



GRAND DEBUT

Actor Alia Bhatt jets off to an undisclosed location for the shoot of her Hollywood debut project *Heart of Stone*

LEISURE P2



TOUGH ACTION

Russia will cut off natural gas to Finland after the Nordic country applied for NATO membership this week, as per reports

INTERNATIONAL P10



SINDHU ADVANCES

PV Sindhu ekes out a win over World No.1 Akane Yamaguchi to make it to Thailand Open semifinals

SPORTS P12

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Odisha Universities Amendment Act put on hold by top court

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 20: The Supreme Court Friday put Odisha Universities (Amendment) Act, 2020 on hold for three months while seeking response from the state government in connection with the Act. The next hearing on the matter will be held after two months, it was learnt.

The Orissa High Court had earlier upheld the validity of the Act. However, the University Grants Commission and a professor had moved the SC challenging the decision of the HC. In its affidavit, the UGC had said the Act was in conflict with UGC Regulation-2018 issued under the University Grants Commission Act, 1956.

However, the state higher education department claimed that the stand of UGC is limited to the Amendment Act while dealing with the appointment of vice-chancellors and other teaching staff of universities. The Act has been in the limelight as it seeks to bring appointments to important academic and administrative posts in universities under the state government's control.

EOW arrests ponzi firm owner from Brindavan



Bhubaneswar: The economic offences wing of Odisha Police arrested the owner of a ponzi scheme company which functioned in the garb of a digital company on the charge of duping a large number of people from Odisha with promises of huge returns from Brindavan. Prince Kumar, a resident of Muzaffarpur in Bihar and the director of Digital Revolution Technologies Limited, has also been accused of giving false assurances to the people that their investments would double within one year although the company has no commensurate or real business activity. P3

SC transfers Gyanvapi suit to district judge



New Delhi: The Supreme Court Friday transferred the civil suit filed by Hindu devotees on Gyanvapi mosque from civil judge (senior division) to district judge, Varanasi saying looking at the "complexities" and "sensitivity" of the issue, it is better if a senior judicial officer having an experience of over 25-30 years handles this case. In an important observation, the top court also said that the process to ascertain the religious character of a place of worship is not barred under the Places of Worship Act of 1991. P7

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LANDSLIDE HALTS RESCUE



Rescue operation halted due to a landslide, after a portion of an under-construction tunnel on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway collapsed near Magarkote in Ramban district, Friday PFI PHOTO

PLUS II EXAM RESCHEDULED DUE TO BYPOLL

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 20: The school and mass education department Friday postponed the Annual Higher Secondary Examination 2022 which was scheduled May 31 (Tuesday) for the subjects of Mathematics (Arts/Science), Home Science (Arts) and BFC-Biology (Vocational) to June 4 (Saturday) in view of the conduct of the byelection to the Brajarajnar Assembly constituency scheduled May 31.

The examinations scheduled from May 21 to May 29 will be held as per the earlier schedule. The supervisors of all examination management hubs (EMHs) / principals of all the affiliated high schools under CHSE have been asked not to send the questions for Mathematics, Home Science and BFC-Biology to the tagged centres May 31.

After a gap of two years, students are appearing for the examinations in offline mode.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I was studying Economics till 2014...Then I realised studying History would be more beneficial!

2019 Hyd encounter fake: SC panel

Three of the four accused in the sensational gangrape and murder case were minors

Commission, citing lapses in the investigation of the case, says all 10 policemen should be tried for murder

AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 20: A Supreme Court-appointed commission said four gangrape and murder accused, including three minors, who were killed in a police encounter in Hyderabad in 2019, were deliberately fired upon with intent to cause their death. The commission recommended that all 10 police officers should be tried for murder.

The commission's report said: "In our considered opinion, the accused were deliberately fired upon with an intent to cause their death and with the knowledge that the firing would invariably result in the death of the deceased suspects."

During the hearing Friday, a bench headed by Chief Justice NV Raman did not agree with a counsel's contention that the report of the commission should be kept in a sealed cover. The bench said: "This relates to the



encounter case. There is nothing to keep here. The Commission has found someone guilty." It added, "We want to send the matter to the high court."

According to the report, three of the four were minors. "We are of the opinion that at the relevant time, Jollu Shiva, Jollu Naveen and Chintakunta Chennakeshavulu

were minors," added the report. The commission cited lapses in the investigation of the case and said all 10 policemen should be tried for murder. "The different acts committed by each of them were done in furtherance of common intention to kill the deceased suspects," added the report. The accused - Mohammed Arif,

CM launches industrial projects worth ₹1,218cr

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 20: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday inaugurated three industrial projects and performed groundbreaking ceremony of 10 other projects involving total investment of ₹1,218 crore.

These diversified projects ranging across food processing, tourism, paper/packaging, manufacturing, and polymers and plastic sectors will create potential employment for over 3390 persons in the state. These industrial projects are located across various districts including Balasore, Khurda, Bargarh among others.

Congratulating the companies, the CM said Odisha is fast emerging as a major manufacturing hub in the country for sectors ranging from metals and minerals to food processing. "Targeting the development of a conducive environment for industrial development, my government has always endeavored to provide a hassle-free and

prompt doing business environment for the investors in Odisha," Patnaik said.

He said the state's relationship with the industries has been fruitful both in the context of economic development and also social development. One of the key reasons why Odisha was able to post a successful fight against the Covid-19 pandemic was this synergistic government-industry relationship, he pointed out. The Chief Minister further said: "We were able to quickly re-purpose various industrial units to manufacture and deliver critical services during the pandemic period. As we move out of the pandemic, the government's focus on the 5T philosophy towards the development of the industrial sector has further strengthened."

Among others, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, 5T Secretary VK Pandian, Principal Secretary Industries Hemant Sharma and MSME Principal Secretary Ranjana Chopra attended the event held through virtual mode.

HIT BY TRAIN, THREE JUMBOS SUCCUMB

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, May 20: Three elephants, including two calves, were killed after being hit by a goods train in Keonjhar district, forest officials said Friday.

The accident took place near Bansapani under the Joda forest section of Champua range when a herd of around 20 jumbos was crossing the railway tracks at around 7.30 pm Thursday.

One elephant calf, aged 5, died on the spot, while a female pachyderm, aged 20, and another calf, aged 5, succumbed to their injuries Friday morning, a forest official said. Following the accident, the elephant herd prevented forest officials from carrying out rescue operations, he said.

"The forest department personnel were monitoring the elephant herd movement through-



out the day. The railway authorities were also informed about presence of the elephants there and speed of the train was contained at 25kmph. The accident took place due to darkness," another senior forest official said. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) Shashi Paul visited Keonjhar and took stock of the situation. Paul held talks with forest and railway officials about the safety of elephants.

Monkeypox spreads in West, baffling scientists

The outbreaks are raising alarm because the viral disease, which spreads through close contact and was first found in monkeys, mostly occurs in west and central Africa, and only very occasionally spreads elsewhere

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, May 20: As more cases of monkeypox are detected in Europe and North America, some scientists who have monitored numerous outbreaks in Africa say they are baffled by the unusual disease's spread in the West.

Cases of the smallpox-related disease haven't previously been seen among people with no links to central and West Africa. But in the past week, Britain, Spain, Portugal, Italy, the US, Sweden and Canada all reported infections, mostly in young men who hadn't previously travelled to Africa.

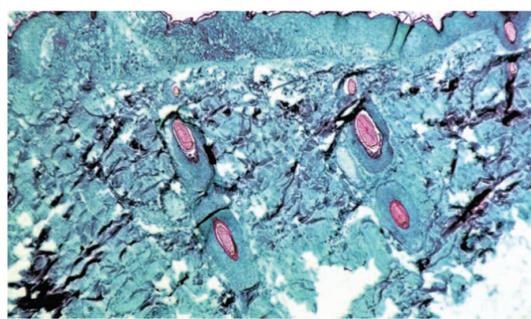
France, Germany, Belgium and Australia confirmed their first cases of monkeypox Friday. "I'm stunned by this. Every day I wake up and there are more countries infected," said Oywale Tomori,

a virologist who formerly headed the Nigerian Academy of Science and who sits on several World Health Organisation advisory boards.

"This is not the kind of spread we've seen in West Africa, so there may be something new happening in the West," he said.

One of the theories British health officials are exploring is whether the disease is being sexually transmitted. Health officials have asked doctors and nurses to be on alert for potential cases, but said the risk to the general population is low.

Outbreaks in Nigeria, which reports about 3,000 monkeypox cases a year, are usually in rural areas, where people have close contact with infected rats and squirrels, according to Tomori. He said the disease does not spread very easily and that many cases are likely missed.



Tomori hoped the appearance of monkeypox cases across Europe and other Western countries would further scientific understanding of the disease.

The WHO's lead on emergency response, Dr. Brahim Soce Fall, acknowledged this week that there

were still "so many unknowns in terms of the dynamics of transmission, the clinical features (and) the epidemiology."

British officials have so far reported nine cases of monkeypox, noting that the most recent cases have all been in young men who

WHO convenes emergency meet

LONDON: The World Health Organisation Friday called an emergency meeting to discuss the recent outbreak of monkeypox, a viral infection more common to west and central Africa, after more than 100 cases were confirmed or suspected in Europe. In what Germany described as the largest-ever outbreak in Europe, cases have now been confirmed in at least five countries - the United Kingdom, Spain, Portugal, Germany and Italy - as well as the United States, Canada and Australia.

had no history of travel to Africa and were gay, bisexual, or had sex with men. MORE P9

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Logic and reasoning will hold court, while creativity takes a backseat today. There are challenges at work, but you are a dynamo and will meet them upfront. All tensions will be relieved by the loving touch of your near and dear. Such is life, sums up Ganesh.

TAURUS
It will be an optimistic day with its share of day dreaming, says Ganesh. You will be submissive at work, giving in or blindly following the advice of your peers. Things at work may be tense and cause some trouble today afternoon, but they will be much more to your liking by nightfall as you return to the comfort of your beloved and your home.

GEMINI
You will be in a spot of bother owing to financial problems today. You will try to reduce your expenses and increase your savings, but circumstances will be such that you will have to spend your money. You will spend your day in all this financial juggling, says Ganesh.

CANCER
You may get a gift from your life partner. Ties with business partners will be good and you will get a good news from them. Time to make new plans for the future with spouse. You will feel greater companionship with spouse, giving you joy.

LEO
Decisions taken in haste will prove to be harmful. You need to carefully weigh the pros and cons of every decision that you take today, considering all the possible alternative thoroughly. You need to be extremely industrious on the work-front as well.

VIRGO
Something you achieve in a most unexpected manner will make you very happy today. But your happiness may possibly be marred by getting agitated about the problems you are facing. You may expect new funds for new projects, says Ganesh.

LIBRA
Ganesh says that you will be able to see a huge change in your personal and social status. Ganesh says that this may be due to medium like television or due to your innovative ideas in your work place. People will be praising you and your work today. You will be more interested in the fine arts.

SCORPIO
Your energy levels are on an all time high today, as you plan to begin a new business venture. You are determined to give in your best and toil hard till you succeed in your plans. Well, and the day turns out to be fruitful and worthy when you garner compliments and positive feedback about your work from your peers, says Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
You take the path of spirituality for the peace of mind and to stay away from the daily humdrum of life. You will not only seek love, but also spread love around you. In a nutshell, a pleasant day in store for you, says Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
You have become workaholic and others may have complains against you for being so busy. But, you should not take to heart as you are finishing off assignments which have been hanging in there for a long time now. Once done with the work, you'll have ample of time for your lover. You'll make up for not taking time out for him/her during the first half of the day, feels Ganesh.

AQUARIUS
You have done backbreaking work to come this far. Today, you will see your efforts come to fruition. But, you need to be aware about the presence of the green-eyed people around you, especially if you are in some kind of a business, warns Ganesh. Take care of your health.

PISCES
You will find yourself ecstatic now that certain important projects you have been slaving over are nearing completion. You will implement new strategies and will hope that everything goes according to plan.



DISNEY+ TO BRING ALL MARVEL CHARACTERS UNDER ONE ROOF

A new *Daredevil* series is in the works at Disney+, with Matt Corman and Chris Ord writing and executive producing the project, reports Variety. The project aims to bring all Marvel characters under one umbrella.

JASON MOMOA TO STAR IN SHOTS! SHOTS! SHOTS!

Dune star Jason Momoa has been signed to star in the action-comedy spec *Shots! Shots! Shots!* The film will be penned by Matt Mider and Kevin Burrows, with its plot currently under wraps, reports Deadline.



Alia jets off for her Hollywood debut

The 'Raazi' actress will star alongside some of the distinguished names like Wonder Woman star Gal Gadot and Belfast star Jamie Dornan.

Mumbai: Actress Alia Bhatt, who got married to Ranbir Kapoor last month in an intimate ceremony, has jetted off to an undisclosed location for the shoot of her Hollywood debut project *Heart of Stone*.

The actress will star alongside some distinguished names in Hollywood like Wonder Woman star Gal Gadot and Belfast star Jamie Dornan.

Alia took to her Instagram to share a picture of herself from the aircraft. She wrote in the caption, "And off I go to shoot my first ever Hollywood film!!!! Feel like a newcomer all over again - soooooo nervous!!!! Wish me luckkkkkk (sic)."

Alia's close ones took to the comments section to show their support on her new journey. Her mother Soni Razdan commented, "Wishing you all the luck in the whole world."

Her sister-in-law Riddhima Kapoor wrote, "We love you," while her 2 States co-star Arjun Kapoor called her 'International khiladi'.

The official logline of the film tells that the film revolves around Rachel Stone (played by Gal Gadot) an intelligence operative, the only woman who stands between her powerful, global, peace-keeping organisation and the loss of its most valuable and dangerous asset.

Billed as a spy thriller for Netflix, *Heart of Stone* will be directed by Tom Harper. The script of the film has been penned by Greg Rucka and Allison Schroeder. **IANS**



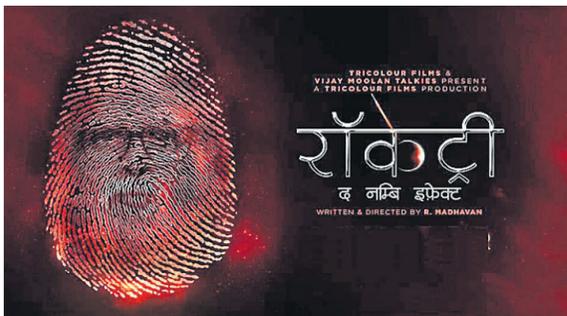
Manushi on how she prepped for Prithviraj

Mumbai: Debutante Manushi Chhillar reveals about her preparation for her role in Akshay Kumar-starrer *Prithviraj* which is based on the life of Prithviraj Chauhan. Manushi shares: "The preparation schedule for me was long and intense. Adi sir and my director Dr Chandraprakashji wanted me to go through the drill before I even gave my first shot and looking back, I'm thankful that

I put in the hard work." The actress shares that she also worked on her dancing skills for this movie: "I'm a trained classical dancer and this film made me brush up my dancing skills because I have three songs in the film! I had to nail the choreography." She concludes: "I also had to pick up some interesting skill sets like archery and horse-riding. I have a horse riding sequence, however I am sitting behind sir. So, it was interesting to do that sequence. I'm a student of art. So, every day was special on the sets of the film because I could learn so much and return the next day, hungry for more." Prithviraj has been directed by Chandraprakash Dwivedi. The film is set to release June 3 in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu. **IANS**



Standing ovation for Maddy's directorial debut at Cannes



Mumbai: R Madhavan's directorial debut *Rocketry: The Nambi Effect*, which is India's official selection for its world premiere at the 75th edition of Cannes Film Festival, saw its grand premiere at the convention centre of Palais des Festivals.

Madhavan and ISRO genius and space scientist Nambi Narayanan, on whom the film is based, walked the red carpet.

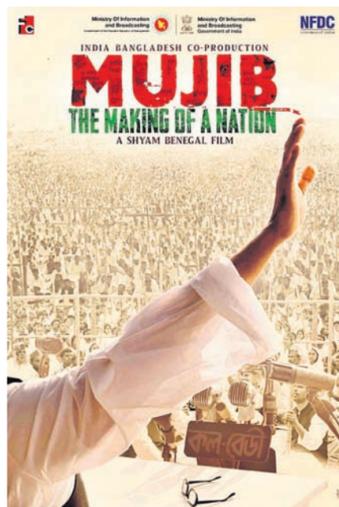
The screening of the film was greeted with a thunderous applause as it received a standing ovation from

the full-house for 10 minutes. Responding to the appreciation that his film received at the film festival, actor-turned-director Madhavan said in a statement, "I'm overwhelmed and exhilarated. It's a surreal moment for all of us at Team Rocketry. Humbled and grateful."

Staged on a mammoth scale, *Rocketry: The Nambi Effect* has been shot in India, France, Canada, Georgia and Serbia. The cast comprises international actors like Phyllis Logan, Vincent Riotta and Ron Donachie with special appearances by superstars Shah Rukh Khan and Suriya.

Produced by TriColour films, Varghese Moolan Pictures and 27th Investments, the movie will be released in six languages worldwide, including Hindi, English, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada July 1. **IANS**

Mujib trailer unveiled



Mumbai: Veteran filmmaker Shyam Benegal's film *Mujib: The making of a nation* has received special attention at the ongoing 75th Cannes Film Festival.

The movie revolves around the founder of Bangladesh, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The 90-second trailer was launched at the Indian Pavilion at Cannes in the presence of Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur and Bangladesh's Information and Broadcasting Minister Hasan Mahmud.

As per the media reports, Shyam Benegal couldn't attend the Cannes Film Festival so he shared a video message expressing his gratitude.

He shared: "This is an Indo-Bangladesh co-production, the first of its kind actually. This is a very important film because I personally think that I got the opportunity to work with some of the best actors of the subcontinent. Sheikh Mujibur was an extraordinary person."

"He was a person who had a very middle-class background and lived a very simple life, but he had a burning ambition that helped him create Bangladesh. It was absolutely marvellous working on the film," he added. **IANS**

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

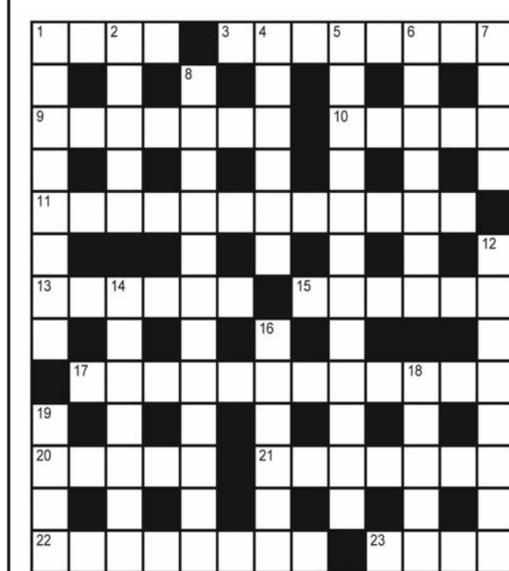


BREVITY



FUN post

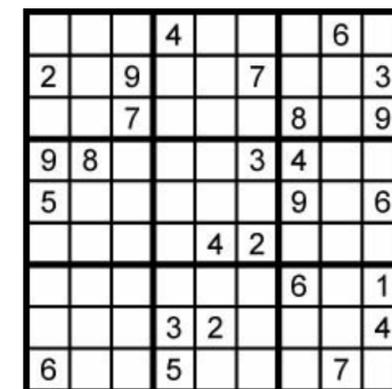
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Tilt to one side
 - 3 Loafing
 - 9 Prophet's claims
 - 10 Sang-froid
 - 11 Game fish (7,5)
 - 13 Jury's verdict
 - 15 Single-celled creature
 - 17 Weakness
 - 20 Intelligent ape
 - 21 Understand
 - 22 Tunes
 - 23 Blubbered
 - 6 Bon vivant
 - 7 Haggis ingredient
 - 8 Set a hidden snare (5-7)
 - 12 Window sash
 - 14 First
 - 16 Reluctant
 - 18 Old and feeble
 - 19 Con game

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

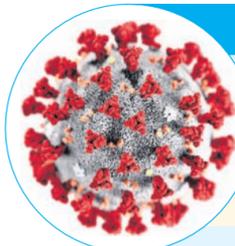
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



EVICION DRIVE

An excavator engaged by the civic body pulled down illegal structures in Tinkonia Bagicha area of Cuttack, Friday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	52,60,80,107	49,58,24,354	62,97,530
India	4,31,31,822	4,25,92,455	5,24,323
Odisha	12,88,349	12,79,052	9,126

Finally, Ramco gets SPCB notice

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, May 20: The Odisha State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) has served a show-cause notice on Ramco Cement over pollution in Dharmasala area of this district, seeking its replies within 15 days on alleged violation of environment protection norms. The development comes after 10 days of publication of a report on alleged inaction by the pollution watchdog in **Orissa POST**.

In the show-cause notice, the SPCB has warned that legal proceedings will be initiated against the cement plant authorities if the latter fail to file satisfactory replies.

Locals alleged that the inaction, despite glaring violation of pollution norms by the plant, was due to the bonhomie between the firm's management and the administration & some influential leaders.

People of peripheral villages such as Sribantpur, Guaranga, Khunta, Batijanga, Bhatruposi, Tolara, Thanuala, Jogada, Muraripur, Nanapur, Haridaspur, Bhadanga, Bajabati and Rathia have alleged that they have been bearing the brunt of air and water



POLLUTION ROW

pollution caused by the cement plant. This happens at a time when the state government emphasises on pollution control and protection of greenery and regeneration of forests.

Notably, after repeated media reports about pollution from Ramco plant, a special team of scientists from the regional office of SPCB had taken stock of the situation. They found that the level of

SPCB has warned that legal proceedings will be initiated against the cement plant authorities if they fail to file satisfactory replies

particulate matter-10 (PM10), a pollutant is more than 120. The team suspected that the bag filter of the plant might not be working properly. Locals alleged that a layer of dust settles over houses, trees, ponds and water bodies in 10 villages lying within the vicinity of 500 metre of the plant. As per SPCB norms, there should

a green cover around the plant to ensure safety to the villages. Locals, however, said no such green cover has been created here. Besides, the plant has no solid waste management system as prescribed in Environment Protection Act.

Earlier, upset over pollution, locals have approached the subdivisional magistrate by furnishing documentary evidence on pollution and violation of norms by Ramco Cement Plant March 23, 2022.

Hearing the case March 28, the magistrate had directed the managing director and the public relations officer of Ramco Cement Plant to appear before the court April 12 along with necessary documents. However, the officials had not appeared before the court, triggering anger among the locals.

SPCB regional officer Pramod Kumar Behera admitted that the SPCB investigation had found air and water pollution by Ramco Cement. A report in this regard was submitted to the SPCB in March. A show-cause notice has been issued to Ramco Cement. Pollution status in the areas will be reviewed after 15 days, he added.

No more ownership transfer of tractors bought under DBT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 20: In a bid to ensure tractors supplied under the subsidy scheme of the government can only be used for farming, the state government has decided to stop transfer of ownership of such tractors at least for a period of five years from the date of purchase, an official said Friday.

Transport department joint secretary Kishore Chandra Das has asked the Transport commissioner to instruct the Regional Transport Officers (RTOs) for disallowing transfer of ownership of tractors purchased by farmers in the state through subsidy.

As per the guidelines of the government, tractors purchased by farmers under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme for agriculture mechanisation should be owned by the beneficiaries at least for a period of five years from the date of its registration.

In order to be a beneficiary of the scheme, farmers are allowed to buy tractors only through the Orissa Agro Industries Corporation (Oaic) Limited which has the au-



Farmers are allowed to buy tractors only through the Orissa Agro Industries Corporation Limited (Oaic) which has the authentication to apply for registration of such vehicles through VAHAN portal

thentication to apply for registration of such vehicles through VAHAN portal, said Das in a letter to the Transport commissioner, Friday.

"Oaic district managers are the authorised dealers for tractors sold under DBT schemes of the government. Therefore, the Transport commissioner has been requested to instruct all RTOs to ensure that vehicles sold under the subsidy schemes through Oaic are not allowed to apply for transfer of ownership for the first five years from its initial date of registration," said the Transport de-

partment joint secretary. Moreover, the Transport department has directed the NIC to make necessary changes to the VAHAN portal so that any beneficiary who has registered his vehicle through Oaic will be identified and disallowed transfer of ownership within the period.

According to sources, many beneficiary farmers of the DBT scheme sell their tractors to avail financial benefit, violating the government norms. Due to this, the objective of the scheme has not been archived yet.

INDIA-SA MATCH PREP



(From left) Dignitaries, including CMC commissioner Ananya Das, Bhubaneswar DCP Prateek Singh, Cuttack DCP Pinak Mishra and police commissioner Saumendra Priyadarsi, held a preparatory meet at OCA conference hall in Cuttack, Friday, ahead of the second T-20 international cricket match between India and South Africa at Barabati Stadium

PLANT 50 TREES, HC TO KAKATPUR TEHSILDAR

PNN & AGENCIES

Cuttack, May 20: The Orissa High Court has ordered Kakatpur tehsildar to plant 50 saplings as a penalty for imposing a fine on a poor woman without hearing her case of encroachment last year.

Mita Das of Kakatpur in Puri was residing in a thatched house built on a government land for which the local tehsildar Biranchi Narayan Behera had instituted a case against her under Odisha Prevention of Land Encroachment Act in July 2021. Behera imposed a penalty of Rs 1,004 on her reportedly without hearing her case and issued show-cause notice September 15 last year; it was learnt.

Later, Das moved the HC alleging that the tehsildar had imposed fine without hearing her case. After hearing the petition, the

single-judge bench of Justice Biswanath Rath said that the tehsildar has the responsibility to find whether the encroacher is an educated and law-knowing person or not.

"Once an encroacher volunteers to appear, the tehsildar if finds there is no written response from him (encroacher), at least should provide one more opportunity to file his response to find the reason on his residing over such plot and if a person is landless or not? Even after filing of show cause, there should not be passing of orders in encroachment proceedings mechanically," the HC said, ordering the tehsildar to plant at least 50 saplings in CDA area of Cuttack.

The court also directed Revenue and Disaster Management department and Law department to ensure that the tehsildars do not to repeat such mistakes in future.

Mao posters in Nabarangpur

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nabarangpur, May 20: Maoist posters and banners resurfaced Friday at Jodinga and Hati villages under Raigarh block in Nabarangpur district, triggering panic among the locals. Villagers spotted the posters in the morning and informed cops who reached the spot and seized them. Written in Odia, these posters called for stringent action against the police for its alleged involvement in the murder of a Maoist sympathizer.

Earlier, Maoist posters had been put up at different locations in Landaga Bridge under Baliguda police limits in Kandhamal. In addition, posters were also spotted in Khamankhol village. The banners were allegedly put up by the Kandhamal-Kalahandi-Boudh-Nayagarh (KKBN) division of the Maoists. "We are investigating the genuineness of the posters and banners," a senior police officer said.

2 escape from police custody

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kalimela, May 20: In a bizarre incident, two persons arrested on charges of peddling ganja managed to give the cops a slip during a medical check-up here in Malkangiri district Friday.

According to sources, the ganja peddlers were arrested while smuggling the contraband. They were kept in police custody and were to be produced in court Friday. However, the duo managed to escape during a medical check-up at Kalimela hospital.

High Court denies bail to Chilika MLA

AGENCIES

Cuttack, May 20: The Orissa High Court Friday rejected the bail application of MLA Prasanta Kumar Jagadev and directed the Chilika legislator to surrender for his judicial custody by May 23.

Steps will be taken against him if he failed to comply, Justice Shatrughna Pujahari ruled.

The lawmaker has at least a dozen criminal cases pending against him and is now suspended from the party.

He was arrested March 12 this year by the Banapur police when he drove his car into a crowd with an intention to 'murder his political oppo-



nents'. Several persons, including some police personnel, were injured by the car, which had a fake number plate,

it was learnt.

"Such indulgence and overt act can never be treated as becoming of a public representative. That apart, the series of criminal cases attached to his antecedent speak against his credibility to abide by condition, if any, imposed in case of his bail, more so when he has also not abided by earlier bail conditions," the judge said rejecting his bail application.

On the health concerns expressed by the MLA, the judge said he could seek any medical check-up or treatment while in judicial custody.

Jagadev is now on interim bail granted by the High Court on health grounds.

Cold virus behind 1L child deaths in 2019: Lancet

A common virus that usually causes cold-like symptoms was responsible for more than 1,00,000 deaths in children under the age of five across the globe in 2019, according to a new study published in The Lancet journal.

The study is the first to examine the Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) disease burden in narrow age brackets, reporting that there were over 45,000 deaths in infants under six months old in 2019, with one in five of the total global cases of RSV occurring in this age group.

"RSV is the predominant cause of acute lower respiratory infection in young children and our updated estimates reveal that children six months and younger are particularly vulnerable," said research co-author, Harish Nair, from the University of Edinburgh, UK.

"This is especially with cases surging as Covid-19 restrictions are easing around the world and the majority of the young children born in the last two years have never been exposed to RSV (and therefore have no immunity against this virus)," Nair said.

The researchers noted that with



RSV is the predominant cause of acute lower respiratory infection in young children and our updated estimates reveal that children six months and younger are particularly vulnerable

HARISH NAIR | RESEARCH CO-AUTHOR FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH, UK

numerous RSV vaccine candidates in the pipeline, the estimates by narrower age ranges help to identify groups that should be prioritized.

These include pregnant people so that children in the youngest age groups can be protected, similarly to current strategies which offer vaccines for whooping cough, typhoid, and tetanus to pregnant people, they said.

The findings are broadly consistent with previous estimates from a 2015 study, which placed the number of annual cases of RSV in children up to five years old at 33.1 million, resulting in a total of 118,200 overall deaths, the researchers said.

However, these updated calculations of RSV mortality on global, regional, and national levels for the year 2019 include modelling data from over a hundred new studies, they said.

This allowed researchers to provide estimates for narrower age groups - including from 28 days to six months old, which is known to be the age range with the highest RSV fatality rate - and community mortality rates - deaths that did not occur in a hospital.

Across the globe in 2019, there were 33 million RSV-associated acute lower respiratory infection episodes in children under five years old, leading to

3.6 million hospital admissions, 26,300 in-hospital deaths, and 101,400 RSV-attributable deaths overall, the researchers said.

This accounts for one in 50 or 2 percent of annual deaths from any cause in this age range, they said.

For children under six months old, there were 6.6 million RSV-associated acute lower respiratory infection episodes globally in 2019, according to the researchers.

There were 1.4 million hospital admissions, 13,300 hospital deaths, and 45,700 overall deaths attributable to RSV in this age range, accounting for one in 50, or 2.1 percent of annual deaths from any cause, they said.

Based on estimates of in-hospital versus overall RSV mortality rates, globally only 26 percent or approximately one in four RSV-associated deaths occur in a hospital.

This is particularly apparent in low- and middle-income countries, where the in-hospital case-to-fatality ratio for children under five is 1.4 percent, compared to 0.1 percent in high-income countries.

Overall, 97 percent of RSV deaths in children under five occurred in low- and middle-income countries.

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MENSWEAR, SAREES, LEHENGAS AND GOWNS

BRAJARAJNAGAR BYELECTION

Over 100 BJP workers join BJD

HEALTH MINISTER NABA DAS ASSERTED THAT PEOPLE OF BRAJARAJNAGAR HAVE COME TOGETHER TO BACK THE STRONG LEADERSHIP OF CHIEF MINISTER NAVEEN PATNAIK



POST NEWS NETWORK

Jharsuguda, May 20: As the byelection to Brajaraj Nagar Assembly segment draws closer, the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) got a shot in the arm Friday, when more than 100 party workers of Lakhanpur block joined the regional party at a hotel here. BJP's district unit executive member Malay Acharya, former sarpanch Tankadhar Pradhan, Basudev Pradhan, Rajkumar Singhdeo, Ganga Pradhan, Dileswar Biswal, Pandari sarpanch Subasini Sahu, Remanda sarpanch Sushant Nayak, Gourang Sahu, women leaders like Dipanjali Bhoi, Sanjukta Sahu among scores of workers joined the ruling party, saying they were inspired by the leadership of party supremo and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. A merger meeting was held under the chairmanship of Jharsuguda MLA and Health Minister Naba Das at a hotel

here. Ministers Arun Sahoo, Niranjan Pujari, MP Prasanna Acharya, former minister Snehangini Chhuria, MLA Budhadev Mishra, assistant observer Bishnu Prasad Kedia were present at the meeting. Addressing the meeting, the health minister asserted that people of Brajaraj Nagar have come together to back the strong leadership of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. Meanwhile, the BJD and BJP have stepped up their campaign ahead of the byelection scheduled for May 31 while Congress seems to be lagging behind. BJD's state women's wing president Snehangini Chhuria had earlier held a meeting of party leaders at Belpahar. Health Minister Naba Das, party's district observer and Cuttack Mayor Subhash Singh and deputy observer Bishnu Prasad Kedia held a meeting at Belpahar later, brainstorming on strategies to gain support of voters.

It was learnt that Kishore Mohanty had won the election by a margin of 70,000 votes. The health minister has asserted that party nominee Alaka Mohanty (Kishore's wife) will win the bypoll by a margin of 50,000 votes.

Previous general election in 2019 had witnessed a tough fight between BJD and BJP.

For quite a long time, Assembly constituency was a bastion of CPI. The party candidate and former MLA late Prasanna Panda had won this seat six times - 1961, 1967, 1974, 1985, 1990 and 1995.

Similarly, Congress candidate Upendra Dixit had represented the Assembly segment three times - 1971, 1977 and 1980. Subsequently, Congress candidate Anup Sai got the mandate three times from 2000 to 2009.

The first bypoll to Brajaraj Nagar was necessitated following the death of former MLA Panda December 26, 1997. The bypoll had then witnessed a contest between Congress candidate Keshab Sahu (who won with 28,476 votes) and BJP candidate Radharani Panda (who lost by 27,954 votes). However, in 2014 general elections, BJP candidate Radharani won the seat by defeating her nearest contender Anup Sai who had this time fought with a BJD ticket.

In 2019, the BJD fielded Kishore Mohanty from Brajaraj Nagar Assembly constituency segment and he won by defeating BJP's Radharani.

FOR A CLEAR PATH



Residents of VSS Nagar in Bhubaneswar, Friday, demanded reopening of a road allegedly closed by the Utkal University near its gate no 3 OP PHOTO

EOW nabs ponzi firm owner from UP

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 20: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Odisha Police has arrested the owner of a ponzi firm, which functioned in the garb of a digital company, on the charge of duping a large number of people from Odisha with promises of huge returns from Uttar Pradesh's Vrindavan. Prince Kumar, who is a resident with a Muzafarpur in Bihar and the director of Digital Revolution Technologies Limited, has also been accused of giving false assurances to the people that their investments would double within

one year although the company has no commensurate or real business activity to pay high returns, the EOW said. He was produced before the chief judicial magistrate court in Mathura and is being brought here for trial. A case has been registered against the accused for criminal breach of trust, fraud and forging, besides provisions of the IT Act, Prize Chits and Money Circulation Scheme (Banning) Act, 1978 and the Odisha Protection of Interests of Depositors (in Financial Establishment) Act, 2011, the agency said. It was registered on the basis of an enquiry report relating to alle-

gations that from March 2020 onwards Kumar and his firm duped investors across Odisha with false assurances of high returns under its different schemes involving various digital and online products. The EOW said that the company also issued forged documents and misappropriated about Rs 1.5 crore invested by the gullible people of the state. However, the sum is feared to go far higher as this company had investors from many states especially in Maharashtra, Bihar, UP, Delhi, West Bengal, Odisha and Chhattisgarh. On the modus operandi of the company, the EOW said that it col-

lected huge money from investors by misleading them that it was running successful Indian versions of WhatsApp, YouTube, Amazon, email, online/digital gaming, digital payment and Netflix among others. Kumar as the director of Digital Revolution Technologies Limited had conducted meetings at Balasore and Bhadrak in January 2020, made wide publicity to convince investors that the company wished to strengthen India through digital platforms and information technologies with the tagline 'Your Own Digital Revolution Marketing' and was committed to global digitalisation.



BEFORE IT RAINS

Cuttack Municipal Corporation Mayor Subhash Singh took stock of the condition of the drain near Durga Talkies ahead of the arrival of monsoon, Friday OP PHOTO

UU allowed to handle University High School

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 20: The state Higher Education (HE) department Friday permitted the Utkal University administration to control and manage the Utkal University high school. Department Additional Secretary Birendra Korkora said in a letter that the university is permitted to manage the requirement of teachers of the University High School by taking the state government teachers under the School and Mass Education department on deployment basis and/or by engaging superannuated state/Central government teachers as guest teachers. The university will also manage the requirement of non-teaching employees of the University High School by deploying university employees on full or part time basis and/or by engaging superannuated employees of state/Central government organisations as per state Finance department guideline.

International Trade Fair begins at Janata Maidan



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 20: The sixth 'Bhubaneswar International Trade Fair - 2022' began Friday at Janata Maidan here with the aim to provide a common business platform for local and global markets. Organised by Gupta Event Management, the 10-day event will see participation of 20 states and seven countries. The products to be displayed include furniture, interior, home decor, antiques, paintings, kitchen appliances, FMCG, crockery, boutique a beauty, health products, fashionable jewellery, Malaysia fountains and Afghanistan dry fruits among others. "The aim of the event is to provide a common platform for local and international traders and products. We have been organising the event for years and are hopeful for its successful completion this year too. This will also be the first time post covid we would fully organize the event," said Sujet Kumar Gupta, Director, Gupta Event Management.

Bombs hurled in City

BHUBANESWAR: Unknown bike-borne miscreants hurled two bombs at an under construction building at Jagannath Vihar in Palasuni under Saheed Nagar police limits here late Thursday night. The Saheed Nagar police have launched a manhunt to arrest the accused who fled the spot after the incident. No damage was reported due to the bombing. Police suspect past enmity over land dispute might be the reason behind the incident.

Renewable energy lifeline to ending climate change: UN chief

Highlighting that renewable energy technologies such as wind and solar are readily available and in most cases cheaper than coal and other fossil fuels, the top UN official proposes critical actions to jump-start the energy transition, which he calls the "peace project of the 21st century"



1.1 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Noting the report is a "dismal litany of humanity's failure to tackle climate disruption," the UN chief said that while time is running out to prevent the worst im-

We must end fossil fuel pollution and accelerate the renewable energy transition before we incinerate our only home. Transforming energy systems is a low-hanging fruit ANTONIO GUTERRES | SECRETARY-GENERAL, UN

a low-hanging fruit," he emphasised in a video message. Highlighting that renewable energy technologies such as wind and solar are readily available and in most cases cheaper than coal and other fossil fuels, the top UN official proposed critical actions to jump-start the energy transition, which he called the "peace project of the 21st century." Guterres called for treating renewable energy technologies as essential global public goods, securing, scaling up and diversifying the supply components and raw materials for renewable energy technologies. He also urged efforts to build frameworks and reform fossil fuel bureaucracies. The UN Chief called on governments to fast-track and streamline approvals of solar and wind projects, modernise grids and set ambitious renewable energy targets that provide certainty to investors, developers, consumers and producers. The secretary-general called for shifting subsidies away from fossil fuels. "While people suffer from high prices at the pump, the oil and gas industry is raking in billions from a distorted market. This scandal must stop," Guterres pointed out. "It's time to jump-start the renewable energy transition before it's too late," the secretary-general said.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Kalyani Dash, spouse of Tapan Kumar Dash resident of Chandrapada, Ada, Balasore, Odisha-756134 have changed my name from Kalyani Dash to Kalyani Panda vide affidavit dated 19.05.2022 at the Court of Executive Magistrate, Balasore, Odisha.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called for efforts to accelerate the transition to renewable energy, saying the renewable energy is the "lifeline" to ending climate change. Greenhouse gas concentrations, sea level rises, ocean heat levels and acidification, all set new records during 2021, while some glaciers reached the point of no return, according to the latest flagship report from the World Meteorological Organization, published on Wednesday.

The State of the Climate 2021 indicates that extreme weather - the day-to-day face of climate change - wreaked a heavy toll of human lives, triggered shocks for food and water security, and led to hundreds of billions of dollars in economic losses last year, Xinhua news agency reported. The report, which describes yet more clear signs that human activity is causing harm on a planetary scale, also confirms that the past seven years have been the warmest on record, with global temperature in 2021 reaching about

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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



MEGA E-AUCTION / SALE NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE/MOVABLE PROPERTIES

Under Proviso to Rule 8(6) for immovable & 6(2) for movable of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules] E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable / Movable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) & 9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Table with columns: Sl. No., BRANCH NAME / Name & Address of Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) / Mortgages, and Immovable/Movable Property Details. Contains 22 rows of property listings.

22. JARAPADA BRANCH Mob.: 7980216820 (A) Land with building situated in Plot No.: 3348, 3349, 3345, Khata No.: 486/406, of Area: Ac. 1.94, Ac. 1.44 and Ac. 0.35 dec. respectively at Mouza: Ugi, Thana: Jarapada, Dist: Angul, Mortgaged Property recorded in the name of Mr. Anil Kumar Behera Bounded by East: By Vacant Land, West: By Vacant Land, North: By Govt Land, South: By Road, (B) Land and building in Plot No.: 3873/13718 and 922 of Area: Ac.0.10 dec. each, total of Ac.0.20 dec., Khata No.: 1653/1169. recorded in the name of Mr. Khaira Behera. Bounded by East: Vacant Land, West: Road, North: Plot No.: 3874 and 3875, South: Plot No.: 3902, Dist: Angul-759128,

23. BRHMAGIRI BRANCH/Mob.: 8895674038 All that part and parcel of free hold land double storied, residential building consisting of Mouza : Gomundi, Thana : Brahmagiri, Dist. : Puri, Khata No. 164/19, Plot No. 547, Area : Ac.0.37 dec., Bounded by East : Road, West : Plot No. 548, North : Plot No. 546, South : Plot No. 553. Property recorded in the name of Kuber Jena, Dibakar Jena and Bimbadhar Jena

Table with columns: Sl. No., Reserve Price, EMD, Demand Notice Amount, Date of Demand/Possession Notice, Date of Inspection of Property Documents, Date & Time for submission of Bid/request letter of participation, KYC documents & proof of EMD to Authorised Officer / Service Provider, Date & Time of E-Auction with Unlimited 5 minutes Auto Extension if someone bids at the last 5 minutes. Contains 23 rows of auction details.

TERMS & CONDITIONS: (1) The properties will be sold by e-Auction through the Bank's approved service provider https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp under the supervision of the Auction Authorized Office of the Bank. (2) The intending bidders / purchasers are requested to register on portal https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi using their mobile number and e-mail ID further, they are requested to upload requisite KYC documents. (3) Bids in the prescribed formats shall be submitted online through the portal www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi along with the EMD and scanned copy of KYC documents including photo, PAN Card, Aadhar Card and address proof to the service provider and the Authorised Officer before the date mentioned above. (4) The EMD and other deposits shall be remitted through EFT / NEFT / RTGS to the wallet provided by M/s. MSTC Ltd. on its e-Auctions site www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi as specified above and the amount of EMD paid by the interested bidders shall carry no interest. The amount of EMD paid by the successful bidder shall be adjusted towards sale price. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) to be transferred / shall be deposited by bidders in his / her / their own wallet provided by MSTC Ltd. on its e-Auctions site www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi by means of EFT / NEFT / RTGS for the bid. (5) Bids without EMD shall be rejected summarily. (6) Online Auction sale will start automatically on and at the time as mentioned above. Auction / Bidding will initially be for a period of 180 minutes with auto extension time if 10 minutes each till the sale is concluded. (7) The e-Auction shall bidding of above properties will be conducted exactly on the scheduled date and time as mentioned against each properties by way of inter bidding amongst bidders. The bidders shall be improve their offer in the multiple of the bid increment amount of Rs. 30,000/- for each properties. In case bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the e-Auction, the closing time will be automatically get extended for 10 minutes. (8) The property shall be sold to the successful bidders. The successful / highest bidders (Purchaser) as declared by the Authorised Officer shall deposit 25% of the bid amount (incl. of the EMD) immediately on the same day and not later than the next working days. The balance of the sale price must be paid within 15 days from the date of confirmation of Auction Sale. Failure to remit the entire amount of Sale price within the stipulated period will result in forfeiture of deposit of 25% of the bid amount to the secured creditors and for forfeiture of all claims over the property by the prospective bidders / shall purchaser and the property will be resold. (9) The Sale certificate will be issued in the name of the purchaser(s) only after payment of entire sale price/ bid amount and other taxes shall charges in any. (10) The purchaser shall bear the charges / fees payable for conveyance such as registration fees, stamp duty etc. as applicable as per law. (11) The Authorised Officer / Bank has the absolute right to accept or reject any bid or postpone or cancel the sale as the case may be without assigning any reason whatsoever. (12) Known encumbrance of all the above mentioned properties is nil. (13) The properties is being sold as "As is where is" "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" without recourse basis. The bank has disclosed only the known encumbrances statutory liabilities if any as above and it is for the purchasers to make their own independent / discreet inquiries at their own cost before participating in the Auction. (14) As regards the statutory dues stated above. Bank dues will have priority over statutory dues, without pre-judice to the above statutory liability if any shall be borne by the purchaser and the bank assumes no responsibility in this regards. (15) Sale is subject to confirmation by the secured creditor. (16) The e-Auction advertisement does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation by the bank. The Authorised Officer / Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claim / rights / dues. (17) In compliance with section 194 IA of the Income Tax Act, 1961 income tax @1% pn the Reserved Price shall be deducted and paid under the PAN Number of the Purchaser. Since the tax has been calculated only the Reserved Price. The bidders shall bear the 1% income tax on the bid multiplier amount and the bank shall not take any responsibility for the same. "In case of any sale / transfer of immovable property of Rupees Fifty Lakhs and above. The transferee has to pay an amount equal to 1% of the consideration as the income tax. (18) For the further details regarding inspection of property/e-Auction, the intending bidders may contact the Authorised Officer, Indian Overseas Bank, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar, Phone No. 0674-2540032, e-mail : 0815samd@iob.net.in or visit website : https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi and with concerned branch. (19) This notification is also 15 days notice required under section 8(6) of the security interest (Enforcement) Rule 2002 to the Borrowers / Guarantors of the said loan mentioned in sl. no. 1 to 23 (Except 3 & 21) and 30 days notice u/s 9(1) of security interest (Enforcement) Rule 2002 to the Borrowers / Guarantors of the said loan mentioned in sl. no. 3 & 21 about holding of E-Auction cum Sale of the above mentioned date. (20) If the above E-Auction Sale is challenged before any competent court / forum / tribunal etc. then the finalization of the Sale / Auction will be subject to the final disposal by the aforesaid competent court / forum / tribunal only and till such final disposal on the case by the competent court / tribunal, form bank will not pay any interest / claim / compensation etc. in whatsoever manner on the EMD / final bid amount to the bidders.

The Divine manifests upon earth whenever and wherever it is possible.

THE MOTHER



Old Workhorse

When unsure, fall back on the old and reliable. The Centre has apparently decided not to appoint officers from the Indian Legal Service (ILS) or law specialists as the Union Secretary of the Law Ministry. It has chosen to rely on the old workhorse, the ubiquitous IAS, by naming 1990-batch IAS officer Nitin Chandra as the new law secretary. Though this all-India service has existed since 1956, few in the public are aware of its existence. ILS officers are generally appointed at various levels, beginning with undersecretary in various departments including the Legal Affairs Department, Legislative Department and the Justice Department of the ministry. Though ILS officers are largely appointed by the UPSC, officers are often taken on deputation from other departments as well. Chandra replaced AK Mendiratta, a judicial service officer, who was appointed as a Judge of the Delhi High Court earlier in February. Interestingly, it's Mendiratta who reportedly drafted the ill-fated farm laws that created such a stir, leading to a year-long agitation by protesting farmers. Recall that even the Chief Justice had lamented the fall in quality and precision of drafting legislation in the country. This could perhaps hold a clue to Chandra's appointment. Perhaps the Centre felt that an IAS officer would be a better fit for the post. Sources have informed DKB that the stellar track record of previous Law Secretary Alok Srivastava might have persuaded the government to return the post to the IAS cadre.

Babus' cooling-off period

The Centre's lateral entry policy in which it is hiring domain specialists from the public and private sectors is being offset by a trickle of high-profile exits of senior babus to the corporate world. In many instances, these babus have taken up lucrative assignments shortly after leaving the civil service or retirement, even though rules stipulate that officials have to undergo a year-long "cooling off" period.



BABUDOM BYTES

Dilip Cherian

The recent appointment of Archana Goyal Gulati, former Member of NTI Aayog and Competition Commission of India (CCI) as head of public policy at Google, has revived the old debate. Sources say that Gulati was posted at CCI when it ordered a probe into Alphabet Inc, Google's parent company, Gulati, however, has pointed out that she joined well after the end of the mandatory "cooling off" period. But murmurs are unlikely to die down. Gulati is following in the footsteps of several other babus who decided to explore the challenges and opportunities offered up by the brave new corporate world. In 2019, Anandvijay Jha left babudom after two decades for the greener pastures of a multinational, and further an international investment powerhouse. Last year, Rajiv Aggarwal, a UP cadre IAS officer, joined a global social media platform as head of policy.

Isn't hard to see why senior babus are showing keen interest in leaving the confines of babudom, with its rules and restrictions, to join global companies. But the issue of having a mandatory cooling-off period for retired babus with corporate or even political ambitions needs greater debate. Does it lead to a better rapport between the government and private companies, as its votaries claim, or does it raise the inevitable questions about propriety, transparency, impartiality etc. of such babus who may have dealings with a corporate entity in their official capacity and then join the same company later?

Centre raps Khattar govt

The tussle between IAS and IPS officers of Haryana over postings has escalated after the Centre's intervention. Of late, the Manohar Lal Khattar government has been appointing non-cadre officers from IPS, IFS and IRS to cadre posts. Further, the state government had sought the Centre's approval of 11 non-cadre officers for cadre posts.

Now the Centre has responded stating that the state government cannot post non-cadre officers to cadre posts beyond three months without the Centre's prior approval. It has also sought from the state government details of all cadre officers against cadre posts. Sources say that the state government is yet to take a call to this directive from Delhi.

But the IPS Officers Association has written to state Chief Secretary Sanjeev Kaushal that there has been no violation of cadre rules. The IPS officers argue that the three posts of Principal Secretaries held by non-IAS officers are not cadre posts.

But that may not cut ice with the babus in Delhi. The IAS officers have clearly struck back at the Khattar sarkar, but whose will prevail? How Kaushal responds to the Centre's directive will give an indication.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect

WISDOM CORNER

- One who can't determine his goals; cannot win. CHANAKYA
- He who has never learned to obey cannot be a good commander. ARISTOTLE
- Everything comes in time to him who knows how to wait. LEO TOLSTOY

WORDSWORTH

Aerobot

Agencies working for NASA have used this term for craft designed to explore solar-system bodies such as Venus, Mars and Titan. Three sorts of aerobots are proposed or are under development. One type is an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), which is launched from an orbiting spacecraft and deploys wings before it lands. The second is a lighter-than-air craft, a helium-filled balloon fitted with heaters powered by solar cells. A third is a hybrid balloon-kite system sometimes called a helikite. An advantage of the second and third kinds is that they don't need fuel, which is expensive to transport and which runs out all too soon. Unlike satellites or the winged aerobot, the lighter-than-air versions can fly for extended periods, allowing long-term monitoring of the properties of the atmosphere. They can also view and record the ground from much lower altitudes than is possible with satellites. In the NASA sense, the word combines the prefix aero-, as in aeronautics, with bot, a common abbreviated form of robot. However, aerobot is also a trademarked term of Moller International for its small ducted fan aerial vehicle, in which the first part of the word would seem to be from aerial rather than aeronautics.

LOL

Help the lonely kid

Sandy began a job as an elementary school counselor and she was eager to help. One day during recess she noticed a girl standing by herself on one side of a playing field while the rest of the kids enjoyed a game of soccer at the other. Sandy approached and asked if she was all right. The girl said she was. A little while later, however, Sandy noticed



the girl was in the same spot, still by herself. Approaching again, Sandy offered, "Would you like me to be your friend?" The girl hesitated, then said, "Okay," looking at the woman suspiciously. Feeling she was making progress, Sandy then asked, "Why are you standing here all alone?" "Because," the little girl said with great exasperation, "I'm the goalie!"

Dhurjati Mukherjee

THE HIGH COMMAND CONCEPT MAY REMAIN IN CONGRESS, AS MOST PARTIES IN THE COUNTRY FOLLOW THIS POLITICAL PRINCIPLE, BUT THE MIDDLE LEVEL LEADERSHIP MUST BE STRENGTHENED

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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FOCUS RUSSIA-UKRAINE CRISIS

RESTORING DETERRENCE

As NATO military chiefs meet in Brussels to discuss the war in Ukraine, the other issue on their minds is the alliance's forthcoming Strategic Concept, which will shape its priorities for years to come. And here, Russia's behavior has demonstrated that re-establishing deterrence must play a central role.



Rupert Smith and Ilana Bet-El

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE US, FEW BELIEVED THAT RUSSIA WOULD LAUNCH A FULL-SCALE INVASION OR PERSIST WITH ITS THREATS AGAINST NATO AND NEUTRAL STATES

When Russia began amassing troops on Ukraine's border late last year, it embarked on a path of aggression against not just Ukraine but also what it calls the "collective West," particularly the European Union and NATO. Russia was seeking to deter Ukraine and the West from increased collaboration, while the West was seeking to deter Russia from aggression. The subsequent invasion stems from a massive failure of deterrence.

The Ukrainians have marshalled an impressive defence, and the EU, NATO, and other Western partners and allies have continued to tighten economic and financial sanctions and provide aid. But we are in a dangerous cycle of escalation. The situation demands credible deterrence that goes far beyond the traditional "nuclear umbrella."

After all, deterrence is not only about nuclear warfare. It is relevant to all forms of confrontation - whether in business or on the battlefield. Many of these dynamics are present in the current conflict. Russia and Europe's codependent energy relationship had been deemed a strong deterrent on both sides; but it patently failed.

Deterrence is about convincing an opponent that not doing something is in its best interests. Russia first attempted to deter Ukraine and the West by deploying its troops along Ukraine's borders. But as it did, the United States and its NATO allies released daily intelligence and data revealing Russian troop movements, demonstrating clearly to the Kremlin that they knew what it was doing. Such signaling is the first element of deterrence.



Deterrence must be a popular aim that commands widespread public support. It also must be backed by other countries, because international cooperation is crucial for ensuring the security of smaller, vulnerable states. Achieving such broad-based support requires effective, inspirational leadership of the kind that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has demonstrated

Another core element of deterrence is the belief that an adversary has both the will and the capability to escalate measures if the other side does not change course. When Russia issued a litany of demands designed to highlight Ukraine and NATO's vulnerabilities - from Ukraine's status as a state to the overall European security architecture - its audience didn't find its threats to be credible.

With the exception of the US, few believed that Russia would launch a full-scale invasion or persist with its threats against NATO and neutral states. Yet Russia did invade and has since issued veiled nuclear threats and even tested a new supersonic missile.

Similarly, Russian President Vladimir Putin did not take seriously French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, and other Western leaders when they expressed their intentions to support Ukraine. The

Kremlin heard these statements, but it also heard several other leaders, including US President Joe Biden, say that they would not send troops to defend a non-NATO country. Russia thus decided to invade, only to be surprised by the scope and intensity of the West's response.

For its part, Ukraine's deterrence strategy was essentially to project an image of itself as a country that already belonged to the West. And though the Kremlin was unpersuaded, Russia clearly underestimated Ukrainian unity and the capability and competence of its army, even though it had been fighting Ukrainian forces since its incursions into the country in 2014.

Ukraine's heroic self-defence reminds us that beyond the battlefield and business, beyond sanctions and institutions, there are ordinary people: the war is taking place among them, and they will decide its ultimate outcome.

Though Ukrainians' will to defend their lives, homes, and ideals has not yet deterred Russia's leadership, there is strong evidence that it has deterred many Russian soldiers from fighting.

Looking ahead, Western deterrence must become a primary strategic objective and thus more comprehensive, including all the elements that matter: US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin took a step in this direction by announcing that one of America's goals now is to "see Russia weakened to the degree that it can't do the kinds of things that it has done in invading Ukraine." And the \$33 billion lend-lease bill that Biden signed on May 9 will further advance this goal.

But it's not enough. Deterrence must be a popular aim that commands widespread public support. It also must be backed by other countries, because international cooperation is crucial for ensuring the security of smaller, vulnerable states. Achieving such broad-based support requires effective, inspirational leadership of the kind that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has demonstrated. He has rallied not only the Ukrainian people but the entire Western world. Other leaders would do well to follow his example.

Finally, it is important to remember where deterrence fits in the broader context of globalization. Russia was emboldened by the economic interdependencies that it has cultivated, and it was empowered by its status as a permanent, veto-wielding member of the United Nations Security Council. Deterrence must include measures either to neutralize or contain both factors.

The war in Ukraine is the result of insufficient deterrence. Ultimately, there will be no peace without it.

Rupert Smith is a former NATO deputy supreme allied commander for Europe and Ilana Bet-El is a senior associate fellow at the European Leadership Network.

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SPECTRUM NATIONAL POLITICS

Cong's alternative governance plan

The recently concluded Chintan Shivir of the Congress at its Udaipur Declaration has given a call for 'Bharat Jodo' (United India) against divisive politics that has left social harmony in tatters. It is significant that this comes 80 years after Gandhiji's call of 'Bharat Chhodo' (Quit India). The declaration rightly pointed out: "There is a perverse conspiracy to divide people on the basis of religion, caste, food habits, clothes, language, region and colour. The bigotry of the current rulers has pushed even the economy into peril. This rings alarm, for a grave danger to India's present and future".

Congress interim President Sonia Gandhi announced that the Bharat Jodo yatra, to commence October 2, is meant to strengthen the bonds of social harmony that are under stress, to preserve the foundational values of the Constitution that are under assault and to highlight the daily concerns of the people, including price rise and unemployment. Obviously, reaching out to people at the grass-root level is the Congress message from the Shivir and to put spotlight on the skewed policies being pursued by the pres-

ent Modi government.

The conclave considered significant organisational changes, including the establishment of a public insight department to ensure continuous feedback from the ground level and 50 percent reservation for those below 50 years of age from the highest forum to the booth levels. Though there was some resistance to the latter proposal, political analysts believe that this is a prudent step to revitalise the party at this point of time. The need to bring in new and young faces into leadership roles is critical.

The party also decided to establish greater interaction with religious and social groups to deepen its contact with institutions that command loyalty of key population blocs. This again is the party's strategy to connect with the grassroots more effectively. Another way of the Congress reaching to the lowest levels is to set up a mandal committee for 15-20 booth committees. Other decisions include having an assessment wing to monitor the performance of its departments and its office-bearers. A better discipline enforcement system may be evolved under this department. All these suggest that the Congress has finally woken

up to the fact that it needs to restructure its organisational capacity, which fades in comparison to the BJP's.

Besides, the regressive conditions prevailing in the country need to be highlighted. Not just inflation and sufferings of the poor but also violence perpetrated by majoritarianism, communal hatred, bitter bickering amongst political parties, criminalisation of politics, autocratic tendencies of ruling dispensations have unfortunately become the order of the day. A look at Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal or other parts of the country, adds to the confirmation.

Former President Rahul Gandhi also attacked the Modi government at the Centre, accusing it of spreading hatred, pressuring the judiciary, arm-twisting the Election Commission, destroying institutions, and muzzling the media. He said his fight was against the ideology of the RSS-BJP and the "hatred and violence that they spread". This apart, he observed that the Prime Minister always harped on cooperative federalism but actually practised 'coercive federalism'.

But the question is whether the proposals at the Shivir will help the leadership dismantle this self-con-

tained bureaucracy and develop organisational roots? The focus cannot remain on just the Gandhis, whose popularity is on the downhill as stated by recent Assembly elections. The high command concept may remain, as most parties in the country follow this political principle, but the middle level leadership must be strengthened.

Will the Congress transform to become an effective force towards attainment of cooperative federalism? No doubt, the party follows secular and pro-poor policies. However, it appears to have finally drawn a strategy towards attainment of a strong dose of economic decentralization and involvement of the lower tiers of the political machinery in the decision-making process. Will decentralisation, including at the top yield results?

Moreover, it must also ensure leaders with a clean image, well-educated with motivation to work with dedication and sincerity are asked to lead. There is a need for young leaders in the country who do not indulge in sectarian politics and are willing to understand and ameliorate the problems of the suffering masses. It remains to be seen whether the Congress realises this and takes effective action in this regard.

A fair judgement

Sir, Perhaps, cricketer-turned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu would have least realised that his involvement in the 1988 road rage case that resulted in the death of a 65-year-old Patiala resident, would come back to torment him after 34 years with a judgment of one-year rigorous imprisonment. In fact, it was surprising that the apex court, in its May 2018 judgment, had let off Sidhu with a small punishment of imposing a fine of Rs. 1,000, citing that road skirmishes were a "very common sight in this country." Though very late, the SC has made the right verdict in this case now, and its pronouncement stresses the fact that nobody, irrespective of his/her status in the society, is above the law. To put it in Sidhu's own style, "a punch of a ball with a bat may look charming on a cricket field. But on the roadside, a punch on the face of a person could certainly be harmful."

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Imminent threat

Sir, In proper management of the ecosystem, species play a significant role. However, the environmental crisis is leading several species towards extinction. According to the Wildlife Survey Organization, four species of fauna and 18 flora varieties have gone extinct. This apart, a large number of species are on the verge of disappearance. Saving them is a collective responsibility as their extinction will certainly create imbalance in the ecosystem. For living in harmony with nature, there is a need to enhance the number of biosphere reserves and launch sensitization drives to educate more people about the upcoming threat.

Anuska Panwar, UJJAIN

Prepare beforehand

Sir, A number of Monkeypox cases have been found in Europe in recent days. Mostly this has been found among the young men of Europe. The disease which once used to be restricted to the African continent has now slowly spread out of Africa. According to the Doctors, this disease is similar to smallpox and has similar symptoms. This virus can transmit to close contact with bodily fluids. The experts have suggested that there is a meager chance of this disease turning out to be a global pandemic yet we need a shield against this disease before it spreads to other parts of the world. Indian government along with Indian doctors should start research on the disease and disseminate safeguard guidelines and other necessary information regarding the disease to the public. Our healthcare system and our citizens should be made well informed and prepared before it becomes too late.

Deba Prasad Nayak, CUTTACK

national



India's national security and territorial integrity is non-negotiable. A timid and docile response won't do. PM must defend the nation RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

SPEEDING UP VAX DRIVE

Underlining the urgent need for an intensive push to Covid vaccination, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan Friday advised states and union territories to plan for a two-month long 'Har Ghar Dastak' campaign 2.0, with detailed district, block and village levels plans



of the day quote

A couple said that they have cut down on fruit, vegetables and milk. They no longer buy clothes or footwear unless it is a very special occasion. The homemaker thinks twice about what to cook for their meals. They no longer travel out of the city and no longer eat out. If this is the plight of the middle class, imagine the terrible pain of the poor families

We cannot deprive Haryana of its water and give Delhi more than their legitimate share

Creating ruckus and resorting to sloganeering and displaying placards in House lower its dignity, which can be maintained only by debates and proper communication

Better if 'senior' judge hears Gyanvapi case: SC

Press Trust of India New Delhi, May 20: The Supreme Court Friday transferred the civil suit filed by Hindu devotees on Gyanvapi mosque from civil judge (senior division) to district judge, Varanasi saying looking at the "complexities" and "sensitivity" of the issue, it is better if a senior judicial officer having an experience of over 25-30 years handles this case. In an important observation, the top court also said that the process to ascertain the religious character of a place of worship is not barred under the Places of Worship Act of 1991. A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud, Surya Kant, and PS Narasimha said that the matter involves complexity and sensitivity and it would be better if a district judge handles the case and made it clear that it is not casting any aspersion on the civil judge (senior division) who was earlier dealing with the suit. "Having regard to the complexities of the issue involved in the case, in the civil suit and their sensitivity, we are of the considered view that the suit before the civil judge (senior division) Varanasi should be tried before a senior and experienced judicial officer of the Uttar Pradesh Higher Judicial



Security personnel stand guard as Muslims arrive at the Gyanvapi mosque to offer Friday prayers, in Varanasi

Service", the bench said. "We accordingly order and direct that the suit stand transferred from the file of civil judge (senior division) Varanasi to the court of the district judge, Varanasi for trial, and all the interlocutory and ancillary proceedings in the suit shall be addressed to and decided by the court of the district judge," the bench said. The top court directed the district judge to decide on the priority of the application under Order 7 Rule 11 of CPC (on maintainability)

In an important observation, the top court also said that the process to ascertain the religious character of a place of worship is not barred under the Places of Worship Act of 1991

The top court directed the district judge to decide on the priority of the application under Order 7 Rule 11 of CPC (on maintainability) filed by the Mosque committee, which said that the civil suit is barred by a 1991 law of Parliament, be decided upon the transfer of papers of suit from the civil judge (senior division)

recting protection of the area where 'Shivling' is said to be found and allowing Muslims to offer 'Namaz' in mosque premises shall remain in operation till the maintainability of the suit is decided by the district judge and thereafter for eight weeks to allow the aggrieved parties approach the higher court. "The interim order of this court dated May 17, 2022, shall continue to remain in operation pending the disposal of the application under Order 7 Rule 11 of CPC and thereafter for a period of eight weeks to enable the parties which is aggrieved by the order of the district judge to pursue rights and remedies in accordance with law", the bench said.

SIDHU SENT TO JAIL

Patiala, May 20: Congress leader Navtej Singh Sidhu surrendered before a court here on Friday, a day after being sentenced to one-year rigorous imprisonment by the Supreme Court in a 1988 road rage death case. "He surrendered before the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Amit Malhan," said senior advocate HPS Verma, who accompanied Sidhu to the court. The former Punjab Congress president surrendered shortly after 4 pm, and was taken for the mandatory medical examination, conducted at the Mata Kaushalya Hospital. After the medical check-up, he was lodged in the Patiala Central Jail. Some party leaders including Navtej Singh Cheema, Ashwani Sekhri and Sidhu's supporters accompanied him from his home to the court, which is close to his residence. Cheema drove Sidhu, who was dressed in a blue-coloured 'pathani' suit, to the court in an SUV. This came just hours after the former Punjab Congress president approached the Supreme Court seeking a few weeks to surrender to serve the imprisonment. The top court bench of justices A M Khanwilkar and J B Pardiwala told senior advocate A M Singhvi, appearing for Sidhu, that the judgment on one-year rigorous imprisonment was passed by a special bench, and that he can file the application and mention it before the Chief Justice. Singhvi said he will try and mention the matter before the Chief Justice. Back in Patiala, some former MLAs and supporters turned up at Sidhu's residence in the morning to show their support.

SHORT TAKES

Terrorist killed

Srinagar: The Indian Army Friday foiled an infiltration bid on the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district in which one intruding terrorist was killed. The defence sources said, "An unidentified terrorist was killed by the Army's 3/9 GR during an infiltration bid in Tangdhar sector of the LoC in Kupwara district today."

Five arrested

Amritsar: The Punjab police Friday said it has apprehended five people, including a juvenile, in connection with the blast at the Ludhiana district court complex last year. Former police head constable Gagandeep Singh was killed while planting the bomb in the washroom of the district court while six others were injured in the blast that took place on December 23, 2021. A juvenile who was nabbed used to allegedly extend technical support by generating international calls from the internet for calling, being used by the traffickers for smuggling of Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) from Pakistan.

Heroin seized

Kochi: A gang of international smugglers has been apprehended by Indian agencies while allegedly trying to smuggle around 218 kg of heroin, worth over Rs 1,500 crore in the international market, off the Lakshadweep coast, sources said Friday.

'HAPPY' INDRANI



Former media executive Indrani Mukherjea comes out of the Byculia Jail after getting bail in the Sheena Bora murder case in Mumbai

9 trapped as part of tunnel collapses

Banihal/Jammu, May 20: A labourer was killed and three rescued after a part of an under-construction tunnel collapsed on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway in the union territory's Ramban district, officials said. Nine workers continue to be trapped in the debris as rescue operations continue. However, their chances of survival are slim, the officials said. "Around 10.15 pm on Thursday, the audit tunnel of T3 on the highway near Khooi Nallah in Ramban collapsed, trapping 11-12 labourers of Sarla Company working there," a senior official said. The rescue operation on the national highway stretch between Ramban and Ramsu started at midnight and was going on in full swing with rock-breakers being used to reach out to those trapped, he said. Divisional Commissioner of Jammu Ramesh Kumar and Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Jammu Zone, Mukesh Singh visited the incident site where a massive rescue operation is underway. Union minister Jitendra Singh termed the collapse of a part of the tunnel "unfortunate".

Kishor predicts poll loss for Congress

Patna, May 20: Political strategist Prashant Kishor Friday asserted that the Congress was facing an "impending electoral rout" in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, states ruled by the BJP where assembly polls are due later this year. The I-PAC founder, whose proposed induction into the Congress for reviving the grand old party proved to be a non-starter, also expressed the view that the recent 'chintan shivir' could not achieve "anything meaningful". "I have been repeatedly asked to comment on the outcome of #UdaipurChintanShivir...In my view, it failed to achieve anything meaningful other than prolonging the status quo and giving some time to the Congress leadership, at least till the impending electoral rout in Gujarat and HP!" Kishor tweeted. Kishor, whose much-publicised blueprint for reviving the Congress turned out to be a non-starter, has since launched a political movement 'Jan Suraj', aimed at transforming the politics in his home state of Bihar. The I-PAC founder, who shot to fame after handling the tremendously successful election campaign of Narendra Modi in 2014, had previously worked with the Congress in 2017 in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab.



Man kills daughters

Chennai: In a shocking incident, a drunk person in Tamil Nadu's Kancheepuram district on Friday beat to death his two young daughters after they questioned his liquor consumption, police said. The incident was reported from Chinnna Madhurakkam and the accused, identified as Govindaraj, has been arrested.

OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, BOUDHGARH. QUOTATION CALL NOTICE. No. C-334: Sealed quotation in plain paper are invited from the person specialized in Art & Craft/Suppliers/Agency etc. to supply of the following items. The quotation will be received upto Dt.31.05.2022 upto 9.00 A.M. and will be opened on 31.05.2022 at 11.00 A.M.

CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED. Corporate Office : 1st Floor, 'Dare House', No. 2, M. S. C. Bose Road, Chennai - 600 001. Regional Office : 55 & 55/1, Chowringhee Road, 5th Floor, Chowringhee Court Opp. Nehru Children's Museum in Rabindra Sadan, Kolkata - 700 071, W.B.

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Form No. URC-2 Advertisement giving notice about registration under Part I of Chapter XXI [Pursuant to section 374(b) of the companies Act, 2013 and rule 4(1) of the companies (Authorized to Register) Rules, 2014]. Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 366 of the Companies Act, 2013, an application has been made to the Registrar at CUTTACK that ALPS MINING SERVICES a partnership firm a business entity may be registered under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Companies Act 2013, as a company limited by shares.

URGENTLY REQUIRED (ADVERTISEMENT) Rourkela Senior Nursing College, Sundargarh required the following post on a regular basis. Table with columns: Sl. No., Post, No. of Post, Qualification, Experience.

भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान भुवनेश्वर INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BHUBANESWAR. विज्ञापन संख्या Rectt./02/गैर-शिक्षण/2022 दि. 20.05.2022. भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान भुवनेश्वर निम्नलिखित गैर-शिक्षण पदों को प्रत्यक्ष/प्रतिनिधित्वित के आधार पर भरने के लिए योग्य भारतीय नागरिकों से ऑनलाइन आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है.

POLITICAL SETBACK FOR MNS

Raj Thackeray puts off Ayodhya trip

PRES TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 20: In a self-inflicted political blow, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena President Raj Thackeray Friday morning tersely announced that he has temporarily "postponed" his proposed visit to Ayodhya June 5.

He himself made the announcement via social media but didn't spell out any reasons for the move, leading to wild speculations in political circles.

MNS spokesperson Sandip Deshpande and party leader Bala Nandgaonkar were at a loss to explain what actually prompted the unexpected decision, but assured that Raj Thackeray will enlighten the people about it at his planned public rally in Pune Sunday.

Adding to the MNS' awkwardness, ruling Maha Vikas allies' leaders like Shiv Sena's Tourism Minister Aditya Thackeray and state Congress President Nana Patole announced that their upcoming tours for 'darshan' of Ram Lalla would proceed as per schedule and their trips would be "non-political".

Taking a swipe at the MNS chief, Shiv Sena chief spokesperson Sanjay Raut said that he heard about it from the media, "but we would have supported him".

"There's a large number of Shiv Sainiks and Sena supporters in Ayodhya, and we would have supported him. He is being used by



Raj Thackeray's abrupt decision came amid massive protests by certain BJP leaders and activists in Uttar Pradesh and other northern states opposing his Ayodhya trip

They have been vociferously demanding his unconditional apology for the treatment meted out to North Indians in the MNS agitation in 2008

Taking to Twitter, the MNS president said, "Ayodhya visit on hold for the time being. Details about it will be given at the rally in Pune May 22"

the Bharatiya Janata Party, but some people get delayed wisdom," he said.

Nationalist Congress Party spokesperson Clyde Crasto expressed hope that Raj Thackeray would now realise how he was being exploited by the BJP politically.

"They propped him to propagate their agenda and when their message was delivered, they have cut him down to size. He was used as a pawn and he allowed himself to be used to revive his failed political career," he claimed.

Congress General Secretary Sachin Sawant squarely blamed

the BJP for Raj Thackeray's current predicament.

"First, the BJP pumped up air into him, but when it feared that the Hindutva vote-bank would be divided, they snipped him off," he said.

Sena MoS and spokesperson Kishore Tiwari alleged that the BJP-MNS and Rana couple were competing to prove whose Hindutva brand is the worst and Raj Thackeray got trapped in their machinations.

Leader of Opposition Devendra Fadnis merely said: "Raj has postponed his visit now, but whenever he plans to go there, he will be

given full support and nobody will touch him."

The anti-Raj Thackeray protests were spearheaded by Uttar Pradesh BJP MP Brijbhushan Sharan Singh who warned that unless he apologises, lakhs of his supporters would block his entry to Ayodhya.

Though Raj Thackeray has not revealed anything, there's speculation that the postponement may have been due to health reasons, but MNS leaders declined comments.

Back in Uttar Pradesh, Brijbhushan Sharan Singh dismissed the MNS claims of "postponement due to illness" and asserted that Raj Thackeray has "cancelled" his trip, and vowed to continue his agitation till the MNS chief tenders an apology.

Earlier, apprehending threats, MNS' Nandgaonkar had called on Maharashtra Home Minister Dilip Walse-Patil and demanded security for Raj Thackeray either from the state government or the Centre.

Simultaneously, he warned that "even if a hair of Raj was harmed, Maharashtra would burn", though preparations for the Ayodhya trip continued.

Since a month, Raj Thackeray has been in the limelight after he launched an agitation demanding removal of loudspeakers from all mosques in the state failing which his activists would blare Hanuman Chalisa at double-decibel levels.

Lucknow to get its 1st dog park soon

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, May 20: The park, a first of its kind in Uttar Pradesh, will have track for walking dogs, allowing them to run and play.

Arrangements are also being made to deploy dog trainers whose services can be availed by dog owners at the park. According to officials of the Lucknow Development Authority (LDA), a proposal for the park has been sent to the state government and is awaiting a nod.

The park will be developed at a cost between Rs 15-25 crore. Officials are identifying land around 10 acres for the project in Gomti Nagar extension area.



The maintenance of the park will be ensured through a nominal fee. "We plan to make it mandatory for dogs to have a licence before they enter the park. This will help in making people aware of the fact that they need to get a licence for their pet," said an official.

Lucknow, at present, has over 4,000 parks and dispute over entry of pet dogs in the parks leads to arguments with an alarming regularity.

Call to treat widows with dignity grows



PRES TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 20: Days after Herwad village in Maharashtra's Kolhapur district passed a resolution to ban the customs associated with widowhood to maintain women's "right to live with dignity", those spearheading this campaign are now following up with the state government, demanding that a law be framed to end the "regressive" traditions.

The village passed the resolution May 4, after which the Maharashtra government issued a circular asking all gram panchayats in the state to adopt the "Herwad model".

The Herwad gram panchayat in Shirol taluka passed the resolution to ban customs like removing a widow's mangalsutra, toe ring, wiping her sindoor (vermillion) and breaking her bangles as part of rituals handed down over time.

As per the customs, widows were barred from attending social and religious gatherings.

The pioneering move by this vil-

lage is being seen as the beginning of the enactment of a law to safeguard the dignity of widows. Pramod Zinjade, who heads a social welfare organisation named after reformer Mahatma Phule in Solapur district, is an inspiration behind the Herwad model.

Talking to PTI, he said Herwad is the first village in the country to pass such a resolution and seven more villages have followed suit. "Mere resolutions will not be enough and a legal sanction to end the regressive practices is the need of the hour," he said.

The other widows who disfigure the deceased man's grieving wife, the relatives who silently watch it happen, the villagers who participate in the funeral should be held guilty for humiliating the widow. The women who perform the regressive actions should be punished with three months to one year in jail and Rs 5,000 to Rs one lakh penalty be imposed on them, he said.

The relatives should be punished for 15 days to one month in jail and Rs 5,000 to Rs 50,000 penalty. While the participants in the funeral should be punished by way of making them sit together for a day in the village itself, he said. A monitoring committee should be set up to check if the law is being violated at the local level. The committee should have 50 per cent women as members and half of them should be widows, Zinjade said.

UP Assembly ready with 'new look'

THE STATE ASSEMBLY IS NOW THE FIRST E-VIDHAN SABHA IN THE COUNTRY AND HAS GONE COMPLETELY PAPERLESS



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, May 20: The Budget Session of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly that is scheduled to begin May 23, will have a completely new look.

This will be more than a year after the Yogi Adityanath government, during its first tenure, turned

day orientation and training for all the members and officers of the legislative Assembly and secretariat began Friday to equip them with the e-Vidhan Sabha.

The state Assembly this time, will also have a new complexion since major players like Congress and Bahujan Samaj Party have been reduced to being non-players.

The Congress has just two members and the BSP has one - both parties have not been allotted rooms for their party members in the assembly complex. This is, perhaps, the first time in history that the Congress presence in the Assembly is negligible. Smaller parties like Apna Dal have 12 members, RLD has eight, Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSPP), has since and Jansatta Dal has two.

the state cabinet paperless. Each member will have a tablet fixed on his seat and the agenda of the proceedings of the House will be available on the tablet itself.

Apart from this, the questions asked by the members and the answers given by the government during the Question Hour will also be displayed on the tablet. A two-



Students cover themselves with a scarf on a hot summer day in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh

PTI PHOTO

Over 17L tonne of sugarcane still lying in farms across Maha

PRES TRUST OF INDIA

Aurangabad, May 20: Around 17.5 lakh tonne of sugarcane is still lying uncut in farms across Maharashtra although the crushing season has ended, but majority of this stock shall be crushed by the end of this month and over 30 sugar mills will remain functional till it is over; a top official said.

The sugarcane crushing season in Maharashtra generally starts in October-November and contin-

ues till mid-April.

Out of the 10 districts in Maharashtra that have topped the list of excess sugarcane stock this year, seven are from the Marathwada region, the official said.

"After good rains last year, the area under sugarcane cultivation in the state increased significantly. Even after the sugarcane crushing season has got over, the state still has around 17.5 lakh tonnes of sugarcane standing in farms, waiting



to be crushed. Hence, crushing in some parts of the state may continue till the first week of June," he

said. Talking to PTI, Maharashtra sugar commissioner Shekhar Gaikwad said, "The quantum of

sugarcane currently standing in the farms across the state is around 17.5 lakh tonnes. Most of this crop will be crushed by May 31. In some parts of Ahmednagar and Jalna districts, the crushing activity may continue till the first week of June."

"So far, we have succeeded in bringing 129 harvesters from other states and all are working in Marathwada. In Jalna alone, 29 harvesters are working at present," he said.

The state had recorded sugarcane plantation on 11.42 lakh hectares in 2020-21, but this year (2021-22), the figure went up by 2.25 lakh hectares to 13.67 lakh hectares. The quantity of sugarcane crushed last year was 1,013.31 lakh tonnes, while this year (till May 16) 1,300.62 lakh tonnes of sugarcane was crushed - an increase of 287.31 lakh tonnes, Marathwada. In Jalna alone, 29 sugar mills in the state may continue their operations till May end, he said.



"During June and July, the sea tends to be rough and is the breeding period for a lot of fish. Fishing during this period may affect the food chain adversely. Moreover, fishing in the seas at this time is also dangerous," he said.

Modular kitchen in UP jail

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kaushambhi (Uttar Pradesh), May 20: The Kaushambhi district jail Wednesday has become the first prison in Uttar Pradesh to start the process of making food with the help of machines.

"Apart from hi-tech electric roti maker machines for preparing fresh chapatis, electric cookers for dal (pulse) and chawal (rice) preparations are also being utilised for meal preparations," said Kaushambhi district jail Superintendent, Rakesh Singh.



and warm food. The electric roti maker machine will help to shape and serve around 3,000 chapatis in an hour," said the jail official.

This has also reduced the number of inmates engaged in making rotis from 25 to 10. Nearly 3,000 rotis are being prepared two times a day. The Kaushambhi district jail has more than 1,000 inmates and nearly 50-60 inmates were earlier deputed to prepare the food every day. The jail authorities have also brought insulated uten-

sils to keep the food warm and fresh.

"Initially, jail authorities faced some problems as inmates did not have much knowledge about these machines and did not know how to use them but we have got experts to train them," the Jail Superintendent said.

Recently, celebrity chef Ranveer Brar had been invited to teach jail inmates how to improve their culinary skills and prepare tastier food.

These elephants are smarter than humans!

ELEPHANTS FROM THE CORBETT TIGER RESERVE CROSSED BIJNOR AND ADJOINING VILLAGES DESTROYING A 5 KM-STRETCH OF ELECTRIC FENCE

VILLAGERS HAD INFORMED OFFICIALS ABOUT HOW THE ELEPHANTS ARE DESTROYING THE FENCES WITH TREE BRANCHES

UTTAR PRADESH GOVERNMENT CONSTRUCTED A WALL THAT WENT ON FOR ANOTHER 2 KM

AGENCIES

Bijnor (Uttar Pradesh), May 20: Elephants are known to be among the more intelligent animals, but no one ever thought that they would get better than humans.

According to forest officials, elephants from the Corbett Tiger Reserve in Uttarakhand are crossing over to Bijnor and adjoining villages by intelligently destroying a 5 km-stretch of electric fence put up to keep them in the reserve.

Anil Kumar Patel, Bijnor, divisional forest officer, said, "The electric fence earlier prevented



REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE. CREDIT: PTI PHOTO

Maharashtra: Over 200 wild animals spotted

Nagpur: More than 200 wild animals, including tigers, leopards and deer, were spotted during a waterhole survey conducted at Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra, an official said. The waterhole survey was held May 16 as part of Nisarganubhav-2022 organised by the forest department at the reserve, the official said. At least 222 wild animals were spotted during the survey, which was conducted in five ranges of the reserve and 71 machans were made available for the exercise conducted by the field staff, said Pradhu Nath Shukla, the deputy director of Pench Tiger Reserve in Nagpur.

elephants from crossing over to villages on this side of the border; but the pachyderms have now devised a way to 'dismantle' the electric

fences." He said that the elephants first break branches of trees and throw them at the fence till the fence is broken. Then they cross

over to the other side to enjoy sugarcane and other crops which brings them in direct conflict with humans.

Patel said that the villagers had informed them about how the elephants are destroying the fences with tree branches.

"Fencing, therefore, is no longer an option with these smart animals now. We will seek funds to erect a strong wall," he said.

More than two decades ago, in 2000, when Uttarakhand was carved out of Uttar Pradesh, a 10 km-long, seven-foot high and two-foot-wide wall was constructed by the Uttarakhand government to separate farms from the Corbett forest area.

This wall covered a substantial patch of ground from Kalagarh in Corbett to Amargarh.

Then the Uttar Pradesh government constructed a wall that went on for another 2 km, but lack of maintenance over the years, resulted in the wall crumbling, leaving gaps that led to wild animals sneaking in and destroying crops.



“
The knock-on effects of the Ukraine conflict has led to a sharp increase in costs of energy, food and commodities and it must be mitigated for the sake of developing countries
”
S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

In a rare case, as many as 206 kidney stones were removed from a patient at Aware Gleneagles Global Hospital in Hyderabad. These stones caused the 56-year-old patient to suffer from severe pain in the left loin for over six months, which got aggravated due to rising temperatures in summer



of the day quote

There have been regular inputs that some miscreants are trying to create trouble in Punjab. So I have request the home minister to sanction additional forces for the security of the state
BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CM

A newly approved skin test for tuberculosis diagnosis will soon be introduced in the country
MANSUKH MANDAVIYA | UNION HEALTH MINISTER

In dynastic parties, one person's interest reigns supreme and such parties are a threat to democracy
J P NADDA | BJP PRESIDENT

LAND-FOR-JOBS SCAM IN RAILWAYS CBI files fresh case against Lalu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 20: The CBI has registered a fresh FIR against former Bihar chief minister Lalu Prasad and family members for allegedly taking over one lakh sq ft land in Patna from candidates in return for group D jobs in Railways during 2004-09 when he was the railway minister in the UPA government, officials said Friday.

Following the registration of FIR on May 18 by the Economic Offences wing of the CBI, the agency started a search operation at 16 locations in Delhi, Patna and Gopalganj at the premises of Prasad, his family members and other accused. The CBI has named Prasad, his wife Rabri Devi, and daughters Misa Bharti and Hema Yadav, in addition to 12 people who were given jobs in Railway zones of Mumbai, Jabalpur, Kolkata, Jaipur, Hajipur, the officials said.

The central agency had registered a preliminary enquiry on September 23, 2021 related to the land-for-jobs scam in Railways. The candidates were appointed as substitutes in group D positions within three days of applying in "undue haste" by Railway officials and were later regularised "in lieu thereof of the individuals themselves or their family members transferred their land".

The transfers were made through three sale deeds in the name of Rabri Devi and one in the name of Misa Bharti and two gift deeds in the name Hema Yadav. One sale deed was executed in the name of a company A K Infosystems Private



RJD MLA Tej Pratap talks to the media regarding CBI searches at Lalu Prasad Yadav's locations, in Patna
PTI PHOTO

The central agency had registered a preliminary enquiry September 23, 2021 related to the land-for-jobs scam in Railways

Lalu Prasad's family allegedly paid ₹3.75 lakh to ₹13 lakh for the lands acquired by them which according to circle rates were approximately valued at ₹4.39 crore, the CBI alleged

Limited in which Rabri Devi became a majority shareholder in 2014 and currently one of the directors of the company, the FIR alleged.

Lalu Prasad's family allegedly paid ₹3.75 lakh to ₹13 lakh for the lands acquired by them which according to circle rates were approximately valued at ₹4.39 crore, the CBI alleged.

In the case of gift deeds to Hema Yadav, a person named Brij Nandan Rai allegedly transferred 3,375 sq ft land in Patna to a man called Hridayanand Choudhary for ₹4.21 lakh in 2008. Choudhary was later appointed as substitute in Hazipur and he subsequently transferred the land in 2014 to Hema Yadav.

"The value of said land as per

prevailing circle rate at the time of gift was ₹62.10 lakh," the FIR alleged.

According to the CBI probe so far, about 1.05 lakh sq feet land situated at Patna was acquired by family members of Lalu Prasad by making payment to the sellers in cash.

"The current value of above said seven parcels of land including the land acquired through gift deeds as per existing circle rate is about ₹4.39 crore... Enquiry has revealed that parcel of land which was directly purchased by the family members of Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav from the sellers were purchased at lower rates than the prevailing circle rates," the FIR alleged.

Pegasus row: SC grants more time

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, May 20: The Supreme Court Friday extended the time for submitting the report by the apex court-appointed technical and supervisory committees to look into the Pegasus row, saying 29 "infected" mobile phones are being examined for the spyware and the process should be over in four weeks.

A bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana said the technical committee has been examining mobiles for the spyware and has also recorded statements of persons including some journalists and activists.

Standard operating procedure for testing the 'infected devices' will be finalised too, it said, adding the probe by the technical committee may be over by the May end and then the supervisory judge would be making a report for the perusal of the bench.

Referring to the receipt of an interim report, the bench, also comprising justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli, said that the technical committee, which has received 29 mobiles for examining the spyware, has developed its software for this purpose and issued notices to some government agencies and individuals including journalists. "It has prayed for time to submit its report. Now, it is under process. We will give them time," it said.

"Preferably, the process by the technical committee should be over in four weeks and the supervisory judge should be in-



The bench did not pass any order concerning the request made by senior lawyer Kapil Sibal, who has been appearing for some petitioners, that the interim report be made available to the parties

formed. The supervisory judge shall submit his report there after: List sometime in July," said the bench.

The bench did not pass any order concerning the request made by senior lawyer Kapil Sibal, who has been appearing for some petitioners, that the interim report be made available to the parties.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, said the report being an interim one need not be made public at this stage.

CEC, EC GIVE UP PERKS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 20: Seeking to set an example in austerity, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey on Friday decided to give up perks and privileges.

According to an Election Commission statement, the two have decided not to avail exemption from income tax on sumptuary allowance and to surrender two of the three Leave Travel Concessions (LTC) available each year.

After assuming the charge as the chief election commissioner last week, Kumar on Friday held the first meeting of the Election Commission, along with fellow Election Commissioner Pandey.

At present, there is one vacancy in the poll panel which had been a three-member body since October 1993.

"Among other things, the Commission reviewed the perks and privileges available to the CEC and Election Commissioners (ECs), including the income tax exemptions given to them on sumptuary allowance," the statement said.

The CEC and ECs draw salary and perquisites as per Section 3 of the Election Commission (Conditions of Service of Election Commissioners and Transaction of Business) Act, 1991.

They are entitled to a monthly sumptuary allowance of ₹34,000. There is no income tax payable by the CEC and ECs on this allowance. They are also entitled to three LTCs in a year for self, spouse and dependent members of the family.

SHORT TAKES

Man killed

Jammu: A man died after being struck by lightning in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district Friday. Police said a man identified as Irshad Ahmad of Satalan village in Poonch was struck by lightning in the morning at his home. "He fell unconscious and was rushed to a hospital where doctors declared him brought dead", police said.

Man held

Kanpur: A 70-year-old man has been arrested for brutally killing his son and daughter-in-law at their house in Ram Bagh area of Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh. The newly married couple were found dead in their house under the Bajaria police circle, with their throats allegedly slit open on Thursday. The Joint Commissioner of Police, Anand Prakash Tiwari said one Shivam Tiwari, 27, lived with his wife Julie, 25, and his family in the building where the murders took place. The couple had got married at a mass marriage event organised a few months ago.

Narrow escape

Patna: Over 40 passengers had a narrow escape after three boats capsized in the Ganga off Maner town on the outskirts on Patna on Thursday, officials said. The accident occurred due to strong storms in Patna and more than 15 districts in Bihar. A majority of the passengers were boatmen and vegetable vendors who were crossing the river. While the boats were in the middle, strong winds started to blow and the boatmen were unable to control the vessels.

Shops gutted

Kolkata: A few shops in central Kolkata's New Market area were gutted in a fire that broke out early on Friday morning creating panic in the locality, an officer of the fire department said. No casualty was reported in the blaze. Five fire tenders took around 30 minutes to douse the flames which broke out at around 3 AM, the officer added. "It seems that the fire was due to an electrical short circuit inside a garment shop. Inflammable materials kept inside it helped the fire spread to adjacent shops. Forensic tests will confirm the exact cause," he said.

8 hurt in accident

Srinagar: Eight persons were injured in a road accident in J&K's Shopian district Friday, police said. Police sources said 8 persons were injured when a vehicle they were travelling in, overturned in Padpawan area of Shopian. The over-speeding vehicle overturned at Padpawan village of Shopian district.

MONKEYPOX OUTBREAK

GOVT ASKS ICMR, NCDC TO BE VIGILANT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 20: Amid Monkeypox cases being reported from some countries, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has directed the National Centre for Disease Control and the ICMR to keep a close watch on the situation, official sources said Friday.

The Union health ministry has also directed airport and port health officers to be vigilant, they said. "They have been instructed that any sick passenger with a travel history to Monkeypox-affected countries be isolated and samples sent to the BSL4 facility of the National Institute of Virology in Pune for an investigation," an official source said. He added, "The Union Health Minister on Thursday directed the National Centre for Disease Control and the ICMR to keep a close watch and monitor the situation in India." Cases of Monkeypox have been reported from the UK, the USA, Portugal, Spain, and some other European countries.

In humans, the symptoms of Monkeypox are similar to but milder than those of smallpox. According to the WHO, Monkeypox typically manifests in humans with fever, rashes and swollen lymph nodes and may lead to a range of medical complications. Monkeypox is usually a self-limited disease with the symptoms lasting from two to four weeks.



Locals collect drinking water from a tanker amid a water crisis at Sanjay Camp Chanakyapuri in New Delhi
PTI PHOTO

AZAM WALKS OUT OF JAIL AFTER 27 MONTHS

Khan's son and MLA Abdullah Azam, Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohiya) leader Shivpal Singh Yadav and a large number of supporters welcomed the senior SP leader

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sitapur (UP), May 20: Senior Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan walked out of the Sitapur Jail in Uttar Pradesh on Friday morning, a day after the Supreme Court granted him interim bail in a cheating case.

Khan's son and MLA Abdullah

Azam, Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohiya) leader Shivpal Singh Yadav and a large number of supporters welcomed the senior SP leader upon his release after 27 months.

Azam Khan had 88 cases, including that of land grabbing, registered against him. With the Supreme Court granting him in-



terim bail in a cheating case, Khan is now on bail in all the cases he faces. Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav welcomed Khan's release.

"Hearty welcome to senior SP leader and MLA Azam Khan on his release on bail. With this bail decision, the Supreme Court has set new standards of justice. He will certainly be acquitted in all other false cases. Lies have moments, not centuries," Yadav said in a tweet.

Shivpal Singh Yadav posted on Twitter pictures with Khan outside the jail. The jailor of Sitapur

CBI told to give Karti notice before arrest

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 20: A special CBI court here Friday told the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) that Congress MP Karti Chidambaram needs to be given written notice three days prior if the probe agency needs to arrest him in connection with the Chinese visa case.

The observation was made by the Special CBI Judge M.K. Nagpal, while hearing the anticipatory bail application filed by Karti Chidambaram.

During the course of the hearing, CBI said that the application is not maintainable at this stage and suggested 48 hours of notice in advance on which the court said: "At least three working days time may be given to the applicant for having recourse to legal remedies in case CBI intends to arrest him."

Lack of strategy, skills biggest barriers for AI adoption: Report

More than 3 in 4 IT professionals in India (78 per cent) said that at least a quarter of the workforce at their company requires access to company data to make decisions

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 20: Seven out of 10 IT professionals in India think that the lack of a strategy is the largest barrier companies face in developing explainable and trustworthy artificial intelligence (AI), a new report has said.

Another greatest barrier to successful AI adoption is limited skills, expertise or knowledge (38 per cent) for organisations exploring or deploying AI in the country.

"As the adoption of AI grows steadily, organisations in India are

using AI to augment their core business processes and services to better serve their clients, employees, and important stakeholders," said Siddhesh Naik, Data, AI & Automation Sales Leader, IBM Technology Sales, IBM India South Asia.

The report saw three trends clearly emerging in India. First, automation use cases are at the forefront of AI adoption as businesses are using AI to stay competitive and operate more efficiently. "Second, effective data management and AI deployment go hand



in hand because without the right tools, it is difficult to leverage data across their business. And third, it is critical to ensure trust in AI by explaining how the AI arrived at a decision," informed Naik. While 57 per cent of IT professionals in India said that their organisation has actively deployed AI in their business, over a quarter (27 per cent) indicate that their organisation is exploring the use of AI.

Over 50 per cent of IT professionals in India at companies exploring or deploying AI say their organisation plans to invest in re-

search and development (56 per cent), building proprietary AI solutions (54 per cent), and reskilling and workforce development (52 per cent) in the next year.

The IT professionals in India are in near unanimous agreement that it is important to their company that they can build and run AI projects wherever their data resides. More than 3 in 4 IT professionals in India (78 per cent) said that at least a quarter of the workforce at their company requires access to company data to make decisions.

international



Russia will not export food to the detriment of its own market
DMITRY MEDVEDEV | DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF RUSSIA'S SECURITY COUNCIL

TALIBAN'S NEW RULE

A senior Taliban official has repeated the group's as-yet-unfulfilled pledge to allow girls back into high schools, saying there would be "good news soon", but suggested that women who protested the regime's restrictions on women's rights should stay home, CNN reported



of the day quote

The situation has reached alarming levels in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali and Niger, where people will experience emergency levels of food insecurity during the lean season between June and August

JENS LAERKE | THE UN HUMANITARIAN OFFICE (OCHA) SPOKESPERSON

If the United States acts logically, an agreement in the Vienna talks on the revival of the 2015 nuclear deal will be within reach

HOSSEIN AMIR ABDOLLAHIAN | IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

The people of Pakistan were demanding the return of Nawaz Sharif to Pakistan to solve their problems

MARYAM NAWAZ SHARIF | PAKISTAN MUSLIM LEAGUE NAWAZ VICE PRESIDENT

Russia to halt gas flows to Finland



TOUGH ACTION Finland is the latest country to lose the energy supply, which is used to generate electricity and power industry, after rejecting Russia's decree

Poland and Bulgaria were cut off late last month but had prepared for the loss of natural gas or are getting supplies from other countries

AGENCIES

Copenhagen, May 20: Russia will cut off natural gas to Finland after the Nordic country that applied for NATO membership this week refused President Vladimir Putin's demand to pay in rubles, the Finnish state-owned energy company said Friday, the latest escalation over European energy amid the war in Ukraine.

Putin has declared that "unfriendly foreign buyers" open two accounts in state-owned Gazprombank, one to pay in euros and dollars as specified in contracts and another in rubles. Italian energy company Eni said this week that it was "starting procedures" to open a euro and a ruble account.

The European Commission, the European Union's executive arm, has said the system does not violate EU sanctions if countries make a payment in the currency listed in their contracts and then formally signal that the payment process is concluded. But it says opening a second account in rubles would breach sanctions.

That's left countries scrambling to decide what to do next. Analysts say the EU stance is ambiguous enough to allow the Kremlin to keep trying to undermine unity among the 27 member countries — but losing major European cus-

Russia to sign up over-40s for Army

London: In a sign of Russia's urgent need to bolster its war effort in Ukraine, parliament said Friday it would consider a bill to allow Russians over 40 and foreigners over 30 to sign up for the military. The website of the State Duma, parliament's lower house, said the move would enable the military to utilise the skills of older professionals. "For the use of high-precision weapons, the operation of weapons and military equipment, highly professional specialists are needed. Experience shows that they become such by the age of 40-45," it said. Currently, only Russians aged 18-40 and foreigners aged 18-30 can enter into a first contract with the military.

each day but build enough reserves before winter from scarce worldwide supplies.

Finland refused the new payment system, with energy company Gasum saying its supply from Russia would be halted Saturday. CEO Mika Wiljanen called the cut-off "highly regrettable."

Natural gas accounted for just 6 per cent of Finland's total energy consumption in 2020, Finnish broadcaster YLE said. Almost all of that gas came from Russia.

G7 nations commit \$19.8bln aid to Ukraine

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Koenigswinter, May 20: The Group of Seven leading economies agreed Friday to provide \$19.8 billion in economic aid to Ukraine to ensure its finances do not hinder its ability to defend itself from Russia's invasion.

German Finance Minister Christian Lindner told reporters that \$9.5 billion of the total amount was mobilised at meetings of the G-7 finance ministers in Koenigswinter, Germany, this week.

"We agreed that Ukraine's financial situation must have no influence on Ukraine's ability to defend itself successfully," he said. "We need to do our utmost to end this war."

Russia's invasion touched on almost every topic of the finance ministers' meetings this week, from the need to reduce reliance on Russian energy to reforming relationships between countries to maintain economic stability.



Russia's war of aggression is causing global economic disruptions, impacting the security of global energy supply, food production and exports of food and agricultural commodities, as well as the functioning of global supply chains in general
G-7 STATEMENT

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and other leaders spoke this week about the need for allies to put together enough additional aid to help Ukraine "get through" the Russian invasion.

"All of us pledged to do what's necessary to fill the gap," Yellen said Thursday as the ministers finished their first of two days of talks.

"We're going to put together the resources that they need." The

International Monetary Fund's latest world economic outlook says Ukraine's economy is projected to shrink by 35 per cent this year and next.

The finance ministers of the G-7 — which includes Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the US — also have grappled with deepening inflation, food security concerns and other economic issues during their talks.

A communique marking the end of their meetings addressed commitments to addressing debt distress in low-income countries, trying to ease the fallout from the coronavirus pandemic and staving off inflation rates "that have reached levels not seen for decades."

As the finance ministers were meeting in Germany, the US overwhelmingly approved its own \$40 billion infusion of military and economic aid for Ukraine and its allies. A portion of the US funding was included in the G-7 package for Ukraine.

SHORT TAKES

Heatwave: Parts of Spain on alert

Madrid: Large parts of Spain were under alert Friday as a wave of intense heat began sweeping across the country, leaving residents sweltering through May temperatures that rank among the hottest in two decades. A mass of hot, dry air carrying dust from North Africa has pushed temperatures up to 15 degrees above average, with the mercury topping 40 degrees Celsius in parts of the country. The State Meteorological Agency said it expected the "unusual and extreme" temperatures to peak Saturday.

Oz polls: Stage set for two-way contest

Canberra: Australia, which is going to polls Saturday, is set to witness a two-way contest between Prime Minister and Liberal Party leader Scott Morrison and opposition Labor Party leader Anthony Albanese. Australian Parliament has two Houses — House of Representatives (Lower House) and Senate (Upper House). The maximum term of House of Representatives is three years. Of the 151 seats, a party has to win at least 76 seats to capture power.

11 soldiers killed in Jihadis' attack

Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso): Eleven soldiers were killed and nearly two dozen injured by jihadis targeting a military base in eastern Burkina Faso, the government said. Injured soldiers have been taken to hospital and aerial support killed 15 attackers trying to flee after Thursday's attack in Madojari in Kimpingna province, Burkina Faso's army said in a statement. For six years the West African country has been ravaged by violence linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group that has killed thousands and displaced nearly 2 million people.

4 migrants dead

Tunis: Four migrants died and 10 others went missing after a boat carrying 58 migrants sank off Tunisia's eastern coast, authorities said. A total of 44 migrants onboard the boat were rescued off the coast of Sfax city, and search was still underway for the missing migrants, the Tunis Afrique Presse (TAP) reported. These migrants were trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea to Italy, according to the report. Located in the central Mediterranean, Tunisia is one of the most popular transit points for illegal immigration to Europe, *Xinhua* news agency reported.

India denounces Pak's propaganda

India's response came after Bilawal raked up the issue of J&K the abrogation of Article 370 and the recent order by the Delimitation Commission during his remarks at the Council debate

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

United Nations, May 20: India Friday slammed Pakistan for making "unwarranted remarks" on Jammu and Kashmir, saying comments made by its Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in the UN Security Council are a "pavlovian response" aimed to misuse any forum and every topic to propagate false and malicious propaganda against New Delhi.

"Pakistan Representative made unwarranted remarks, which symbolises nothing but a pavlovian response aimed to misuse any forum, and every topic, to propagate false and malicious propaganda against my country," Counsellor in India's Permanent Mission to the UN Rajesh Parihar said.

India exercised the Right of Reply at the Security Council open debate on 'Maintenance of International Peace & Security - Conflict and Food Security' organised by the US, the Council President.



"The Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh were, and will always remain an integral and inalienable part of India. This includes the areas that are under the illegal occupation of Pakistan. No amount of rhetoric and propaganda from any country can deny this fact," Parihar asserted. The Pakistan foreign minister, who is on a maiden visit to the US, also raked up the Kashmir issue while responding to questions during a press conference in New York Thursday.

"As far as the question of our relationship with India is concerned,



AFTER FIRE FURY: A woman searches for metal scraps from remains of burned houses that were gutted during a fire at a poor bayside village in the district of Tondo, Manila, Philippines. Investigators said about 300 families became homeless after the fire that happened Thursday night

PTI PHOTO

Musk denies he sexually harassed flight attendant

REUTERS

New York, May 20: Tesla Inc Chief Executive Elon Musk has denounced as "utterly untrue" claims in a news report that he sexually harassed a flight attendant on a private jet in 2016.

Shares of Tesla (TSLA.O) skidded more than 6% Friday.

Business Insider reported Thursday that Musk's private company SpaceX paid \$250,000 in 2018 to settle a sexual harassment claim from an unnamed private jet flight attendant who accused Musk of exposing himself to her. The article quoted an anonymous person who said she was a friend of the flight attendant. The friend had provided a statement as part of the private settlement process, according to the article.

"I have a challenge to this liar who claims their friend saw me 'exposed' - describe just one thing, anything at all (scars, tattoos, ...) that isn't known by the public. She



won't be able to do so, because it never happened," Musk tweeted late Thursday. Musk and SpaceX did not respond to Reuters requests for comment on the Business Insider story or on tweets by the billionaire. In a statement to Reuters Friday, Business Insider said: "We stand by our story which is based on documents and interviews and which speaks for itself."

Business Insider quoted the friend of the flight attendant as saying that in addition to allegedly exposing himself, Musk rubbed the flight attendant's thigh and offered to buy her a horse if she would "do more" during an in-flight massage.

China becomes wild card in Lanka's raging debt crisis

AGENCIES

Beijing, May 20: China says its initiative to build ports and other infrastructure across Asia and Africa, paid for with Chinese loans, will boost trade. But in a cautionary tale for borrowers, Sri Lanka's multibillion-dollar debt to Beijing threatens to hinder efforts to resolve a financial crisis so severe that the Indian Ocean nation cannot import food or gasoline.

Sri Lanka's struggle is extreme, but it reflects conditions across dozens of countries from South Pacific islands through some of the poorest in Asia and Africa that

have signed onto Chinese President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative. The total debt of poor countries is rising, raising risks others might run into trouble. Sri Lanka's 22 million people are in dire straits.

Foreign currency ran out in April, leading to food shortages, power cuts and protests that forced a prime minister to resign. Payment on \$51 billion of debt to China, Japan and other foreign lenders was suspended.

Sri Lanka and other poor Asian countries welcome Chinese financing. The Asian Development Bank says the region needs to invest \$1.7 trillion a year in infra-



structure to keep economies growing. But some, including Sri Lankan critics of their government's spending, say Chinese-led projects cost too much or do too little for their economies.

China ranks third among Sri Lanka's creditors after Japan and the ADB and accounts for 10% of the debt, but Xi's government has an outside potential to disrupt a settlement.

SL CLOSES SCHOOLS

Colombo: Sri Lankan authorities Friday closed schools and asked public officials not to come to work in a desperate move to prepare for an acute fuel shortage that is expected to last days amid the nation's worst economic crisis in decades. The Public Administration Ministry asked the public officials — except for those who maintain essential services — not to come to work on Friday "in a view of current fuel shortage and issues in transport facilities" across the country.

Chicago shooting leaves two dead, eight wounded

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chicago, May 20: Two people are dead and another eight wounded following a shooting near a fast food restaurant just blocks from Chicago's famed Magnificent Mile shopping district that sent bystanders scattering, authorities said.

The shooting happened about 10:40 p.m. Thursday near a McDonald's on the city's Near North Side. One person was taken into cus-



tody and a weapon was recovered, police said in statement.

A subway train that travels through the area was stopped between stations as police searched for a weapon on the rails, Chief Juan Hernandez of the city's fire department said, according to the Chicago Tribune. Hernandez said the department evacuated passengers at about 11:30 p.m. Trains on the line were running as normal Friday, the Chicago Transit Authority said.

Police have not released details about what led to the shooting, but a witness, 18-year-old Deonna Jackson, said it appeared to stem from a fight outside the restaurant.

The shooting comes amid a surge in deadly violence in Chicago in recent years, and follows a fatal shooting last weekend in downtown Millennium Park that killed a teen and led the city to tighten a curfew for young people.

of the day quote

If you want to invest in EVs, infrastructure and components (in India), you need to look at larger markets. We look at markets outside of India and that knowledge we bring back to India to fuel growth here

SUNJAY KAPUR
CHAIRMAN, SONA BLW PRECISION FORGINGS

The steel ministry is in regular talks with other ministries, including the railways and coal, to ensure smooth supply of coal to steel manufacturers

FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE | UNION MINISTER

The seven new geographical areas contribute 7 per cent of sales currently and we see this rising to 40 per cent in next 5 years

PAWAN KUMAR
DIRECTOR (COMMERCIAL), IGL

SHORT TAKES

Goyal to lead India at WEF in Davos

New Delhi: Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal will lead the delegation of ministers, chief ministers and business leaders at the World Economic Forum in Davos from May 23-25, an official statement said Friday. "This event would further help reinforce India's position as an important and relevant stakeholder in shaping the global narrative, particularly as India assumes the presidency of the G-20 in 2023," the commerce and industry ministry said.

IDBI Bank to exit insurance JV

Mumbai: IDBI Bank NSE 1.24 % Friday said it has entered into a pact with Ageas Insurance International NV to sell its entire stake in the joint venture Ageas Federal Life Insurance Company Ltd for over ₹580 crore. "We hereby inform you that IDBI Bank has entered a share purchase agreement with Ageas Insurance International NV (Buyer) May 19, 2022 to sell IDBI Bank's entire stake of 20,00,00,000 equity shares in Ageas Federal Life Insurance Company Ltd (AFLI) pursuant to exercise of call option by Ageas," IDBI Bank said in a regulatory filing.

EPFO adds 15.32L subscribers in Mar

New Delhi: Retirement fund body EPFO has added 15.32 lakh subscribers in March 2022, over 19 per cent more than 12.85 lakh enrolled in February this year. The provisional EPFO payroll data released Friday highlighted that it has added 15.32 lakh net subscribers in March 2022, a labour ministry statement said. According to the statement, a month-on-month comparison of payroll data shows an increase of 2.47 lakh net subscribers in March 2022 compared to the net additions during February 2022.

NTPC profit jumps 12% in March qtr

New Delhi: State-owned power giant NTPC Friday posted a nearly 12 per cent jump in consolidated net profit to ₹5,199.51 crore in the March quarter, mainly on the back of higher revenues. The consolidated net profit of the company was at ₹4649.49 crore in the quarter ended March 31, 2021, according to a regulatory filing. Total income in the latest March quarter rose to ₹37,724.42 crore from ₹31,687.24 crore in the same period a year ago.



CCI needs to have a proactive understanding of mergers and acquisitions. Cartelisation is going to be a challenge

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER

FDI surges to highest ever \$83.57bn in '21-22

The ministry said that the foreign inflows are increasing despite challenges like a military operation in Ukraine and Covid-19 pandemic

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 20: India has received the "highest ever" total foreign direct investments (FDI) of \$83.57 billion in 2021-22 on account of various measures like policy reforms and ease of doing business taken by the government, the commerce and industry ministry said Friday.

Total FDI comprises equity inflows, reinvested earnings and other capital.

"India has recorded the highest ever annual FDI inflow of \$83.57 billion in 2021-22," the ministry noted in a statement.

The ministry also informed that FDI equity inflow in manufacturing sectors has increased by 76 per cent in 2021-22 (\$21.34 billion) compared to 2020-21 (\$12.09 billion). The ministry however, did not disclose FDI equity or fresh foreign inflows in the country during 2021-22.

These trends "are an endorsement of its status as a preferred investment destination amongst global investors," the ministry added.

Karnataka is the top recipient state with a 38 per cent share of the



total FDI equity inflow reported during 2021-22 followed by Maharashtra (26 per cent) and Delhi (14 per cent), according to the statement.

"The steps taken by the government during the last eight years have borne fruit as is evident from the ever-increasing volumes of FDI inflow being received into the country, setting new records," it said.

The government has put in place a liberal and transparent policy

for foreign investments, wherein most of the sectors are open to FDI under the automatic route.

"To further liberalise and simplify FDI policy for providing ease of doing business and attract investments, reforms have been undertaken recently across sectors, such as coal mining, contract manufacturing, digital media, single-brand retail trading, civil aviation, defence, insurance and telecom," it added.

MUSK'S NET WORTH SHRINKS BY \$12 BILLION

Tech billionaire Elon Musk recently saw over \$12 billion wiped off his net worth following Tesla stock's recent drop and the S&P Global Ratings' decision to boot Tesla from its ESG index. Musk's decline in net worth also comes amidst his announcement that he would no longer be voting for a candidate from the Democratic Party in the next elections, reports Teslarati. Despite this, Musk still stands as the world's richest person with \$210 billion to his name



UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES CCPA issues notice to Ola and Uber

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 20: Consumer protection regulator CCPA Friday said it has issued notices to cab aggregators Ola and Uber for unfair trade practices and violation of consumer rights.

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has given 15-days time for these two companies to reply to the notices. "We have issued notices to both Ola and Uber. Most of the consumer complaints received in the last one year are related to the deficiency in services and other unfair trade practices," CCPA Chief Commissioner Nidhi Khare said.

The authority pointed out that a significant number of complaints have been lodged by consumers across the country on multiple issues, which affect their rides booked through both the ride-hailing platforms. The meeting was attended by representatives of Ola, Uber, Meru, Rapido, and Jagnu.

"The deficiency in services includes lack of proper response from customer support, driver refusing to take payment by online mode and insisting on the cash only; the higher amount charged despite going on the same route previously at a lesser charge, unprofessional driver behaviour and driver refusing to switch on AC when the consumer is promised AC ride on the app," the CCPA said.

RBI approves dividend of ₹30,307cr to Centre

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 20: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will pay the government ₹30,307 crore as dividend for the fiscal year ended March 31, down from the second highest payout ever of ₹99,122 crore paid in the previous year.

The board approved the transfer of ₹30,307 crore as surplus to the central government for the accounting year 2021-22 while deciding to maintain the Contingency Risk Buffer at 5.50 per cent, RBI said in a statement.

The decision on the dividend payment was taken in the 596th meeting of the Central Board of Directors of RBI, headed by Governor Shaktikanta Das, held Friday.

Earlier, RBI used to follow July-June period earlier as against government's April-March financial year.

For the current fiscal, the government had estimated a receipt of ₹73,948 crore as dividend revenue from the central bank and public sector financial institutions. This is 27 per cent lower than the ₹1.01 lakh crore received in FY22.

RBI's latest dividend is down compared to last year as it may have taken a hit on the income side, with the central bank likely receiving lower interest income from its liquidity management operations.

In 2018-19, RBI paid a total of



Last year in May, RBI declared a dividend of ₹99,122 crore for the nine-month period (July 2020 to March 2021)

₹1.76 lakh crore to the government of which ₹1.23 lakh crore was dividend and ₹52,637 crore was towards excess provisions identified as per the revised Economic Capital Framework (ECF).

RBI also decided to maintain a Contingency Risk Buffer at 5.50 per cent in line with recommendations of the Bimal Jalan Committee report. The panel had prescribed a Contingency Risk Buffer range of 6.5 per cent to 5.5 per cent.

The meeting of the Central Board was attended by Deputy Governors Mahesh Kumar Jain, Michael Debabrata Patra, M Rajeshwar Rao and T Rabi Sankar. Other Directors of the Central Board, Satish K Marathe, S Gurumurthy, Revathy Iyer and Sachin Chaturvedi also attended the meeting.

20% FALL FROM RECORD CLOSE

S&P 500 on pace to confirm bear market

The S&P 500 and the Nasdaq are set for their seventh straight week of losses, their longest losing streak since the end of the dotcom bubble in 2001. The Dow is on track for its eighth consecutive weekly decline, its longest since 1932 during the Great Depression

REUTERS

Washington, May 20: The benchmark S&P 500 index is trading down 20% from its January 3 record close in volatile trading Friday, as investors fretted over the impact of rising inflation on earnings and the fallout of interest rate hikes on economic growth.

A close of 20% or more below that level will confirm the S&P 500 is in a bear market for the first time since the 2020 Wall Street plunge brought on by the coronavirus pandemic.

The tech-heavy Nasdaq is already in a bear market, down 30.7% from its record close in November



2021. Ten of the 11 major S&P sectors declined, with consumer discretionary and industrials down 3.5% and 2.2%, respectively.

Apple Inc, Google-owner Alphabet Inc, Nvidia Corp and Tesla slid between 2.5% and 9.9%, weighing the most on the S&P 500 and the Nasdaq. Both the indexes had climbed above 1% in morning trading.

Shares of Deere & Co tumbled 12.1% and were the biggest drag on the industrial sector after the heavy equipment maker posted downbeat quarterly revenue.

"In this process of a bear market, it is very common to have these intraday swings and counter cyclical rallies in it," said Will Nasgovitz, chief executive officer at Heartland Advisors. "We are going to probably see a bear market (in S&P 500). The market is reflecting that the economy is not standing extremely tall, there are some cracks in the foundation."

Sensex, Nifty claw back lost ground

Mumbai: The Sensex surged over 1,500 points while the Nifty reclaimed the 16,000-mark Friday, reversing the previous session's sharp decline in tandem with a recovery across global markets as investors resorted to bargain-hunting. Snapping its two-day losing run, the BSE Sensex rallied 1,534.16 points or 2.91 per cent to close at 54,326.39. This was its biggest single-day jump in over three months. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty soared 456.75 points or 2.89 per cent to 16,266.15. All the 30 Sensex firms ended in the green. The rupee slipped 7 paise to close at an all-time low of 77.63 against US dollar Friday, weighed down by unabated foreign fund outflows and elevated crude oil prices. On a weekly basis, the Sensex climbed 1,532.77 points or 2.90%, while the Nifty gained 484 points or 3.06%. Foreign institutional investors remained net sellers in the capital market Friday as they offloaded shares worth ₹1,265.41 crore, as per stock exchange data.

WORLD'S MOST EXPENSIVE CAR

THE SALE SMASHED THE PREVIOUS RECORD FOR THE MOST EXPENSIVE CAR SOLD AT AUCTION BY MORE THAN \$95 MILLION AND TOPPED THE \$70 MILLION RECORD FOR A CAR SOLD PRIVATELY

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Toronto, May 20: A vintage 1955 Mercedes-Benz has been sold for \$143 million (about ₹1,100 crore), making it the most expensive car ever sold at an auction.

Canada-based RM Sotheby's announced that it has auctioned off a 1955 Mercedes-Benz 300 SLR Uhlenhaut Coupe, earlier this month, for 135 million euros, or about \$143 million, reports CNBC.

The winning bid was made by British car collector, advisor and dealer Simon Kidston on behalf of an unnamed client. Kidston lobbied the Mercedes-Benz board for

18 months to consider selling the car, the report said.

The sale, first reported by Hagerty Insider, took place May 5 in a secretive and highly unusual auction at the Mercedes-Benz Museum in Stuttgart, Germany. Only selected collectors and Mercedes-Benz customers were invited to attend.

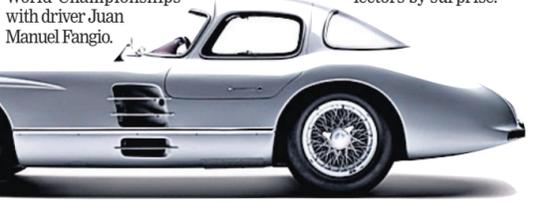
The 300 SLR Uhlenhaut Coupe is one of only two created in 1955 and is regarded as one of the most prized cars in auto history. It was

built by Mercedes' race department and named after its chief engineer and designer, Rudolf Uhlenhaut.

The car was based on the company's successful W 196 R Grand Prix car, which won two World Championships with driver Juan Manuel Fangio.

The 300 SLR had a larger, 3.0-liter engine and was able to reach 180 mph, making it one of the fastest road-legal cars at the time.

The Mercedes-Benz company owned both of the 300 SLR cars, and the May 5 sale took many collectors by surprise.



BIZ BUZZ

STUDS & DROPS FESTIVAL AT MALABAR

Bhubaneswar: Malabar Gold and Diamonds' Bhubaneswar showroom unveiled an exclusive 'Studs & Drops Festival' featuring the handpicked jewellery in bridal, party wear, and everyday wear collections. The event was inaugurated in the presence of distinguished customers and management team members. The festival, scheduled from May 20 to May 29, showcases elegant and versatile pieces of jewellery crafted in gold and studded with diamonds and precious stones at VA starting from 12.9% onwards. Apart from being an opportunity to buy exquisite jewellery, the festival is expected to be a visual treat for the jewellery lovers of the city. The show features the exclusive brands of Malabar Gold & Diamonds such as MINE - diamond jewellery, ERA - uncut diamond jewellery, PRECIA - precious gemstone jewellery, ETHNIX - handcrafted jewellery, Divine - Indian heritage jewellery and Starlet - kid's jewellery.



Gosai Furniture opens new store in City

Bhubaneswar: Gosai Furniture, a leading furniture solutions brand Friday launched its new store here at Laxmisagar aiming to enhance quality of life of people through its innovative and exquisite furniture designs made with pure Sheesham wood. To give a royal feel to its customer at the home and office space the company thoughtfully designed its product after taking due consideration of the needs of customers. The store will cater to customers of capital who wish to own Rajasthani style furniture. On the occasion, Sita Ram, Proprietor, Gosai Furniture said, "We are extremely delighted to open our new store in Bhubaneswar, which has great potential for players like us. With rapid growth in the housing and real estate sector, we see huge growth opportunities in this area. Our products are of high quality and made of solid wood will add sparkle to the living room and office space. We eagerly look forward to serving our customers." Bollywood actress Poonam Mishra graced the occasion and inaugurated the store as chief guest.

Jet Airways gets airline licence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 20: Jet Airways will be able to take to the skies once again, after aviation regulator DGCA Friday granted it a revalidated Air Operator Certificate (AOC), allowing the airline to resume commercial flight operations. Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) chief Arun Kumar told PTI the AOC has been granted to the airline, which saw turbulent times before being grounded three years ago.

In its old avatar, the airline was owned by Naresh Goyal and had operated its last flight April 17, 2019, due to financial distress. The Jalan-Kalrock Consortium is currently the promoter of Jet Airways.

TO FLY AGAIN BY SEPT



The airline intends to restart commercial flight operations in the July-September quarter.

With DGCA officials on board, the airline had successfully operated five proving flights May 15 and 17. Proving flights are the last step before an airline can obtain an AOC.

In a statement, Jet Airways said with the receipt of the AOC,

Today marks a new dawn for not just Jet Airways, but also for the Indian aviation industry. We are committed to making this an extraordinary success story in Indian aviation and in Indian business

MURARI LAL JALAN | LEAD MEMBER, JALAN-KALROCK CONSORTIUM

the Jalan-Kalrock Consortium has fulfilled all the conditions under the resolution plan approved by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). In June 2021, the resolution plan was approved by the NCLT.

Khimji Jewellers to celebrate 11th anniv of Cuttack store; announces lucrative offers

Cuttack: Khimji Jewellers, the oldest and most trusted jewellery brand of Odisha, with a legacy of 86 years will celebrate the 11th anniversary of its iconic Cuttack Store May 23, 2022. To mark the occasion, the jewellery major announced a very lucrative offer of flat 4.5% off on total value of gold jewellery for its valued customers of the city. Stretching the opportunity a bit more for the customers, the jewellery brand has spanned the offer validity from May 20 to May 29, 2022 exclusively in its Cuttack store. Speaking on the occasion, Mitesh Khimji, Director -Khimji Jewellers, said, "We are delighted to celebrate 11 successful years in the Silver City. We are grateful and thankful to our valued customers for trusting us all these years and making it the most loved jewellery brand of entire Cuttack. This offer is a token of love from the house of Khimji Jewellers and I hope our customers would definitely love to grab it. Khimji jewellers looks forward to serve more customers and wishes to continue this journey together."



Spore's Zilingo fires Indian-origin CEO

REUTERS

Singapore, May 20: Singapore-based Zilingo said Friday it had fired Chief Executive Ankita Bose after an independent investigation into complaints about what the fashion technology startup described as "serious financial irregularities".

Bose, 30, the face of Zilingo at industry forums and investor meetings, told Reuters she was wrongfully dismissed.

"The board has wrongfully terminated me today for 'insubordination' without giving me a chance to address fully the concerns that have been raised," she said. Seven-year-old Zilingo was plunged into crisis after its board suspended Bose, the company's co-founder, in March with the backing of major investors, pending the probe.

The company said in an email statement it had decided to terminate Bose's "employment with cause, and reserves the right to pursue appropriate legal action."

Bose said in her statement to Reuters that she had informed the board this week in detail about "the amount of harassment and duress" she had undergone in the past few years.

"At the point of my purported termination, I have yet to be presented with the findings of both Kroll and Deloitte and my reports being incomplete," she wrote.

Sources familiar with the situation said Kroll conducted the probe into the claims of "financial irregularities" and Deloitte was tapped to probe Bose's "harassment" claims.

DC FACE MI IN VIRTUAL QUARTERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 20: Delhi Capitals will have their fortune in their own hands as they aim to pull all stops against season's favourite whipping boys Mumbai Indians in what will be a virtual IPL 'quarterfinal' clash for Rishabh Pant's men.

While DC have everything to play for, MI will like to cap off the season on a winning note although it would count for little for the five-time champions, who suffered due to poor auction strategy.

In case of Mumbai Indians, the only area of interest is whether legendary Sachin Tendulkar's son

Arjun finally gets a game after having warmed the bench for 27 straight games across two seasons.

Skipper Rohit Sharma has indicated that they would blood some new faces in the final game. So far 22 players have played in 13 games.

The equation is as simple as it can get for the Capitals (+0.255) as they simply need to beat Mumbai Indians to pip Royal Challengers Bangalore (-0.253) on better net run-rate.

While MI have endured their worst season this time, Capitals have been guilty of inconsistency with seven wins and six defeats in their 13 games. In fact, it was their victory over RCB in the previous

game that ensured back-to-back full points for them.

There have been days when Capitals have been extra-ordinary, with a David Warner (427 runs) or Mitchell Marsh (251 runs) or Rovman Powell (207 runs) upping the ante in batting. Spinners Kuldeep Yadav (20 wickets, 8.45), Axar Patel (6 wickets, 7.37) and Lalit Yadav (4 wickets, 8.33) have also done a decent job with the ball in a number of games.

However there are two areas where Capitals have flourished this season. One has been the pace department which has blown hot 'n' cold throughout, save Khaleel

Ahmed (16 wickets at 8.08). Shardul Thakur despite his 13 wickets has conceded runs at more than nine runs per over.

And second and more importantly is skipper Pant's (301 runs) inability to convert some of his good starts into big scores. What has worked for DC towards the business end is Marsh's batting form and his two half-centuries which has gone a long way in keeping them alive.

Mustafizur Rahaman (8 wickets at 7.62) was fantastic in the games that he played but the combination requirement has prevented Ricky Ponting from playing him in more games.

However what will ease a bit of pressure off Ponting ahead of a high-stakes game is Sarfaraz Khan's form as an opener. After Prithvi Shaw was indisposed due to a bout of typhoid (he is still recuperating), Ponting used Kona Bharat and it didn't work out well for the team.

As far as MI is concerned, the less they said about this season, better it is for them. Save NT Tilak Varma's emergence as a stylish batter, who could be the next MI legend alongside Tim David, who has taken over the mantle from Kieron Pollard, there is not much to write home about.



Ashwin helps RR beat CSK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 20: Ravichandran Ashwin (40 n o, 23b, 2x4, 3x6), once again, proved his utility with the bat when his team needed it the most as Rajasthan Royals defeated Chennai Super Kings by five wickets to finish the IPL league phase in Top-2 here Friday.

Ashwin remained unbeaten as RR completed the chase of 151 with two balls to go, grabbing the second place to set up a blockbuster clash with Gujarat Titans in the first playoff next Tuesday.

Moeen Ali (93, 57b, 13x4, 3x6) was the top scorer for CSK before RR staged a remarkable comeback to restrict the yellow brigade to 150/6 in the allotted 20 overs.

Young Yashasvi Jaiswal (59, 44b, 8x4, 1x6) got RR off to a brisk start. In fact, by the time the first over of their innings came to an end, RR qualified for the playoffs on net run-rate, leaving RCB and Delhi Capitals to fight for the fourth spot.

Simarjeet Singh (1/18) struck early for CSK, sending back the dangerous Jos Buttler (2). The 20-year-old Jaiswal then added 51 runs for the second wicket with captain Sanju Samson (15).

However, Samson again failed to translate his start into a substantial contribution as left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner (1/15) had the batter caught and bowled. Devdutt Padikkal (3) did not last long



R Ashwin & Moeen Ali (inset)

and was bowled by Moeen (1/21) to leave RR at 76/3 in the 12th over; and with some work left to do.

The well-set Jaiswal got out to Prashant Solanki (2/20) while trying to clear the fence. Back from Guyana after celebrating the birth of his child, Shimron Hetmyer (6) arrived at the crease with high hopes of finishing it for RR, but

could not do much as he fell to Solanki. However, Ravichandran Ashwin kept RR in the hunt with his sensible batting at one end.

Earlier, Moeen blazed away in the powerplay but slowed down considerably thereafter as CSK struggled for runs in the back 10.

Batting first after his skipper MS Dhoni won the toss, Moeen

smashed his way to a 19-ball 50, and was 59 off 24 at the end of the first six powerplay overs, with CSK racing away to 75/1.

However, after being at the receiving end of Moeen's brutal onslaught during which the England all-rounder made a bowler of Trent Boult's calibre look like an uncapped player by bludgeoning him

I'll play IPL next year, says Dhoni

MUMBAI: MS Dhoni Friday said he will "definitely" play in the IPL next year as not doing so would be "unfair" to the city after which the Chennai Super Kings is named and which treats him like its own. With this, the 40-year-old Dhoni put to rest speculations around his participation in the lucrative league next season. "Definitely, I will play next year. It would be unfair not to say thank you to Chennai, to not play in Chennai. It won't be nice to the CSK fans," Dhoni said at the toss for CSK's final match of the ongoing season, against Rajasthan Royals. "Whether 2023 will be my last year or not, that is something we will have to see."

for 26 runs in an over; the RR bowling unit made a fine recovery.

There was a phase in the innings when CSK failed to find a boundary for 45 balls, before Dhoni (26) roared back to pull Yuzvendra Chahal (2/26) over deep square leg. Obed McCoy (2/20) then dashed Moeen's hopes for a century.

BRIEF SCORES

CSK 150/6 (Moeen Ali 93, MS Dhoni 26; Obed McCoy 2/20, Yuzvendra Chahal 2/26) **lost to RR 151/5** (Yashasvi Jaiswal 59, R Ashwin 40 n o; Prashant Solanki 2/20) **by 5 wickets.**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 20: Delhi Capitals head coach Ricky Ponting feels his team is peaking at the right time but wants his big guns to deliver in what will be a virtual IPL quarterfinal for them against Mumbai Indians here Saturday. A win against MI will take DC into the playoffs.

Speaking about their next game, Ponting said, "I have got full confidence in the players that they will have a really good game Saturday. We strung back-to-back wins together for the first time (after Delhi Capitals') previous match against Punjab Kings) in the season.

"It's been an up and down season for us, but we've played some good cricket. I always talk about playing our best cricket at the business end of the tournament and peaking at the right time. I've got a feeling that the boys are about to do that."

The Capitals have been an inconsistent lot this season, with seven wins and six defeats in their 13 games. There will be no margin for error, though, at the Wankhede Stadium Saturday. The Australian legend added that the experienced players will have to step up for the team in the crucial match against Mumbai. "Davey (Warner) has done a re-



ally good job at the top of the order. We have also seen how destructive Mitchell Marsh can be at the number three slot. And among the bowlers, Kuldeep has been exceptional and Axar has been bowling economically as well.

"Shardul has shown good form in the recent matches. There are some good signs as far as our senior players are concerned and going into big games, you need your more experienced players to step up."

TODAY'S MATCH

DC vs MI

Time: 07:30 pm

TELECAST

Star Sports channels & Hotstar

SHORT TAKES

Eves team named for FIH Hockey 5s

NEW DELHI: India Friday named a nine-member team for the inaugural edition of the FIH Women's Hockey 5s, to be held in Lausanne, Switzerland from June 4 to 5. The team will be captained by experienced goalkeeper Rajani Etimaru and Mahima Choudhary will be her deputy in the tournament which will also have Uruguay, Poland, South Africa, and hosts Switzerland. **The Team:** (Goalkeeper) Rajani Etimaru (C); (Defenders) Rashmita Minz, Ajmina Kujur; (Midfielders) Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke, Mahima Choudhary (vc), Preeti; (Forwards) Mariana Kujur, Mumtaz Khan, Rutaja Dadaso Pisal; Standbys: Suman Devi Thoudam, Rajwinder Kaur.

Lakra & co leave

BANGALORE: The Indian men's hockey team, led by Olympic bronze medallist Birendra Lakra, Friday left for Jakarta to defend the Asia Cup title. The Indian team will be up against Japan, Pakistan and hosts Indonesia in Pool A, while Malaysia, Korea, Oman and Bangladesh are grouped in Pool B. India will kick off their campaign against Pakistan Monday. "The team is definitely excited. The Asia Cup is a very prestigious tournament and we will have quite a few players who will be experiencing this tournament for the first time so naturally the mood is quite upbeat in the team," Birendra said in a Hockey India release.

Lahiri placed 78th

TULSA (OKLAHOMA): A bogey-double midway through the second nine spoiling his card, Indian golfer Anirban Lahiri returned a three-over 73 that placed him Tied 78th after the first round of the PGA Championship at the Southern Hills, here. Rory McIlroy led the field with 5-under 65, his lowest opening-round score in a major championship since the 2011 US Open, which he won. He was followed by Will Zalatoris and Tom Hoge, who carded 66 each. World No.1 and FedExCup leader Scottie Scheffler opened with a 1-over 71, while Tiger Woods winced in obvious pain as he went around in 74 and looked in danger of missing the cut at Southern Hills.

DHAWAN 'STILL HAVE LOT TO CONTRIBUTE' IN T20IS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 20: India opener Shikhar Dhawan remains an integral part of the ODI set-up but feels he still has a lot to contribute in the T20 format as he looks to play at the highest level for at least another three years.

The 36-year-old from Delhi has had another consistent run in the IPL, scoring 421 runs for Punjab Kings with one game remaining. The last time the stylish opener scored less than 300 runs in the competition was back in 2015, highlighting his consistency.

However, despite being among the runs and leading India on tour of Sri Lanka last year, Dhawan did not find a place in the last T20 World Cup squad. However, he believes his experience can come in handy in the T20 set-up.

"Though I remain an integral part of the team, I still feel that I can contribute in the shortest for-

mat because of my experience. I have been quite doing well in the T20 format. Whatever role I have been given I have done well.

"I have managed to stay consistent in the formats that I am playing, whether it is the IPL or at the domestic level and I am enjoying it," Dhawan told this agency in an exclusive interview.

Dhawan wants to carry on for at least three years. "I don't put unnecessary pressure on myself. It's a race that never ends. If I get into that mindset, I will not be happy and it's not good energy. My ODI average is 45.53. I am always looking for growth, analysing if I can get better.

"We as cricketers have to remain on our toes and fit to be relevant in the race to represent India. I am playing for the next three years at least. I have been batting quite well for the past few years, I am hopeful and positive that the way I am performing, there are many milestones to achieve."

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangkok, May 20: Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu eked out a three-game win over World No.1 Akane Yamaguchi of Japan to make it to the semifinals of the Thailand Open Super 500 tournament here Friday.

The sixth seeded Indian prevailed 21-15, 20-22, 21-13 over second seeded Japanese in 51 minutes to set up a clash with Olympic champion Chen Yu Fei of China.

The last time the duo played, the match was marred by controversy with Sindhu being penalised a point by the umpire for delaying tactics during the Badminton Asia Championships semifinals. Sindhu came into the match with a 13-9 head-to-head record and dished out another fine performance to notch up her 14th victory over the reigning World Champion.

Nothing separated the two in the initial phase with Sindhu depending on her cross court slices



and drops to trouble Yamaguchi, who blew a three-point lead to allow the Indian move to an 11-9 break.

Yamaguchi reeled off five match points, only for Sindhu return the favour with seven straight points

to move to a 19-14 lead.

Sindhu, however, sent the shuttle long before moving to five game points and sealing it when an off-balance Yamaguchi sent the shuttle to the net again.

Yamaguchi allowed Sindhu to jump to an 11-5 advantage at the interval after winning 10 of the last 11 points without much ado.

After the break, Sindhu was called for a service fault and soon Yamaguchi fought her way to 11-13 before going long. The Japanese played some good shots to claw back at 16-16.

A quick smash and a precise on the line return gave two game points to the Japanese. Sindhu saved two but faltered on her serve and then sent the shuttle long as the match went to the decider.

Sindhu went into the mid-game intervals with a six point advantage in the third game. Yamaguchi seemed to be facing problem with her back, which affected her stroke-play.

Sindhu led 15-11 when Yamaguchi committed errors in her return to serve. The Indian soon unleashed her smashes and another punch-clear gave her eight match points, which she converted on second attempt.

A journey from sprinter to boxing World Champion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 20: "Why are there no girls playing, is boxing only a men's sport?" A young and innocent Nikhat Zareen, who was training to be a sprint runner, had once questioned her father.

It was, perhaps, just a mere coincidence or destiny, but that moment would turn out to be life-defining for the newly-crowned flyweight World Champion.

It all started when Mohammad Jameel, a former footballer and cricketer, decided to take his daughters out to play one summer evening.

"I told them we'll go and play in the ground so that they learn something. Someone went to play basketball, one played handball etc.," he told this agency. "After observing for a couple of days I saw Nikhat's body language and I knew she'd be a sport person. So, I bought a tracksuit and told her we'll go train tomorrow."

Jameel trained Nikhat for 100m and 200m and she had inherited

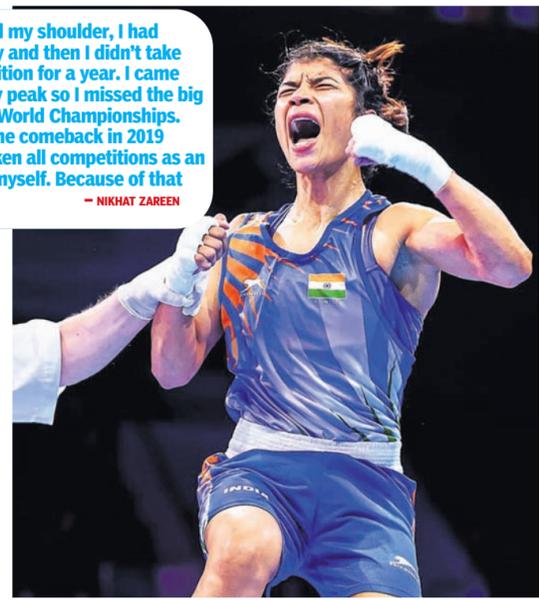
"In 2017, I dislocated my shoulder, I had to go under surgery and then I didn't take part in any competition for a year. I came back in 2018 but I wasn't at my peak so I missed the big tournaments CWG, Asiad and World Championships. But I didn't give up and after the comeback in 2019 haven't looked back. I have taken all competitions as an opportunity and I believed in myself. Because of that here I'm today"

— NIKHAT ZAREEN

her father's sporting genes. She was a natural and soon she was the district champion. Then one day boxing caught her fancy.

"Where I used to go to train with my father some Urban Games where going on. And I saw that all sports had girls except for boxing," Nikhat recalled hours after her gold medal winning feat. "I asked him 'why are there no girls playing, is boxing only a men's sport?'"

Jameel was taken aback, but he explained to Nikhat that boxing was the sport of the courageous, irrespective of gender. "I told her you need to be mentally strong, have power and speed for boxing.



You need to have the courage and strength to hit the person in front of you," he said.

Nikhat's reply was simple but filled with conviction: "Main khelungi (I will play)". Soon after, she was training with boys as girls didn't take up boxing in Nizamabad.

"She had to train with boys, run with them. Initially, she got hurt a little bit while sparring in the beginning. But she started gaining confidence and started punching the same children who had hit her earlier," Jameel said.

"We knew she would do well among the girls because of the speed and strength she had developed playing with boys. Girls couldn't even touch her at the nationals," he said with pride.

With boxing came vests and training shorts and coming from a Muslim household, Nikhat and her parents were subjected to several taunts and comments. "This district is a rural one. No one has that much knowledge of sports here. A girl especially from a Muslim community is coming to

play people didn't know about it.

"It was when she won a medal at nationals then people got to know more. Many would say kya hai?, kaise kapde hain?, kya figure hai? maar lag jaega toh kaun shaadi karega?, life kharaab ho jaeagi. (What is this? What sort of figure she has? If she gets hurt, who will marry her? Her life will be ruined), I used to just listen."

It didn't take long for Nikhat to stamp her authority as she won her first sub-junior national title followed by the junior World Championship a year later.

Today, she's only the fifth Indian boxer to have a world championship gold under her belt and only second, apart from MC Mary Kom, to achieve the feat outside India.

She rose the ranks in the senior level as well, winning an array of medals in international events, including two golds at the Strandja Memorial, a bronze in the 2019 Asian Championships, while also winning the nationals multiple times.