise to 3.5 billion by 2050, due to populations ageing and the prevalence of non-communicable diseases rising across the world*

A whopping one billion children and adults in need of one or more assistive products such as wheelchairs, hearing aids, or apps that support communication and cognition are denied access, according to a new report by the WHO and the UNICEF. Globally, more than 2.5 billion people are in need of these assistive aids. Yet the access to these life-changing products can be as low as 3 per cent, particularly in low and middle income countries as compared to 90 per cent in wealthy countries.

The Global Report on Assistive Technology noted that the number of people in need of one or more assistive products is likely to rise to 3.5 billion by 2050, due to populations ageing and the prevalence of non-communicable diseases rising across the world.

"Assistive technology is a life changer - it opens the door to ed-



ucation for children with impairments, employment and social interaction for adults living with disabilities, and an independent life of dignity for older persons," said WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus in a statement.

"Nearly 240 million children have disabilities. Without access to assistive technology, children with

disabilities will continue to miss out on their education, continue to be at a greater risk of child labour and continue to be subjected to stigma and discrimination, undermining their confidence and well-being," added UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell.

Affordability is a major barrier to access, the report said. Around two-thirds of people with assistive

products reported out-of-pocket payments for them. Others reported relying on family and friends to financially support their needs.

A survey of 70 countries featured in the report found large gaps in service provision and trained workforce for assistive technology, especially in the domains of cognition, communication and self-care.

Previous surveys published by the WHO note a lack of awareness and unaffordable prices, lack of services, inadequate product quality, range and quantity, and pro-

ducturement and supply chain challenges as key barriers.

Children with disabilities have additional challenges due to their growth, which requires frequent adjustments or replacements of their assistive products.

"Denying people access to these life-changing tools is not only an infringement of human rights, it's economically short-sighted," Ghebreyesus said, while calling on all countries to fund and prioritise access to assistive technology and give everyone a chance to live up to their potential.

**Assistive technology is a life changer - it opens the door to education for children with impairments, employment and social interaction for adults living with disabilities, and an independent life of dignity for older persons**

TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS | DIRECTOR GENERAL, WHO



## CRASH PROBE TRAINING PROG



Transport Commissioner Arun Bothra speaking at the state level Crash Investigation Training programme for police and transport officers at Shahid Bhawan in Cuttack, Tuesday

# Two minor girls rescued by Childline

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 17:** The members of Childline, Bhubaneswar rescued two minor school girls here while they were being trafficked in a bus Tuesday afternoon. Both the victims are Class-IX students and belong to Nayabazar of Cuttack district.

The Childline sources claimed that its members followed a Puri bound bus after receiving specific inputs regarding the forceful trafficking of the two

The girls reportedly informed the rescuers that three persons including one Rabin Pradhan abducted them while they were returning from school



girls from Cuttack. The team managed to rescue them at Kalpana Square here.

The girls reportedly informed the

rescuers that three persons including one Rabin Pradhan abducted them while they were returning from school.

However, the accused traffickers gave the Childline a slip. The rescuers have taken the photo copy of Rabin's Aadhaar card.

"The girls have been produced before Additional CWC and are placed at VJSS Open Shelter by its order. They are under counseling and further investigation is on, informed Childline sources.

Sources revealed that more details about the incident could be ascertained after further counseling of the victims and their family members.

## Youth Cong leader shot at in Capital

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 17:** Some unknown bike-borne miscreants opened fire at a youth congress leader allegedly over past enmity at Unit-VIII near CRP Square here Tuesday evening.

The youth congress leader, Bibhu Prasad Jena, barely escaped death as the bullets missed him. The miscreants managed to flee the spot after the incident.

Sources claimed that Jena was in conversation with a friend at a tea stall near CRP Square in the evening. Three individuals reached the spot on a bike and a scooter. They engaged in a heated argument with Jena which soon turned violent. Suddenly, the accused started shooting at Jena who luckily managed to dodge the bullets. The accused attackers threatened him at gun point too. Nayapalli Police rushed to the spot and seeing the PCR van, the accused fled.

DCP Prateek Singh along with other senior cops reached the spot immediately. Police have launched an investigation and are collecting CCTV footage of the area to identify the miscreants.

## 9th anniversary of Art of Giving celebrated

POST NEWS NETWORK



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 17:** India along with several countries across the world Tuesday celebrated the 9th anniversary of Art of Giving (AOG), a noble initiative of KIIT, KISS and KIMS founder Achyuta Samanta to promote an equitable and harmonious relationship in the society.

The theme of this year's celebration was hope, harmony and happiness. On this occasion, Samanta disclosed his intention to propose to the United Nations to proclaim May 17 as the Art of Giving day.

The AOG has transformed into a people's movement, bringing hope and happiness to millions, especially those living on the mar-

gins of society. "Our objective is to spread the message of peace and happiness. We want to make it a universally accepted belief through the UN proclamation," Samanta said.

Samanta remained optimistic that the 10th anniversary of AOG next year will be celebrated as a UN proclaimed day, much like how the world celebrates June 21 as UN proclaimed International Yoga Day.

Gracing the occasion as the chief guest, Governor Ganeshi Lal said, "The noble initiative of Samanta transcends all barriers and touches every soul in the society irrespective of caste, creed or religion. There is no difference between the commoner and the cosmos and that is the quality of AOG."

## Class IX exam result declared

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 17:** The Board of Secondary Education (BSE), Odisha published the result of Class IX HSC and Madhyama examinations 2021-22 Tuesday.

A total of 5,51,334 students had appeared the exams while 14,935 students remained absent. In Madhyama exam, 3,279 students appeared while 128 remain absent.

The pass percentage of students in Class IX exam is 87.20 per cent while in Madhyama exam the pass percentage remained at 91.46 per cent. In Class IX exam, a total of 30,138 students got grade F (II) while 27,358 students got grade F (I). Those who got Grade F (II) will have to improve their performances in improvement tests to be conducted by concerned schools, said BSE official.

The F (I) candidates have been declared passed because they fulfill some minimum criteria with regards to aggregate and individual subject marks. The Grade F (II) candidates will be given three chances to acquire qualifying marks in each failed subject.

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# IPL betting racket busted; 6 arrested

# Aid eludes kin of croc attack victims

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kendrapara, May 17:** The coastal district of Kendrapara surrounded by seven rivers and a host of water bodies is a natural habitat for crocodiles that attack people and claim many precious lives, but lack of timely compensation to the deceased and the injured has sparked resentment among the locals.

While official data claims 26 deaths in the human-crocodile conflicts during the past 10 years, locals alleged that the figure could be much more as the muggers drag bodies deep into the water. These cases are being registered as missing cases and the families of these victims are deprived of the compensation.

Locals alleged that the administration is not constructing enclosures around the bathing ghats of the rivers despite increase in crocodile menace in the riparian villages. The state government had launched a conservation programme of salt-water or estuarine crocodile species in 1975 and the



While official data claims 26 deaths in the human-crocodile conflicts during the past 10 years, locals alleged that the figure could be much higher as the muggers drag bodies deep into the water

As per the provision of the state government, the family of the deceased in crocodile attack would get ₹4 lakh as compensation while ₹1 lakh is given for people sustaining critical injuries

district rose to fame for the successful conservation programme at Bhitarkanika National Park.

With the increase in the population of the large semi-aquatic reptiles, instances of conflict between crocodiles and human beings have become regular phenomena in this coastal region.

A man died after he was attacked by a crocodile while he had gone for fishing to Bhitarkanika area June 12, 2021. Another person belonging to Jagannathpur village under

Pattamundai block died in crocodile attack while he was bathing in Brahmani river June 14, 2021, while another man, a resident of Srirampur village under Aul block, lost his life to croc attack August 6, last year.

Saraswati Behera of Nalapahi village under Aul block alleged that she submitted all the documents after her husband's death but she is yet to receive the compensation.

Ramanath Das of Bhekta village under Rajnagar block said that forest

officials found over 1,700 saltwater crocodiles in Bhitarkanika and the conservation centre during a census.

Terminating 26 fatalities due to croc attacks in last 10 years as an underestimation, Das said the figure could easily cross 200. He said that the forest officials should construct enclosures in the bathing ghats of all 418 villages around Bhitarkanika.

As per the provision of the state government, the family of the deceased in crocodile attack would get ₹4 lakh as compensation while ₹1 lakh is given for people sustaining critical injuries, he said. However, the Forest department is not giving any compensation if the attack happens inside the territories of Bhitarkanika National Park, he added.

Rajnagar Mangrove (forest) Division DFO Jagynadatta Pati said, "Enclosures are being constructed around bathing ghats and awareness campaigns have been launched to sensitise people in the area."

# 6 dead, 11 injured in road accidents

PNN/AGENCIES

**Phulbani/Bhawanipatna, May 17:** Six people, including a child, died and at least 11 others were injured in two separate accidents Tuesday, police said.

The four-year-old kid and a youth died on the spot when their motorbike had a head-on collision with a truck in Phiringia police station area in Kandhamal district in the afternoon, a police officer said.



A woman who was injured has been admitted to a hospital in a critical condition, inspector P Shyamsundar Rao said.

Irate villagers blocked the state highway for four hours, demanding adequate ex gratia to the fam-

ily of the deceased. The truck fled the spot after the incident, the police officer said.

At Singari Ghati in Kalahandi district, four people died and 10 others were injured when a pickup van skidded and fell by the roadside, police said. Five of the critically injured were admitted to the hospital, they said.

**Declaration**  
I Devavrat Devsh S/o Mr RN Choudhary has lost lease Deed bearing number 11131106507 dtd 23-05-11, along with Possession Letter which was in my custody. Lease hold owner Gopabandhu Pattnaik has not mortgaged the property in any financial institution.. Now I intend to purchase said property and want to avail home loan from SBI Janpath Bhubaneswar.

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Date & Place of Interview: - 28.05.2022 Time :- 10.00 am Rourkela Senior Nursing College, Sundargarh

NB: Salary is negotiable.  
The interested candidate should send their Bio-data with required documents according to the respective post by mail / speed post in the mentioned address / mail within 3days & bring their original certificates for verification during interview.  
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Chairman, Rourkela Senior Nursing College

**OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, NABARANGPUR**  
Letter No. 512 Dt. 11.05.2022  
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA e-Procurement Notice  
Bid Identification No. EEMIDGPUR-03/2022-23  
No.A-182: E-mail ID: -mngpur@yahoo.in P.N. No. 0685922130

- Name of work : Improvement to M.I.Ps in different Blocks of Nabarangpur District Under RR&R (PMKSY-HKPP) scheme 2022-23.
- Total Number of work : 04 (Four)
- Estimated cost : Varies from Rs. 32.94 lakhs to Rs. 47.62 lakhs
- Class of Contractor : 'C' Class Contractor
- Tender paper Cost (Online) : Rs. 6000/-
- Bid Security (Online) : No EMD is required. But Bid security declaration should be furnished at the time of submission of Bid as per the format mentioned in DTCN.
- Period of Completion : 09 (Nine) to 11 (Eleven) Calendar Months
- Availability of Bid Document : From 25.05.2022, 10.00 AM to 04.06.2022, 5.00 PM in website www.tendersorissa.gov.in
- Last date & Time of receipt of Bid : 04.06.2022 at 5.00 PM through online
- Date of opening of Bid documents : 06.06.2022 at 11.00 A.M in the office of the E. M.I. Division, Nabarangpur.
- Name and address of the OIT : Executive Engineer, M.I. Division, Nabarangpur A/P.O. - Nabarangpur, District - Nabarangpur PINCODE 764059
- Further details can be seen from the : www.tendersorissa.gov.in

Government of Odisha Website  
Sd/- Executive Engineer, M.I. Division, Nabarangpur  
OIPR-32294/11/0003/2223

**Government of Odisha Department of Panchayatiraj & Drinking Water Office of the Panchayat Samiti, Bhandaripokhari**  
Invitation of Bids (IFB)  
Bid Identification No. PSB-01/2022-23  
e-mail: ori-bhandaripokhari@nic.in

Bid documents consisting of work, estimated amount for put to tender, cost of tender paper, time of completion, class of contractor, the set of terms & conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen from the office of Panchayat Samiti, Bhandaripokhari.

- Name of the work : Construction of PHC Building at PHC (N) Manjuri road, Naami G.P., Bhandaripokhari Block
- No. of works : 1 No.
- Estimated cost for put to tender : Rs 55,45,969/- (Rupees Fifty five lakh forty-five thousand Nine hundred sixty Nine) only
- Period of completion : 11 (Eleven) calendar months
- Date & time of availability of bid documents on district website www.bhadrak.nic.in : From 18.05.2022 at 10.00 A.M to 01.06.2022 at 1.00 P.M.
- Last date/time for receipt of bids in the office. : 01.06.2022 at 1.00 P.M.
- Date of opening of Bids : 02.06.2022 at 11.00 A.M.
- Class of Contractor : 'B' & above
- Name of the Officer : Block Development Officer Inviting Bids, Bhandaripokhari

Further details can be seen from the office of Panchayat Samiti, Bhadrak on working hours. Any addendum/ corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen office of undersigned. The detailed information is also available on district website "www.bhadrak.nic.in".  
Sd/- Block Development Officer Panchayat Samiti, Bhandaripokhari



The accused arrested by Berhampur police were identified as the kingpin Dipu Nahak, 32, Kitu Rout, 36, Ashwini Kumar Patra, 31, Prashant Kumar Sahu, 38, and Gopinath Maharana, 28.

Dharmagarh police in Kalahandi district also busted a similar betting racket and arrested Rakesh Ranjan Choudhury

such a racket December 29, 2021. The kingpin R Lali Achari and his aide Prashant Kumar Subudhi were arrested.

Later, 12 members of the racket were nabbed in a phased manner. Many bank accounts of Achari were also frozen, said the SP.

In the second instance, acting on a tip-off, Dharmagarh police in Kalahandi district busted a simi-

lar betting racket in the town and arrested a youth, police said Tuesday.

The accused identified as Rakesh Ranjan Choudhury was produced in the court, Tuesday, Dharmagarh IIC Deepanjali Pradhan said.

The arrest came after intelligence inputs about an active IPL betting racket at Kendumundipada of the town.

A police team led by DSP Dhiraj Kumar Chopdar raided the place and arrested Choudhury.

Seven mobile phones, ₹70,000 in cash, laptop, cash counting machine, a car and other incriminating materials were seized from the spot, said the IIC.

Police are verifying the bank accounts of Choudhury and his relatives as it is suspected that the betting racket might have a wider network. Further investigation is on, the IIC added.

# Malkangiri best panchayat samiti in state Tribals rummage for snails in creeks for survival

**Malkangiri:** Malkangiri panchayat samiti (block) has been adjudged as the best among 314 samitis in the state under Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) and was awarded a cash prize of ₹25 lakh. Some panchayats under this block have done remarkable development works on the basis of which they have been awarded cash prizes. Under Malkangiri block, Kutunipalli and Dalpatiguda panchayats were awarded this prize too. Katapali panchayat was given ₹5 lakh cash prize as the panchayat has done a lot of developmental works like Anganwadi centres, upgradation of primary schools and drinking water projects.



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Mahakalapara, May 17:** When the benefits of social welfare schemes do not percolate down the last man standing, misery is inevitable; and the tribal communities of this block in Kendrapara district rummaging for snails for food in creeks is a pointer to this.

Reports said the Union and state governments are implementing a host of schemes to bring the vulnerable tribal communities to the mainstream. However, the benefits of these schemes do not reach the intended beneficiaries aimed at their social and financial empowerment.

The government is providing employment opportunities to people through Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). However, these women move around all the day to collect snails due to lack of jobs.

If reports are to be believed, the members of tribal communities are finding it hard to arrange two square meals a day for their families. They have to risk their lives by tolling hard under scorching heat to collect snails and oysters from creeks and pits.

It takes long hours searching deep in the pits and nullahs to find enough of

If reports are to be believed, the members of tribal communities are finding it hard to arrange two square meals a day for their families

They have to risk their lives by tolling hard under scorching heat to collect snails and oysters from creeks and pits these shellfish to feed the entire family. The shocking scene came to the fore when this correspondent spotted some women mostly from Santal and other tribal communities searching for the snails.

Women carrying a fishing net leave home early morning and move around in various areas of the block searching for snails and oysters.

They collect around 5 to 7 kg of snails and oysters daily and sell them to the members of their communities at ₹10 to ₹20 per kg.

Many also buy the snails to feed their hens and ducks while some fishermen also use them as bait to catch fish and crabs from the water bodies. People living below the poverty line buy these snails for food.

When contacted, tribal women Muguni Singh and Sumi Singh said survival has become very tough due to constant rise in prices of essential commodities for which they have no option than to collect snails to feed their families.

**मालवीय राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, जयपुर**  
जे.एन.एन. मार्ग, जयपुर-302017 (राजस्थान) भारत  
**Malaviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur**  
(An Institute of National Importance under Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)  
J.L.N. Marg - 302017 (Rajasthan), India

**ADVERTISEMENT No. AES/MNIT/ESTT/2022/04**  
**Recruitment For the post of Registrar**  
Applications are invited from eligible Indian Nationals for the post of Registrar (Pay Level-14). For further details, please visit the Institute website www.mnit.ac.in  
The last date for submission of online application is 06.07.2022 (till 5 PM only).  
davp 21312/12/0002/2223 Registrar (I/C)

**e-Procurement Notice for Road & Building works Identification No. Online-02/RWD-II/KJR of 2022-23**  
No.O-221:1. Name of the Work: Road Works. 2. Total No. of Works: 20 Nos. 3. Estimated Cost: Approx. Estimated Cost of Rs.3.00 Lakhs to Rs.60.00 lakhs. 4. Class of Contractor: "D" & "C", "C" & "B", "B" & "A" Class as per eligibility criteria. 5. Period of Completion: 2 Calendar Months as per financial eligibility. 6. Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding	Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender
Superintending Engineer, R.W. Division-II, Keonjhar	02 of 22-23	From 21.05.2022 at 10.00 A.M. To 31.05.2022 upto 1.30 P.M.	30.05.2022 upto 2.00 P.M.	31.05.2022 at 2.30 P.M.

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in.  
Sd./- Superintending Engineer, R.W.Division-II, Keonjhar  
OIPR-25093/11/0002/2223



**Indian Bank**  
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank 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 Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice 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 following Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Symbolic Possession** of the properties described here-in-below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rules. The Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank for an amount mentioned herein below with interest & other expenses thereon.

BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrowers/ Guarantors/Mortgagors	Amount Payable as on specified date + interest & cost thereon	Date of Demand / Possession Notice	Description of the Immovable Properties
<b>KEONJHAR-1 BRANCH/</b> Borrower: M/s. Das Communication, Prop: Abhijit Das, S/o Late Mr. Dhiren Das, (a) Shop Address: At Shop No.:16, Private Bus Stand, PO.: Keonjhar, Odisha. Dist.: Keonjhar-758001, (b) Home Address: At: Dhubadiha (Pabitradaha), Unit No.:14, PS.: Town, PS./Dist.: Keonjhar-758001 / Gurantors: 1) Mrs. Bhanupriya Das (Mortgagor) W/o.: Late Dhiren Das, 2) Mr. Ajit Kumar Das, S/o.: Late Dhiren Das, 3) Mr. Amit Kumar Das, S/o.: Late Dhiren Das, All are At: Dhubadiha (Pabitradaha), Unit No.: 14, PS.: Town, PS./Dist.: Keonjhar-758001	₹ 5,18,748.11 as on 29.05.2022 + interest & cost thereon	31.12.2020 / 11.05.2022	All that piece and parcel of Residential House recorded in the name of Mrs. Bhanupriya Das (Legal Heir), W/o.: Late Dhiren Das, at Mouza: Pabitradaha-Kamargodia, PO.: Keonjhar, Tahasil: Sadar, PS.: Town, Dist.: Keonjhar, Odisha-758001, having Khata No.: 251/186, Plot No.: 432/917, Kissam: Gharbari, Area: Ac.0.040 Dec., Bounded by North: Jogeswar Das, South: Khirad Kumar Majhi, East: Rabi Majhi, West: Bhimsen Majhi & Road
<b>BOLANGIR-1 BRANCH/</b> Borrower : M/s. Transformational Biotics Pvt Ltd, At: Plot No.:824/1830, Sampur, Ghatikia, Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar, Pin - 751003, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha/ Borrowers/ Mortgagors: 1) Mr. Santanu Kumar Chakra (Executive Director), S/o.: Mr. Prafulla Kumar Chakra, At: Plot No.: N-2/119, IRC Village, Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha-751015, 2) Mr. Subrat Kumar Chakra (Director), S/o.: Mr. Prafulla Kumar Chakra, At/PO.: Dukura, Dist.: Mayurbhanj, Odisha - 757075/ Guarantor/Mortgagor: Mr. Lokanath Nayak, West: Plot No.: 624, North: Road, South: Plot No.: 614. At: Plot No.: 824/1830, Sampur, Ghatikia, Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar-751003, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha	₹ 73,04,000/- as on 05.03.2022 + interest & cost thereon	10.03.2022/ 11.05.2022	1) All that piece and parcel of Property recorded in the name of M/s. Transformational Biotics Pvt. Ltd., Bhubaneswar, at Mouza: Sulekela, Tahasil: Belpada, Khata No.: 1914/3176, admeasuring Area: Ac.1.53 Dec., Plot No.: 1915/3174, admeasuring Area: Ac.0.50 Dec., Plot No.: 1916/ Admeasuring Area: Ac.0.20 Dec, and Plot No.: 1917/3177, admeasuring Area: Ac.2.40 Dec. all the four plots are under Khatian No.: 344/388, Bounded by East: Prasanna Mallick, West: Road, North: Gopal Barge, South: Prasanna Mallick., 2) All that piece and parcel of Property recorded in the name of Mr. Lokanath Nayak, Drawing Plot No.: 623, Drawing No.: B-372, Revenue Plot No.: 42/1694(pt), admeasuring 3750 Sq.ft. under Khata No.: 443 (Anabadi), Mouza: Ghatikia, PS.: Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar Sub Registrar Khandagiri, Registration District: Khurda, Bhubaneswar, Bounded by East: Plot No.: 622, West: Plot No.: 624, North: Road, South: Plot No.: 614. At: Plot No.: 824/1830, Sampur, Ghatikia, Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar-751003, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha

Place: Sambalpur, Date: 17.05.2022  
Sd/- Authorised Officer, Indian Bank



FOCUS GREEN TECHNOLOGY

# FOR FAST & FAIR TRANSITION



**Achieving global climate goals will require a quantum leap in investments to secure sufficient supplies of key minerals needed for clean-energy technologies. But while these inputs can greatly accelerate emission-reduction efforts, protecting human rights when extracting them is an essential condition for climate justice**

Environmental, social, and governance (ESG) investing is not filling the void. Ubiquitous greenwashing aside, attention has focused almost entirely on decarbonization and the "E" of the acronym. Social criteria – including human rights – have been ignored, exposing communities to the threat of systemic rights violations, and investors to reputational risks.

Human rights should be put at the center of ESG investment. The Investor Alliance for Human Rights, a group of over 200 firms representing more than \$10 trillion in assets, has called for stronger regulatory measures, including mandatory human-rights and environmental due diligence consistent with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The European Commission's proposed directive on corporate sustainability due diligence, which would impose obligations – with potential penalties – on companies to monitor their value chains, promises to spur movement in the right direction.

Mining companies and transition-minerals investors should be at the forefront of efforts to strengthen human-rights protection. Board members of mining companies should ensure that these firms' corporate cultures and practices reflect the human-rights principles that most of them claim to endorse. These include deep engagement with affected communities and respect for their prior informed consent, due diligence in reporting on supply chains, and access to remedies when harm occurs.

Ahead of the COP27 climate summit in Egypt this November, I will be calling on governments, mining companies, investors, financial regulators, and civil-society organizations to agree on a shared agenda for a low-carbon transition that is both fast and fair. While increased supplies of transition minerals can greatly accelerate emission-reduction efforts, protecting human rights is an essential condition for climate justice.

*The writer, a former president of Ireland and former UN high commissioner for human rights, is Chair of The Elders.*

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

Can we avert climate catastrophe without unleashing a tsunami of human-rights abuses?

Policymakers, investors, CEOs, and the boards of mining firms should be seeking – and delivering – positive answers to that question. Instead, the failure to engage with human-rights concerns could derail our already faltering journey to a low-carbon world.

At the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow last November, governments and much of the investment community reaffirmed their commitment to the 2015 Paris climate agreement. Breaching that accord's global-warming threshold of 1.5° Celsius above pre-industrial levels will expose current and future generations to the deadly effects of climate breakdown. To avoid a collision with Earth's ecological boundaries, we need a warp-speed acceleration in the transition to a zero-carbon pathway, starting with halving carbon dioxide emissions this decade.

Achieving that target will require a quantum leap in investments to secure sufficient supplies of so-called transition minerals. Clean-energy technologies such as solar plants, wind farms, and electric vehicles are mineral-intensive. Motors and turbines need nickel, chromium, manganese, and rare earths. New electricity networks require vast quantities of copper wire. Electric-vehicle batteries need lithium and nickel. The International Energy Agency estimates that reaching net-zero emissions by mid-century will require a six-fold increase in mineral inputs, and a 40-fold increase in lithium supply.

Policymakers and investors have slowly woken up to the fact that shortages of transition minerals pose a real and present danger to global climate goals. With demand outstripping supply, prices are surging. Mining companies are desperately seeking new sources of minerals – witness Rio Tinto's recent acquisition of a lithium project in Argentina, BHP's investments in Ecuadorian copper and Tanzanian nickel projects, and Glencore's investments in African copper and cobalt. Larry Fink, the chief executive of BlackRock, the world's largest money manager, anticipates a

American, China Minmetals, and Rio Tinto.

I was quite shocked to see that corporations embracing the green economy were committing human-rights abuses. But perhaps none of this should come as a surprise, given that deposits of many transition minerals are concentrated in countries with notoriously poor governance.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the world's largest source of cobalt and a major supplier of copper, mining is associated with child labor, corruption, and widespread violence. Indonesia, the world's top nickel producer, has a weak record on protecting communities from mining pollution. Lithium extraction in Argentina, Chile, and Bolivia has pitted local communities seeking to defend scarce desert water resources against mining companies that use water-intensive extraction methods and ride roughshod over land rights.

As a former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, I am well aware of the challenges facing mining firms and the wider investment community. Extracting minerals while protecting the environment and respecting human rights is an inherently difficult balancing act, not least when governments fail to act on their responsibilities.



Mary Robinson

**HUMAN RIGHTS SHOULD BE PUT AT THE CENTER OF ESG INVESTMENT**

## Buffalo Killings

Transform reason into ordered intuition; let all thyself be light. This is thy goal.

SRI AUROBINDO



The US also the rest of the world are now busy dissecting how an 18-year-old white man could kill 10 people, mostly Black, in a cold-blooded racist shooting May 14 at a supermarket in Buffalo, New York, and show to the world his heinous crime through livestreaming on a popular social media site. Other white-supremacists have also used social media to publicize gruesome attacks, including the mass shooter in Christchurch, New Zealand in 2019. Since the Christchurch shooting, social media companies have been trying, in some ways, to combat videos of atrocities online, including stopping livestreams of attacks faster. However, not enough has been achieved. For instance, Twitch, the site the Buffalo shooter livestreamed on, could make it harder for people to open accounts and instantly upload live videos. Other video-streaming sites like TikTok and YouTube require users to have a certain number of followers before they're able to stream live.

Available evidence, so far, leaves no one in doubt that the young man, Payton S Gendron, dressed in military fatigues, was goaded to take the murderous course by racist propaganda by rightist racist elements infecting weak minds in the US and other countries with hate. He could be labeled as a product of the mindset these forces are trying to create to fulfill their racist, pseudo-nationalist, autocratic agenda. US investigating agencies and advocates of free speech and social media experts are grappling with the problem of preventing the abuse of social media during such wanton killings. But, that amounts to dealing with the symptoms rather than the disease which is vitiating susceptible minds with hate theories and practices. This mindset can be observed working in present day India too.

It is not merely a coincidence that May 18 will witness America's most prominent conservative gathering, founded on ideals of personal liberty and limited government, in Budapest where the keynote address will be delivered by a European rightist leader, Prime Minister of Hungary, Viktor Orban who is himself accused of undermining democracy and individual rights and spreading toxic propaganda. The European Union has charged Orban, who won re-election by a large margin recently, with curbing media and judicial independence, enriching associates with public funds and recasting election laws to remain entrenched in power. The meeting in Budapest being organised by the US Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) is seen by some Republicans as a test of how closely American conservatives are willing to align themselves with a global movement of the far right.

The Buffalo white supremacist hate shooting followed the patterns of similar killings before in Christchurch, El Paso, and Pittsburgh where assailants, racially-motivated and radicalised online, took their ideology to deadly extremes. The gunman in Buffalo, like the ones before him, livestreamed his violent rampage by mounting a camera on his helmet and left a so-called manifesto online. It details his extremist beliefs and is replete with selective statistics, conspiracy theories and internet memes. The file contains reams of racist and anti-Semitic abuse along with straightforward admissions that the author is a fascist and a white supremacist. As in the case of the 2019 mosque shootings in Christchurch, New Zealand, big social media companies are struggling to remove footage of the attack which are popping up on different sites.

But, the main problem appears to be as intractable as ever, which is a worldwide network of young violent extremists, some of whom are motivated to launch deadly attacks against innocent people. The mind of the Buffalo killer has been twisted in such a manner that, even at the age of 18, he conducted himself as an inveterate criminal. He claims he had visited the area in early March according to New York Police Commissioner Joseph Gramaglia. "We found some things that show that he was here in early March, and then again, we know he was here on Friday (the day before the mayhem), basically doing reconnaissance on the area," Gramaglia said. The extent of indoctrination is such that he drove for three and a half hours before reaching the supermarket. He is from the city of Conklin, about 200 miles away from the scene of carnage - the Tops Friendly Markets store in a predominantly Black neighbourhood. He shot 13 people, including two white, before surrendering to police. In fact, investigators have unearthed information that he had plans to target more people in other supermarkets and a school. He had meticulously accessed information to make sure that all these areas are peopled predominantly by America's Black population. Had the police not acted promptly and neutralised him, he would have succeeded in his design to kill more people.

The Buffalo shooting has once again triggered the debate on the role of social media such as Twitch, Twitter and Facebook. Twitch is a gaming platform used by the gunman to broadcast a livestream of the massacre. Twitch allows creators, many with millions of followers, to stream themselves playing video games, chatting with fans, or simply going about their daily lives. The Buffalo killer used a Twitch channel to livestream the assault from a helmet camera. Amazon-owned Twitch said it took down the video within two minutes of the violence starting, but by that time it was already being shared elsewhere including on Facebook and Twitter.

But, the fragmentary nature of modern social media platforms has made it immensely difficult to stem the tide of motivated use of that resource. This is why despite the prompt action by Twitch, the viewing by millions of users in other social media platforms could not be stopped.

The rightist forces are seemingly well aware of the benefits of communication technology. It is not enough that the US President Joe Biden has designated the Buffalo crime as a hate crime. He will be visiting the scene of butchery to give a healing touch. But, that is hardly the solution. The call from some quarters for tightening rules for the operations of social media seems implausible. It is also extremely difficult under the legal system in the USA. More than that concerted efforts are to be made to detoxify young minds infected with racist and warped nationalist ideas. The real threats are posed by the brand of politics championed by the Orbans and the Trumps. Unfortunately, India also seems to have no dearth of such preachers.

### WISDOM CORNER

The worst sinner has a future, even as the greatest saint has had a past. SARVEPALLI RADHAKRISHNAN

Life isn't about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself. GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

There is no life without consciousness; there is no consciousness without life. ANNIE BESANT

### WORDSWORTH

#### Adust

With this word, you may be at one with Google – whenever I searched, Google asked if I meant adjust. No, adjust is a distinct word, with no link to adjust. Nor is it linked to dust, though one sense is relevant – it can mean "scorched or burnt". At one time it could also mean "gloomy or melancholic". These two very different senses suggested there's a story to be told. The first sense in English, back in the fifteenth century, came via French from the Latin adjective adustus, burnt. That derives from the verb adurere, which is based on urere, to burn, with ad on the front as an intensifier. The Latin verb means "to burn up; consume". In English, it referred to something that was scorched, seared, dried up with heat or parched. A writer in 1857 referred to certain African islands, "whose desolate and adust beauty sets the imagination all on fire." For the other meaning, we have to turn to the medieval medical idea of the four humours of the body – blood, phlegm, cholera and black bile. If the humours were kept in reasonable balance the body ran smoothly, but if they became seriously disordered, illness resulted. Excess heat in the body, or heated emotions such as rage, were thought to cause combustion of the humours. This led to the body becoming hot and dry, accompanied by thirst and by a black or burnt colour of the blood. Though any of the humours could be affected, combustion of black bile in particular led to melancholic adust (adjective placed after the noun), in which depression alternated with fits of rage.

### IN JEST THIS

# Friendships can boost your happiness

It doesn't take long in childhood to learn the importance of friendships, especially if you have no siblings. Even if you have siblings, you may squabble with them or grow tired of playing with them. The problem with siblings is that they're always around, helping themselves to all the good stuff, finishing the Bourvita biscuits before you can get to them.

Friends, on the other hand, are never around long enough. They may come to your home for a few hours at a time and you may go to theirs. If they're school friends, you may see them every day in class, eat lunch with them, and call them when you get home, sharing all the school gossip, such as who likes whom, who hates whom, and who's going to one day marry whom.

In your college years (or early adult years), your friendships are much deeper. You may share a room or apartment with your friends. You begin to appreciate all the benefits of friendships, including these:

**1. Companionship.** Friends give you company and help you avoid the loneliness you might otherwise feel. They share drinks and food with you, watch movies and sports with you, even take walks with you and listen to all your dreams, even the crazy ones that involve a mansion on the moon.

**2. Assistance.** Friends can help you with all sorts of practical things. Do you need help moving a heavy sofa? Call a friend. Do you need someone to co-sign a car loan? Call a friend. Do you need a ride to the airport? Call an Uber. But seriously, a true friend will do almost anything for you, even drive you to the airport without complaining about the price of petrol.

**3. Encouragement.** When you've suffered a loss or disappointment, a friend will console you and give you a shoulder to cry on. A friend will encourage you and give you a fresh perspective. They'll tell you that you didn't fail the exam—the

exam failed you. It must have been a bad exam, poorly worded.

Research has shown that people with many friends are not just happier, they're also healthier. But despite all these benefits, many of us do not make friendships a priority. I'm guilty of this myself. I made lots of friends in my younger years, but over the last decade or so, I've developed only a few deep friendships—and mostly with four-legged friends.

I've been thinking about friendships after reading a recent New York Times article by Catherine Pearson entitled "How Many Friends Do You Really Need?"

The answer is "thousands," but only if you're on Facebook. Pearson is referring to real friends, the ones you might actually encounter in your everyday life. She cites a 1993 study that led British anthropologist Robin Dunbar to conclude that humans can have meaningful friendships with only 150 people at most. A meaningful friendship, apparently, is one in which you won't feel awkward to

greet your friend if you run into them in a public place. By that standard, I have no more than about 30 friends—the two-legged kind. But as for close friendships, the number is far fewer, and I'm embarrassed to count. Does my next-door neighbor qualify as a "close" friend? We never hang out, but we always talk about hanging out.

Thankfully, Pearson refers to other research that indicates that three to six close friendships may be ideal. According to Professor Jeffrey Hall of University of Kansas, it takes about 200 hours to develop a close friendship.

I certainly spent more than 200 hours with my college friends, but I've lost touch with several of them since then. I could give all sorts of excuses, but the truth is this: I haven't made friendships a priority. I haven't done enough texting, calling or visiting.

Maintaining friendships takes effort, and I've been a little too lackadaisical about it. But so have my friends.



Melvin Durai

**A TRUE FRIEND WILL DO ALMOST ANYTHING FOR YOU, EVEN DRIVE YOU TO THE AIRPORT WITHOUT COMPLAINING ABOUT THE PRICE OF PETROL**

### Game-changing win

Sir, Not even a diehard Indian badminton fan had foreseen India lifting the coveted Thomas Cup. Only when the Indian shuttlers carried India into the finals, beating Malaysia and Denmark enroute, did they make headlines though some gave them little chance against the formidable Indonesians in the finals. Lakshya Sen, Kidambi Srikanth, HS Prannoy, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty had other ideas; these gifted players scripted history to take India to its maiden Thomas Cup title, the biggest in men's team badminton. They downed fourteen-time winners Indonesia in a comprehensive manner, 3-0. Lakshya laid a perfect foundation for India as he came from behind to outclass world number five Anthony Sinisuka Ginting. Considering the fact that the world's ninth ranked player was not at his best in the tournament, Lakshya's win over Ginting was truly a great feat. After being a set down and trailing in the second set, the Indian stunned his opponent through his trademark smashes and cross court drops to come up trumps. It has to be said that had Lakshya gone down in the opener, the task for the rest of his teammates would have been tougher, physically as well as mentally. Then it was the in-form Satwik and Chirag who outsmarted the more fancied duo of Mohammad Ahsan and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo in a three-set thriller. The fearless Indians seemed out after they were inches out in the first set. But the fighters had not come to Bangkok to settle for a silver for their country; they displayed skills, temperament and nerves to push their opponents out. Kidambi Srikanth is a big match player. The soft spoken man from Guntur, Andhra Pradesh was unbeaten till the moment of reckoning, the finals. And the 29-year-old was in no mood to let Jonathan Christie spoil that record. A straight-set win for Srikanth, and India had made it.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

### New Tripura CM

Sir, The BJP replacing Biplab Kumar Deb with Rajya Sabha MP Manik Saha at the helm in Tripura follows a familiar pattern of sacking a sitting Chief Minister. Deb, who led the BJP's first government in the state after the party stormed to power in 2018, had come under a cloud for his autocratic style of functioning. As a result, several ministers and MLAs had raised the banner of revolt against Deb and had even complained to the party's top brass. Deb is the fifth CM to be replaced in a BJP ruled state, heralding a change of guard months ahead of the Assembly elections in Tripura. NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

## 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

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# national



Delhi has not developed as a planned city. More than 80 per cent of Delhi can be called illegal and encroached upon. Does that mean you will destroy 80 per cent of Delhi?

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CM

## DEMOLITION: DEADLINE EXTENDED

The Supreme Court Tuesday agreed to extend the deadline for demolition of Supertech's 40-storey twin towers at Noida, from May 22 to August 28, after it was informed that the test blast revealed that the structure was much stronger than anticipated



### of the day quote

The Tamil Nadu government is working to ensure that there is no youth who does not get a job and at the same time no industry which says there are no employable candidates

The Centre will train 20,000 officials of the Jammu and Kashmir administration in grievance redressal and the task will be undertaken by its Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances

It is difficult for a vehicle on a downward slope and a failed opposition leader to apply brakes and in such a case, an accident is inevitable

### SHORT TAKES

#### One killed, 3 hurt in grenade attack

Srinagar: One person was killed and three others were injured in a grenade attack on a wine shop in J&K's Baramulla district Tuesday. Police sources said that a militant disguised as a buyer hurled a grenade at the wine shop in Baramulla town Tuesday evening which exploded and injured four persons.

#### Two terrorist aides arrested

Srinagar: Two terrorist associates of proscribed terror outfit LeT were arrested by a joint team of security forces in J&K's Budgam Tuesday, police said. Jammu and Kashmir Police, at a checkpoint established at Chandpora area of Budgam along with the Army and the CRPF, arrested the two, identified as Zahid Ahmad Sheikh, resident of Almnag Poskhar Khag, and Sahil Bashir Dar, resident of Mamath, Budgam.

#### Dalit youth assaulted

Davanagere (Karnataka): Dalit activists Tuesday staged a protest against the brutal attack on a 20-year-old youth of their community for messaging an upper caste girl in this district of the state. Demanding immediate arrest of the accused, the protestors submitted a memorandum to Channagiri Tehsildar. The incident had taken place on May 13 in Attigere village of Davanagere taluk. The accused had taken the victim Ganesh to an undisclosed location and brutally attacked and assaulted him. They had taken a video of the brutality and released it on social media.

#### Couple, daughter murdered in MP

Bhopal: A tribal couple along with their 12-year-old daughter were found dead on the rooftop of their building in Madhya Pradesh's Mandla district. The incident occurred late on Monday. After getting information, a police team reached the spot and the bodies were sent for post-mortem.

## Punjab farmers sit on protest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, May 17: Punjab farmers sat on a protest near the Chandigarh-Mohali border Tuesday after being stopped from heading to the state capital to press the AAP government with various demands, including wheat bonus and beginning paddy sowing from June 10.

A farmer leader said they do not want any confrontation with the state government, but they will have to break the barriers and move towards Chandigarh if their issues were not resolved. A heavy contingent of police was deployed at the Chandigarh-Mohali border in the wake of several farmer bodies' call for an indefinite protest in the Union Territory over their demands.

The Mohali police put up barricades and tipplers, and rolled out water cannons to prevent protesting farmers from entering Chandigarh. The Chandigarh police too made similar security arrangements.

Several farmer unions had given a call for an indefinite protest in Chandigarh on the lines of the year-long agitation at the Delhi borders against the Centre's three farm laws which were repealed in response to the protests.

Among their various demands, farmers want a Rs 500 bonus on each quintal of wheat as their



Moving ahead (by breaking barricades) is not a big thing for you. But we will sit here in a peaceful manner. We will hold a protest here... It is like the agitation in Delhi

JAGJIT SINGH DALLEWAL | FARMER LEADER

yield has dropped and shrivelled because of unprecedented heat-wave conditions. They are also against the Punjab government's decision to allow paddy sowing in a staggered manner from June 18 to lessen the electricity burden and conserve underground water.

The protesters, however, want that the government allow them to sow paddy from June 10. They also want a notification issued for the minimum support price for maize and moong. They are also demanding the government lower the charges on the extension of electricity load from Rs 4,800 to Rs 1,200 and release of outstanding sugarcane payment. The protesters are also against the in-

stallation of smart electricity meters. Carrying ration, beds, fans, coolers, utensils, cooking gas cylinders and other items, farmers from across Punjab assembled at Gurdwara Amb Sahib in Mohali. The protesting farmers said they had got a message from the Punjab government for a meeting. But they wanted to meet Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, saying they were not hopeful of getting their issues redressed by meeting a government official.

Mann is learnt to have gone to Delhi. Beginning their march from Gurdwara Amb Sahib, the protesting farmers broke the first layer of barricades as they moved towards the other barriers put up by the

Mohali Police near the Chandigarh-Mohali border.

But farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal urged the protesters not to break the second layer of barricades and instead begin protest there peacefully. "Moving ahead (by breaking barricades) is not a big thing for you. But we will sit here in a peaceful manner," Dallewal said. "We will hold a protest here... It is like the agitation in Delhi."

Bharti Kisan Union (Lakhwal) General Secretary Harinder Singh Lakhwal said, "We will win this protest." Another farmer leader said they do not want any confrontation with the state government but will head towards Chandigarh on Wednesday by breaking the barriers if their issues were not resolved.

After being stopped by the Mohali Police, farmers squatted there while parking their vehicles on the middle of the road in Mohali. Some of them even started to make tea there.

The police had to divert traffic on the Chandigarh-Mohali road near the YPS Chowk to alternative routes. AAP's Punjab unit chief spokesperson Malvinder Singh Kang said the state government is committed to the welfare of farmers and it will address their genuine demands. Earlier in the day, Deputy Inspector General of Police Gurpreet Singh Bhullar had met the farmer leaders.

## Marital rape: Appeal filed in SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 17: An appeal has been filed in the Supreme Court challenging the Delhi High Court's split verdict on the issue of criminalisation of marital rape on a batch of petitions challenging the exception in the law that exempts husbands from being prosecuted for non-consensual sexual intercourse with their wives.

The appeal has been filed by Khushboo Saifi, one of the petitioners before the high court. The high court on May 11 had delivered a split verdict on the issue. However, both the judges - Justice Rajiv Shakdher and Justice C Hari Shankar - on the bench concurred with each other for granting a certificate of leave to appeal to the Supreme Court in the matter as it involves substantial questions of law which requires a decision from the top court.

While Justice Shakdher, who headed the division bench, favoured striking down the marital rape exception for being "unconstitutional" and said it would be "tragic if a married woman's call for justice is not heard even after 162 years" since the enactment of the IPC, Justice Shankar said the exception under the rape law is not "unconstitutional and was based on an intelligible differentia".

The petitioners had challenged the constitutionality of the marital rape exception under Section 375 IPC (rape) on grounds that it discriminated against married women who are sexually assaulted by their husbands.

Under the exception given in Section 375 of the IPC, sexual intercourse or sexual acts by a man with his wife, the wife not being minor, is not rape.

## BIG BOOST



Frontline warship of Indian Navy Udaygiri, a Project 17A Frigate, during its launch at Mazgaon Docks Limited, in Mumbai. Minister of Defence Rajnath Singh launched the ship

## SC Collegium recommends CJs for 5 HCs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 17: The Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana recommended to the Centre the elevation of five judges as the Chief Justices of high courts in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gauhati, and Telangana.

The Collegium, which also comprised senior-most Justice Uday Umesh Lalit and Justice A M Khanwilkar, also recommended the transfer of Justice Satish Chandra Sharma, the Chief Justice of Telangana High Court to the Delhi High Court.

Justice Sharma, whose parent high court is Madhya Pradesh High Court, will have tenure until November 2023 as an HC judge.

The consequential recommendation, in pursuance of the decision of the Collegium, was uploaded on the apex court website on Tuesday.

The names recommended for elevation are - Justices Vipin Sanghi (from Delhi HC to Uttarakhand HC), Amjad A Sayed (from Bombay HC to Himachal Pradesh HC), S S Shinde (from Bombay HC to Rajasthan HC), Rashmin M Chhaya (from Gujarat HC to Gauhati HC) and Ujjal Bhuyan who is presently judge in Telangana HC will be elevated as Chief justice there.

The Delhi High Court has not had a Chief Justice since Chief Justice D N Patel, retired and Justice Sanghi has been the acting CJ since March 13, this year.

## India rejects 'farcical' Pak resolution

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 17: India Tuesday slammed the resolution passed by Pakistan National Assembly on the 'delimitation exercise in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir' and said that it has 'no locus standi to pronounce on or interfere in matters that are internal to India'.

Responding to the media queries, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said: "We categorically reject the farcical resolution passed by the National Assembly of Pakistan on the subject of the delimitation exercise in the Indian Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir." Noting that the Pakistan has

## RFID, ₹5L insurance for Amarnath yatris



Union Home Minister Amit Shah chairs a meeting on the logistical arrangements for the Amarnath Yatra, in New Delhi. J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla and other officials are also seen

The Home Minister stressed for enhancement of mobile connectivity along the Yatra route as he directed that earth moving equipment should be placed at vantage points to clear the route in case of landslides.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 17: Union Home Minister Amit Shah Tuesday held three back-to-back meetings with top officials of the security establishment to assess the prevailing situation in Jammu and Kashmir, including the recent killings of civilians as well as reviewed arrangements for the forthcoming Amarnath Yatra for which the UT administration will provide RFID tags to every pilgrim.

While Lt Governor of J&K Manoj Sinha was present in all the three meetings, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande attended the meetings to discuss the security situation in the UT. Senior officials from the centre, para-military forces and the UT administration were also in these meetings.

Later in a statement, the Union Home Ministry said the J&K chief secretary informed the meeting that each pilgrim will be provided with a Radio Frequency Identification Card (RFID) and will be insured with Rs 5 lakh. Shah said a "hassle-free" journey for the pilgrims is a priority of the Modi government and directed that all arrangements, including additional electricity, water, and telecom facilities be made.

The home minister also stressed for enhancement of mobile connectivity along the Yatra route as he directed that earth moving equipment should be placed at vantage points to clear the route in case of landslides.

This is the first Yatra after the COVID-19 pandemic, and due to the high altitude, adequate arrangements will have to be made for yatri who have any health-related problems, he said. The home minister asked for an adequate number of oxygen cylinders, medical beds at an altitude of more than 6,000 feet and deployment of ambulances and helicopters to deal with any emergency medical situation.

All categories of transport services should be increased during the Amarnath Yatra for the convenience of passengers. During the meeting, it was also decided to enable WiFi hotspots to ensure connectivity throughout the 39 km of the Yatra route from Pahalgam in South Kashmir. The other route is through Baltal in central Kashmir where a pilgrim treks for nearly 15 km.

The Yatra, which presents a big security challenge for the government, could not take place in 2020 and 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic and was cut short in 2019 just before the abrogation of Article 370. About three lakh pilgrims are likely to take part in the pilgrimage, scheduled to begin on June 30 and expected to end on August 11.

About 12,000 paramilitary personnel (120 companies) in addition to Jammu and Kashmir Police are expected to be deployed along the two pilgrimage routes, one from Pahalgam and the other via Baltal, officials said. Drone cameras will help the security forces to ensure the protection of the pilgrims.

Besides the Amarnath pilgrimage, the meetings also reviewed the security arrangement especially in the wake of several targeted killings, including of Kashmiri Pandits, in Kashmir.



no locus standi to pronounce on or interfere in matters that are internal to India, he said that the entire territory of the UT of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has been, is and shall always remain an integral part of India, including the Indian territories

under "Pakistan's illegal and forcible occupation".

The delimitation exercise in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is a democratic exercise based on the principles of extensive stakeholder consultation and participation.

## CROSS-BORDER ROMANCE

# Male tigers from B'desh hunt for mates in Sundarbans

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Sundarbans (West Bengal), May 17: The issue of infiltration from Bangladesh may keep raising the political temperature from time to time, but there's one movement into the West Bengal end of the Sundarbans from India's eastern neighbour that doesn't raise hackles, for these are male tigers that come looking for female companionship on the Indian side.

For tigers, there are no borders, so the ones on the Bangladesh side of the Sundarbans in Khulna district keep straying into the West Bengal end of these extensive stretches of mangrove forests, which are among the largest in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

These are usually lonely males

seeking female mates, according to local forest guards who monitor their movements closely so that their influx doesn't intensify animal-human conflicts that are rampant in the region. Since January this year, the forest department has recorded four such instances of straying.

Throwing light on the phenomenon, West Bengal's Forest Minister, Jyotipriya Malik, said these tigers from Bangladesh usually show up on the Indian side during the mating season, which falls between November and January. And because humans and tigers live cheek by jowl in the Sundarbans, the striped visitors tend to stray into the villages.

Soma Sorkhel, who has been studying the big cats of Sundarbans, added that one of the reasons for

the straying of tigers from Bangladesh might be the fights that take place among male tigers over a female they fancy. Generally, the male tigers who lose the battle of possession have to leave the area after the fight is over. So they enter the villages on the fringes of the forest.

In one such instance, a male tiger entered Mathurakhanda village near the forest compartments of Pirkhali II and III on the fringes of the tiger reserve area late on a January night and killed a couple of cows and buffalos. With the help of the villagers, forest department officials traced the presence of the tiger following its pug marks and surrounded the area in the thick mangrove forest from all sides with nylon nets.

The officials have also been try-



ing to establish the pattern of movements of these big cats. They lay traps with baits to capture the stray tigers. On occasions, they contemplate playing audio recordings of the roars of female tigers or

using tranquiliser guns, but the strays are hard to pin down.

Biswajit Das, the Sajnekhali tiger reserve range officer, points out that a tiger who has been weakened by a fight is not capable of

hunting in the dense forest, which requires physical strength, so it turns to the villages to find easy prey. The Sundarbans villagers, too, have enabled the strays unwittingly.

During the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, a number of them had returned from cities after losing jobs. Back in their villages, they had no option but to extract the resources of the forests to support their families.

In many places, they tore down the protective fencing to ease their entry into the forests, but in the bargain, they made it easier for the tigers from the other side of the border to come in. The good news, though, is that tiger population in the Sundarbans, as of 2020-21, stood at 96, significantly up from 76 in 2014 and 88 in 2018.

# UP on alert over dengue outbreak



■ UP HAS THE REQUIRED MEDICAL INFRASTRUCTURE TO COUNTER THE OUTBREAK OF DENGUE, AN OFFICIAL SAID  
 ■ THERE ARE 70 LABS IN THE STATE WITH THE FACILITY OF DENGUE TESTING AT THE MOMENT, HE SAID  
 ■ FEVER HEALTH DESKS HAVE ALSO BEEN ESTABLISHED IN EVERY HOSPITAL

AGENCIES

**Lucknow, May 17:** The increase in number of dengue cases, ahead of the monsoon season, has put health officials in Uttar Pradesh on alert.

The state's Director General, Health, Vedvrat Singh said that Uttar Pradesh has the required medical infrastructure to counter the outbreak of dengue but the key to prevention was in the hands of the people.

"There are 70 labs in the state with the facility of dengue testing at the moment and another 88 labs are being developed. Rapid Response (RR) teams have been formed at the block level who will take immediate action. Earlier such teams existed at the district level. At the same time, fever health desks have been established in every hospital," he said.

Director, Communicable Diseases, A.K. Singh said that there is neither any medicine nor any vaccine for dengue and therefore, efforts should be made to prevent the mosquito bite.

Even if the disease affects a person, recovery under medical supervision is possible, he noted.

Vikas Singhal, Joint Director, Vector Borne Diseases (VBD), said that people usually take fever lightly

## 96 CASES IN DELHI SO FAR

**New Delhi, May 17:** Nearly 100 dengue cases have been reported in the national capital till date, according to a civic report released Tuesday. Till April 30 this year, 81 dengue cases had been recorded in the city, the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) said in its weekly report. Ninety-six cases of dengue have been reported till May 14, it said. No death has been reported due to the vector-borne disease so far, it said. The SDMC is the nodal agency for the control of vector-borne diseases in the city. Delhi had recorded 23 dengue cases in January, 16 in February, 22 in March, and 20 in April, the report said.

which costs them dearly. "If the fever persists, the patient should get tested for dengue. Upon diagnosis, high fluid diet should be taken along with medicines," he said, adding that patients should be saved from dehydration.

Additional Director, Malaria Control, RC Pandey said that dengue can be stopped by united efforts by government, civic agencies and people.

# Digital Kumbh museum to come up by '25 in UP

AGENCIES

**Prayagraj, May 17:** The Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh plans to set up a Digital Kumbh Museum ahead of the 2025 Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj.

The Digital Kumbh Sangrahalaya' (museum) will be constructed at Araiil and is being touted as a major attraction for religious tourism.

Divisional Commissioner Sanjay Goyal said, "We are looking for appropriate land and once it is acquired, construction will be completed expeditiously."

The proposal to set up 'Digital Kumbh Sangrahalaya' at a cost of around Rs 200 crore was prepared before Kumbh 2019 and the tourism department had also started work but it could not take off due to the pandemic. "But there is still enough time to construct the museum by 2025," he said.

The 100feet high three-storey

museum will be built at Araiil.

The museum will depict the glory and ancient heritage of Sanatan Dharma. The visitors will learn about sages, seers and the traditions of Kumbh, Maha Kumbh.

The CEO, Prayagraj Mela Authority and vice chairman of Prayagraj Municipal Corporation (PDA), Arvind Kumar Chauhan, said that the building of 'Digital Kumbh Sangrahalaya' will be in the shape of a Kumbh Kalash. The museum will be ready in 15 to 20



months once the land is identified and acquired. As per plan, there will also be light and sound shows and cultural programmes will also be held regularly at the Digital Kumbh Museum.



## Lucknow to get UP's first natural history museum

**Lucknow:** A natural history museum is coming up in Uttar Pradesh on the Lucknow Zoo campus and is expected to be ready by March 2023. The museum will offer information on birds and animals that existed millions of years ago and species that are extinct or endangered. The museum will be the first-of-its-kind in Uttar Pradesh and will have nearly 6,000 specimens of animals and birds collected by experts over the past 200 years from different places across the world. This collection has been lying in state museum for a long time due to lack of space in the Natural History Gallery of the museum. It is only now that work to construct a separate museum for natural history has begun and will be completed in 10 months.

## Security beefed up outside Arvind Kejriwal's residence

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, May 17:** The city police Tuesday informed the Delhi High Court that security outside Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence, where an incident of vandalism occurred in March, has been beefed up with the deployment of additional armed guards.

The police said the proposal to curtail entry on the road where the chief minister's residence is located is also under consideration and discussions are on with the residents welfare associations (RWA).

The court was informed by the counsel for police that the status report is under preparation and sought some time to file it on record. A bench of Acting Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Navin Chawla granted time to the police to file the status report and said it shall be filed positively before the next date, that is, May 30.

The Delhi government standing counsel (criminal) Sanjay Lau submitted that the status report of Delhi Police was under preparation and it could not be filed as Additional Solicitor General Sanjay Jain was not available.

# Delhi HC raises concern

RELIGIOUS STRUCTURES IN THE MIDDLE OF ROAD

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, May 17:** The Delhi High Court Tuesday raised concern over encroachment in the form of religious structures, allegedly in the middle of the roads in the national capital.

Coming heavily on the city government for not taking proactive action against the encroachers, a bench comprising Acting Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Navin Chawla asked how will a civilised society survive like this.

"How will a civilised society survive like this, if we have things coming up in the middle of the road? You have to send a message, loud and clear, that this will not be tolerated. You must come down with an iron hand against the encroachers," the bench remarked during the



course of the hearing. While issuing notice in the matter, the court also asked to delete two MLAs' names from the list.

"What is the need of the MLAs? We don't need MLAs," the bench said. Seeking a status report from the respondent authorities in the matter, the bench posted it for the further hearing November 16. The Court was hearing a plea moved by petitioner SD Windlesh against

# UP to roll out road safety campaign

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Lucknow, May 17:** The Uttar Pradesh government will be launching a 'Road Safety Campaign' after May 18, with the aim of spreading safety awareness among the people.

According to the government spokesman, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed the officials to launch the campaign and said, "In view of the wider importance of road safety, an action plan for awareness campaign should be prepared in coordination with the departments like police, traffic, basic education, secondary education, technical education, higher education, transport, urban development, PWD among others."



The Chief Minister also said that aspects like road engineering, enforcement, trauma care and public awareness should also be included in the campaign.

Special emphasis will be on creating awareness among students in basic and secondary schools regarding traffic rules. Stressing on the need to make road safety a way of life.

The Chief Minister said that the children should be made fully aware of road safety measures from the very beginning.

"Principals/headmasters/representatives of the university should be trained in relation to traffic rules. The schools must hold meetings with parents and 'Prabhat Pheri' should be taken out by school children to create awareness on road safety," he stated.

The chief minister also stated that while speed-breakers are necessary for road safety, they become counter-productive if they are not laid in a scientific manner. Poor design of speed breakers on roads becomes a factor in accidents every day. The government must pay special attention in this direction in order to control such cases.

Buses failing on the standards should not be allowed to ply on the road under any circumstances.

# Delhi govt panel members travel by autos, cabs to know drivers' demands



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 17:** Some members of a Delhi government panel tasked with fare revision of auto-rickshaws and taxis have been travelling by cabs and autos for the

past two weeks to understand the demands and expectations of drivers, sources said on Tuesday.

"For the last 15 days, officials are roaming around in auto-rickshaws and taxis in Delhi to know the demands of the drivers and their expectations from the fare revision exercise." "This is being done to gain their feedback on the fare revision since they are the major stakeholders," said a source.

The deadline for submission of the report expires this week, the source said, adding that the panel has to finalise its report soon. The Fare Revision Committee is headed by the Special Commissioner (State Transport Authority). Other members in the panel include Deputy Commissioner and Deputy Controller of Accounts, two nominated District Transport Officers and a technical expert. The committee also includes members of civil society including representatives from Resident Welfare Associations (RWA), commuters, and students.



Two boys walk under a cloth to protect themselves from the scorching Sun on a summer day in New Delhi

# Poor workers bear the brunt of heatwave

REUTERS

**Noida, May 17:** For construction worker Yogendra Tundre, life at a building site on the outskirts of the Indian capital New Delhi is hard enough. This year, record high temperatures are making it unbearable. "There is too much heat and if we won't work, what will we eat? For a few days, we work and then we sit idle for a few days because of tiredness and heat," Tundre said.

High temperatures in the New Delhi area, which soared above 120 Fahrenheit (49 Celsius) in some regions Sunday, have often caused Tundre, and his wife Lata, who works at the same construction site, to fall sick. That in turn means they lose income.

"Because of heat, sometimes I don't go to work. I take days off. many times, fall sick from dehydration and then require glucose bottles (intravenous fluids)," Lata said while

standing outside their house, a temporary shanty with a tin roof.

Scientists have linked the early onset of an intense summer to climate change, and say more than a billion people in India and neighbouring Pakistan are in some way at risk from the extreme heat. India suffered its hottest March in more than 100 years and parts of the country experienced their highest temperatures on record in April. Many places, including New Delhi, saw the temperature gauge top 40 Celsius. More than two dozen people have died of suspected heat strokes since



late March, and power demand has hit multi-year highs. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called on state governments to draw up measures to mitigate the impact of the extreme heat. Temperatures in and around New Delhi are likely to be lower over

the next three days, but the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast a heatwave again on Friday. Tundre and Lata live with their two young children in a slum near the construction site in Noida, a satellite city of New Delhi. They moved from their home state of Chhattisgarh in central India to seek work and higher wages around the capital. On the construction site, labourers scale up walls, lay concrete and carry heavy loads, using

ragged scarves around their heads as protection against the sun. But even when the couple finish their day's work, they have little respite as their home is hot, having absorbed the heat of the sun all day long. Avikal Somvanshi, an urban environment researcher from India's Centre for Science and Environment, said federal government data showed that heat stress was the most-common cause of death, after lightning, from forces of nature in the last 20 years. "Most of these deaths occur in men aged 30-45. These are working class, blue-collar men who have no option but to be working in the scorching heat," Somvanshi said.

There are no laws in India that prevent outdoor activity when temperatures breach a certain level, unlike in some Middle Eastern countries, Somvanshi said.

## GREAT INITIATIVE

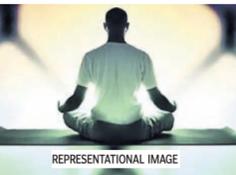
# Prisons dept organises yoga for jail inmates

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, May 17:** The Delhi Prisons department Tuesday organised an inaugural function at Tihar jail to launch yoga and meditation programme for the inmates, an official statement said.

The initiative is being taken up as part of the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' and will be conducted by The Satsang Foundation.

"As part of the celebrations of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', an inaugural function was organised Tuesday in Tihar central jail number-2 to launch a yoga and meditation programme for the inmates by Satsang Foundation," a statement from the department read.



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

The Satsang Foundation will teach the prison inmates the techniques of yoga and meditation in the coming three months, as part of its 'Manav Seva' initiative, thus promoting spiritual growth and evolution among the prison inmates. The programme will include the teachings on the life and philosophy of philosopher and yoga guru Sri Aurobindo, it said.

As India grapples with an unprecedented heatwave, the country's vast majority of poor workers, who generally work outdoors, are vulnerable to the scorching temperatures

of the day quote

We have got good 'talent' here, but it should not go outside (in search of opportunities), it should be used for growth of the state

PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CM

BJP wins 300 seats with the help of EVMs. When elections are not being held with EVMs in Europe and America, then why is it being adopted here? Germany has amended the constitution itself to not conduct elections with EVMs. Now elections are being held there by ballot paper

KAMAL NATH | MADHYA PRADESH CONGRESS PRESIDENT

BJP has no strength on the ground in Telangana as it suffered a humiliating defeat in the 2014 and 2018 elections. In 2018 elections, BJP lost deposit in 108 out of the 119 Assembly constituencies

KT RAMA RAO | TRS WORKING PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Six injured

Noida: Six cyclists were injured after they were hit by a canter here Tuesday morning, police said. According to the police, the accident took place on expressway near sector 94 when a canter coming from Delhi hit a group of cyclists, all residents of sector 137. On being informed, the police immediately reached the spot and rushed the injured to a hospital.

4 killed in accident

Patna: Four people of a family were killed and as many critically injured after a car rammed into a tree in Valmikinagar Tiger Reserve in Bihar's West Champaran district. When car occupants were returning from the tiger reserve late Monday night, driver of the speeding vehicle lost control over the wheels and it rammed into a tree at Baljora village under Naurangia police station. Two children died on the spot while two others succumbed to their injuries in the hospital.

2 die in bus mishap

Lucknow: Two persons were killed when a bus, carrying at least 50 people, overturned on the Lucknow-Agra Expressway in Uttar Pradesh Tuesday. Five persons were critically injured and several others suffered minor injuries, police said. The bus was on its way to Bihar from Rajasthan. A huge crowd gathered at the spot and an ambulance waited to carry the injured to hospital.

15 fall sick

Chhindwara: Two minor girls died and 15 other people took ill after suspected food poisoning at a marriage function in Madhya Pradesh's Chhindwara district, a health official said Tuesday. Some people in Kodia village, located about 90 km from the district headquarters, had food at the wedding function on Monday night following which they started complaining of vomiting and loose motions, Pandhurna civil hospital's Dr Vineet Shrivastava said.

Boy drowns

Damoh: A 15-year-old boy drowned while taking bath in a river with his friends in Madhya Pradesh's Damoh district, police said Tuesday. Two of his friends were rescued after the three of them, all residents of Devra Jamsa village, entered the Vyarama river and got trapped in the deep waters on Monday afternoon, Gaisabad police station-in-charge Arvind Singh Lodhi said.



Rahul Gandhi while claiming that only Congress can defeat BJP, should not forget that his party was in power for 10 years at the mercy and might of regional parties

HD KUMARASWAMY | FORMER KARNATAKA CM

MATTER OF CONCERN

As many as 13 lakh people in Telangana were found to have high blood pressure (hypertension) during a survey which so far covered 90 lakh people, Health Minister T. Harish Rao said Tuesday



1993 MUMBAI SERIAL BLASTS

29 years on, 4 men held in Gujarat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, May 17: The Gujarat Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS) has arrested four persons wanted in the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts case, officials said Tuesday. Abu Bakar, Saiyad Qureshi, Mohammad Shueb Qureshi alias Shueb Bawa and Mohammad Yusuf Ismail alias Yusuf Bhatka, all residents of Mumbai, were on the run for 29 years, they said.

The four were held from Sardarnagar area of Ahmedabad May 12 following a tip-off, said Additional Director General of Police, ATS, Amit Vishwakarma. At present they have been booked for allegedly obtaining passports on the basis of forged documents for fleeing the country in 1993, and later they would be handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the blasts case, said another official.

"To hide their real identities, they had obtained passports using forged documents. Interpol had issued a Red-Corner Notice against them on the request of the CBI which is probing the blasts case," Vishwakarma told reporters. It



The four were held from Sardarnagar area of Ahmedabad May 12 following a tip-off, said Additional Director General of Police, ATS, Amit Vishwakarma

In the 1990s, these four used to work for gold smuggler Mohammed Dossa, a henchman of fugitive gangster and the blasts' mastermind Dawood Ibrahim, said Deputy Inspector General of Police (ATS) Deepan Bhadrans

was not clear why they were visiting Gujarat, he said, adding that they were arrested under IPC sections 466 (forgery of record), 468 (forgery for cheating) and 120-B (criminal conspiracy) besides under The Passports Act.

In the 1990s, these four used to work for gold smuggler Mohammed Dossa, a henchman of fugitive gangster and the blasts' master-

mind Dawood Ibrahim, said Deputy Inspector General of Police (ATS) Deepan Bhadrans. "To spread terror in India, Dossa sent them to a country in the Middle East to meet Dawood in February 1993. On Dawood's directions, they went to Pakistan to get weapons training. Pakistan's (spy agency) ISI also gave them training in the making and use of Improvised Explosive

Heavy rain, landslides affect road, rail links



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati/Itanagar/Agartala May 17: As floodwaters entered fresh areas of Assam, the number of affected people has doubled in Assam to over four lakh since the previous day while three more persons died due to the calamity taking the toll to eight, a government bulletin said Tuesday.

Landslides triggered by incessant rain snapped rail and road links to Barak Valley and Dima Hasao district of Assam and neighbouring states of Tripura, Mizoram and Manipur. Landslides wreaked havoc in Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya also snapping road connectivity in many areas.

An Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) bulletin said the number of affected people has reached 4,03,352 across 26 districts from 1,97,248 in 20 districts Monday. Cachar is the worst-hit district with 96,697 affected people while 88,420 and 58,975 people are reeling under the deluge respectively.

The death toll has increased to eight, including five killed in landslides. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has assured Assam of all assistance from the Central government even as the state administration has been pursuing measures to ensure the supply of essential commodities to the affected areas and restore communication channels.

"Concerned about the situation in the wake of heavy rainfall in parts of Assam. Spoke to CM

11 EMBANKMENTS HAVE BEEN BREACHED SINCE MONDAY, WHILE ANOTHER SIX HAVE BEEN AFFECTED, BESIDES DAMAGES TO HOUSES, ROADS, BRIDGES AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE

Shri @himantabiswa to take stock of the situation. NDRF teams are already been deployed. Assured all possible help from the central government," Shah tweeted on Tuesday evening.

The Regional Weather Forecasting Centre, Guwahati, has issued a warning for "very heavy" rainfall in Assam till Wednesday, and widespread rain across the state for the next five days. Close to 40,000 people have taken shelter in 89 relief camps in different affected areas.

Eleven embankments have been breached since Monday, while another six have been affected, besides damages to houses, roads, bridges and other infrastructure. Waterlogging was reported from Guwahati and Kharupetia in Darrang district, the ASDMA bulletin said. Landslides in different locations in Dima Hasao district have disrupted road and rail connectivity to Barak Valley as well as vital parts of Tripura, Mizoram and Manipur since Sunday.

Air gun training

Complaint lodged against Bajrang Dal

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, May 17: Popular Front of India (PFI) has lodged a complaint against air gun training to more than 100 participants during a week-long training camp held recently in Karnataka's Madikeri district, police said Tuesday.

Ibrahim, a member of PFI, has lodged a complaint and demanded a probe into the matter. The complaint mentioned that air guns were used in the camp held in the school grounds in Ponnampet town. The police have initiated a probe into the matter and sought a report from the Education department on whether the school grounds could be used for such an event.

The issue has stirred a controversy in the state and resulted in a political slugfest between ruling BJP and opposition parties. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has stated that his government will not allow anything which happens illegally.

Responding to the allegations, National General Secretary and BJP MLA C.T Ravi claimed that the camp was a part of a self-defence course.

They were not trained in using AK-47s and bombs. Every year, the Bajrang Dal trains its activists for self-defence.

Sri Ram Sena Founder Pramod Muthalik also defended the camp saying there is nothing wrong in giving training for self-defence.

The training camp was organised from May 5 to 11. The participants took part in a procession in the Ponnampet town on May 10. Bajrang Dal maintained that it had not violated law and the Arms Act. Air guns and tridents do not come under the act.

However, police stated that they are looking into the issue of use of air guns in the open.

78.9% families own cycle in WB, highest in India

NAGALAND HAS THE LOWEST NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS OWNING A BICYCLE AT 5.5 PER CENT, WHILE IN SIKKIM IT IS 5.9 PER CENT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, May 17: In West Bengal, 78.9 per cent of the households have bicycles, the highest in the country, as per the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5).

While the national average is 50.4 per cent, Uttar Pradesh holds the second rank with 75.6 per cent of the households owning a bicycle, it said. In Odisha, 72.5 per cent

SHIELD AGAINST SUN



Women use a scarf to shield themselves from the heat on a hot day in Prayagraj

PTI PHOTO

HARIDWAR DHARMA SANSAD CASE

SC grants interim bail to Tyagi

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 17: The Supreme Court Tuesday granted three months of interim bail to Jitendra Narayan Tyagi on medical grounds in connection with the Haridwar Dharma Sansad case involving alleged inflammatory speeches made against Muslims.

A bench comprising Justices Ajay Rastogi and Vikram Nath directed Tyagi, formerly known as Wasim Rizvi, to give an undertaking that he would not indulge in hate speech and not give any statement on electronic or digital, or social media.

"After hearing the learned counsel for the parties and taking into consideration the med-



ical condition of the petitioner, we consider it appropriate to grant him interim bail on furnishing an undertaking that he will not address the electronic media or social media and will not indulge in such activities anymore.

"On furnishing undertaking and the terms and conditions of

the satisfaction of the Trial Court, the petitioner shall be released on interim bail for the period of three months," the bench said.

In case of violation of any condition on which interim bail has been granted, the respondents are at liberty to file an application for cancellation of the interim bail, the apex court added.

The apex court will now hear the matter August 29.

Tyagi had approached the top court after the Uttarakhand High Court dismissed his bail plea in March this year.

The case against him and others had been lodged on the complaint of Nadeem Ali, a resident of Jwalapur Haridwar at Haridwar Kotwali on January 2, 2022.



of the households own a bicycle, while in Chattisgarh, the figure is 70.8 per cent. It is followed by Assam (70.3 per cent), Punjab (67.8 per cent), Jharkhand (66.3 per cent) and Bihar (64.8 per cent), said the 2019-21 report.

Nagaland has the lowest number of households owning a bicycle at

5.5 per cent, while in Sikkim it is 5.9 per cent. Among other states, 29.9 per cent of Gujarat households own a bicycle, and in Delhi, it is 27.2 per cent, the report stated.

A senior West Bengal government official said the top spot could be bagged because of the state government's 'Sabooj Sathi' scheme.

"As a part of the scheme, bicycles are given to students of classes 9 to 12. This is the primary reason why we have seen a surge in the number of bicycle users in West Bengal. This scheme is not only helping the students but also their families," the official said. The bicycle is also the preferred mode of transportation for many in areas where there is a gap in public transport, he said.

"Not only in rural Bengal, bicycles are also preferred in areas such as New Town near Kolkata as it is environment friendly. There are separate bicycle lanes being built alongside roads in Salt Lake and New Town. There are plans to build such lanes in other cities as well," the official said.

Till May 11, 1,03,97,444 students have received bicycles in West Bengal under the 'Sabooj Sathi' scheme.

# international



**Western powers opposing Russia in Ukraine could be considered enemies as they are waging a war against the state**  
DMITRY PESKOV | KREMLIN SPOKESMAN

## PAK HIT BY CHOLERA OUTBREAK

A deadly cholera outbreak linked to contaminated drinking water has infected thousands of people in Pakistan as the country grapples with a water crisis exacerbated by a brutal heat wave



## of the day quote

**I propose to privatise Sri Lankan Airlines** which is incurring extensive losses. The loss for the year 2020-2021 alone amounts to 45 billion LKR (\$129.5 million). By March 31, 2021, the total loss was at 372 billion LKR  
RANIL WICKREMESINGHE | SRI LANKA'S NEW PRIME MINISTER

**People in Pakistan like Ahmediyas, Sikhs, Christians and Hindus are persecuted, forcibly converted, Shia mosques are attacked... I would like to ask who is supplying arms to terrorists in Kashmir, who is training them, who is encouraging them to create disruption in paradise**  
LORD TARIQ AHMED | MEMBER OF HOUSE OF LORDS OF THE UK

**Germany is bracing for energy sanctions imposed by Russia. Overall, gas flows to Germany are almost unchanged**  
ROBERT HABECK | VICE-CHANCELLOR OF GERMANY

## SHORT TAKES

**Clashes break out in Tripoli**  
Cairo: An attempt by one of Libya's rival prime ministers to seat his government in the capital of Tripoli triggered clashes Tuesday between competing militias, forcing the newly appointed premier to leave the city. The development underscored the fragility of the situation in the war-ravaged country while the two rival prime ministers traded accusations for the escalation.

**NK's Kim faces 'huge dilemma'**  
Seoul: During more than a decade as North Korea's leader, Kim Jong Un has made "self-reliance" his governing lynchpin, shunning international help and striving instead for domestic strategies to fix his battered economy. But as an illness suspected to be Covid-19 sickens hundreds of thousands of his people, Kim stands at a critical crossroad: Either swallow his pride and receive foreign help to fight the disease, or go it alone, enduring potential huge fatalities that may undermine his leadership.

**Thailand's economy continues to recover**  
Bangkok: Thailand's economic recovery continued apace, with its gross domestic product (GDP) up 2.2 per cent year on year in the first quarter, official data showed Tuesday. The growth accelerated from a rise of 1.8 per cent registered in the previous quarter, according to data released by the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC).

**US eases some sanctions on Cuba**  
Washington: US President Joe Biden's administration has announced that it was lifting some sanctions on Cuba, making it easier for families separated between the two countries to reunite and creating a more conducive business environment for Cuban entrepreneurs.

**Coup attempt foiled in Mali**  
Bamako: A coup attempted by "a small group of anti-progressive Malian officers and non-commissioned officers" earlier this month was foiled, a spokesperson for the West African country said. In a statement late Monday, the spokesperson, Colonel Abdoulaye Maiga, said the coup attempt took place May 11-12, reports Xinhua news agency.

# Musk puts a condition on Twitter deal

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, May 17: Tesla CEO Elon Musk says his deal to buy Twitter can't move forward unless the company shows public proof that less than 5% of the accounts on the social media platform are fake or spam.

Musk made the comment in a reply to another user on Twitter early Tuesday. He spent much of the previous day in a back-and-forth with Twitter CEO Parag Agrawal, who posted a series of tweets explaining his company's effort to fight bots and how it has consistently estimated that less than 5% of Twitter accounts are fake.

In his tweet Tuesday, Musk said that "20% fake/spam accounts, while 4 times what Twitter claims, could be much higher. My offer was based on Twitter's SEC filings



being accurate." He added: "Yesterday, Twitter's CEO publicly refused to show proof of 5%. This deal cannot move forward until he does."

Twitter declined to comment.

It's Musk's latest salvo over inauthentic accounts, a problem he has said he wants to rid Twitter of.

At a Miami technology conference Monday, Musk estimated that at least 20% of Twitter's 229 million

accounts are spam bots, a percentage he said was at the low end of his assessment.

Also at the All In Summit, Musk gave the strongest hint yet that he would like to pay less for Twitter than the \$44 billion offer he made last month.

Musk's comments are likely to bolster theories from analysts that the billionaire either wants out of the deal or to buy the company at a cheaper price. His tweet Tuesday came in reply to one from a Tesla news site speculating that Musk

"may be looking for a better Twitter deal as \$44 billion seems too high."

Musk made the offer to buy Twitter for \$54.20 per share April 14. Twitter shares have slid since then. They were down slightly in Tuesday morning trading to \$37.28.

To finance the acquisition, Musk pledged some of his Tesla shares, which have slumped by about a third since the deal was announced.

**The battle over spam accounts kicked off last week when Musk tweeted that the Twitter deal was on hold pending confirmation of the company's estimates that they make up less than 5% of total users**

## Students protest over China's Covid-19 policy

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beijing, May 17: Administrators at an elite Beijing university have backed down from plans to further tighten pandemic restrictions on students as part of China's "zero-Covid" strategy after a week-end protest at the school, according to students Tuesday.



Graduate students at Peking University staged the rare, but peaceful protest Sunday over the school's decision to erect a sheet-metal wall to keep them further sequestered on campus, while allowing faculty to come and go freely. Discontent had already been simmering over regulations prohibiting them from ordering in food or having visitors, and daily Covid-19 testing.

A citywide lockdown of Shanghai and expanded restrictions in Beijing in recent weeks have raised questions about the economic and human costs of China's strict virus controls, which the ruling Communist Party has trumpeted as a success compared to other major nations with much higher death tolls. While most people have grumbled privately or online, some Shanghai residents have clashed with police, volunteers and others trying to enforce lockdowns and take infected people to quarantine centers.

Many of the Peking University students protesting Sunday outside a dormitory took cellphone videos as Chen Baojian, the deputy secretary of the university's Communist Party committee, admonished them through a megaphone to end the protest and talk with him one-on-one.

The crowd of about 200 clapped and cheered as a half dozen protesters broke through the sheet-metal barrier behind Chen.

The phone videos were quickly shared over social media, but just as quickly removed by government censors. Some supportive comments remained, though many were also taken down, while some videos remain on Twitter, which is blocked in China.

## Over 250 Ukrainian troops surrender



AGENCIES

Mariupol, Ukraine, May 17: More than 250 Ukrainian fighters surrendered to Russian forces at the Azovstal steelworks in Mariupol and Kyiv said Tuesday it had ordered its full garrison to evacuate, bringing an apparent end to the bloodiest battle in Europe for decades.

Reuters said buses leave the steelworks overnight and five of them arrive in the Russian-held town of Novoazovsk, where Moscow said the wounded would be treated.

In one, marked with the Latin letter 'Z' that symbolises Russia's assault, wounded men were stacked on stretchers three bunks high. One man was wheeled out, his head tightly wrapped in thick bandages. While both sides spoke of a deal under which all Ukrainian troops would abandon the huge

- Ukrainian soldiers, many wounded, bussed to Russian-held towns
- 'Defenders of Mariupol are heroes of our time' - Ukraine military
- Putin says he sees no threat from Finland, Sweden joining NATO

steelworks, important details were not yet public, including how many fighters still remained inside, and whether any form of prisoner swap had been agreed.

Ukraine's Deputy Defence Minister Hanna Malyar told a briefing that Kyiv would not disclose how many fighters were inside the plant until all were safe.

The Kremlin said President Vladimir Putin had personally guaranteed the prisoners would be treated according to international standards.

Russian defence ministry video showed fighters leaving the plant in daylight, some carried on stretchers, others with hands up to be searched by Russian troops. Russia said at least 256 Ukrainian fighters had "laid down their arms and surrendered", including 51 severely wounded.

## SRI LANKA CRISIS

# SL Prez escapes no-trust motion

GOTABAYA RAJAPAKSA'S SHAKY COALITION VOTED AGAINST TAKING UP THE UNPRECEDENTED 'DISPLEASURE OF PARLIAMENT' MOTION

AGENCIES

Colombo, May 17: Embattled Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa-led government won two important victories in Parliament Tuesday when its candidate for the slot of Deputy Speaker got elected while it convincingly defeated an Opposition move to urgently debate on a censure motion that blamed him for the island nation's worst economic crisis.

A Motion of Displeasure tabled by the Opposition Tamil National Alliance (TNA) MP M A Sumanthiran to censure President Rajapaksa was defeated 119-68 in a deeply-divided Parliament, amidst nationwide protests demanding his resignation due to the hardship faced by the people.

With the tabling of the Motion of Displeasure, the Opposition sought to demonstrate how nationwide calls for President Rajapaksa's resignation is reflected in the country's 225-member legislature. Hours earlier, the candidate from the ruling SLPP won a key vote when its lawmaker Ajith Rajapaksha was Tuesday elected Deputy Speaker of the country's



Parliament, which met for the first time since the resignation of the former prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and the swearing-in of the new Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe.

Rajapaksha, 48, from the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna Party (SLPP) was elected following a secret ballot conducted in Parliament. He secured 109 votes and the main Opposition Samagi Jana Balawegaya nominee Rohini Kavirathna received 78 votes.

Rajapaksha is not related to the ruling Rajapaksa family but comes from the same home district of Hambantota. House Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena said 23 votes were rejected. The post of deputy speaker was left vacant after Ranjith Siyamabalapitiya re-

signed from the post twice in one month this year.

The House met for the first time Tuesday since the resignation of the former prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and the cycle of violence in which nine people, including a parliamentarian, were killed and over 200 others injured.

Both Mahinda Rajapaksa and his son Namal Rajapaksa were absent while Basil Rajapaksa and Shasheendra Rajapaksa the other members of the Rajapaksa family were present in Parliament.

Meanwhile, TNA leader Sumanthiran, who tabled the Motion of Displeasure against the President for mismanaging the island nation's economy, slammed Prime Minister Wickremesinghe for his shameful conduct in supporting the government to defeat a motion moved by the Opposition.

Responding to criticism, the United National Party (UNP), represented solely in Parliament by Wickremesinghe, has defended his vote against the Opposition's attempt to express the dissatisfaction of the House with President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's handling of the crisis.

## Turkey threatens to block Finland, Sweden NATO bids

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ankara, May 17: Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has restated his opposition to Finland and Sweden joining the NATO, just hours after they said they would seek membership of the military alliance amid the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

Addressing reporters Monday, Erdogan said Turkey opposed the two Scandinavian countries' bids to join NATO, describing Sweden as a "hatchery" for terrorist organisations, reports the BBC.

"Neither of these countries have a clear, open attitude towards terrorist organisation. How can we trust them?" he asked. Erdogan is angered by what he sees as their



willingness to host Kurdish militants. Turkey accuses the two Nordic nations of harbouring members of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), a group it views as a terrorist organisation, and followers of Fethullah Gulen, who Ankara accuses of orchestrating a 2016 coup attempt, the BBC reported. All member states must agree that a new country can join NATO, there-

fore Sweden and Finland require Turkey's support in their bid to join the military alliance.

Erdogan said Swedish and Finnish delegations should not bother going to Ankara to convince it to approve their NATO bid. His government has also pledged to block applications from countries that have imposed sanctions on it.

■ Norway, Denmark and Iceland, all NATO members, immediately said they were ready to support Sweden and Finland by all means necessary if they came under attack

■ The UK, also a NATO member, has already given security guarantees to Sweden and Finland to cover the transition period

## UNCERTAIN JOURNEY



A group of people thought to be migrants walk up the beach after being brought in to Dungeness, Kent, onboard the RNLI Dungeness Lifeboat, following a small boat incident in the Channel

# CLIMATE CHANGE IS HURTING INSURERS: REPORT

Insured losses from natural catastrophes have increased 250% in the last 30 years, with perils such as wildfires and storms, seen as particularly impacted by climate change, causing an even faster rise in insured losses, the report said

REUTERS

New York, May 17: Climate change is hurting the insurance industry and only 8% of insurers are preparing adequately for its impact, consultants Capgemini and financial industry body Efma said in a report Tuesday. Insured losses from natural catastrophes have increased 250% in the last 30 years, with perils such as wildfires and storms, seen as particularly impacted by climate change, causing an even faster rise in insured losses, the report said.

Insurers' main catastrophe risk in the past was typically from hurricanes in US states such as Florida and Texas, Seth Rachlin, global insurance industry leader at Capgemini, told Reuters.

"We've seen with the flooding in Europe and wildfires in Australia, wildfires in California, it's becoming a broader geographic issue, affecting a broader percentage of the earth."

Germany and other parts of Europe were hit by flooding in July 2021, while heavy rains deluged Australia's east coast ear-



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

lier this year. European insurers are leading the way in embedding environmental, social and governance issues in insurance underwriting and investment and in focusing on risk prevention, Rachlin said.

More than 30% of insurers globally restrict investment in unsustainable companies, and more than 20% restrict insurance cover to unsustainable companies, the report said.

Seventy-four percent of the insurers interviewed felt that climate change made it hard to insure

some areas. Regions such as California have seen insurers pull out due the number and severity of wildfires. Seventy-one percent of insurance customers said the offer of discounts would make them highly likely to cut the exposure of their property or other assets to natural catastrophe risk.

More than 4,900 insurance customers were polled in 16 countries in Jan and Feb 2022 for the report. The report was also based on interviews with more than 270 senior insurance executives in 27 markets.

## of the day quote

Our business activity monitor for April at 115.7 indicates that activity was roughly 16 per cent higher than the year ago (period) and pre-Covid levels in spite of the global headwinds

**ADITI NAYAR** | CHIEF ECONOMIST, ICRA

We bounced back post-Covid-19, and have done extremely well on vaccination, next year as well we will grow. The challenge for India is to sustain high growth of 8-9 per cent over the next three decades

**AMITABH KANT** | CEO, NITI AAYOG

I wish I had a co-founder from the technology field, that would have given me a great start

**FALGUNI NAYAR** | FOUNDER, NYKAAS

## SHORT TAKES

### Exceptional gain for Bharti Airtel

**New Delhi:** India's second-largest telecom operator Bharti Airtel Tuesday posted more than twofold year-on-year jump in its consolidated net profit for the March quarter to ₹2,008 crore, buoyed by a lift in average revenue per user and an exceptional gain. The telco said its Q4 scorecard was backed by strong performance delivery across the portfolio and its CEO Gopal Vittal, in a statement, exuded optimism about opportunities in the coming years and Airtel being "well-poised" as a company.

### No RBI nod to set up 6 banks

**Mumbai:** The Reserve Bank has rejected six applications for setting up banks, including for small finance banks, as these were "not found" suitable, the central bank said Tuesday. Applicants not found suitable under the guidelines for 'on tap' Licensing of Universal Banks are: UAE Exchange and Financial Services Limited; The Repatriates Cooperative Finance and Development Bank Limited (REPCO Bank); Chaitanya India Fin Credit Private Limited, and Pankaj Vaish and others, it said.

### Mineral output up 4% in March

**New Delhi:** The country's mineral production rose by 4 per cent in March compared to the year-ago period, the mines ministry said Tuesday. The index of mineral production of mining and quarrying sector in March 2022 at 144.6 was 4 per cent higher as compared to the level in March 2021. "As per the provisional figures of the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), the cumulative growth for the period April-March, 2021-22 over the corresponding period of the previous year has increased 12.2 per cent," the mines ministry said in a statement.

### 3 Cos get Sebi's nod to float IPOs

**New Delhi:** Three companies - Federal Bank's subsidiary Fedbank Financial Services, airport service aggregator platform Dreamfolks Services and speciality marine chemical manufacturer Archean Chemical Industries -- have received capital markets regulator Sebi's go ahead to raise funds through Initial Public Offerings (IPOs). These companies, which filed their preliminary IPO papers with Sebi in January and February, obtained observation letter from the regulator during May 9-13, an update with the the capital markets watchdog showed Tuesday.



5G will bring positive change in governance, ease of living and ease of doing business. Over the next decade and half, 5G technology will contribute \$450 billion through economic growth and job creation

**NARENDRA MODI** | PRIME MINISTER

### ADANI GROUP'S GROSS DEBT AT RECORD HIGH

The Adani group continues to use debt financing to grow its existing businesses and enter new industries. The combined gross debt of the group companies reached a new high of ₹2.22 trillion at the end of March this year, up 42 per cent from ₹1.57 trillion a year ago, according to data from Capitaline



# Muted market debut for LIC

LIC'S PERFORMANCE IS 2ND-WORST AMONG 11 COMPANIES THAT LISTED THIS YEAR

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, May 17:** The country's largest insurer LIC Tuesday made a lacklustre debut on stock exchanges Tuesday, listing at over 8 per cent discount after a successful initial public offering (IPO) which fetched ₹20,557 crore to the exchequer.

As against the issue price of ₹949, shares of LIC listed at ₹872, a discount of ₹81.80 a piece, on the BSE. The stock listed at ₹867.20, showing a discount of ₹77 a piece, on the NSE.

The listing price was also below the price at which shares were allotted to LIC policyholders, employees and retail investors.

The scrip remained below the issue price throughout the trading hours and closed at ₹873 on NSE and ₹875.45 on BSE.

In the intra-day trade, the shares had touched a low of ₹860 apiece.

Over 4.87 crore shares changed hands on the NSE, while on BSE it was over 27.52 lakh. With the listing, LIC got into the list of top-5 most valued companies with market capitalisation of nearly ₹5.54 lakh crore. LIC shares listed at a discount even as the benchmark BSE Sensex opened in positive zone and closed with a gain of over 2 per cent over previous close.

Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) had fixed the issue price of its shares at ₹949 apiece after a successful initial public offering, which was oversubscribed nearly 3-times when it closed May 9. The shares were lapped up mainly by retail and domestic investors, even as foreign investor demand was muted. LIC policyholders and retail investors have got the shares at a price of ₹889 and ₹904 apiece, respectively after taking into account the discount offered.

The government sold over 22.13 crore shares or 3.5 per cent stake in LIC through the IPO.

Talking to reporters here after the listing, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said the weak debut on the bourses was due to un-



LIC ends over 8% lower, broader market closes up 2.6%  
LIC has \$71.5 bln market value  
State-owned LIC now India's fifth biggest company

predictable market conditions and suggested investors to hold on to the stock for long-term value.

LIC Chairman M R Kumar said: "It (stock price) will pick up as we go along. I am sure a lot of people, especially the policyholders who have missed out on the allotment will pick up the shares (in the secondary market). I don't see any reason why it should be tepid for too long".

Market experts too suggested that investors should hold on to the shares and the scrip will see an uptick in the long term.

Axis Securities MD & CEO B Gopikumar said investors should not look to exit at current levels and hold the stock from a medium to long-term perspective.

"We believe LIC continues to be a solid bet in the long run as it is a play on the growth story of the under-penetrated life insurance industry. Its sustained market leadership position, robust pan-India

distribution network, and shifting focus towards profitable products, thus supporting margins and improving persistency ratios, will collectively make LIC an attractive pick from a long-term perspective," Gopikumar said.

Geojit Financial Services Head of Research Vinod Nair said LIC is a decent investment opportunity in the short to medium-term considering its strong market presence, improvement in future profitability due to the changes in surplus distribution norms and strong sector growth outlook.

Funds India CEO Girirajan Murugan said once the dust settles on the market due to the ongoing issues related to Ukraine-Russia war and the worries on the inflation front, stocks in the insurance sector along with other beaten down stocks in the Banking/NBFC space should see good momentum.

"There may be a bit of retail selling today due to the current sentiments in the overall market, but the long term fundamentals of LIC remain intact," Murugan said. Swastika Investmart Head of Research Santosh Meena said new investors can take advantage of the dips to accumulate this share for the long term.

"LIC didn't pay any dividends in the last financial year, so there are high chances that the company might declare a good dividend this year, thus making it a good dividend play," Meena said.

# India to allow wheat shipments awaiting customs clearance



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 17:** Relaxing norms, the government Tuesday said it has decided to allow shipments of the wheat consignments that were registered with the customs authority before the wheat export ban came into force May 13.

The ban on wheat export has left at least 4,000 trucks carrying the food grain stranded outside Deendayal Port at Kandla in Gujarat for want of permission from authorities to load them into vessels, according to port and industry officials.

"The government has announced some relaxation to its order dated May 13 issued by DGFT on restricting wheat exports," the commerce ministry said. On May 13, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) issued a notification banning exports of wheat with immediate effect to control price rise.

"It has been decided that wherever wheat consignments have been handed over to customs for examination and have been registered into their systems on or prior to May 13, such consignments would be allowed to be exported," the commerce ministry said in a statement.

The government has also allowed a wheat consignment headed for Egypt, which was already under

loading at the Kandla port, it said. The relaxation came following a request by the Egyptian government seeking India's permission for the wheat cargo that was being loaded at the Kandla port.

Mera International India Pvt Ltd, the company engaged in export of the wheat to Egypt, had also given a representation for completion of loading of 61,500 MT of wheat of which 44,340 MT had already been loaded and only 17,160 MT was left to be loaded, it added.

The government decided to permit the full consignment of 61,500 MT and allowed it to sail from Kandla to Egypt, the ministry said.

The government had earlier restricted wheat exports to manage the overall food security situation in India and to support the needs of neighbouring and vulnerable countries that have been adversely affected by the sudden changes in the global market for wheat and became unable to access adequate wheat supplies.

As per the order issued May 13, the restrictions would not apply in cases where prior commitments have been made by private traders through Letter of Credit as well as in situations where permission is granted by the government to other countries to meet their food security needs and on the requests of their governments.

## MONETISATION PLAN

### Govt surpasses target for FY22

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 17:** The government has completed transactions worth ₹1 lakh crore under the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) in 2021-22, surpassing the ambitious programme's first-year target of ₹88,000 crore, Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant said Tuesday.

Addressing an event organised by Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI), Kant said, "India needs to fire on all cylinders, including manufacturing and services, to achieve high growth rates."

India has the biggest asset monetisation programme. "...My asset monetisation target was ₹88,000 crore for last year. I have crossed it by ₹12,000 crore," he said.

### Gold jumps ₹388; silver rallies ₹1,046

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 17:** Gold price in the national capital Tuesday jumped ₹388 to ₹50,282 per 10 gram, reflecting rally in international precious metal prices, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal finished at ₹49,894 per 10 gram. Silver also rallied by ₹1,046 to ₹60,957 per kg from ₹59,911 per kg in the previous trade.

In the international market, gold was trading higher at USD 1,825 per ounce and silver was marginally lower at USD 20.96 per ounce.

# Investors richer by over ₹12L cr as markets record sharp gains

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 17:** Equity investors became richer by over ₹12 lakh crore Tuesday, helped by a smart rally in the broader market.

The 30-share BSE benchmark zoomed 1,344.63 points or 2.54 per cent to settle at 54,318.47 points with all of its constituents closing in the green.

Tracking the sharp rally in equities, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms jumped ₹12,05,523.65 crore to ₹2,55,55,447.68 crore. Markets witnessed a sharp rebound and gained over 2.5 per cent, thanks to favourable cues.

The benchmark opened higher led by supportive Asian markets as China eased lockdown restrictions. As the day progressed, healthy buying across sectors and short-covering supported the market to maintain its momentum.

It is a much-needed breather for the bulls after five weeks of slide, Ajit Mishra, VP - Research at Religare Broking Ltd, said.

Tata Steel, Reliance Industries, ITC, Wipro, ICICI Bank, Larsen & Toubro, HCL Technologies and Maruti were the major gainers among the Sensex constituents.

Asian markets in Hong Kong, Seoul, Tokyo and Shanghai ended higher. Equity exchanges in Europe were trading in the green in the afternoon session. In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge rallied 2.78 per cent and midcap index jumped 2.51 per cent.

All BSE sectoral indices also ended higher, with metal jumping 7.62 per cent, followed by basic materials (4.26 per cent), energy (4.13



per cent), oil and gas (3.52 per cent), telecom (3.31 per cent) and industrials (3.14 per cent). A total of 2,624 stocks advanced, while 714 declined and 124 remained unchanged.

After a long gap, the market has witnessed a strong resilience sup-

ported by heavyweights and broader markets. The market was trading at oversold territory and was inspired by optimism in the Asian markets, Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

### ₹ recovers from record lows to end 11 paise higher against \$

**Mumbai:** The rupee Tuesday hit its life-time intra-day low of 77.79 before closing 11 paise higher against the US currency on a stellar rally in the domestic stock markets and a pullback in the dollar. After opening lower at 77.67, the local unit plunged further to its life-time intra-day low of 77.79 due to a spike in crude oil prices and disappointing macroeconomic data. However, a strong rally in the domestic equities helped the rupee rebound and close at 77.44, showing net gains of 11 paise over the last close of 77.55. The forex market was closed Monday on account of Buddha Purnima. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.41 per cent to 103.75. The US dollar has eased around 1.5 per cent from the last week's two-decade high levels.

# Russia leaps to fourth place as oil supplier to India

CHEAP RUSSIAN CRUDE OIL IS ATTRACTING INDIA'S PRICE-SENSITIVE BUYERS TO THE POINT THAT RUSSIA BECOMES THE FOURTH LARGEST OIL SUPPLIER TO INDIA IN APRIL, MOVING UP FROM THE 10TH PLACE IN MARCH

REUTERS

**New Delhi, May 17:** Russia became the fourth-largest oil supplier to India in April, with volumes set to rise further in coming months as low prices spur demand from the world's No. 3 oil consumer and importer, tanker tracking data showed.

Russia's share in India's oil purchases rose to a record 6%, about 277,000 barrels per day (bpd) in April, up from about 66,000 bpd in March, when it was in 10th position, according to the data, which was supplied by trade sources.

Indian Oil Corp, the country's top refiner, bought its first-ever Russian Arco oil cargo last month.

Western sanctions against Russia for its invasion of Ukraine has



opened a rare arbitrage flow, prompting Indian refiners to increase buying of cheaper Russian oil shunned by many Western countries and companies.

Prices of Russian Urals crude fell sharply due to sanctions against Russia while Kazakhstan's CPC blend crude came under pressure as it is loaded from a Russian port, said

Ehsan Ul Haq, analyst with Refinitiv Indians had bought stranded Russian oil while some European buyers had bought higher volumes of African and US oil, he said.

The share of African oil in India's overall oil imports declined to about 6% in April from 14.5% in March, while that of US almost halved to 3%. Grades from Azerbaijan, Russia and Kazakhstan together accounted for about 11% of India's imported oil in April, compared with about 3% in March. The share of Middle Eastern oil rose to 71% from 68%.

India's oil imports from Russia are set to rise further to about 487,500 bpd in May, since refiners have ramped up purchases from Russia, preliminary data from Refinitiv flows show.

Last month, Iraq continued to be the top oil supplier to India, followed by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. In April, Indian refiners shipped in 4.7 million bpd of oil, up 6.9% from the previous month and about 11.6% higher than a year earlier, when a second Covid-19 wave hit local oil demand.

India's oil imports in April were high as refiners raised runs to meet local demand and gain from robust refining margins, Haq said. "Also the companies got Russian grades at very tempting rates and they had to lift committed volumes under term contract with Middle Eastern producers," Haq said.

The higher imports from Russia dragged down OPEC's share of foreign supplies to India in April.

# SRH EDGE PAST MI KKR, LSG aim for playoffs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, May 17:** Rahul Tripathi (76, 44b, 9x4, 3x6) batted like a man on a mission before Umran Malik (3/23) sizzled with his pace as Sunrisers Hyderabad kept their slim IPL playoff hopes alive with a three-run win over Mumbai Indians here Tuesday.

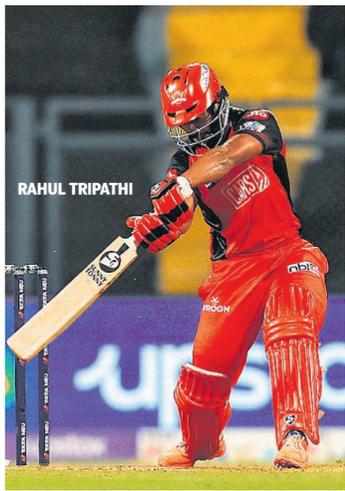
Tripathi guided SRH to a challenging 193/6. He was ably complemented by Priyam Garg (42, 26b, 4x4, 2x6) and Nicholas Pooran (38, 22b, 2x4, 3x6). Malik then produced a sensational performance, while the seasoned Bhuvneshwar Kumar (1/26) bowled a wicket maiden in the crucial 19th over to stop MI at 190/7 despite the best efforts by Rohit Sharma (48, 36b, 2x4, 4x6), Ishan Kishan (43, 34b, 5x4, 1x6) and Tim David (46, 18b, 3x4, 4x6).

The victory keeps SRH in the playoffs race on paper as they move up to 12 points. They need to win their last game and hope for other results to go their way.

Chasing 194, Rohit was at his effortless best and looked set for a big score. He gave a solid start to Mumbai's chase alongside Kishan, with whom he shared a 95-run opening stand. The two plundered 17 runs in the ninth over bowled by Malik, with the pacer guilty of bowling two no balls and a wide.

But two overs later, Kane Williamson's decision to bowl Washington Sundar (1/36) paid dividends as Rohit holed out to Jagadeesha Suchith in the deep.

Kishan followed his skipper in the next over as Malik, who had a horrible first over, redeemed himself.



self. He speared the ball at the stumps from round the wicket for Priyam Garg to complete a fine catch at mid on.

With 44 needed off 18, the big-hitting David kept alive Mumbai's hope for a fourth win this season. David hit four sixes off the 18th over bowled by T Natarajan, including a monstrous 114m hit, to bring the equation down to 19 from 12.

However, Natarajan (0/60) managed to redeem himself off the last ball as David was run out. The seasoned Bhuvneshwar bowled a wicket maiden 19th over to tilt the game back in SRH's favour.

Earlier, Tripathi set himself up brilliantly for a memorable knock. Invited to bat, the Sunrisers' gam-

bled to play Garg at the top of the order paid off. The 21-year-old played a fine knock while sharing a 78-run partnership with Tripathi after the in-form Abhishek Sharma (9) was sent back in the third over.

Tripathi and Garg collected 57 in a productive powerplay and maintained a healthy run rate which was close to 10 runs per over while batting responsibly. Once Garg was caught and bowled by medium pacer Ramandeep Singh (3/20), Pooran, who was promoted to No.3, joined the party.

The MI bowlers, led by Ramndeep, were able to stage a mini comeback as they got rid of Pooran, Tripathi and Aiden Markram (2) in the space of eight

balls. Batting down the order, skipper Kane Williamson's (8 n o) struggles continued as he was unable to get the big shots going.

The Sunrisers, who were looking set for a 200 plus score, could manage only one boundary in the last two overs, which yielded 19 runs.

### BRIEF SCORES

**Sunrisers Hyderabad 193/6** (Rahul Tripathi 76, Priyam Garg 42, Nicolas Pooran 38; Ramandeep Singh 3/20) **beat Mumbai Indians 190/7** (Rohit Sharma 48, Tim David 46, Ishan Kishan 43, Umran Malik 3/23, Bhuvneshwar Kumar 1/26) **by 3 runs.**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Navi Mumbai, May 17:** Kolkata Knight Riders need a big win in their final round-robin match to keep their slim IPL playoff hopes alive, while Lucknow Super Giants will look to seal their position in the top four when the two teams face off here Wednesday.

With seven losses and six wins, KKR are placed at the sixth spot with 12 points and they will not only have to win but do it with a big margin and then hope that other results go their way to salvage any hope of sneaking into the knockout stage.

LSG already have one foot at the playoffs as they are placed at the third spot with 16 points but with a number of teams jostling it out for remaining three berths, they will look to add two more points to avoid any last-minute hiccup.

Two-time former champions, KKR, which had reached the final last year, have managed to keep their theoretical chances alive after coming good in the last two matches against Mumbai Indians and Sunrisers Hyderabad.

Shreyas Iyer's men rode on Andre Russell's all-round brilliance and near perfect execution from the bowlers to notch up a comprehensive 54-run win over SRH in their last match.

The top-order once again couldn't produce the goods. Ajinkya Rahane's struggle at the top was evident as he found it difficult to rotate strikes, while Venkatesh Iyer too continued to disappoint in his second season. Nitish Rana has blown hot and cold, while skipper Iyer's bat has been silent in the last three games.



KKR also lost pace spearhead Pat Cummins, who was ruled out owing to a hip injury but it didn't matter much as the Kolkata outfit dished out a stellar bowling effort the other day.

Back in the team after recovering from a calf muscle injury, Umesh Yadav and Tim Southee kept things tight, while Russell snapped three crucial wickets. Spin duo of Sunil Narine and Varun Chakravarthy too were in their elements and KKR will hope for another clinical show from their bowling unit.

LSG, on the other hand, are coming into the match after suffering two successive defeats and will have to put up an improved show to end things on a high. The main concern for LSG is their poor batting show in the last two matches with

the batters struggling in the powerplay against quality bowling.

LSG's batting is a lot dependent on skipper KL Rahul, who has done bulk of the scoring with two hundreds but he has been off-colour in the last three games. Other opener Quinton de Kock's low scores added to the team's woes.

However, Deepak Hooda has been rock solid and it was his fifty that kept LSG in the hunt in the last game. Young Ayush Badoni too will be eager to prove he is not a one-game wonder, while Krunal Pandya also has to step up in the rear end of the tournament. LSG will also look to use Marcus Stoinis better as he is one of the most prolific all-rounders in world cricket.

Bowling has proved to be the weak link for LSG though the likes of Avesh Khan and Jason Holder have delivered with 17 and 14 wickets so far but Mohsin Khan was taken to the cleaners in the last game.

Spinner Ravi Bishnoi picked up two wickets against Rajasthan Royals and LSG would expect him to keep things tight in the middle overs Wednesday.

**TODAY'S MATCH**

v

Time: 07:30 pm

TELECAST

Star Sports channels & Hotstar

# Nikhat, Manisha, ABD, Gayle inducted into the RCB Hall of Fame

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 17:** Nikhat Zareen, Manisha Moun and Parveen Hooda will fight hard to change the colour of their medals when they enter the ring for the semifinals of the IBA Women's World Boxing Championships in Istanbul Wednesday.

The three boxers are assured of at least a bronze after they pulled out thrilling victories in their respective quarterfinal bouts on Monday. Nikhat (52kg) will be aiming to upgrade her maiden medal at the world event from bronze to gold and standing in her way is Caroline De Almeida of Brazil. She has continued to dominate all her bouts in the ongoing event and will be brimming with confidence.

The spotlight will also be on young Parveen (63kg) who has shone bright in her debut appearance at the world event, registering impressive wins. The 22-year-old's next opponent will be European championship bronze medallist Amy Broadhurst of Ireland.

The third boxer bidding to change the shade of her medal is Manisha (57kg). The 2019 Asian Championships bronze medallist, who got evicted at the quarterfinal stage in the 2018 edition has gone one step ahead this time. She outclassed a technically superior opponent in the last eight stage to earn her maiden worlds medal.

But she will have her task cut out as she faces Tokyo Olympic bronze medallist and former European



Referee raises Manisha's hand announcing her as winner of the bout

champion Irma Testa of Italy, who is a strong favourite to win the featherweight gold. India's best performance in the event came in 2006 when the country snared eight medals, including four gold, one silver and three bronze.

In the last edition four Indian boxers returned home with medals - Manju Rani clinched the silver, while six-time champion MC Mary Kom bagged an unparalleled eighth world medal in the form of a bronze.

Tokyo Olympics medallist Lovlina Borgohain, who made a second round exit this time, and Jamuna Boro also returned home with bronze medals. India has won 36 medals, including nine gold, eight silver and 19 bronze, in the 11 editions of the tournament so far, the third highest after Russia (60) and China (50).

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, May 17:** Legendary cricketers Chris Gayle and AB de Villiers have become the first two players to be inducted into the Royal Challengers Bangalore's Hall of Fame. Former RCB skipper Virat Kohli made the announcement about the inductions of his two dear mates.

"AB has truly changed the game of cricket with his innovation, brilliance, and sportsmanship which truly defines the RCB Play Bold philosophy," Kohli said in a statement posted on the franchise's website.

"It's truly special for me to be

doing this for both of you. We saw videos of how you have changed the way the IPL has been played over the years. Two people who have had a huge impact in IPL being where it is today; and RCB being where it is today," he added.

While South African great de Villiers had been an integral part of RCB from 2011 to 2021, dashing left-handed batter Gayle from West Indies was with the franchise for six years.

De Villiers, who had joined the induction virtually, gave an emotional message to everyone in the team camp. "To the RCB boys sitting there, what an amazing priv-



Mike (Hesson), Nikhil, everyone from the franchise who set this up, it's a really special touch. We had some amazing times together as a team, and the sun has moved on for Chris and I now, but we're still very much part of the family and will always be.

"Quite emotional to be honest," he said.

"Virat, thanks for the kind words.

part of this. I don't have enough words to thank you for this touch."

West Indies batting stalwart Gayle, who has played for RCB from 2011 to 2017, said: "I want to thank the RCB family for the opportunity, for everything. It's been really special to me as well. And to be inducted is something fantastic, and I will always keep RCB close to my heart. "I share a lot of memories with some special players, some special coaches as well. It's been really, really fantastic. And to Virat, thank you for the kind words as well, fantastic sharing the dressing room with you guys as well."

# ABD, Gayle inducted into the RCB Hall of Fame

# Ashmita, Malvika sail into Thailand Open main draw

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bangkok, May 17:** Indian shuttlers Ashmita Chaliha and Malvika Bansod entered the women's singles main draw at the Thailand Open Super 500 tournament here Tuesday.

While Ashmita beat USA's Jennie Gai 21-16, 21-18, Malvika defeated fellow Indian Anupama Upadhyaya 21-18, 21-8 in their respective opening round matches. However, it was curtains for Thomas Cup winner Priyanshu Rajawat, Kiran George and Subhankar Dey as they failed to cross the second qualification round.

Priyanshu, who had made it

to the Thomas Cup squad after topping the selection trials, was disposed by France's Christo Popov 21-17, 21-16 in his opening qualification round, only to go down 10-21, 24-22, 12-21 to China's Li Shi Feng.

Kiran, Odisha Open champion, beat Denmark's Victor Svendsen 21-19, 13-21, 21-13 before losing 17-21, 21-14, 16-21 to Germany's Kai Schaefer, while Subhankar defeated France's Arnaud Merkle 21-16, 17-21, 21-17 but suffered a narrow 14-21, 21-18, 7-21 loss to Denmark's Mads Christophersen.

Kidambi Srikanth, B Sai Praneeth and other Indians will start their campaign Wednesday.

# SENDING OFF THE JUNIOR STARS



The Odisha State roll ball teams (boys and girls) departed Tuesday for the 18th Senior National Roll Ball Championship, to be played at the Chatrapati Shivaji Sports Complex in Pune May 19-22. Prior to their departure, the participants were jointly felicitated by Sailendra Kumar Jena (joint secretary, Sports & Youth Services Dept., Govt of Odisha), Partha Sarathi Jena (secretary, Odisha Roll Ball Association) and Soudamini Patra (co-founder, Odisha Skating Academy) at the Kalinga Stadium, Monday. The teams: (Girls) Vanshika Tikmani (C), Krupa Doshi, Ridhanya Sachidananda, Nirali Nirlipta Sahoo, Shritisha Mishra, Parishree Choudhary, Pallavi Sahoo, Adhya Toshani & Aastha Nayak; (Boys) Abhisant Swain (C), Ansh Tiwari, Prithvi Aryan Jena, Arman Sududhi, Abhijeet Swain, Kaustub Patnaik, Kritikant Biswal, Panchanan Behera & Jyoti Ranjan Mohapatra.

# State women's hockey team claim their maiden senior nationals title

## ODISHA EVES CROWNED CHAMPIONS



PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhopal, May 17:** Hockey Association of Odisha were crowned as the Champions of the 12th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship for the first time here with a thrilling 2-0 victory over Hockey Karnataka in the final.

It was a closely contested affair between teams as both the teams started well creating several scoring opportunities. However, it took 34 minutes to break the deadlock when Punam Barla put the Odisha side up front. Ashim Kanchan Barla (59th minute) scored a late goal to ensure their triumph. Expressing his delight after the

title win Hockey Association of Odisha Head Coach Edgar Joseph Mascarenhas said, "We did not take Karnataka lightly. Even though, we missed a couple of chances. We played well and had a lot of ball possession which was our game plan. We held the ball in midfield. We scored a goal in the third quarter put them under a pressure and

then we closed the game with a late goal." He also went on to credit the senior players in the team for holding the team together in crucial situations. "We had set ourselves very positive coming into this tournament. We practiced really hard, twice a day in the heat in Odisha.

"We played to our strengths in the entire tournament. The senior players really held the team together and our goalkeeper played magnificently on the field. And today, really has been very fruitful for us," he signed off.

The first game of the day saw Hockey Haryana locking horns with Hockey Jharkhand for the 3rd/4th place position. The thrilling contest saw Dipti Toppo (28th) open the scoring for Hockey Jharkhand, followed by goals from Albela Rani Toppo (40th), and Betan Dzungdung (43rd).

Amandeep Kaur (55th) and Bharti Saroha (56th) scored a goal each for Hockey Haryana to take the game to the wire, but Hockey Jharkhand managed to pick a 3-2 win to earn a third-place finish in the competition.

# Hangzhou Para Asiad postponed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Beijing, May 17:** The Asian Para Games, which were scheduled to take place from October 9 to 15 in Hangzhou, China have been postponed due to concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic, the organisers officially announced Tuesday.

"The Hangzhou Asian Para Games organising committee (HAPGOC) and the Asian Paralympic Committee (APC) announced the postponement of the Asian Para Games, originally scheduled to take place from 9-15 October 2022," Asian Paralympic Committee said in a statement.

The decision, though inevitable, comes less than a fortnight after the Hangzhou Asian Games, which were scheduled to be held from September 10 to 25, were postponed indefinitely May 6 amid surge in COVID-19 cases in China.

"A taskforce comprising of the APC, the Chinese Paralympic Committee and HAPGOC will now work on rescheduling the Games to take place in 2023. A further announcement on this is expected in the near future," the statement said. The emblem, slogan and year of the Games will remain unchanged.

# WRESTLER GETS LIFE BAN FOR ASSAULTING REFEREE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 17:** In an unprecedented incident, Services' wrestler Satender Malik launched a physical assault on referee Jagbir Singh after losing the 125kg final during the Commonwealth Games trials, prompting the national federation to impose a life ban on him, here Tuesday.

An incident of this magnitude has never taken place at an event organised by the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) although clashes between the supporters of wrestlers have been witnessed in the past.

The Air Force wrestler was leading 3-0 with just a 18 seconds left in the deciding bout when Mohit effected a 'takedown' move and also pushed Satender out of the mat for another point. However, referee Virender Malik did not award two points to Mohit for the 'takedown' move and gave only one point for the pushout. The decision upset Mohit, who requested for a challenge.

Satyadev Malik, the jury for the bout, excused himself from the decision for the sake of impartiality, since he belonged to the Mokhra vil-

lage from where Satender also comes.

Senior referee Jagbir Singh was requested to look into the challenge and with the help of TV replays, he ruled that Mohit should be given three points. The score became 3-3 and remained like that till the end, and eventually Mohit was declared the winner on criteria since he had scored the last point.

Satender lost his cool, walked across to Mat A where Ravi Dahiya and Aman were locked in the 57kg final, went straight to Jagbir, and began to assault him.

He first abused Jagbir and then slapped him, who lost his balance and fell on the ground. Jagbir also tried to retaliate but was overpowered by the heavyweight wrestler. The 57kg bout was stopped as the incident created a furore inside the KD Jadhav hall at the IG stadium. Hundreds of fans, officials and participants were shocked to witness a scene like that.

The WFI officials managed to send Satender out of the hall and restarted the bout. Everything was happening right before the eyes of WFI President Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who was sitting on the dias.