

**IRREGULAR** by MANJUL



Where will we lodge him? Prisons are already full with people who hurt sentiments!

**Veteran Left leader Sivaji Patnaik passes away**



**Bhubaneswar:** Veteran CPI-M leader and three-time MP Shivaji Patnaik died at a private hospital here Monday. He was 92. He is survived by his wife, three sons and a daughter. The Left party leader was admitted to the hospital Sunday after the potassium level in his blood dropped, CPI-M state secretary Ali Kishore Patnaik said. Shivaji Patnaik was elected to the Lok Sabha from Bhubaneswar in 1977, 1989 and 1991. Starting his journey from AISF, he worked for the undivided Communist Party of India and later become instrumental in setting up CPI(M) in Odisha.

**Russian gets life term in first war crimes trial**



**Kyiv:** A Ukrainian court sentenced a 21-year-old Russian soldier to life in prison Monday for killing a Ukrainian civilian, sealing the first guilty conviction for war crimes since Moscow's invasion three months ago. Sgt Vadim Shishimarin pleaded guilty to shooting a Ukrainian civilian in the head in a village in the northeastern Sumy region in the early days of the war. He testified that he shot the man after being ordered to do so. He told the court that an officer insisted that the Ukrainian man, who was speaking on his cellphone, could pinpoint their location to the Ukrainian forces. **P10**

## Devotees to pull Lords' chariots after 2 years

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Puri, May 23:** After a hiatus of two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic, devotees are set to pull the Trinity's chariots in this year's Rath Yatra here as the district administration has given a go ahead for congregation of devotees, Puri Collector Samarth Verma said.

The Collector informed this in the first coordination meeting held Monday. The Holy City is likely to witness the arrival of around 12 to 15 lakh devotees during the Rath Yatra, he added.

"The annual Rath Yatra will be celebrated with full fervour as lakhs of devotees will witness Lord Jagannath, Balabhadra and Goddess Subhadra on the chariots after two years," Verma added. A large foot-fall of devotees like during 2015 'Nabakalebara' is expected this year too, he further stated.

The meeting was also attended by RDC Suresh Chandra Dalai, Puri MLA Jayanta Kumar Sarangi, Central IG Narasingha Bhol, Puri SP Kanwar Vishal Singh, Director of Culture department Ranjan



Kumar Das, Director of Information and Public Relations department Indramani Tripathy, Endowment Commissioner Ajay Kumar Jena, ADM Pradip Kumar Sahoo and sub-Collector Bhabataram Sahu.

Notably, the world famous Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath was conducted without devotees for two consecutive years due to the pandemic. To enhance the security infrastructure at the Srimandir and Bada Danda, as many as 236 additional CCTV cameras will be installed. Verma said that these

cameras will be installed at vantage points near the 12th century shrine and Gundicha Temple. Adequate police force will be deployed for smooth conduct of the Rath Yatra, he added.

When the Covid-19 pandemic threw normal life out of gear in 2020, the state government had decided not to allow the festival fearing that it would further spread the disease. However, as per the Supreme Court's order, it was held without the participation of devotees.

## 3 arrested over NZP brawl

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 23:** The Commissionerate Police Monday arrested three persons for assaulting tourists inside the Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP) on the outskirts of the city, Sunday. The accused were identified as Kahnu Mahapatra, Aman Pattnani and Santosh Kumar Sahoo of Dharuthenga village.

Sources claimed that a group of 26 tourists hailing from Chhattisgarh reached the zoo Sunday. They bought tickets from the safari counter inside the zoo to visit all the safaris. However, they were not allotted a



bus to visit the safaris despite waiting for more than three hours in queue which irked the tourists. Later, the tourists questioned the staff at the counter about the mismanagement. Soon, the visitors engaged in verbal argument with the employees. The employees who got into a brawl with the tourists called the staff of

the private agency operating battery-run buses inside the zoo.

As many as 50 persons including the employees of the private agency and safari attacked the tourists with iron rods, bamboo sticks leaving five visitors injured seriously. The attackers did not even spare the women visitors who were seen running towards the main gate holding their children to escape the attack.

Informed, Nandankanan police reached the spot and rescued the tourists who later lodged a complaint against the accused. Police have so far arrested three accused by registering a case (70/22) in this regard. **Contd... P4**

## Sarat Pattanayak new OPCC chief National honour for MKCG nurse

**NEW DELHI:** In a significant development, the All India Congress Committee (AICC) Monday appointed Sarat Pattanayak as the president of the Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC). According to the AICC, Congress president Sonia Gandhi has accepted the resignation of Niranjan Patnaik from the post of state PCC president and appointed Pattanayak as the new PCC president with immediate effect. "Congress president has appointed Sarat Pattanayak as the president of OPCC with immediate effect. The party appreciates the contributions of the outgoing PCC president Niranjan Patnaik," AICC General Secretary KC Venugopal said in a presser.



**BERHAMPUR:** Sibani Das, a nursing officer of state-run MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur, has been selected for the National Florence Nightingale Award 2021. It is the highest nursing honour in the country instituted by the Indian Nursing Council (INC). Fifty-year-old Das has been selected in recognition of her dedication to the profession, particularly for her service during the Covid-19 pandemic. The prestigious award will be conferred on Das by President Ram Nath Kovind at a function, the date and time of which are yet to be decided. The state government has been informed about Das's selection for the award. **P5**



**MARKET WATCH**

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	54288.61	↓ 37.78
NIFTY	16214.70	↓ 51.50
DOLLAR	78.32	↑ ₹0.05
EURO	82.77	↑ ₹0.56
GOLD	₹50,880	↑ ₹51
SILVER	₹61,476	↑ ₹69

**WEATHER**

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX	30.3°C	31.6°C
TEMP. MIN	23.9°C	24.0°C
Humidity	100%	95%
Rainfall	1.2mm	Nil

Forecast: Light rain very likely

A TATA PRODUCT

TANISHQ PRESENTS

DIAMOND EXHIBITION & SALE

The largest showcase of exquisite diamond jewellery

Date: 21st to 30th May 2022

Time: 11.00 AM to 8.00 PM

Venue: Plot No: 332/1803/2028/2527, Chandrasekharapur, Bhubaneswar.

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Up to 20%\* off on making charges of gold jewellery & on diamond jewellery value.

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# leisure



## ASHLEY GRAHAM NEARLY DIED GIVING BIRTH TO HER TWINS

American model Ashley Graham - who has Isaac, two, and four-month-old twins Roman and Malachi with her husband Justin Ervin - had a speedy labour with her babies but blacked out afterwards after suffering a haemorrhage and losing litres of blood.

## IRANIAN FILM HOLY SPIDER STUNS CANNES BY SHOWING NUILITY, SEX

A gritty drama about a real-life Iranian serial killer titled *Holy Spider*, stunned the Cannes Film Festival, depicting of a bare-breasted woman in an opening scene as well as featuring multiple sex scenes. In Iran, movies are not allowed to feature such images.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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#### ARIES

Something unexpected may happen. Though you may not comprehend all that takes place, Ganesh says it is fine. Stay away from stressful activity, as you may need to go out in the evening. Put on the glitter and gloss, as some good music and dance are expected to come your way.

#### TAURUS

Ganesh sees you getting saddled with worries and anxieties, stress and confusion right from the start of the day. Before getting overwhelmed, try to go to the root of the problems. Earnest reflection will show you past events are the basic cause of whatever you are facing today.

#### GEMINI

Today, you will be at complete peace with yourself and your surroundings. So, it is rather unlikely that you will give in to provocations and lose your temper. Health of a family member may cause some anxiety, but more or less, you will remain unperturbed by the world.

#### CANCER

Your peers will be impressed by your professional efficiency today, forecasts Ganesh. You had better postpone auction bids or sealed tenders for some other day. You are likely to do well in interviews, says Ganesh.

#### LEO

A good deed is never wasted. Remember this as today, you shall find yourself in the incredible position of being of invaluable assistance to someone in need, says Ganesh. So lend out that helping hand and be assured that your generosity will not be forgotten.

#### VIRGO

The tempest of anger runs wild. You are most likely to blow hotter than Mount Vesuvius ever did, predicts Ganesh. In the afternoon, you may chalk out a big business plan. Peers will stand by your side at the workplace. But in the evening, try spending your time meditating and cooling those nerves, advises Ganesh.

#### LIBRA

Think long and hard about all things past, present and future, says Ganesh, since there are chances that you may be in a pensive mood today. Try your best to step out of your brooding frame of mind. You might have to manage balancing your personal and professional life. But, your business will progress as expected.

#### SCORPIO

Your entrepreneurship today will reflect a lot of your creativity and artistic sense. Romantic diversions will bring you immense pleasure in the afternoon. Have your close friends over in the evening and spend some quality time, says Ganesh.

#### SAGITTARIUS

The bossy nature of your soul mate is likely to put you off. At work, you may find yourself helpless and left scratching your head. Ganesh advises and foresees you sitting together with your beloved and resolving all your differences.

#### CAPRICORN

Lovelorn for long, today may be the start of a new chapter, foresees Ganesh. And for those of you already in love, your sweetheart may appear sweeter. No, it's not because they will be overpowered by love. They will probably try to make your day special and have you spend your hard-earned money on a nice outing or an expensive dinner.

#### AQUARIUS

Today, you will seek direct and frank communication like never before, and it does seem to solve some of your problems. You will remain edgy, and at work, minute things will bother you no end. Later in the day, Ganesh will grant results.

#### PISCES

A conflict-ridden day awaits you. Avoid openly confronting people today, for petty issues could blow up into major disasters. Legal disputes may also hassle you. Meditative techniques will bring you peace of mind. Delay the start of important activities for a more opportune time, says Ganesh.

## Kiara's reply to marriage plans

Mumbai: Anil Kapoor, Varun Dhawan, Kiara Advani, Neetu Kapoor, Karan Johar, Manish Paul and director Raj Mehta launched the trailer of their latest film *Jug Jugg Jeeyo* today in Mumbai. During the interactions with the media, everyone wanted to know about Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra's decision of settling down and getting married.

When one journalist tried to ask Kiara a question about settling down, Karan, who is producing the film, butted in and said, "You didn't ask me about my marriage, I'm going to turn 50. Do you think I can't get married? Let me tell you, I can get married, too."

Everyone in attendance were left in splits at Karan's sense of humour. When the journalist conceded and remarked that Karan was "multi-talented", Karan offered another quirky rebuttal as he said, "Getting married doesn't require talent it's a compulsion." Needless to say the audience burst out into another fit of laughter.

Finally the journo was able to pose a question to Kiara, who confidently said she didn't need the marriage 'tag'. She said, "I can be settled without getting married, too. I am well-settled, working, earning and I am happy."

And Kiara's answer at the *Jug Jugg Jeeyo* launch could be an indicator that she's not in the frame of mind to settle down any time soon.



AGENCIES

## Paresh, Adil team up for adaptation of Ray classic

Mumbai: Paresh Rawal and Adil Hussain - two of Indian cinema's most respected actors - will soon be seen in *The Storyteller* directed by Ananth Mahadevan, whose 2010 Marathi biopic *Mee Sindhutai Sapkal* bagged three honours at the 58th National Film Awards.

The film, which recently wrapped up its principal photography and will soon enter post-production, is based on Indian Oscar winner and maverick filmmaker Satyajit Ray's short story *Golpo Boliye Tarini Khuro*. In the story which touches upon the aspect of originality versus plagiarism, Ray raises the question: "What is more important - the story or the storyteller?"



the storyteller?"

The film's director, Ananth Mahadevan said in a statement, "As part of the celebrations around the life and work of the legend Satyajit Ray, we are very happy and honoured to share our own humble homage to the master storyteller. *The Storyteller*, a timeless fable, explores the mindset of people who exploit and are exploited."

"Ray's subtle treatment of the subject makes one smile at what is, in fact, a revenge story. An amalgamation of wit, drama, and even suspense, the film is an attempt to bring Ray to a generation that has only heard about him or been occasionally exposed to his collection," the statement read.

The cast of *The Storyteller* also includes Revathi and Tannishtha Chatterjee. The film is produced by billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Jio Studios in association with Purpose Entertainment and Quest Films.

## Adah learns sword fighting skills for her int'l project

Mumbai: Actress Adah Sharma is going through extensive sword fighting training as part of the preparation for her next international project.

"Adah is leaving no stone unturned to ensure that she is completely prepared for the scenes where she is required to have a sword fight in her next project. It is a very interesting one and she had been waiting for such a project for a long time where she gets to explore a different art form. Now that she finally has that opportunity, she is putting all her blood and sweat into it and is undergoing rigorous training sessions for the same," revealed a source close to the development.

Meanwhile, the actress finished shooting three Telugu films that are ready for release and two Hindi films; Adah will start shooting for *Commando 4* soon.



## State level PVTG Dance Festival begins

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: A two-day state level Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) Dance Festival, kicked off here at Rabindra Mandap, Monday.

The event, organised by ST & SC Development Department of Government of Odisha, was inaugurated by Ranjana Chopra, Principal Secretary to Govt., ST&SC Development while P Arthanari, Programme Director (PMU), TDCCOL was the Guest of Honour. Prof. AB Ota, Director and Spl. Secretary, Scheduled



Castes and Scheduled Tribes Research and Training Institute presented the welcome address. Out of 62 Tribal Communities

in Odisha 13 - Bonda, Didayi, Dongaria Kondha, Lanjia Saora, Saora, Kutia Kandha, Paudi Bhuyan, Chuktia, Bhunjia, Hill Khairia, Mankridia, Lodha and Birhor - come under PVTG category and Odisha houses highest number of PVTGs in India.

For the unversed, people of these communities thrive on their Indigenous Knowledge system and are quite possessive about their cultural identity. Therefore, the state government is taking all measures for preservation of their culture and this event is part of such initiatives, officials said.

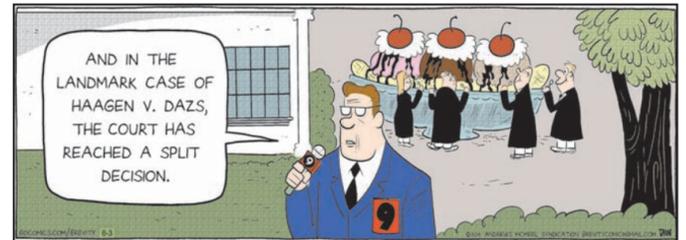
### PEANUTS



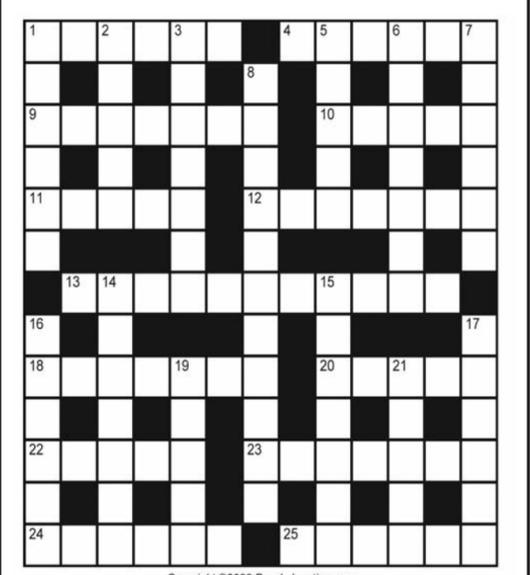
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



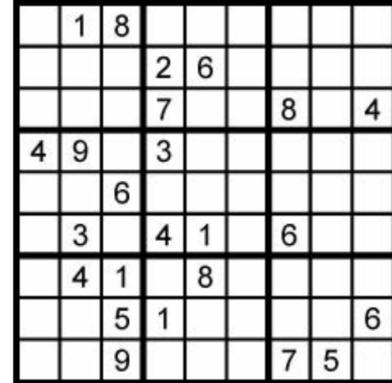
### FUN post CROSSWORD



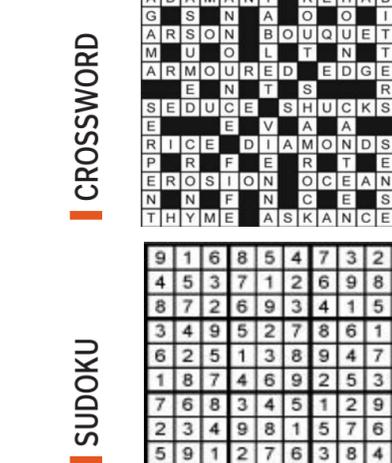
- Across
- 1 Unflattering
  - 4 Reddish brown
  - 9 Prohibited by law
  - 10 Bulgaria's capital
  - 11 Largish combo
  - 12 Smart aleck
  - 13 Food and drink, e.g.
  - 18 Outlay
  - 20 Race official
  - 22 Sandwich starter
  - 23 Pamper
  - 24 Followed
  - 25 Chic
  - 7 Simple shelter (4-2)
  - 8 Sword lilies (6-2-3)
  - 14 Fish hawks
  - 15 Ring participant
  - 16 Little rock
  - 17 Angioplasty target
  - 19 Elbow
  - 21 Cantaloupe
- Down
- 1 Loafer, e.g. (4-2)
  - 2 Acclaim
  - 3 Sirius (3,4)
  - 5 Haven
  - 6 Desist

### 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

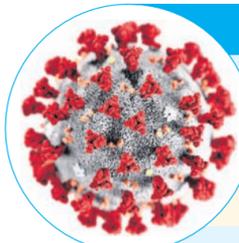


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



**MUSICAL EVENT**

An artiste performed at 'Utkarsha', a song and music programme, organised at Guru Kelu Charan Mohapatra Odissi Research Centre in Bhubaneswar, Monday



**COVID-19 TRACKER**

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	52,78,39,815	49,81,02,787	63,00,934
India	4,31,38,393	4,25,99,102	5,24,459
Odisha	12,88,379	12,79,118	9,126

**RICKSHAW PULLER'S DEATH**

**Rights body seeks report from Puri municipality**



**Nidhi Bhoi, 41, a rickshaw puller, died after falling into an open drain in the Pilgrim City May 17 night**

**Bhubaneswar, May 23:** The Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) has directed the executive officer of Puri municipality to submit a report in connection with the death of a rickshaw puller after falling into an open drain at Market Square in the Holy City May 17.

While hearing a plea filed by advocate Prabir Kumar Das, the OHRC asked the executive officer of Puri municipality to submit the report by the next hearing scheduled June 27. The rights body has also ordered the executive officer to take necessary measures towards covering open drains under Puri municipality area ahead of the monsoon.

ity and the action taken in the matter be also submitted to this commission," ordered the OHRC. In his plea, Das has blamed the civic body authorities for the death of Nidhi Bhoi, 41, a rickshaw puller of Biranarasingshpur Gohiri Sahi in Puri, after falling into a four-foot-deep open drain in the Pilgrim City May 17 night. Das has urged the OHRC to direct the officials to launch a probe into the mishap and take stringent action against those found guilty. He also urged the commission to direct the administration to pay Rs 10 lakh as compensation to the next of the kin of Bhoi. Notably, the National Human Rights Commission has also sought action-taken reports (ATRs) in this regard from the District Collector and Superintendent of Police of Puri.

**AT LORD'S SERVICE**



Carpenters carry a hub and spokes for chariot construction at Rath Yard in Puri, Monday

OP PHOTO

**EOW to quiz ponzi scam accused**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Balasure, May 23:** Economic Offences Wing (EOW) officials Monday produced in the court the head of ponzi firm Digital Revolution Technology Ltd, Prince Kumar, who has allegedly duped several gullible investors in the state. Prince, a native of Muzaffarpur district in Bihar, is accused of defrauding over Rs 6 crore from the investors of the state of which over Rs 1.5 crore is from Balasure and Mayurbhanj districts.

**Prince Kumar, a native of Muzaffarpur in Bihar, is accused of defrauding over Rs 6 crore from the investors of the state**

He was produced in the court after his arrest at Vrindavan May 18. He was brought on transit remand and produced before the special chit fund court. The judge rejected his bail plea and remanded him to judicial custody. The EOW is likely to take him on remand for further interrogation. The matter came to the fore, after a defrauded depositor Prasant Kumar Mahalik filed a petition in Orissa High Court. The HC handed over the case to EOW following which DSP Debendra Narayan Das conducted a probe and submitted a report. A case was registered in this connection by the EOW. Notably, Prince lured people with the promise of Rs 2,600 as monthly return on their deposits for a period of two years. What the depositors have to do is to open an ID and invest Rs 15,000 by downloading an app on their cellphones, said Prince. Initially, he was returning money to some of the depositors but later he started duping the investors.

**Heavy rain in 4 dists today: Met**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, May 23:** Temperatures soaring above 40 degrees Celsius were recorded in 10 weather stations Monday even as moderate to heavy rain lashed parts of coastal and western Odisha overnight, the Met office said. Harbhanga in Boudh district received 88 mm of precipitation from Sunday evening till 8.30 am Monday, the highest in the state, followed by 64.5 mm in Bolangir, according to a bulletin. Puri, Kandhamal, Rayagada and Ganjam were among several other districts that received moderate

Boudh recorded 42.5 degrees Celsius, the highest in the state, followed by 42.5 in Titilagarh and 41.8 in Bolangir

The mercury in state capital Bhubaneswar rose to 35.6 degrees Celsius, two notches below average, while it settled at 36.2 degrees Celsius in Cuttack

showers, the Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre said.

Boudh recorded 42.5 degrees Celsius, the highest in the state, followed by 42.5 in Titilagarh and 41.8 in Bolangir, the department said.

The mercury in state capital Bhubaneswar rose to 35.6 degrees

Celsius, two notches below average, while it settled at 36.2 degrees Celsius in Cuttack, it said.

The weatherman forecast heavy rain in some places in Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar and Jajpur districts Tuesday. Thunderstorms may also occur across coastal Odisha.

There will be no large change in the maximum temperature in interior Odisha during the next three days. It will rise subsequently by 2-3 degrees Celsius in a few places.

Scattered to widespread light or moderate rain is likely in Odisha over the next two days, the weatherman added.

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DATE EXTENDED**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 23:** The Higher Education (HE) department Monday extended the deadline for online application and validation of all categories of scholarships awarded by the department under e-Medhabruti and Vyasakabi Fakir Mohan Bhasabruti for 2021-22.

According to HE department Joint Secretary Prativa Sahu, students can apply for Vyasakabi Fakir Mohan Bhasabruti and e-Medhabruti online by June 20, 2022. The date for online validation of the applications by institutes has also been extended to July 15, 2022.

Sources said this is for the fifth time the department extended the deadline of the scholarship application process.

**Now, students can apply for Vyasakabi Fakir Mohan Bhasabruti and e-Medhabruti online by June 20, 2022. The date for validation by institutes has also been extended to July 15, 2022**

The e-Medhabruti Scholarship Scheme aims at encouraging and motivating brilliant students of Odisha to pursue higher studies in UG/PG/technical and professional education. The awarded scholarship is up to Rs 10,000 per annum and other benefits.

Vyasakabi Fakir Mohan Bhasabruti, on the other hand, aims at promoting Odia language as well as financially support the students who display merit in the language.

After passing in Plus III Odia (Honors) and MA (Odia) examinations, students can receive variable benefits under the scheme.

**SHOT IN THE ARM FOR CANCER CARE**

**City AIIMS gets Medical Oncology day care, OPD**



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 23:** In a boost to cancer care, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhubaneswar Monday launched dedicated out-patient department (OPD) and day care services of its Medical Oncology division.

Inaugurating the facilities at the G-Block of the premier healthcare institution's main building, AIIMS-Bhubaneswar Director Mukesh Tripathi said the newly launched services will go a long way helping cancer patients.

Earlier, the Medical Oncology and Haematology divisions were sharing the same OPD and day care facilities on the hospital premises.

"As both the divisions shared the same facilities, the premises witnessed a huge number of patients. Last month, there were 160 fresh

OPD registrations and 446 OPD consultations for Medical Oncology. As many as 105 days chemotherapy was also undertaken during the period," said Sourav Mishra of Medical Oncology.

Sources said the Medical Oncology division at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar is the first dedicated Medical Oncology unit in any government hospital in Odisha after the Acharya Harihar Post Graduate Institute of Cancer in Cuttack.

The unit caters to the chemotherapy needs of cancer patients not only from Odisha but also from nearby states.

The hospital plans to start the course of DM in Medical Oncology soon. While the new OPD will entertain patients on Tuesdays and Thursdays, the day care service will be available for patients on all week days, it was learnt.

**OUTFIT'S MEET**



BJD spokesperson Sulata Deo inaugurated a meet of the Odisha State MPHWH (Male) Association at Geeta Govinda Sadan in Bhubaneswar, Monday

OP PHOTO

**WHO honours India's 1 million ASHA workers**

The World Health Organization (WHO) has honoured India's more than one million Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) for connecting people with healthcare services.

ASHA, which means 'hope' in Hindi, are among the six recipients of Global Health Leaders Award at the ongoing 75th World Health Assembly.

ASHAs are trained female volunteers who take healthcare services to rural, marginalised, and hard-to-reach communities across India. They provide maternal care and immunisation for children; community healthcare; treatment for hypertension and tuberculosis; and services for nutrition, sanitation, and healthy living.

ASHAs 'play a critical role in India's primary healthcare system, including during the Covid-19 pandemic, providing essential health services to millions of people. In Hindi, ASHA means hope. And that is exactly what the ASHAs deliver,



ASHAs are trained female volunteers who take healthcare services to rural, marginalised, and hard-to-reach communities across India

the WHO said in a statement.

In a tweet, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday said that he is delighted that the entire team of ASHA workers have been conferred the WHO Director General's Global Health Leaders' Award.

"Congratulations to all ASHA workers. They are at the forefront of ensuring a healthy India. Their dedication and determination are admirable," he added.

Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has also extended his

greetings to all the ASHA workers.

The Global Health Leaders Awards recognises outstanding contributions to advancing global health, demonstrated leadership and commitment to regional health issues.

The award also recognised late Dr. Paul Farmer, former Chair of Department of Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School, for his contribution towards providing direct healthcare services, research and advocacy for those who are ailing and living in poverty; Dr. Ahmed Hankir, British-Lebanese psychiatrist, for his anti-stigma programme that blends in the power of performing arts and story-telling with psychiatry, he is Senior Research fellow at the Centre for Mental Health Research in association with Cambridge University; volleyball player Ludmila Sofia Oliveira Varela for facilitating access to sports as an alternative to risky behaviour in youth; and Yohei Sasakawa, WHO Goodwill

Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination, for his global fight against leprosy and the associated stigma and social discrimination.

The other recipients include eight volunteer polio workers who were shot and killed by armed gunmen in Afghanistan in February this year.

The WHO said that the "volunteer polio workers performed their life-saving work despite extraordinary challenges and risks".

"At a time when the world is facing an unprecedented convergence of inequity, conflict, food insecurity, the climate crisis and a pandemic, this award recognises those who have made an outstanding contribution to protecting and promoting health around the world," said WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

"These awardees embody lifelong dedication, relentless advocacy, a commitment to equity, and selfless service of humanity," he added.

IANS

**GAIL (India) Limited**  
(A Government of India Undertaking)

**Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)**

**TENDER NO. GAIL/BBSR/2022-23/OFFICE SPACE**

GAIL (India) Limited having its City Gas Distribution Network Project in Bhubaneswar city and Zonal Marketing Office invites bids from eligible bidders under two bid systems for the following works on **Open - Domestic - Competitive - Bidding basis:**

**Description:-** Lease rent for the following: Fully furnished commercial office space in BMC Jurisdiction of Bhubaneswar admeasuring carpet area of 7000 sq. ft. in a single floor or carpet area of 3500 sq. ft. for 02 offices (3500 sq. ft. for CGD & 3500 sq. ft. for Bhubaneswar Zonal in an adjacent floor in a same building as mentioned in the Scope of Work.

**The Offered Office Premises should be within 5-6 km radius from OMFED Square, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar city, Khordha, Odisha, since GAIL's LCNB Plant & other associated set-up for CNG & DPNB supply are located in the said area.**

**Lock-in period:-** Three(03) Years from date of award & further extendable for one (01) year on mutual agreement.

**Availability of NIT & Tender Document on GAIL's Website :-** From 24.05.2022 To 13.06.2022 (1400 Hrs. IST)

**Date of pre-bid meeting:-** 08<sup>th</sup> day from the date of publication i.e. on 31.05.2022 at 11:00 Hrs at 610-612 Utkal Signature, 6th Floor, NH-5, Pahala, Bhubaneswar, Odisha -751032

**Due Date & Time for Submission of Bids:-** 13.06.2022 (14:00 Hrs. IST) Two separate bids technical & financial in sealed envelope to be submitted at 610-612 Utkal Signature, 6th Floor, NH-5, Pahala, Bhubaneswar, Odisha -751032 (all working days between 9:15 am to 5:45 pm)

The detailed Tender Document shall be available on GAIL-Tenders Website [https://www.gailtenders.in] from the date of publication of NIT and Government-Tenders website [https://eprocure.gov.in]

For any query regarding the tender, bidders may contact following executives at GAIL (India) Limited, 610-612 Utkal Signature, 6th Floor, NH-5, Pahala, Bhubaneswar, Odisha -751032 (all working days between 9:15 am to 5:45 pm)

(i) Chief Manager (HR); Phone: (0)674-2313974, Email : bishnu.panda@gail.co.in  
Sr. Manager (C&P); Phone: (0)674-2313978, Email : saleeb@gail.co.in.

(ii) Any revision clarification, addendum, corrigendum, time-extension, etc. to the above Tender will be hosted on https://www.gailtenders.in only and no separate notification shall be issued in the press/newspaper. Bidders are requested to visit the website regularly to keep themselves updated.

Regd. Office: GAIL Bhawan, 16, Bhikaji Cama Place, Delhi-66. CIN: L40200DL1984G0018976

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# STF nabs wildlife criminal, one leopard skin recovered

Sunday morning, the STF team from Bhubaneswar, with the help of Gunupur Forest Officials, carried out a raid near Bangi junction on NH 326 at Ramanguda under Gunupur Police Station and found the accused waiting for someone



execution of a deal in connection with the sale of leopard skin at Ramangunda area in Gunupur. Subsequently, a team rushed to Gunupur to arrest the criminals red handed while selling and purchasing the leopard skin.

Sunday morning, the STF team from Bhubaneswar, with the help of Gunupur Forest Officials, carried out a raid near Bangi junction on NH 326 at Ramanguda under Gunupur Police Station. They nabbed Jayanta who was found waiting for someone at the spot.

The officials after due search recovered one leopard skin and other incriminating materials from the possession of Jayanta. He was later handed over to the Gunupur Forest officials under Rayagada Forest Division for necessary legal action.

"Since 2020, the STF has seized as many as 29 leopard skins, 24 elephant tusks, 7 deer skins, 14 live pangolins, 30.4kg pangolin scales, 2 leopard teeth, 29 leopard claws and 46 live wild parrots. Along with this, the STF has arrested 70 wildlife criminals," informed the task force in a press release.

Since 2020, the STF has seized 29 leopard skins, 24 elephant tusks, 7 deer skins, 14 live pangolins, 30.4kg pangolin scales, 2 leopard teeth, 29 leopard claws and 46 live wild parrots

The STF received some reliable information regarding the ex-



Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) carried out an eviction drive, Monday, near Jayadev Vihar square in City

**ENCROACHMENTS BULLDOZED**

## 'Eco villages are need of the hour'

**Bhubaneswar:** A seminar about future prospects of Eco Village was conducted by Waldenwoods Foundation, a Delhi based trust here Monday. The foundation has set up an eco-village in Kantamalia in Dhenkanal. The main focus is to reverse the trend of migration i.e. from urban to rural areas. Amenities like electricity, water supply, tele-communication, transport, organic food, amusement, healthy lifestyle and pollution-free environment are already present there. Waldenwoods Founder Chairman Ramkrishna Dash, in his inaugural address, said "We are hopeful that in coming days, large number of people will get attracted to this site."

## 'Will add young Odia minds to Yuva Chetna'

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 23:** Rohit Kumar Singh, the national convener of New Delhi-based NGO 'Yuva Chetna', said during his recent visit to the state Capital that the organisation is committed to eradicate nepotism from Indian politics.

Singh also said, "We are striving to uplift our poor, villages, farmers, labourers and our youth. We all must come forward to make India a 'Vishwa Guru'."

"Ram Rajya can only be achieved when every last one of our people is connected to the mainstream," he said, adding that democracy and the Constitution can never be put in jeopardy on the land of Gandhi and Ambedkar.

## State Polytechnic colleges to teach on stainless steel



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 23:** Odisha's State Council for Technical Education & Vocational Training (SCTEVT) Monday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Jindal Stainless to promote technical education in the field of stainless steel and its various applications.

Under this MoU, stainless steel related courses will be introduced in all the Polytechnic colleges in Odisha from June this year.

The MoU was signed by SCTEVT Vice Chairman Reghu G (IAS) and Jindal Stainless Limited (JSL) Unit Head Deepak Agrawal.

Commenting the development, Hemant Sharma said, "This collaboration with Jindal Stainless will enhance experience for students and faculty both, as it will give them practical exposure to the industry. The future leaders and opinion makers will be equipped with knowledge they need to carve a sustainable future for India."

SS Upadhyay said, "We are committed to developing a self-sufficient ecosystem for the domestic stainless steel industry. This MoU will pave the way for equipping our

nation's upcoming workforce with focused practical understanding of stainless steel and its applications. We applaud the Odisha government's commitment to bring about a manufacturing revolution in the state and are determined to be their partners on this growth trajectory."

There will be two modules under this MoU - compulsory and elective. A course on stainless steel will be introduced as an additional compulsory module for Metallurgy and Mechanical engineering students in the 5th semester of every batch, starting June, across all the Government Polytechnic Colleges in Odisha.

The elective module will incorporate a 3-credit course with about 40 lectures in the 6th semester for Mechanical and Metallurgy engineering students at Government Polytechnics in Jajpur and Kendrapada and BOSE, Cuttack. Students will be able to enroll for this elective course through an exam at the end of their 5th semester. The selected students shall undergo 20 hours of industrial training at Jindal Stainless' Jajpur plant, where they would work on various projects.

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 23:** The Special Task Force of state Crime Branch arrested a wildlife criminal and seized one leopard skin during a raid at a spot in Gunupur area of Rayagada district.

The accused criminal has been identified as Jayanta Bibar of Bandipanka area under Chandrapur police limits in Rayagada district.

## 3 held over NZZ brawl

Continued from P1

NZZ Deputy Director Sanjeet Kumar told media Monday that he has directed the range security officer to initiate a probe into the incident based on the CCTV footage, and record statements of the security guards deployed at the spot. Stringent action will be taken against the private agency if they are found guilty, he added.

## CLASSIFIED

### AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit before Notary, Bhubaneswar I have changed my name from Gulam Mohamad Gulam Gaus Khan to Golam Mohamad Khan for all purposes.

### LOST

I MD EBRAHIM, S/o. MOHAMMAD ISRAEL of Marahatta Sahi, Choudwar, Cuttack declare that my original sale deed Registration dated on 15.04.1997 has misplaced on dated 22.04.22. Property details-Mouza-Choudwar, Khata-534/418 & 534/419, Plot No.262/2210 & 1196/2211, SRO-Tangi, Choudwar, Cuttack while going to xerox nearby OTM Bazar, Choudwar Cuttack. If anybody found the same please contact in my above address or feel free to call me at 8249512909.

I Smt. Meena Rani Swain, aged about 60 yrs, W/o.- Sri Pratap Sen Swain, resident of Plot- 59/2919, Udaygiri Vihar, Patrapara, BBSR had lost the original R.O.R. under Mouza-Patrapara, Khata No. 703/1341, Plot-59, Area Ac 0.040 D. of Birabar Biswal, S/o. Gobinda Biswal, At- Jamudanda, Puri after purchase the said landed property.



Maa Janaki Swasthya Mission and Biswa Bibhuti Foundation held the award ceremony 'Kruti Samman-2022' at Jaya Bharata Conference Hall in Bhubaneswar, Monday

## BANE IN BEAUTY'S GUISE

# India needs to regulate thriving cosmetic surgery clinics

Due to a sudden rise in demands for services like face-lift, weight loss, hair transplantation, fat-loss therapy and other cosmetic services, the cosmetic clinics are mushrooming in the metro cities. With the change in the trend, not only females, even males are availing such treatments. Resultantly, such clinics are growing in the cities without any strict regulations and guidelines.

India was shocked to hear about the death of a young Kannada actress Chethna Raj while undergoing plastic surgery at a private clinic in Bengaluru last week. Her death at such a young age during the surgery has left behind many questions on the medical regulations and ethics.

"The Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010 has been enacted by the Central Government to provide for registration and regulation of all clinical establishments in the country with a view to prescribe the minimum standards of facilities and services provided by them," said Manoj Jha, Head of Department, Plastic Surgery, Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital.

This act requires all clinical establishments to register themselves and provides a set of standard treatment guidelines for common diseases and conditions.

"Despite this Central act, not all states of India have made any clear provisions to implement this act which is the reason for mushrooming of such types of clinics everywhere," said Jha.

He said that according to the act, the state governments must adopt the law by passing a resolution in the legislative assemblies. But it has not been implemented in all states yet, he added.

Talking about the guidelines, Jha said that the National Medical



Councils can take action only against those who are registered with the Council but in absence of strict implementation of that act, many clinics are running without any licenses.

He said that if such procedures are not being undertaken by the qualified surgeon, there may always be chance for mishaps. Such procedures shouldn't be undertaken by general surgeon ever.

"Liposuction is a safe procedure. In the last 900 consecutive procedures done at RML hospital, no serious complications have been observed," he said.

The absence of strict regulation is a driving factor behind the growing number of cosmetic clinics.

"The Ministry of Health in consultation with National Medical Council should come up guidelines to stop this illegal practice of cosmetic services across the nation.

Because of good money prospects involved in cosmetic services, even those who are not doctors or dermatologists are running such clinics. Even Liposuction is being undertaken without ICU facilities and people are dying. The incident like that of Kannada actress has become common in the absence of strict regulations. Eventually such incidents will adversely impact our medical tourism

DEEPAI BHARDWAJ | DERMATOLOGIST, LASER & CUTANEOUS SURGEON AND MEDICAL TOURISM BOARD MEMBER

And, it must be audited at some intervals," said Delhi based Dermatologist & Laser & cutaneous surgeon Deepali Bhardwaj.

"Because of good money prospects involved in cosmetic services, even those who are not doctors or dermatologists are running such clinics. Even Liposuction is being undertaken without ICU facilities and people are dying. The incident like that of Kannada actress has become common in the absence of strict regulations," said Bhardwaj.

She also said, "Eventually such incidents will adversely impact our medical tourism."

"The government must take step in this direction. Such incident is not in good taste for anyone -- patients and doctors. But, more quacks are involved in such clinics," Bhardwaj, who is also a member of Medical Tourism Board, told IANS.

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# Series mishaps pre-planned: SP



Accused Chittaranjan Mohanty in hospital

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bolangir, May 23:** The recent series mishaps near the RTO Square in Bolangir district that killed one person and injured two others critically was pre-planned, said superintendent of police (SP) Nitin Kusalkar while addressing a presser Monday.

Kusalkar said, "The death of a youth in road mishap near RTO Square was a pre-planned murder. We have registered a murder case in this connection."

The matter came to the fore after the CCTV footage of the accident went viral on social media. The deceased was identified as Srikant Bagh, 30, the pillion rider, and the injured as Sanu Nayak, a hotel owner who was riding the bike.

The mini truck driver, Chittaranjan Mohanty, the key accused, was also injured in the incident. He is undergoing treatment under police custody in a private hospital near Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital (BBMCH).

Sources said family members of Sanu and Chittaranjan were at loggerheads over acquisition of IDCO and government lands following which the latter hatched a plan to eliminate the former.

On the fateful day, Chittaranjan rammed the mini truck into the motorcycle near the RTO office. The collision left Srikant dead and Sanu critically injured. Accused Chittaranjan also fractured his leg in the mishap.

Chittaranjan had earlier claimed that he was standing at the RTO Square

Family members of Sanu and Chittaranjan were at loggerheads over acquisition of IDCO and government lands following which the latter hatched a plan to eliminate the former

On the fateful day, Chittaranjan rammed the mini truck into the motorcycle near the RTO office. The collision left Srikant dead and Sanu critically injured. Accused Chittaranjan also fractured his leg in the mishap

when the mishap occurred. However, a few locals who witnessed the accident from close quarters smelt something unusual from Chittaranjan's activity.

"Though initially, it appeared like an accident, later it was learnt that it was actually a pre-planned conspiracy to kill Sanu using the vehicle and give it the colour of an accident," SP added.

Based on a complaint by Sanu's father, Therubali police detained Chittaranjan when he was trying to flee Visakhapatnam. Apart from Chittaranjan, the police have detained two of his associates and interrogating them in the custody. It was alleged that a similar accident was plotted to eliminate Sanu's brother Bhuvan too.

The series accidents occurred at RTO Office Square on National Highway-26 at 11:26am Saturday. The mini truck (OR-03A-5390) from Titlagarh end came rushing at a great speed, rammed the bike, hit a roadside tree and then a cow and finally a truck.

# Nightingale Award for MKCG nurse



Sibani Das at MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur

AGENCIES

**Berhampur/Alipurduar, May 23:** Sibani Das, a nursing officer of state-run MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur, has been selected for the National Florence Nightingale Award 2021.

Smita Kar, another nurse working in a public health centre (PHC) in remote Tasati tea garden in Falakata block of West Bengal's Alipurduar district, has also been selected for the highest nursing honour in the country instituted by the Indian Nursing Council (INC).

Fifty-year-old Das has been selected in recognition of her dedication to the profession, particularly for her service during Covid-19 pandemic, the hospital's superintendent Santosh Kumar Mishra said Monday.

Kar, on the other hand, was selected for spreading awareness among the tribal pop-

Fifty-year-old Sibani Das has been selected in recognition of her dedication to the profession, particularly for her service during Covid-19 pandemic

Smita Kar, on the other hand, was selected for spreading awareness among the tribal populace after duty hours

ulace after duty hours.

The prestigious award will be conferred on Das and Kar by President Ram Nath Kovind at a function, the date and time of which are yet to be decided. The respective health departments have been informed about Das's and Kar's selection for the award.

"I am very happy for being selected for the highest nursing honour in the country. It will encourage others to serve people more," Das said.

"I thank my co-workers and family for always being by my side. Without their support, this would not have been possible," Kar said.

Das, who hails from Lochapada on the outskirts of Berhampur town, has around 25 years of experience as a nurse. She joined MKCG Medical College and Hospital as a nursing officer in 2007. Before that, she had worked in a private hospital in West Bengal from 1997 to 2007.

She was deputed to Tata Covid Hospital at Sitalapalli near here during the pandemic in 2020. She served at Covid Hospital-11 in the medical college and hospital last year.

"She had worked hard in both the Covid hospitals. She deserved the award. The medical college and hospital had recommended her name to the INC for the award," Mishra added.

# 4 killed in two road mishaps

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bargarh/Anandapur, May 23:** A couple was crushed to death after their motorcycle collided head-on with a speeding car at Sarandapali under Barpali block of Bargarh district while two others were killed in another mishap on Anandapur/Thakurmunda road in Mayurbhanj district Monday.

The deceased have been identified as Ganesh Ram Sahu and his wife Santoshini Sahu of Keshajali under Bijepur block of the district.

According to sources, the couple was on the way to attend a wedding function at Patharla in Bargarh when the accident occurred. While Ganesh died on the spot, Santoshini died on the way to the hospital. The car driver identified as Rahul Goyal has been detained by Barpali Police for interrogation.



Similarly, at least two persons were killed while five others sustained grievous injuries in an accident near Taramara on Anandapur/Thakurmunda road in Karanjia of Mayurbhanj district Monday. The deceased have been identified as Kshetravashi Maharana and Kulamani Das.

Sources said, a barati vehicle (Bolero) was returning to Gudabhanga from Sukruli in Mayurbhanj after a marriage function when it hit the bridge. The duo died on the spot while five others sustained critical injuries.

On being informed, local fire-fighters along with Thakurmunda police reached the spot and rescued the people. Further investigation is underway.

# Odia worker begs for alms in Qatar

CHHATRAPUR: Bishnuprasad Dakua, an Odia worker stuck in Qatar, has reportedly resorted to begging in the Gulf country. Losing all hopes of his rescue, Dakua in tattered clothes, is seen begging in the streets of Qatar.

Dakua, son of Gangadhar Dakua of Shyamsundarpur under Khalikote block in Ganjam district, had gone to Qatar to earn a livelihood. However, circumstances have forced him to join an army of beggars with no other means of survival. The matter came to the fore after his father, mother and elder brother narrated his ordeal and pleaded with the local administration to rescue him immediately. Briefing his ordeal, Dakua's elder brother Manash said, "A whopping Rs 7 lakh was spent on a major surgery for mine. We are under debts. So, with no source of income, I decided to send my brother to Qatar. However, the company that took my brother turned out to be a fraud."

# BJD's Pranab, Sanjay booked

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Nabarangpur, May 23:** Acting on a complaint by a BJP leader, Nabarangpur police has registered a case against BJD's organisational secretary Pranab Prakash Das and State Planning Board deputy chairperson Sanjay Das Burma for allegedly misbehaving with a few SC/ST people during the inauguration of a Krushak Sookhana Kendra (farmers' information kiosk).

While the incident occurred in February 2021, the case was registered Monday after the complainant and BJP leader Gauri Shankar Majhi had moved the court alleging humiliation by the two senior BJD leaders and non-regis-

tration of an FIR despite seeking intervention of Nabarangpur superintendent of police (SP).

Following orders from Nabarangpur Sessions Judge, Nabarangpur police registered the case under Indian Penal Code (IPC) Sections 143, 323, 354, 149 and Section 3(1) (R) of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

As per the allegation, several farmers along with BJP and Congress activists were staging a demonstration in February 2021 over several issues when Das Burma and Das had visited Nabarangpur for inaugurating the kiosk.

Infuriated over the demonstration, the two senior BJD leaders allegedly misbehaved

and manhandled the activists including Majhi.

"We along with several farmers had gone to meet Das Burma seeking an answer over non-lifting of 90,000 quintals of paddy. Instead of hearing our grievances, he along with Pranab Prakash Das misbehaved with us. Though we had lodged a complaint, no FIR was registered," said Majhi.

Majhi further said that no action was taken despite approaching the SP. "The FIR was registered against the two leaders only after the court's intervention. We hope that justice will be delivered," he added.

The BJD is, however, yet to issue any statement regarding the issue.

# Man stabbed to death over cigarette

**ANGUL:** A 27-year-old businessman was stabbed to death following an argument over a cigarette at Nuasahi village under Sadar police limits in Angul district Monday. The deceased was identified as Lalit Sahu. Lalit had gone to smoke a cigarette at the accused Dushman Sahu's shop in the same village. A spat ensued between the two over pending due. Things took an ugly turn after Dushman along with his brother and father stabbed Lalit with a knife before fleeing the village. Family members rescued him from a pool of blood and rushed him to the district headquarters hospital (DHH) but doctors declared him brought dead. A case has been registered in this connection and police have detained the two brothers and their father. The heinous murder over a petty issue has spread shockwaves in the area.

# 5 cars set ablaze

**Paralakhemundi:** Unidentified miscreants set fire at least five cars parked near Town Hall here in Gajapati district late Sunday night. Locals suspect it to be fallout of political rivalry of previous enmity. Though the exact reason behind the fire is yet to be ascertained, it has been suspected that some unidentified miscreants might have intentionally torched the vehicles. On being informed, fire personnel reached the spot and doused the flames. A case has been registered in this connection and police have started an investigation. Angry vehicle owners demanded arrest of the miscreants and compensation for the damage to their vehicles.

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An ISO 9001:2015 Certified Institute  
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**Revised Admission Notice - 2022**  
**LAST DATE EXTENDED**

IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT	
Last date for submission of on-line Applications (Indian Candidates)	3rd June, 2022 upto 5.00 PM
Last date for receipt of downloaded printout of duly filled & signed online application forms at NSI, Kanpur by hand or by post (Indian Candidates)	10th June, 2022 upto 5.00 PM
Application Fee - For all candidates except SC/ST	Rs.1500/-
Application Fee - For SC/ST Candidates	Rs.1000/-
Application Fee to be sent in the form of DD drawn in favour of	"Director, National Sugar Institute" payable at Kanpur
Downloading of Admit cards from website by Indian applicants	From 17th June, 2022 onwards
Admission Test (Only for Indian Candidates)	26th June, 2022 (Sunday) at Pune, Chennai, Delhi, Kanpur, Kolkata, Patna, Meerut & Gorakhpur etc.
Address for all Correspondence/ Submission of application form by Registered Post/Speed Post	Director, National Sugar Institute, Kalyanpur, Kanpur-208017, India
For further details and Prospectus visit website:	http://nsi.gov.in
Contact us:	nsikanpur.edu@gmail.com davp 08202/11/0004/2223

**UCO BANK**

**Sambalpur Main Branch, Sambalpur**  
**NOTICE FOR PUBLIC AUCTION**

Auction of moveable property (household goods) belonging to Mrs. Prafulla Kumari Sahoo, W/O- Haradhan Mahana (Guarantor/ property owner) previously residing at Lane no-3, J.M. Colony, PO- Budharaja, PS- Ainthapali, Dist- Sambalpur-768004 which is currently lying in house over Plot no- 2040/3901, 2041/3902, 2042/3903, Khata No- 559/235, Tehsil/ Dist- Sambalpur (Lane No-3, J.M. Mandir Colony, Sambalpur).

Date and time of auction	Place of auction	Reserve Price	Earnest Money
27th of May, 2022, 10.00 A.M. Onwards	Premise of the above mentioned property	Spot valuation to be done and reserve price is to be fixed on site	25% of successful bid amount

**DESCRIPTION OF THE MOVABLE PROPERTIES**

Household goods kept inside residential house over Plot no- 2040/3901, 2041/3902, 2042/3903, Khata No- 559/235, Mouza- Sambalpur Town Unit- 15 (Ainthapali), Tehsil/ Dist- Sambalpur (Lane No-3, J.M. Mandir Colony, Sambalpur).

**AUCTION TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

- The person(s) interested to participate in the auction to purchase the moveable goods (Household properties) shall remain present at the location mentioned above on 27.05.2022 (10.00 A.M. Onwards)
- The sealed house will be opened in the presence of Executive Magistrate madam and police officials and on spot valuation is to be conducted by our empanelled valuer and accordingly reserve price will be fixed.
- The party interested to participate may be allowed to inspect the movable property on 27.05.2022, 10.00 A.M. onwards.
- Afterward auction will be conducted and the properties will be sold to the successful bidder who offers highest price. However the bank reserves it's right to accept the bid or cancel the sale without assigning any reason.
- The successful bidder/ purchaser will have to deposit 25% of the bid amount immediately i.e. on the day of auction itself, with the authorized officer and the balance amount within 7 days.
- If the 25% is not paid on the same day or the balance amount is not paid within 7 days or if the successful bidder fails to adhere to the terms of sale, time or commits default in any manner the earnest money deposited will be forfeited and the bank will offer the same to the second highest bidder.
- The property will be sold on "as it is where it is" condition.
- The goods sold will be kept in a mutually agreed rented house till full payment of the bid amount and will be delivered to the successful bidder only after full payment of the bid amount.
- The bidder will arrange to transport the auctioned property to desired location at own cost and risk.
- The decision of the bank regarding sale of the property is final, binding and unquestionable and the bank reserves the right to cancel or postpone the sale without assigning any reasons.

Sd./  
Authorized Officer

Date: 24.05.2022  
Place: Sambalpur Sambalpur Main Branch, Sambalpur

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER**  
**RURAL WORKS DIVISION, BHANJANAGAR**

e-mail: eerwbnjr@gmail.com

No.O-321: "e" Procurement Notice for Road Works  
Identification No. Online Tender /O1/ RWBN/2022-2023  
Date: 17.05.2022

No. 1650

- Name of the work : Road Works
- Total Number of works : 17 Nos
- Estimated cost : 5.31 Lakh to 42.48 Lakhs
- Class of Contractor : D, C and B Class of Contractor
- Period of Completion : (Two) 2 and (Three) 3 Calendar Months.
- Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding	
		From	To
Superintending Engineer, R.W. Division, Bhanjanagar	Online Tender/O1/RWDB-NJ/2022-2023	24.05.2022 at 10.00 A.M.	04.06.2022 upto 3.00 P.M.

Further details can be seen from the website:  
www.tendersOdisha.gov.in.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer  
R.W.Division, Bhanjanagar  
OIPR-25174/11/0008/2223

Date: 24/05/2022

Date: 24/05/2022

To	Prafulla Kumari Sahoo	Archana Maharana
Jitansu Nandan Mahana S/O- Haradhan Mahana Previously residing at- Lane No-3, J.M. Colony, PO- Budharaja, Dist- Sambalpur, Pin- 768004	W/O- Haradhan Mahana Previously residing at- Lane No-3, J.M. Colony, PO- Budharaja, Dist- Sambalpur, Pin- 768004	W/O- Jitansu Nandan Mahana Previously residing at- Lane No-3, J.M. Colony, PO- Budharaja, Dist- Sambalpur, Pin- 768004

Sub: Information/ Notice of auction of household goods lying inside bank's physical possession taken property over plot no- 2040/3901, 2041/3902, 2042/3903, Khata No- 559/235, Tehsil/ Dist- Sambalpur (Lane No-3, J.M. Colony, Sambalpur)

References:

- Our letter number, "SBP/MISC/2021-22/233" dated 27.10.2021
- Our letter number, "SBP/ADV/2021-22/411" dated 05.03.2022
- Public notice in paper "The New Indian Express" page number 5 dated 31.03.2022 (English)
- Public notice in paper "Sambada" page number 7 dated 31.03.2022 (Odia)

This is to inform you that after repeated follow up with you vide telephonic and above mentioned communications you have not responded to us and failed to move your household goods from above mentioned property of which physical possession already taken on 05.08.2021.

As mentioned in above public notices now bank is left with no other option but to sale the household goods through public auction which is scheduled to be conducted on 27.05.2022 in presence Executive Magistrate and police force. Please note that after adjustment of all charges and expenses, the remaining amount will be deposited in your account. (Public notice of the same printed in paper on 24.05.2022)

Herby you are advised to vacate the property on or before 26.05.2022.

This is for your information and record.

Sd./  
Authorized Office,  
UCO Bank, Sambalpur Main Branch

Date: 24/05/2022  
Place: Sambalpur

**STATE BANK OF INDIA**

**STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH (SARB), SAMBALPUR,**  
At: Hussain House, P.O.: Ainthapalli, Sambalpur, Odisha - 768004  
Phone: 0663-2540025, E-mail ID: sbi.18398@sbi.co.in

**E-Auction / Sale Notice**

The undersigned as Authorized Officer of State Bank of India has taken over possession of the following Vehicles. Public at large is informed that e-auction of the charged Vehicles, in the below mentioned cases for realisation of Bank's dues will be held on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS AND AS IS WHAT IS" & "WHATEVER THERE IS" BASIS on the terms & conditions specified here under.

**Date & Time of E-Auction: 14.06.2022 from 11.00 A.M. to 03.00 P.M.**  
**Date & Time of Inspection of the Vehicle: 09.06.2022, between 11.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M.**

Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) / A/c. No.	Vehicle Details	Outstanding dues for recovery of which Vehicle is/are sold	Reserve Price/ EMD /BID Increment Amount
1.	<b>Borrower: Sri Tusar Bhuyan, S/o.:</b> Late Padma Lochan Bhuyan, At: MI-213, Chhend Colony, Kalinga Vihar, Rourkela, Dist.: Sundergarh, PIN - 769015/ <b>A/c. No.: 35732199504</b>	Renault Lodgy 85 PS RXZ-08004, Regd. No.: OD-14H-1164, Engine No.: K9KR86E008638 Chassis No.: MEEJSRKF98000936	₹16,04,751/- as on 30.11.2017 + interest thereon w.e.f. 01.12.2017 + further expenses & costs	₹3,87,000/- ₹38,700/- ₹10,000/-
2.	<b>Borrower: Sri Sunil Kumar Dehury, S/o.:</b> Sri Devraj Dehury, At/PO.: Jaikeela, Main Road, P.S.: Bonai, Dist.: Sundergarh, Odisha, PIN - 770038/ <b>A/c. No.: 32457564233</b>	Ashok Leyland Bus, Regd. No.: OD-05-A-8228, Engine No.: CVEZ411592 Chassis No.: MB1PSRGWCGEVL1874	₹52,17,206.88 as on 31.03.2018 + interest thereon w.e.f. 01.04.2018 + further expenses & costs	₹6,89,000/- ₹68,900/- ₹10,000/-
3.	<b>Borrowers: 1) M/s. Shakti Transport, Prop.: Sri Rajendra Kumar Jaiswal, At/PO.:</b> Plot No.: T4/21, Civil Township, Rourkela, PS.: Raghunathpali, Dist.: Sundergarh, Odisha, PIN - 769001, 2) Sri Rajendra Kumar Jaiswal, Cr. No.: HHH/8, Civil Township, Rourkela, Sundergarh, Odisha, PIN - 769004/ <b>A/c. No.: 35688128724</b>	EICHER 35 31K HSD BS-III TC/62 Truck, Regd. No.: OD-14-G-8346, Engine No.: E613CDGCG073640, Chassis No.: MC2L1KRCGCG008745, Make: 2016	₹36,37,120/- as on 28.02.2019 + interest thereon w.e.f. 01.03.2019 + further expenses & costs	₹5,21,000/- ₹52,100/- ₹10,000/-
4.	<b>Borrower: Sri Surendra Sharma, S/o.:</b> Sri Chulai Sharma, At: Panchgochia, PO.: Baraipali, PS.: Ainthapali, Dist.: Sambalpur, PIN - 768004/ <b>A/c. No.: 33322092787</b>	Eicher 3025XPCWC, Regd. No.: OD-15-A-5138, Engine No.: 683CDD525727, Chassis No.: MC243KRF0DE1619	₹12,13,126.27 as on 25.12.2018 + interest thereon w.e.f. 26.12.2018 + further expenses & costs	₹4,71,000/- ₹47,100/- ₹10,000/-
5.	<b>Borrowers: 1) Sri Surendra Kumar Sah, S/o.:</b> Sri Siya Ram Sah, 2) Sri Mahesh Kumar Sah, S/o.: Sri Siya Ram Sah, Both are at C/o.: S.K. Industries, Precession Engg. Co., At/PO.: Gurudwara Road, Rourkela, P.S.: Plant Site, Dist.: Sundergarh, PIN - 769001/ A/c. No.: 36873190239	Renault Lodgy 85 PS RXZ-08004, Regd. No.: OD-14-N-7840, Engine No.: E040752 Chassis No.: MEEJSRGGWGG9008004	₹10,38,430/- as on 21.01.2019 + interest thereon w.e.f. 22.01.2019 + further expenses & costs	₹4,96,000/- ₹49,600/- ₹10,000/-

Interested bidder may deposit Pre-bid EMD with MSTC before the close of e-auction. Credit Pre-bid EMD shall be given to the bidder only after receipts of payment in MSTC's Bank account and updation of such information in the e-auction website. This may take some time as per Banking process and hence bidders, in their own interest, are advised to submit the Pre-bid EMD amount well in advance to avoid any last minute problem.

For detailed Terms & Conditions on the sale, please refer to the link provided in the State Bank of India, Secured Creditor Website: <https://sbi.co.in/web/sbi-in-the-news/auction-notices/sarfaesi-and-others>, <https://ibapi.in>

**Parking Yard Details of Vehicles:**

SI No.: 1, 3, & 5 - SBI, RACPC, SMECCC Stockyard, Rourkela, Sector - 17, Rourkela  
SI No.: 2 - M/s. M B Stockyard, Jaldia, 'C' Block, Rourkela, Mr. Abhi Sahoo, Mob.: 8328941984  
SI No.: 4 - Puspnaath Stockyard, NH-53, Choudhury Chowk, Sindurapank, Sambalpur, Mr. Himanshu, Mob.: 9938430811

**For Vehicle related query please contact: 8917388408, 9861053292 & 9338357165**

Date : 23.05.2022  
Place : Sambalpur

Sd/- Authorised Officer  
State Bank of India, SARB, SAMBALPUR

FOCUS POLICE ENCOUNTERS

# MUD IN OUR EYES



The so-called encounter quietened public anger but it did not do justice to anyone, not even the victim, because the case was not investigated fully and the real culprits probably were never at risk of being caught

could escape from the custody of such a large contingent of armed police party. When any such mischievous attempt is initiated by one of the accused, the entire police party would get alerted and would thwart all such attempts. Such helplessness could not have been expected even from a layman..."

The report illustrates how State-sanctioned killings and the subsequent cover-ups are done – at one level ham-handed but also unfettered by any fear of a follow-up. The teams put to this task are so brutalised and confident that there will be no accountability that they care not about a cover for their killings. Linked to this of course is the political class – all parties at all levels – that want quick fixes for potential political trouble on law & order issues and to keep the economy ticking. The nexus of the political-business class stands out clearly, standing as a force called progress and prosperity against the weak and the downtrodden who have little hope of justice from such a system. This is an India-wide divide and it makes the nation weaker even though the numbers on the economic dashboard may look stronger.

The Supreme Court has done yeoman service by setting up the panel, which has served the nation by its detailed findings. The report should lead to immediate local area arrests of the guilty policemen but it must also trigger a re-think on the problem of police encounters. All political parties must recognise this as a dangerous decline in standards. IPS officers must speak up. We also need new administrative protocols – sending on compulsory leave top officers in the immediate chain, leading to the IPS officer in charge, as the case is investigated by a judicial panel, will end the sorry case of police encounters right away. Until then, silly stories like the accused threw mud in the eyes of the police will continue to throw mud in the eyes of the nation.

The writer is a journalist and faculty member at Bhawan's SPJIMR. Views are personal.

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The nation should be shell shocked by the report of an eminent panel set up by the Supreme Court to investigate the death of four accused in the brutal rape and murder case of veterinary doctor (identified only as Ms. Disha) in Hyderabad in 2019. The panel, comprising Justice VS Sirpurkar (retired judge of the Supreme Court), Justice Rekha P SondurBaldota (former judge of the Bombay High Court) and Dr DR Kaarthikeyan (former CBI director), begin their recommendations in the case of the "encounter" killings with the following words: "Just as mob lynching is unacceptable, so is any idea of instant justice. At any point of time, rule of law must prevail. Punishment for crime has to be only by the procedure established by law."

Their 387-page report is so thorough, meticulous and in graphic detail that it amounts to a conviction of the police and the State machinery for what clearly and beyond any shadow of doubt was a staged encounter in which four accused, three of them juveniles, were killed. Accused Jollu Shiva, Jollu Naveen and Chintakunta Chennakeshavulu were aged 17, 15 and 15 respectively, their ages conclusively proved as recorded in school registers. The fact that at least two of these three were juveniles was clearly known to the police. The fourth accused killed in the "encounter", Mohammed Arif, was 26.

All the four were from poor families – truck drivers and cleaners who were picked up, it appears, not by police but by the owner of the truck that was seen in video footage as the investigation commenced. The report should also be shocking to all of India because it gives a graphic account of how the police functions, almost like rookies who have no clue about anything remotely linked to any formal investigation, let alone investigating a shocking case that led to a nationwide public outcry.

If 75 years after Independence, this is how police operations work

in some of the most important cases, then questions need to be asked on the state of the nation itself. Further, the case comes not from what was once the backyards of Bhagalpur but in a thriving state capital that wants to become the techno-cyber capital of the nation and attracts investments like Amazon's largest campus anywhere in the world. These modernistic investments and infrastructure sit ill at ease with governance structures that live on from pre-historic times. They mock the state, they bring ridicule to its elaborate and carefully constructed norms of due process, and they lower the standing of a nation that seeks to be a global power.

The report should further shock the entire cadre of the Indian Police Service officers, who are considered the top echelons of the police bureaucracy but have rarely if ever spoken about the growing menace of staged encounters, the shoddiness of investigations and the lack of anything remotely professional in the functioning of the Indian police. Each and every IPS officer in the nation would hang his or her head in shame on reading this report.

Now in the dock and almost impossible to escape are the local

police and the State machinery that not only allowed and probably sanctioned at the highest level such a crime but also did not complete a full and proper investigation of a case that had shocked Telangana and the nation. In that sense, the so-called encounter quietened public anger but it did not do justice to anyone, not even the victim, because the case was not investigated fully and the real culprits probably were never at risk of being caught. The encounter that killed four accused also killed all leads; it killed investigation and it murdered the process by which justice is delivered.

The report by the eminent panel records some of the most ludicrous claims put up by the police – that when taken to the spot for recovery of material evidence, the accused threw mud into the eyes of the police escorts, that they snatched a revolver and fired at the police. One para from the long report illustrates the bankruptcy of the official narrative: "On account of the fact that the allegation of throwing of dust and earth is introduced belatedly and considering the improbabilities in the version, it is to be held that this allegation is an embellishment and introduced only to give a plausible explanation that the accused



Jagdish Rattanan

THE SUPREME COURT HAS DONE YEOMAN SERVICE BY SETTING UP THE PANEL, WHICH HAS SERVED THE NATION BY ITS DETAILED FINDINGS

Detachment is the beginning of mastery.

SRI AUROBINDO



## Nandan Kanan: Sec 307

The brutal attack on some visitors at Nandan Kanan zoo of Bhubaneswar 22 May 2022 is a wake-up call for the State Government that has been trying to build Orissa as a destination of great value. Much effort and money has gone in to build the 'Best Kept Secret' brand at the national level. A traveler from Orissa reaching Delhi's IGI airport would feel happy to see the slogan of our state flashing on multiple digital screens. The advertisement blitz has been proven to be a success as footfalls have increased. Yet, tourism is not limited merely to advertising destinations, adding hotel rooms, offering air-conditioned bus rides or creating niche tent accommodations on beaches. While all this may be considered integral parts of the tourism industry, the most important ingredient is a tourist's interface with the local people. Without hospitable and welcoming locals no tourist destination can thrive for long. Creating temporary eco-rooms for tourists who will be secluded during their whole stay can never be a sustainable method. From Goa to Indonesia and onwards to many Pacific islands, tourism thrives because of friendly locals and a sense of security.

The incident at Nandan Kanan is deplorable to say the least. According to reports, a group of tourists from Chhattisgarh who had booked tickets for safari rides at the zoo were brutally attacked when they protested against the inordinate delay in permitting them to board the safari bus. Reportedly, the group was made to wait for long hours in the heat which led to an altercation with the officials at the ticket counter. Instead of tactfully handling the situation, the zoo officials called in about 50 locals who brutally assaulted and beat up the tourists. This speaks volumes about the average Oriya character. It seems, as if, Oriyas as a race cannot handle a situation as individuals and always need mob backup. This may be the reason why Oriyas outside the state seem insecure and avoid trying to identify as Oriyas except in groups.

The Nandan Kanan incident should be treated with extreme seriousness by the state police. The forest department should first investigate why tourists were not taken in the safari bus in sequential order. Second, the police must investigate and locate every single attacker and hold an identification parade immediately. The hapless tourists should be moved to a safe accommodation and given police protection to identify the criminals and give testimonies in a magistrate's court so that they are not compelled to keep coming back to Bhubaneswar to avoid threats and coercion. Third, all those located and identified should be prosecuted under non-bailable assault sections including Section 307 (Attempt to Murder). Government should ensure strict follow up in court so that the accused are duly punished. Enough evidence exists on social media as well as CCTV cameras of Nandan Kanan. Inaction or delay in action will encourage this kind of mob creation and unruly behavior and gravely damage the reputation of the state. Strong action will be a deterrent for future recurrences. Otherwise, Orissa might, once again, slip back into the shadows of being the 'Best Kept Secret'.

Piate  
Tathagata Satpathy

## Oz Change of Guard

The swearing in of Australia's new Prime Minister Anthony Albanese 23 May represents a watershed moment in Australian politics. He not only becomes the first Labor PM in the past decade, but the election outcome this time around has shown how climate change and its disastrous impact on the planet in general and Australia in particular has played a crucial role in deciding the fortunes of political parties and climate activists in the country. It is a significant coincidence that the new PM had to dash off to Tokyo moments after the swearing-in ceremony to participate in a summit meeting of the Quad group comprising Australia, the US, Japan and India. The four-nation grouping has been formed to act as a counterbalance against China's growing influence in the Indo-Pacific region. Albanese has been accused by his opponent and immediate predecessor Scott Morrison with being soft on China. He has, however, refuted the accusation and blamed "wrong handling" of the situation by the Morrison government for the strained relationship between Australia and China.

Albanese's emergence as the new Australian PM has come as music to French ears. This is because France was left high and dry by the Morrison government which abandoned a submarine deal between the two countries in favour of a security pact known as the AUKUS formed by Australia, the US and the UK. The arrangement offers a great challenge to China's might. In fact, the outgoing French foreign affairs minister, Jean-Yves Le Drian, did not conceal his glee when he said the "defeat of Morrison suits me very well." Morrison's handling of the deal, according to him, showed "brutality and cynicism, and I would even be tempted to say unequivocal incompetence." In fact, Albanese himself had accused Morrison of leaking to the media personal text messages from Emmanuel Macron to discredit the French President's complaint that Australia had given no warning that a French submarine contract would be cancelled. In November last year, French Ambassador to Australia Jean-Pierre Thebaud described the leak as a "new low" and a warning to other world leaders that their private communications with the Australian government could be weaponised and used against them.

Even though Albanese has made it clear that the country's foreign policy of his Labor government would continue as that of the previous government, he has all the same expressed his misgivings about Morrison's China policy. He has described a new security pact between China and the Solomon Islands as Australia's worst foreign policy failure in the Pacific since World War II. Significantly, the Prime Minister of Solomon Islands, Manasseh Sogavare, wrote a letter to Albanese offering his "sincere congratulations" on his victory. His prompt response shows he wants to mend his country's relations with Australia especially because the security deal with China was a major election issue. Sogavare assured Albanese "that Solomon Islands remains Australia's steadfast friend and development partner of choice." In a statement, Sogavare expressed hope for "taking Solomon Islands' relationship with Australia to another level under Albanese's tenure as the prime minister of Australia."

The most dramatic turn in this election is the Australian voters' overwhelming support for immediate action on climate change and strong disapproval of the previous government's half-hearted action in this regard. Australians are among the people in the world reeling most under the impact of climate change. In the past three years, record-breaking bushfires and flood events have killed more than 500 people and billions of animals. Droughts, cyclones and freak tides have devastated communities. The twin issues of climate change and the cost of living have converged in this election like never before. Australia is facing an "insurability crisis" with one in 25 homes on track to be effectively uninsurable by 2030, according to a Climate Council report. This means that the insurance for the highest-risk homes will be so prohibitively expensive that the insurance companies will refuse to accept any policy. Climate change is playing out in real time and many Australians now find it impossible to insure their homes and businesses. Nowhere is this a bigger issue than in Queensland. It is home to almost 40 per cent of the 500,000 homes projected to be effectively uninsurable. Queensland has been ravaged by floods in recent months. In February, the state capital Brisbane had more than 70 per cent of its average yearly rainfall in just three days. Insurers say the floods will become Australia's most expensive natural event ever.

No wonder Australian voters decided to cast their votes in favour of climate activists contesting in the election and the Green Party. They have voted against ruling coalition candidates and decided to give a chance to the Labor party to effectively control climate change with their target to limit carbon emission by 43 per cent by 2030 against the ruling coalition's promise of 26 per cent. Australia may provide a lesson to the rest of the world in the fight against climate change, if the new government can live up to its promise.

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

# Climate consensus amid conflict



Werner Hoyer

IN A CONTEXT OF CONFLICT, WHERE MOST POLICIES ARE VIEWED AS ZERO-SUM, CLIMATE PROJECTS ARE AN EXCEPTION

This week, I met a teenager in Ramallah named Miriam, who shared how much she has benefited from one of the 450 solar-powered schools that the European Investment Bank has financed in the West Bank. Speaking in perfect English, Miriam was fully aware of the challenges her region faces because of climate change. But she was also full of optimism and extraordinarily articulate in explaining why the Middle East needs to do more to harvest sunshine, one of the few clean energy resources that it enjoys in abundance.

The following day, Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett reminded me that the EIB helped finance four of Israel's six desalination plants, including one that will be the world's largest when it becomes operational in 2023. He joked that almost two-thirds of the water in our glasses came from those EIB-backed projects. In a region with a growing population, Israelis know that water scarcity can easily lead to new conflicts. They want to develop greater desalination capacity so that they can potentially trade water for clean energy.

Changing rainfall patterns, water scarcity, and increasingly frequent and intense extreme weather events

– including heatwaves and wildfires – affect Israelis and Palestinians equally, and the need to address the problem appears to be one of the few issues on which both parties agree. This was confirmed to me in talks with Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh. In a context of conflict, where most policies are viewed as zero-sum, climate projects are an exception.

In a speech this past February, Israeli President Isaac Herzog pointed to the intensification of extreme weather events as a wake-up call for the region. "For anyone who does not understand what this means, let me explain: this spells a genuine catastrophe," he warned. "The climate crisis is a crisis for the whole world, and we in the Middle East must understand it chiefly at the regional level, because its implications will be dramatic."

Herzog then called for a regional partnership to create a "renewable Middle East." His vision would include the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Jordan, Bahrain, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, and Israel's "Palestinian neighbours." Yet while the Palestinian Authority has advanced some climate policies, it will take massive investment for these ideas to translate into large-scale yields of clean water from

the Gaza Central Desalination Plant and solar energy in the West Bank.

These landmark mitigation and adaptation projects will be needed to manage the humanitarian, environmental, and economic issues caused by climate change. Having returned to Luxembourg from my visit to the region, it is clearer to me than ever that we need to bank on the current "climate consensus" to build momentum behind the kind of transformational climate projects envisaged in the European Green Deal. While making Europe carbon neutral by 2050, such investments can also help to foster stability and improve economic conditions in the Middle East.

My belief in the transformational power of smart climate investments has grown only stronger with time. Over the past few years, the EIB has become the world's largest multilateral financier of climate projects, with commitments to support at least €1 trillion (\$1.05 trillion) of investment this decade. However, in a region as complex as the Middle East, it will take more than just finance to make many of these projects happen. We will need much more cooperation among countries and key external stakeholders such as the US and the EU.

The EIB's new Jerusalem-based Representation for the West Bank and Gaza, which opened this month, can help foster such cooperation. It will develop partnerships and stronger cooperation in the West Bank and Gaza while also supporting transformational cross-border climate projects across the region. As such, it will be instrumental for the EU's climate diplomacy in the Middle East.

We aim to complement and scale up, from a European perspective, what US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry has started with his diplomatic push for Middle Eastern countries to phase in renewable energy. That means financing the development of large-scale renewable energy and water cooperation in the region and building an even stronger climate consensus.

I am convinced that if climate diplomacy is backed by high-quality, innovative projects of regional significance, it can open up promising new avenues to pursue stability, growth, and peace in the Middle East. It's time to give climate finance a chance.

The writer is President of the European Investment Bank.

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## Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

### Right to feed

Sir, The Supreme Court's recent vacation of the stay on a Delhi High Court order from last year that said that stray dogs have a right to food and water, and citizens have the right to feed them is really welcoming. The feeding and caring for stray dogs is a hugely divisive issue in urban neighbourhoods across India, with arguments and disputes breaking out frequently between dog lovers and those who feel scared or intimidated by the animals. Each side accuses the other of being insensitive and inconsiderate. The decision paves the way for community dogs to be fed either at private driveways/porches or spots designated. Stray dogs have the right to food and citizens have the right to feed community canines, earlier the Delhi High Court had said while observing that in exercising this right, care and caution should be taken to ensure that it does not impinge upon others and causes no harassment or nuisance. The high court, while laying down guidelines regarding the feeding of stray dogs, had said every dog is a territorial being and it has to be fed and tended to at places within its territory that are not frequented by the general public. Any person having compassion for stray dogs can feed them at their private entrance or driveway of their house or any other place not shared with other residents, but no one can restrict the other from feeding dogs, until and unless it is causing harm or harassment to them, it had said.

Abhijit Roy, JAMSHEDPUR

### Clever & cawing

Sir, Birds of a certain kind occupy all portions of the earth inhabited by mankind. This shows that man is never without his bird associates. Although there are more than 10,000 bird species worldwide, only a handful of them are extremely talented and incredibly intelligent. And, when it comes to smartness, crows should probably be at the top of the list. Crows are actually very friendly types of birds. Known for their intelligence and adaptability, they are distinguished by their throaty and raucous sound 'caw.' The largely common black crows imitate sounds quite professionally. In fact, they usually communicate with different sounds which vary according to situations. Crows are extremely shrewd with a powerful memory to the extent that they can even recognise individual human faces. Said Henry Ward Beecher, the renowned American social reformer and speaker: "If men had wings and bore black feathers, few of them would be clever enough to be crows."

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

# national

## of the day quote

**Petrol Prices –**  
May 1, 2020: ₹69.5, Mar 1, 2022: ₹95.4, May 1, 2022: ₹105.4, May 22, 2022: ₹96.7m Now, expect Petrol to see 'Vikas' in daily doses of 70.8 and 70.3 again. Govt must stop fooling citizens. People deserve genuine relief from record inflation

RAHUL GANDHI | FORMER CONGRESS CHIEF

Whenever we come to Arunachal Pradesh, we return with energy and patriotism. There is probably no other place in the country other than Arunachal Pradesh where people greet each other with 'Jai Hind' instead of the usual 'Namaste'

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

In Punjab, farming is a very big issue. Our objective is that just as we have presented the education, health and electricity sectors in Delhi as models, we will present Punjab's farming as a model before the country

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CM

## SHORT TAKES

### Scientist jumps to death in Delhi

**New Delhi:** A scientist at the Union Information & Technology Ministry jumped off to his death from a government office building in the national capital Monday, an official said. Rakesh Mallik, 55, and Scientist 'E' at the IT Ministry, jumped off the 7th floor of the Shastri Bhawan, located in the heart of the New Delhi. Deputy Commissioner of Police Amrutha Guguloth said information was received from the control room of Shastri Bhawan at 3.06 p.m. regarding one person jumping off from the building.

### PC George gets conditional bail

**Kochi:** Already out on bail for making a hate speech, former seven-time MLA and Kerala Janapaksham Chairman P.C. George on Monday got a relief when the Kerala High Court granted him conditional anticipatory bail and asked the police not to arrest him till Thursday. George on Saturday suffered a jolt, when a lower court here dismissed his anticipatory bail plea for his hate speech which he made early this month at an election meeting here.

### Kirit's wife sues Raut for ₹100 cr

**Mumbai:** A Mumbai ex-Bharatiya Janata Party MP's wife Monday filed a Rs 100 crore libel suit and a permanent gag order against Shiv Sena spokesman Sanjay Raut. Medha Somaia, wife of Kirit Somaia, said in her plea that the Rs 100 crore damages should be deposited in the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. The Somaia's suit came in response to Raut's recent accusations of an alleged Rs 100-crore toilet scam in the Mira-Bhayander area of Thane district, through the Sena's newspaper 'Saamana' on April 12.

### AP MLC surrenders

**Amaravati:** Anantha Uday Bhaskar, a legislator of Andhra Pradesh's ruling YSR Congress Party, on Monday surrendered before the police in Kakinada in connection with a case relating to the death of his former driver under suspicious circumstances. With pressure mounting for the arrest of Bhaskar, he surrendered before the police. The Member of Legislative Council (MLC) is likely to be produced before a magistrate on Monday night. The police have also picked up a couple of friends of Subrahmanyam, the former driver of the MLC.

## Sarpanch killers among 5 hybrid terrorists held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Srinagar/Baramulla, May 23:** The Jammu and Kashmir Police Monday said they have arrested five 'hybrid' terrorists of the proscribed Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) outfit, three of whom were allegedly involved in the killing of a sarpanch in Baramulla district last month.

The arrests were made during separate police actions -- two of them were held with arms and ammunition in the Srinagar city Monday, while the rest three from Baramulla.

'Hybrid' militants are those who are not listed as terrorists but are radicalised enough to carry out a terror strike and then slip back into the routine life.

Those arrested in Srinagar has been identified by the police as Aamir Mushtaq Ganai alias Mussa, a resident of Khan Colony Chanpora, and Ajan Altaf Bhat, a resident of Butpora Chanpora. "Srinagar Police arrested two local hybrid terrorists of proscribed terror outfit LeT/TRF Incriminating



'Hybrid' militants are those who are not listed as terrorists but are radicalised enough to carry out a terror strike and then slip back into the routine life

The arrests were made during separate police actions -- two of them were held with arms and ammunition in the Srinagar city Monday, while the rest three from Baramulla

materials, arms and ammunition, including 15 pistols, 30 magazines, 300 rounds and a silencer were recovered," Kashmir Inspector General of Police Vijay Kumar tweeted. TRF or The Resistance Front is an offshoot of the LeT. "It is a big success for the police,"

the IGP said, adding a case has been registered and an investigation was underway. Later, a police spokesman said the arrests were made during a cordon and search operation in Chanpora area of the city.

A case has been registered under relevant sections of Unlawful

Activities Prevention Act, Arms Act and Indian Penal Code, the spokesman said. He said it came out in the initial examination that these weapons were sent by Pakistan-based handlers of LeT/TRF and they were to be used for targeting killing of civilians and security personnel in the Srinagar city.

The arrested duo was to distribute these pistols to other terrorists in Srinagar, the spokesman said. Separately, Baramulla Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Rayees Mohammad Bhat told reporters in Pattan that three 'hybrid' terrorists of LeT have been arrested in connection with the killing of a sarpanch last month. "On April 15, terrorists had fired upon Manzoor Ahmad Bangroo, sarpanch of Goshbugh B at Chanderhama orchards in Wussan area of Palhallan in Pattan and his body was recovered," Bhat said.

After the attack, searches were launched in the area by security forces and a case was also registered, he said.

## 8 injured as houses collapse after heavy rain in Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 23:** Eight people were injured as houses collapsed in different parts of Delhi following heavy rain and storm Monday morning, officials said.

The houses collapsed in the Jawalpur, Gokalpur, Shankar road and Moti Nagar areas of the city, officials of the fire department said. Trees were uprooted in some parts of the capital and traffic snarls were reported on various stretches, including ITO, DND and near AIIMS. The weather department said this was the first moderate-intensity storm of this season.

According to the fire department, three persons received minor injuries after a house collapsed in west Delhi's Jawalpur. The trio is being treated at the Sanjay Gandhi Hospital. A call about the collapse in Jawalpur was received at 5.51 am and two fire tenders were rushed to the spot, they said.

In a related development, another house collapse was reported in northeast Delhi's Gokalpur following which two fire tenders were rushed to the spot.

No one was injured in the incident, Atul Garg, Director, Delhi Fire Services said. This was followed by another call about a house collapse in west Delhi's Moti Nagar area at around 6:36 am where two rescue vehicles were rushed to the spot, he said.

"Three persons received injuries and were shifted to Acharya Bhikshu Hospital," he added.

A call about another house collapse was received at 6:28 am from Shankar road area in central Delhi and three tenders, including rescue vehicles, were sent to the spot.

"Two persons got minor injuries and were shifted to the Ram Manohar Lohia hospital for treatment," Garg added.

All those injured have sustained minor injuries and will be discharged soon, fire officials said.



Students of Calcutta University raised slogans during a protest demanding online examinations, in front of the university's campus in Kolkata

## Nitish calls all party meet on caste census

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Patna, May 23:** Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has called an all party meeting to discuss caste-based census May 27.

"We have sent the proposal to all the parties for the meeting on May 27. However, some of the parties have not replied to the call of the state government so far. We are waiting for their response," Nitish Kumar said.

"We want to discuss each and every issue related to caste-based census. The leaders of different political parties will give their suggestions which will be a great help," he said. Nitish Kumar's statement came 10 days after Leader of the Opposition Tejashwi Yadav met him over the issue.

Earlier, Jitan Ram Manjhi claimed that he has received a call from the CMO office for the meeting on May 27. With this statement of Nitish Kumar, it is clear that



caste-based census is likely to take place in Bihar soon and its expenses will be borne by the Bihar government.

In Bihar, parties like the JD-U, the RJD, the Congress, the Left parties and the AIMIM are in favour

of the caste census. The BJP, however, has raised objections. Sources said that the BJP is not likely to attend the all party meet called by the Chief Minister.

Tarkishore Prasad, Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar said: "The Chief

## GYANVAPI CASE

# Whose petition first, court to decide today



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Varanasi, May 23:** A district court here reserved its order for Tuesday on which petition is to be heard first in the Gyanvapi-Shringar Gauri complex case transferred to it by the Supreme Court.

The court of District Judge A K Vishvesh heard arguments from both the Hindu and Muslim sides. A fresh plea seeking permission to worship the "Shivling" claimed to have been found on the Gyanvapi mosque premises during a videography survey ordered by a lower court was also filed.

The apex court had Friday transferred the Gyanvapi-Shringar Gauri complex case from a civil judge (senior division) to a district judge, 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.

"After hearing arguments of both sides, the court will on Tuesday give its verdict on which petition is to be heard first," said Madan Mohan Yadav, a lawyer for the Hindu side.

The Hindu side argued that since a court-appointed commission has completed its work, the opponents should present their objections to

it. Yadav said they pleaded to make available the commission's report and videography done by it to present its side on it.

Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee's lawyer Mohammad Tauhid Khan argued that the writ is not sustainable, hence, it should be dismissed. A fresh petition was also moved on Monday by Dr Kulpati Tiwari, Mahant of Kashi Vishwanath temple, for regular "pujan" (worship) of the Shivling, which he said was found in the Gyanvapi mosque complex.

May 16, the lower court had directed the district administration to seal a spot in the Gyanvapi Masjid complex after counsels representing the Hindu petitioners said a Shivling was found Monday during a court-mandated videography survey.

A mosque management committee spokesperson disputed the claim, telling a television channel that the object was part of a "fountain". He said lawyers representing the mosque committee were not fully heard before the sealing order was announced. The Hindu side claimed that the Shivling was found close to the "wazookhana"—a small reservoir used by Muslim devotees to perform ritual ablutions before offering the namaz.

## SIDHU SEEKS SPECIAL DIET



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chandigarh, May 23:** Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu, lodged in Patiala central prison to serve a one-year jail term in a 1988 road rage death case, was taken to Rajindra Hospital in Patiala under heavy security on Monday morning for medical examination, official sources said.

The cricketer-turned-politician's counsel HPS Verma said Sidhu has sought a special diet in jail. He said a board of doctors will carry out a detailed medical examination of Sidhu at the hospital. "The board of doctors will see what special diet is required and then it will submit its report in a local court (in Patiala)," Verma said over the phone.

According to the counsel, Sidhu cannot consume wheat, sugar, 'maida' and some other food items. "He can have berries, papaya, guava, double-toned milk and food items which do not have fibre and carbohydrates," Verma said. After the board of doctors carry out a medical examination, a report will be submitted in the court of chief judicial magistrate, he said.

The 58-year-old Congress leader suffers from medical conditions like embolism and has a liver ailment. In 2015, Sidhu also underwent treatment for acute deep vein thrombosis (DVT) at a hospital in Delhi. DVT is caused by a blood clot in a deep vein which hinders the normal blood flow.

Several Congress supporters reached Rajindra Hospital after Sidhu was brought there. The former Punjab Congress chief on May 20 was sent to Patiala central jail after he surrendered before a local court. He has been sentenced to one-year rigorous imprisonment by the Supreme Court in a 1988 road rage death case.

## Stronger the judge, greater the allegations: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 23:** The Supreme Court Monday said that making allegations against judges is "unfortunately" becoming a new fashion now and the stronger the judge, the greater the allegations against him.

The apex court, while hearing an appeal filed by an advocate who was found guilty of contempt by the Madras High Court and was sentenced to undergo two weeks of simple imprisonment, observed that making allegations against judges is rampant in Uttar Pradesh and now it is happening in Bombay and Madras also.

The top court said the conduct of the appellant was "thoroughly contemptuous" and besides levelling wanton allegations against the single judge of the high court who had issued a non-bailable warrant (NBW) against him, the recusal of one of the judges hearing the proceedings thereafter was sought on thoroughly improper grounds.

"Now, this is becoming unfortunately a new fashion of making allegations against judges. The stronger the judge, the greater the allegations against the judge. This is happening now in Bombay. Of course, it is rampant in Uttar Pradesh, now Madras," a vacation bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and Bela M. Trivedi said.

"Let a strong message go," said the bench, adding that judges are assaulted across the country and in the district judiciary, sometimes not even a 'lathi' (stick) wielding policeman is there for their protection.

While refusing to interfere with the high court's March order this year, which had also directed that the advocate shall not practice before it for a period of one year, the apex court observed that one can annoy the court but cannot level wanton allegation like this when the process of the court is sought to be served.

The bench said after the single judge had issued an NBW against



the advocate and the police went to serve him when he was there at a tea shop near the high court, hundreds of lawyers lay upon the police and prevent the NBW from being served.

It said CCTV footage of the incident was also there and to compound it further when the matter was heard by the court, the advocate had made allegations against the single judge who had issued NBW against him.

The counsel appearing for the ap-

pellant said the advocate has tendered an unconditional apology. The bench observed that the appellant belongs to a class of lawyers who are "absolutely incorrigible" and there is a blot on the legal profession. It said this is the only way to deal with these kinds of people and a two-week sentence is actually very lenient.

The appellant's counsel said that in the appeal, they have not raised any ground but tendered unconditional apology and the conduct of the appellant may be monitored

# Oppn decries bulldozer 'revenge'

The ruling BJP defends administration's actions, blaming 'Jihadis' for the burning down of Batadrava police station



day and bulldozed houses of the deceased and several of his relatives, alleging that they were 'encroachers' and staying there with "forged land documents."

The state Congress has deputed a seven-member committee, led by its working president Rana Goswami, to visit Batadrava and take stock of the situation there. The panel, which includes Batadrava MLA Sibamoni Bora, will interact with local people to find out the root causes of the incidents and submit its report within two days.

"It is shocking to know that many houses of local people are demolished by bulldozers," the party said in a statement.

Taking to Twitter, Congress MP Abdul Khaleque said his party never supports any attack on a police station but bulldozing houses

of suspected attackers by police is a "direct violation of human rights." The Trinamool Congress state president Ripun Bora said the incident of arson at the police station is "a matter of concern" as it reflects people are "losing" faith in the rule of law.

"It shows people are losing their trust in the law, and the torching of a police station is a threat to the law and order. The custodial death also indicates an utter disregard for the legal mechanism," he said.

The former MP from the state also maintained that the "distance between public and police has widened" since the Himanta Biswa Sarma-led government came to power last year.

Terming the incident of arson at the police station following the

custodial death as 'anarchism', Assam Jatiya Parishad chief Lurinjyoti Gogoi said, "These cannot be accepted. When the respect for law diminishes, such things happen. When the chief minister openly supports encounters, these are bound to follow."

On the subsequent eviction drive, he claimed that it reflected the "vindictive nature of the government."

"Whenever this government doesn't like someone or something, they get the police to take action against them...it (eviction) was a step of vengeance," he said.

Terming the attack on the police station as "an organised terrorist act," the ruling BJP claimed that "trained jihadis" were involved in the arson. The saffron camp also welcomed the eviction drive.

BJP's senior spokespersons Ranjiv Kumar Sarma and Subhas Dutta have claimed that "Bangladesh-based Muslim miscreants received training in PFI camps to carry out an organised attack on the Batadrava police station."

They urged the police to "construe the attackers as perpetrators of crime against the nation" and resort to stringent action against them. The ruling party welcomed the decision of carrying out the eviction exercise against illegal encroachers following the incident.

# Damage to rail lines, assets being assessed with drones

In the floods and landslides caused by pre-monsoon rain, 24 people have been killed, and around 8.40 lakh people affected



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Guwahati, May 23: Specialists from North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC), a subsidiary of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), are using drones and satellite data for conducting rapid damage assessment of railway tracks, stations, and other assets of the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) in Assam's Dima Hasao mountainous district, officials said Monday.

Due to unprecedented landslides triggered by heavy rain since May 13, massive damage has been caused to stations and railway tracks at over 58 locations in NFR's Lumding-Badarpur single line railway route via Dima Hasao. This railway line connects Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur and the southern parts of Assam with the rest of the country. Officials of the Assam State

Disaster Management Authority said that a team of specialists from Umiam (Meghalaya)-based NESAC is doing rapid damage assessment in Dima Hasao using drones and satellite data to plan post-disaster activities and restoration of the damaged lines. ISRO's NESAC was set up in September 2000 as a joint initiative of the Central government's Department of Space (DOS) and the North Eastern Council.

In many places, due to heavy rain, the soil from the railway tracks got washed away and huge landslides covered the tracks and other railway assets. According to NFR's Chief Public Relations Officer, Sabyasachi De, in the hill section under Lumding Division, all trains have been cancelled till June or until the restoration of the railway lines.

The official said that railway engineers and workers are working on a war footing to restore the rail links. The NFR's Lumding-Badarpur single line railway route via Dima Hasao is vital for ferrying goods, fuel, and passengers to and from Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur and southern Assam's three districts.

# Now, plea for 'purification' of Mathura's Shahi Idgah

Several suits have been filed so far in the matter with a common prayer of shifting of Shahi Masjid Idgah, which has been claimed to have been constructed on the temple premises



In a few of the suits, a plea has also been made for sending an ASI team to ascertain presence of signs of Hindu temples inside the mosque

vision Mathura, he said. Through the application, Sharma had sought the permission for performing 'abhishek' (anointment) of Laddu Gopal in the Katra Keshav Dev temple claiming it to be inside the mosque, he said.

Both his applications are pending in the court here for disposal, the counsel said. According to him, his client has submitted these applications seeking early disposal of the suit. Sharma had filed a suit February

26, 2021 in the court of Civil Judge Senior Division Mathura seeking shifting of Shahi Masjid Idgah constructed on a part of the 13.37 acre land of Katra Keshav Dev temple.

UP Sunni Central Waqf board, Intezamia committee Shahi Masjid Idgah, Sri Krishna Janmasthan Seva Sansthan, and Sri Krishna Janmabhumi trust, are the defendants in the lawsuit.

Several suits have been filed so far in the matter with a common prayer of shifting of Shahi Masjid Idgah, which has been claimed to have been constructed on the temple premises.

In a few of the suits, a plea has also been made for sending an advocate commissioner or an ASI team to ascertain the presence of signs of Hindu temples inside the mosque.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Agra, May 23: Though Taj Mahal is in the news for several reasons, what needs our immediate attention is the air and water pollution that is hurting the world heritage monument that is India's pride and a star tourist attraction.

Despite thousands of crores spent on fighting pollution following the Supreme Court's intervention in the 1990s, neither the air pollution level has come down nor has water of the river Yamuna become safe.

Even three decades after the Supreme Court intervention and the continued war against environmental pollution, to secure precious world heritage monuments in the Taj Trapezium Zone, (TTZ) conditions have not significantly improved. Rather, the accelerated urbanisation process has further compounded the crisis.

In fact with the green cover continuously decreasing and water bodies either dry or heavily polluted, the overall scenario is depressing, pointing to the utter failure of the government bodies to handle the alarming ecological crisis building up.

The apex court ordered in 1993 a slew of measures while considering the high powered experts committee, headed by senior scientist Dr S Varadrajana's report in the MC Mehta PIL on pollution threats to the Taj Mahal. Over the years thousands of crores of rupees have been spent without discernible changes to the overall environmental scenario in the 10,400 sq km eco-sensitive Taj Trapezium Zone.



## TAJ CITY CRISIS

Agra fares poorly in the air quality index. The ambient air quality has gone worse from being poor, as Agra continued to be among the top polluted cities in India

The dust level (SPM and RSPM) has gone up and the share of noxious gases in the ambient air has remained high posing a grave threat to humans and monuments

Although the city claims serious participation in the Smart city race, the results do not instill confidence or indicate any positive shift in the eco-equilibrium

All parameters suggest Agra is nowhere close to winning the pollution war, despite international concern and claimed governmental efforts to halt the increasing pollution level

Neither the pollution standards applicable in eco-sensitive zones have been achieved nor has the city made any progress in extending the green cover. The forest area

has in fact come down to a meager six per cent or less, against the national target of 33 per cent. The suspended particulate matter (SPM) level remains over 350 micrograms per cubic metre, while going above 600 in summer, against the 100 microgram standard. This summer has been truly cruel to both nature and stones, says green activist Devashish Bhattacharya.

The level of noxious gases has continued to rise as a result of automobile explosion. "In the early 1980s when Firozabad was part of Agra district, the number of registered vehicles was only 40,000. But now the number has crossed a million in Agra district alone. Add Firozabad, Mathura and neighbouring Hathras districts, the scenario is frightening," Bhattacharya adds.

He wondered why despite continuous monitoring by the apex court and the NGT, there has not been any significant change in the

environmental scenario in the TTZ. One major source of dust and pollution is the dry and polluted river Yamuna. "Yamuna is virtually dead in Agra. The dry river-bed and the highly polluted water that flows down the river pose serious threats to historical monuments along the banks. Decades of judicial activism, major policy pronouncements and projects worth millions of rupees, this Taj city remains pock-marked with mounds of garbage. Air and water pollution threaten the health of people and the world-famous monuments that are visited by millions of tourists every year," say members of the River Connect Campaign.

The SPM rises as the river bed runs dry and the Rajasthan desert gradually expands into Uttar Pradesh. In recent years, there has also been large-scale illegal stone mining in the Aravalli ranges, pushing up the particulate matter in the air.

## RAIN-BATTERED

# Assam's lone hill station strives to reclaim lost glory

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Haflong (Assam), May 23: Landslides and flood have left a trail of destruction in Dima Hasao, a picturesque tourist hotspot in Assam, prompting a multi-agency effort to salvage the state's only hill station Haflong and its surrounding townships in the district, officials said.

Officials, however, are uncertain when Dima Hasao will regain its lost sheen, considering the enormity of the devastation.

While snapped road links are likely to be restored within the next few weeks, train movement connecting Dima Hasao, Barak Valley, Tripura, Mizoram and Manipur with the rest of the country is expected to resume from July, they said.

The road network to Dima Hasao was also cut off, as streets filled with mud, stones and slash became a common sight. Though some stretches have been partially reopened and tunnels cleaned up, a senior official of the Assam State



Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said complete restoration will take more than a week.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had Sunday met NHA Chairperson Alka Upadhyaya and discussed the road condition in Dima Hasao.

Another big challenge is to reinstate mobile services in the af-

ected areas, the restoration work of which is also underway, the officials said.

Dering Thaosen, Advisor of the Blue Hills Society, a local NGO, said that Dima Hasao, once infamous for dreaded insurgency, had just begun its journey of development, but the natural disaster has "now pushed the

district 50 years back".

"The new broad gauge connectivity and the highways, popularly called 'Mahasarak', had brought some hope for Dima Hasao in terms of tourism and revenue. Businesses had just started to gain momentum and many outsiders were interested to invest.

"But, the heavy rain and land-

slides have again brought dark days for us and now the district has been pushed back 50 years," he said.

Asked about the possible causes of the ravages due to landslides, which is not new to Dima Hasao, Thaosen said: "One of the biggest reasons for this scale of destruction was haphazard construction work for the broad gauge and highways, which resulted in damage to the environment."

"The economy of the district collapsed due to the shutdown of road and rail communication. It has vast opportunities in the tourism sector and the government should give emphasis on proper drainage systems, as most of the landslides happened due to improper drainage," said Samal Nandi, a Haflong-based businessman.

Aslam Khan, a retired Inspector of Schools, whose grandfather was a contractor in the construction of metre gauge railway in Dima Hasao, said all construction work should be done as per scientific norms.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, May 23: It is called Bhartiya Kisan Union (Apolitical), but if reports are to be believed, there is a lot of politics in this 'apolitical' outfit.

The breakaway outfit of the BKU, led by Rajesh Chauhan, has alleged that the outfit under the Tikait brothers was getting 'increasingly political' and the members, including senior leaders, did not appreciate this.

BKU president Nareesh Tikait claims that the split in the outfit was engineered by the BJP government and said that the parting of 'some' leaders will not impact the organization or its activities. Fissures within the Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU) had come out, ironically, on the death anniversary of its founder president Mahendra Singh Tikait May 15, when the formation of a separate outfit was announced.

BKU vice-president Rajesh Chauhan said he took the decision after being "insulted" and alleged that the outfit sided with

political parties in the elections - an apparent reference to UP assembly polls.

The new outfit was named the Bhartiya Kisan Union (Arajnaitik). "Arajnaitik" means apolitical in Hindi.

Nareesh Tikait alleged that the new organisation was formed at the behest of the BJP government. "The organisation is an outfit of the government. The BJP wanted to damage the movement after the year-long farmers' agitation. The agitations by the BKU are run by people as a group and individuals do not matter," he said.

The split in the BKU, however, has put a question mark on the farmers' posture towards the government and it remains to be seen whether the Tikait brothers will command the same pull that they did during the year-long agitation.

The Tikait brothers have been almost synonymous with farmers' issues and this is the first time that their leadership has been challenged.

of the day quote

The Union government reducing excise duty on petrol by a record Rs 8 per litre and that on diesel by Rs 6 will help in cooling down the spiralling inflation and bring under control the prices of essential commodities and fares of autorickshaws and taxis

Entry to any religious institution should be at an age where they can make their own decisions. I always advocate for non-existence of madrassas where religious inculcation is given priority over formal education. Every child shall be exposed to the knowledge of Science, Mathematics and other branches of modern education

Former defence minister A K Anthony had openly disclosed in Parliament that the governments, since independence, stuck to the policy of avoiding road construction along China border out of fear that Chinese army and people would move in to the Indian territory and disturb peace. It is with this mindset, the successive governments at the Centre ruled the country for decades without thinking about the development of people in the border areas

SHORT TAKES

UP jail warden suspended

Prayagraj: The jail warden of the Naini Central Prison near Prayagraj has been suspended after an inmate escaped from the city's SRN hospital where he had been admitted for treatment. Senior Superintendent at Naini Central Jail, P.N. Pandey, said Deepak Pal, 33, was suffering from vomiting and other problems. He was admitted to the SRN hospital on May 18 following the advice of doctors at the jail hospital. Deepak was kept at the ward on the third floor of the old building and two cops were deployed there.

Youth drowns

Shimla: A 23-year-old man from Punjab drowned in the Yamuna in Himachal Pradesh's Sirmour while taking a dip after visiting the Paonta Sahib Gurudwara, officials said Sunday. The deceased, identified as Paramjot -- a resident of Ludhiana, had come to Paonta Sahib Gurudwara along with his family for a 'darshan'. Paramjot went into the deep water while taking bath, and got trapped there.

Infant's body found

Shimla: The body of a newborn baby being scratched by dogs was found in Himachal Pradesh's Shimla. The body was discovered in an under-construction building in Unagar panchayat area of Shimla's Mehli after some people who were passing by the building noticed it. After receiving the information, the police, accompanied by forensic team and dog squad, rushed to the spot and took the body in its custody. The body was later sent for post-mortem and investigation has been initiated, officials said.

Two booked

Bhopal: The Gwalior police is on a lookout for two men accused of gang-raping an Army jawan's wife and blackmailing her. According to police, the incident occurred in 2020, but a complaint was registered at a police station Sunday. The victim's husband, who is a resident of Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior district, is posted in J&K. Matter came to light after the victim, along with her husband, reached a local police station Sunday and lodged a complaint against the accused.



Biodiversity offers goods and services that provide a natural habitat and are essential for a well-functioning global economy

BHUPENDER YADAV | UNION MINISTER

Quad leaders to discuss ways to solidify Indo-Pacific ties



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 23: Laying a long-term strategic groundwork to further solidify cooperation for a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific and delving into the implications of the Russian invasion of Ukraine are expected to be the central focus of the second in-person summit of the Quad leaders in Tokyo Tuesday.

The leaders of the Quad, comprising India, the United States, Australia and Japan, are set to demonstrate that the grouping is a "force for global good" and has a unifying commitment to a rules-based international order amid China's increasingly intimidatory behaviour.

The summit is taking place at a time, the relations between China and the Quad member countries have become tense over the last few years, with Beijing increasingly challenging democratic values and resorting to coercive trade practices.

At the summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to delve into India's perspective and vision for the Indo-Pacific as well as ways to boost cooperation in multiple domains including ensuring resilient supply chains.

In a statement, before he left for Japan on Sunday, Modi said the

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summit will provide an opportunity for the leaders to review the progress of the Quad initiatives and exchange views about developments in the Indo-Pacific region and global issues of mutual interest.

There have been indications that the four-nation grouping may further resolve to expand cooperation in areas of emerging technologies, supply chain security, clean energy, connectivity, digital trade and infrastructure.

US President Joe Biden is likely to use the summit to showcase Washington's strong commitment to the Indo-Pacific region and may call for further revitalising the

More employees of J&K govt are on radar of security forces

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 23: More government employees are on the radar of the security agencies for terror links in Jammu and Kashmir and it is expected that the government will sack them soon, the sources in the security network Monday said.

The sources further said that the people who are on the radar of the agencies are teaching and non-teaching staff of the Kashmir University while some of them are working in the J&K government.

The government has asked the intelligence agencies to prepare a list of those employees of university, school and government offices who are sympathizers of terror outfits or spreading the separatism among the students and the local people.

The intelligence agencies in J&K have prepared three categories of such government employees and teachers who are involved in spreading the ideology of the terror organisations. Among the University

teachers, it was learnt that 15 professors or lecturers are on the radar of the security forces and three of them need immediate action while 15 are on the watch list, the sources said.

Those who are under the first category will be sacked immediately after a Committee's recommendation which has been constituted under Article 311(2)(C) of the Constitution while those kept under second category are on the watch of the security agencies and the third category, the misguided government employees will be taken for counselling to get them back in the mainstream, they added.

The officials in the security grid in J&K said that the majority of university teachers are against terrorism and have no anti-India sentiments. Recently, the J&K government had dismissed one professor Altaf Hussain Pandit of the Kashmir University and a school teacher Mohammad Maqbul Hajam for encouraging and involvement in anti-India activities.

Hardik caught between a rock and a hard place

AHMEDABAD: In politics nothing happens by accident. If it happens, it was planned that way, or so goes a famous saying.

Attributed to Franklin Roosevelt, the longest serving President of the United States, almost 77 years later, it still rings true even for a rookie politician like Hardik Patel who resigned as working president of the Gujarat Congress last week.

His departure from the Congress was the worst kept secret in the state. For weeks he had been talking to his party through the media and the party top brass had been alerted to his opening lines of communication with the BJP leadership which led to his being cold shouldered during Rahul Gandhi's visit to the state. He himself boasted of being in touch with

the 'top most' in the BJP who wield decisive say in Gujarat. That he should announce his resignation addressed to the Congress president through Twitter in three languages - Hindi, English and Gujarati and then attack the Congress and Rahul Gandhi personally, proved a dead give-away of the direction he was headed.

The Congress has been the obstacle delaying the resolution of key national issues like the Citizenship Amendment Act, the Ram temple construction at Ayodhya or the scrapping of Article 370 which provided special status to Jammu and Kashmir, his letter said.

Interestingly in March 2019 the day Hardik joined the Congress, he had quite the opposite to say. "In view of the Pulwama terror attack, the Congress had decided



RK MISRA

to postpone its rally but Prime Minister Narendra Modi continued addressing gatherings across the country." For Rahul Gandhi he said, "I chose him because he is honest and does not believe in working like a dictator." Now, however it is the chicken sandwiches that seemed to have taken precedence!

The fact was that Hardik was very keen to contest the 2019 Lok Sabha elections from Jamnagar. The damper to his aspirations came when just weeks ahead of

MAJOR ATTRACTION

A major attraction of this year's International Day of Yoga will be the Guardian Ring -- a relay Yoga streaming event -- which will capture and weave together digital feed of programmes organised by Indian Missions abroad. As planned, streaming on social media will begin from Japan at 6 am local time



Battery defects caused EV fires, says DRDO



The preliminary findings from the government-constituted probe committee on EV fires have already identified issues with battery cells or design in nearly all of the electric two-wheeler fire incidents in the country

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 23: The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) that was tasked with investigating into EV fire incidents by the Union Road Transport and Highways Ministry, has found serious defects in the batteries, including designs of the battery packs and modules.

According to sources in the know of the matter, these defects occur because the electric two-wheeler manufacturers like Okinawa Autotech, Pure EV, Jitendra Electric Vehicles, Ola Electric and Boom Motors may have used "lower-grade materials to cut costs". The Centre for Fire, Explosive and Environment Safety (CFEES) at the DRDO has submitted its fact-finding report to the Ministry, as first reported by Business Standard.

According to the sources, the

ministry has now summoned representatives of these EV manufacturers, asking them to submit an explanation on the DRDO report findings. Earlier this month, the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA), which comes under the Union Consumer Affairs Ministry, sent notices to Pure EV and Boom Motors after their e-scooters exploded in April. The consumer watchdog is also examining more cases of e-scooter fires and will serve similar notices to other EV makers too.

Pure EV and Boom Motors along with Ola Electric, Jitendra EV and Okinawa Autotech, recalled faulty batches after the EV fire incidents were reported.

The preliminary findings from the government-constituted probe committee on EV fires have already identified issues with battery cells or design in nearly all of the electric two-wheeler fire incidents in the country. The committee was constituted in the wake of EV fires and battery blasts in e-scooters. The experts found defects in battery cells as well as battery design in nearly all EV fires.

The government is now working on new quality-centric guidelines for EVs that will be unveiled soon. At least 12 electric two-wheelers have exploded till now and several EV makers have recalled the faulty batches amid the growing pressure from the government.

POURING WOES



Vehicles wade through the waterlogged service road of the Delhi-Gurugram expressway after heavy rains in Gurugram

8 LABOURERS KILLED IN BIHAR

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, May 23: Eight labourers died and eight others were injured after a truck laden with pipes overturned in Bihar's Purnea district Monday morning.

The accident occurred at the Kali temple under the Jalalgarh police station on the Siliguri-Delhi four lane National Highway 57 at 3.30 a.m. Surendra Kumar Saroj, SDO of Purnea (Sadar) told IANS that all the 16 victims are natives of Rajasthan and eight of them died on the spot.

"The goods truck laden with pipes was on the way from Silliguri to Jammu & Kashmir. The labourers were also boarded on the truck. When they reached the Kali temple on four lanes, the truck overturned. The pipes fell on them. Eight of them died as they were trapped under the pipes," Saroj said.

"We have immediately initiated a rescue operation at the accident place and recovered the dead bodies. We have also rescued the injured persons and sent them to primary health centers. Their condition is stable now," Saroj said. "After the accident, the driver and helper managed to flee from the spot. Efforts are on to nab them," Saroj said.



Inter-State Council reconstituted

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 23: The Inter-State Council, which works to promote and support cooperative federalism in the country, has been reconstituted with Prime Minister Narendra Modi as chairman and chief ministers of all states and six Union ministers as members.

Ten union ministers will be the permanent invitees to the Inter-State Council, according to an official notification. The government has also reconstituted the standing committee of the Inter-State Council with Amit Shah as chairman.

While the prime minister is the chairman, chief ministers of all states and Union Territories having a legislative assembly and the administrators of UTs not having a legislative assembly have been made members.

The union ministers who were made members of the council are: Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Nirmala Sitharaman, Narendra Singh Tomar, Virendra Kumar, Hardeep Singh Puri, Nitin Gadkari, S Jaishankar, Arjun Munda, Piyush Goyal, Dhamendra Pradhan, Pralhad Joshi, Ashwini Vaishnav, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Kiren Rijiju and Bhupender Yadav.

The mandate of the council is to create a strong institutional framework to promote and support cooperative federalism in the country, activate the council and zonal councils by organising its regular meetings. It also facilitates consideration of all pending and emerging issues of the centre-state and inter-state relations by the zonal councils and inter-state council and develop a sound system of monitoring the implementation of the recommendations of the inter-state council and zonal councils.

withdrawal of the case May 10. As things stand, Hardik hardly had any grouse against his own party leadership until the time the elections neared. In the last elections he had a say in 20 seats but in 15 of them the Congress lost so no say this time.

The fact is that he has been a pale shadow of the aggressive youth leader who headed the Patidar Anamat Andolan Samiti having lost steam. With reports of his heading towards the BJP making the rounds, he is being heavily trolled in the social media by the community as being responsible for the death of 14 Patidar youths who lost their lives during the agitation. This has forced him to beat a hasty retreat putting out a statement that he is yet to make up his mind on his next move.

# international

## of the day quote

The international response to people fleeing war in Ukraine has been overwhelmingly positive

FILIPPO GRANDI | UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

Imran Niazi wants to initiate a civil war in the country. He is mistaken. The nation will never forgive him (for the sin) and will hold him by the collar

SHEHBAZ SHARIF | PAKISTAN PRIME MINISTER

The relations between Iran and Gulf Arab states have seen a "breakthrough" since President Ebrahim Raisi assumed office in 2021

ALI REZA ENAYATI | IRAN FM'S UNDERSECRETARY FOR DIPLOMATIC AFFAIRS

## SHORT TAKES

### Aus states warned of dam outflows

**Sydney:** Australia's states Monday warned of flooding risks due to dam outflows as a result of continued heavy rainfall. Due to continuing rain in the catchment areas, outflows have increased from more than 20 dams in the state of Queensland, reports Xinhua news agency. Seqwater, the state's bulk water supply authority, started to drain down the flood storage compartment of discharged dams Monday.

### UK to mark Prince William's 40th b'day

**London:** The UK's Royal Mint Monday released the design of a commemorative 5 pound coin to celebrate the 40th birthday of Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge, next month. William, who turns 40 June 21, will make royal history as the first time the second in line to the British throne appears alone on an official coin. The special creation has been crafted by engraver Thomas T. Docherty and shows William in a three-quarter profile gazing up to the top right of the coin, with the number 40 to his left and his royal cypher 'W' to his right.

### Two killed, 120 injured in gas cylinder blast

**Dubai:** A gas cylinder explosion in the capital of the United Arab Emirates killed two people and injured 120 others Monday, police said, hours after authorities downplayed the incident and warned the public not to share images of the aftermath. The explosion struck a restaurant just after 1 p.m. in Abu Dhabi's Khalidiya neighborhood, just a few blocks from the capital's beachfront corniche. Initially, Abu Dhabi police vaguely referred to damage and casualties, showing pictures of glass and debris littering the street.

### Infant dies as dad couldn't find petrol

**Colombo:** As the fuel crisis is worsening in Sri Lanka, tragedy struck a family after a two-day-old infant died as her father could not find petrol for his tuk-tuk to take her to the hospital in the island nation's Central Highlands region. Shanaka Roshan Pathirana, the Judicial Medical Officer (JMO) of the Diyatalawa hospital, conducted the post-mortem of the infant and shared the heart rendering story on social media. In Haldamulla, about 190 km from capital Colombo, the parents wanted to rush their baby to the hospital as she was showing signs of jaundice and was refusing to be breast fed.

## Russian soldier gets life term at war crimes trial

AGENCIES

**Kyiv, May 23:** A Ukrainian court sentenced a 21-year-old Russian soldier to life in prison Monday for killing a Ukrainian civilian, sealing the first guilty conviction for war crimes since Moscow's invasion three months ago.

Sgt. Vadim Shishimarin pleaded guilty to shooting a Ukrainian civilian in the head in a village in the northeastern Stryk region in the early days of the war.

He testified that he shot the man after being ordered to do so. He told the court that an officer insisted that the Ukrainian man, who was speaking on his cellphone, could pinpoint their location to the Ukrainian forces.

The sentencing came as the 3-month-old war helped push the number of people displaced worldwide to the highest level on record level, according to the United Nations, with more than 100 million people driven from their homes across the globe. Meanwhile, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy addressed the World Economic Forum as it opened in Davos, Switzerland, calling for "maximum" sanctions against Russia. He said by video that sanctions needed to go further to stop Russia's aggression, including an oil embargo, all of its banks blocked and cutting off trade with Russia completely. Zelenskyy says his country has slowed Russian advances and his people's courage has stirred unseen unity of the

### Russian diplomat to UN resigns

**Davos:** A veteran Russian diplomat to the UN office at Geneva says he handed in his resignation before sending out a scathing letter to foreign colleagues inveighing against the "aggressive war unleashed" by President Vladimir Putin in Ukraine. Boris Bondarev, 41, confirmed his resignation in a letter delivered Monday morning at the Russian diplomatic mission after a diplomatic official passed on his English-language statement to The Associated Press. "For twenty years of my diplomatic career I have seen different turns of our foreign policy, but never have I been so ashamed of my country as on Feb. 24 of this year," he wrote, alluding to the date of Russia's invasion.

democratic world. On the battlefield, Russian forces have stepped up shelling in Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland as they press their offensive in the region that is now the focus of fighting. Grinding battles in the Donbas, where Ukrainian and Russian forces are fighting town by town, have forced many civilians to flee their homes.

In Tokyo Monday, US President Joe Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida joined in condemning Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. Earlier on his trip to Asia, Biden signed legislation granting Ukraine \$40 billion more in US support for its defense against the Russian attack.

**Case was first war crimes trial of Russian invasion**  
**T**ank commander Vadim Shishimarin entered a guilty plea  
**R**ussia denies targeting civilians



Russian soldier Vadim Shishimarin stands inside a cage during a court hearing, amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine, in Kyiv, Ukraine

### Pak may reduce working days

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Islamabad, May 23:** The cash-strapped Pakistan government is examining the possibility of conserving fuel by reducing the number of working days, a move by which it is hoping to save an estimated \$2.7 billion in foreign exchange, a media report said Monday.

The estimates are based on three different scenarios in terms of working days and fuel conservation prepared by the State Bank of Pakistan for foreign exchange savings of \$1.5 billion to \$2.7 billion, the Dawn newspaper reported.

Pakistan's total oil imports for the first 10 months (July-April) of the current fiscal year (FY22) has surged beyond \$17 billion, displaying a massive 96 per cent growth compared to the same period in the last fiscal year, the report said.

## China warns US after Biden says ready to defend Taiwan militarily

**Wang Wenbin, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman, said, "No one should underestimate the firm resolve, staunch will and strong ability of the Chinese people in defending national sovereignty and territorial integrity"**

AGENCIES

**Beijing, May 23:** Beijing Monday said it was ready to defend its national interests over Taiwan, in a rebuke to US President Joe Biden's



UNCERTAIN JOURNEY: Migrants walk past razor wire fencing after crossing the Rio Grande river in Eagle Pass, Texas

PTI PHOTO

## Red alert in Europe over monkeypox outbreak

AGENCIES

**London, May 23:** European countries will be told to prepare a vaccination plan to tackle the spiralling monkeypox outbreak, as Denmark became the latest country to be struck down.

EU authorities are set to publish a risk assessment, which will advise all member states to draw up an inoculation strategy to control the spread of the tropical virus, Daily Mail reported.

The strategy likely to be recommended is the same already deployed in Britain. Officials were attempting to contain the spread by vaccinating all close contacts of the 20 confirmed monkeypox cases, including NHS workers.

The strategy, called ring vaccination, involves jabbing and



monitoring anyone around an infected person to form a buffer of immune people to limit the disease's spread. It comes as experts warn nations could bring in travel restrictions to control the spread of the illness, if the World Health Organisation (WHO) declares the outbreak an emergency.

But the vaccine, called Imvanex and made by Denmark-based drug-maker Bavarian Nordic, has not been authorised for use against monkeypox in Europe or the UK,

Daily Mail reported.

The European Medicines Agency approved the jab for use against smallpox in 2013, while the US Food and Drug Administration greenlit the injection for both infections in 2019. And there is no data available on how safe it is for immunocompromised people or youngsters the groups at highest risk from the outbreak. It comes as WHO bosses had been informed of 92 confirmed cases by Saturday and 28 suspected infections, most of which have been detected in Europe.

But the true toll will be many times higher, with top scientists warning community transmission means some of the spread is inevitably going undetected, Daily Mail reported. A disproportionate number of cases are in gay and bisexual men.

### Fresh global threat

**Geneva:** Even as the world is not over the pandemic yet, it is facing a significant and formidable challenge of the monkeypox outbreak that has so far infected over 100 people in about 15 countries, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said. Addressing the UN's World Health Assembly in Geneva on Sunday, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the world is not over the pandemic, which has claimed six million lives, with almost 15 million excess mortality. However, in addition is the new monkeypox virus and several other disease outbreaks such as acute hepatitis in children and Ebola, as well as wars in Ukraine and Yemen.

## SL Prez swears in 8 more mins

RESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Colombo, May 23:** Embattled Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa Monday expanded his Cabinet with the induction of eight more ministers but did not appoint a finance minister once again to steer the debt-ridden island nation out of the woods.

The new ministers belong to the ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) and its allies - the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) and the Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP), a Tamil minority party in the north.

Rajapaksa, since the public protests began to rage against him for his resignation, has now reshuffled his Cabinet five times, including forcing the resignation of his elder brother and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa. The ministers will serve in the interim Cabinet of Prime Minister Ranil



Wickremesinghe set up with the objective of handling the ongoing economic crisis, the worst since the country got independence in 1948. The new ministers who were sworn in include Douglas Devananda - Minister of Fisheries; Keheliya Rambukwella - Minister of Health, Water Supply; Ramesh Pathirana - Minister of Industries; and Mahinda Amaraweera - Minister of Agriculture, Wildlife and Wildlife Conservation, the Economy Next news portal tweeted. While Vidura Wickramanayaka was appointed as minister of Buddhadasana, Religion and Culture; Naseer Ahamed was given the portfolio of the Environment Ministry.

## Do claims against Musk raise a legal issue for Twitter deal?

REUTERS

**New York, May 23:** A report saying Tesla Inc CEO Elon Musk's company SpaceX paid \$250,000 to settle sexual harassment claims by a flight attendant on a private jet comes as he eyes a takeover of Twitter.

Below is an overview of some of the key legal questions arising from the claims, which were published Thursday by Business Insider. Musk has denied the allegations.

### WHAT ARE THE CLAIMS AGAINST MUSK?

Business Insider reported Thursday that SpaceX paid \$250,000 in 2018 to settle claims by 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 a private settlement process, according to the article.

In Twitter posts Thursday, Musk called the allegations "utterly untrue" and said the alleged exposure "never happened."

### HAS MUSK FACED ANY PAST SEXUAL HARASSMENT COMPLAINTS OR LAWSUITS?

No. There are no other public harassment allegations against Musk.

### ARE MUSK'S COMPANIES FACING SEXUAL HARASSMENT OR OTHER EMPLOYMENT LAWSUITS?

Tesla has faced accusations of race and sex discrimination, including a race bias class action lawsuit in California state court and a lawsuit by California's Department of Fair Housing and Employment, which alleges widespread race discrimination.

At least seven women have filed sexual harassment and discrimination lawsuits against Tesla since



vow to protect the island from any invasion by China. China's Communist Party has never controlled self-ruled Taiwan but it views the island as part of its territory and has vowed to one day seize it, by force if needed.

Biden, who is in Tokyo to meet regional allies, earlier Monday warned that China's increasingly assertive stance over the island was "flirting with danger" and promised to defend Taiwan from



late last year. These lawsuits are at an early stage.

Tesla has broadly denied wrongdoing and said it has adopted policies to prevent and punish workplace misconduct.

Tesla is hardly unique in facing such legal challenges; most US companies with large workforces

face some employment-related claims and lawsuits.

SpaceX is not facing lawsuits over sexual harassment, despite several accusations that female employees have made in the media and online. In December, for instance, a former SpaceX engineer wrote in a blog post that

the company was "rife with sexism" and that her complaints of sexual harassment had been ignored.

SpaceX has said it rigorously investigates harassment and discrimination complaints and takes appropriate action when a company policy is violated.

### IS MUSK A DEFENDANT IN THE LAWSUITS AGAINST THE COMPANIES?

No. Musk is not a defendant in any of the lawsuits. But, in several pending race discrimination and sexual harassment cases employees have accused him and other senior company leaders of being dismissive about misconduct and of allowing hostile workplace conditions to fester.

### WHERE DO THE LAWSUITS STAND AND HOW HAVE THE COMPANIES RESPONDED TO THEM?

A federal judge in April awarded \$15 million to a Black Tesla fac-

tory worker who claimed he was subjected to racial slurs and racist graffiti by coworkers at a Fremont, California, factory; Tesla has sought to pause the California agency's lawsuit, claiming it failed to conduct a proper investigation before suing.

A California judge is expected to rule soon on Tesla's motion to send one of the sexual harassment lawsuits against Tesla to arbitration. The judge is presiding over five similar cases, so his ruling could also affect those lawsuits.

Boards have a duty to ensure that companies comply with the law, including laws that prohibit sex discrimination. While board members aren't expected to know about every single allegation of rule-breaking, "they'd be expected to have procedures to know claims of lawbreaking directly against the CEO," said Ann Lipton of Tulane Law School.

# business

## of the day quote

The world is moving towards a lot more partnerships. It's better to source the best that's out there, rather than do everything ourselves

ANISH SHAH | CEO, MAHINDRA AND MAHINDRA

The Boeing 737 Max - the flagship of our fleet - has successfully returned to service and earned rave reviews from passengers. Over the next few months we will induct many more Max aircraft in our fleet with the goal to replace all our older aircraft with the Max

AJAY SINGH | CMD, SPOICEJT

The recent measures taken by the government are aimed to address the long standing demand of the industry to bring down the costs and ensure availability of steel for the domestic manufacturers

DIMITROV KRISHNAN | PRESIDENT, ICEMA

## SHORT TAKES

### P-Notes investment rises to ₹90,580cr

**New Delhi:** Investments in the Indian capital markets through participatory notes (P-Notes) increased slightly to ₹90,580 crore at the end of April, as foreign investors are shifting allocation from China to India amid a significant economic slowdown in the most populated country. P-notes are issued by registered Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to overseas investors who wish to be a part of the Indian stock market without registering themselves directly. They, however, need to go through a due diligence process.

### Zomato quarterly revenue up 75%

**Bangalore:** Indian food delivery firm Zomato Ltd reported a 75% jump in quarterly revenue Monday, as new customers propelled a surge in order volumes. During the quarter through March, gross order value - or the total value of all food delivery orders placed on Zomato's online platform - jumped 77% year-on-year to a record high of ₹58.5 billion (\$754.40 million), while average monthly transacting customers were at an all-time high of 15.7 million. "We think our growth trajectory is back on track, and we don't foresee 'post-Covid ramifications' affecting our growth rate anymore," said Chief Executive Deepinder Goyal.

### Olectra bags order for 2,100 e-buses

**New Delhi:** Olectra Greentech Monday said it has bagged the biggest ever order worth ₹3,675 crore for supplying 2,100 electric buses from Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport (BEST). "Olectra Greentech Ltd (OLECTRA) has bagged the biggest ever order in its history for 2,100 electric buses from BEST," a company statement said. According to a company statement, Evey Trans Private Ltd (EVEY) has received the Letter of Award (LoA) from BEST.

### Tag Heuer to take crypto payments

**Washington:** TAG Heuer, a Swiss luxury watchmaker, has announced that it will now be accepting online payments in cryptocurrency in the US. Customers will be able to purchase timepieces using a dozen different cryptocurrencies and five different stablecoins. Users can spend up to \$10,000 per transaction using the different cryptocurrencies. Gucci, Hublot, Franck Muller, and Norqain are some of the other brands that also accept cryptocurrencies as payment options.



**If oil prices remain at \$110 (per barrel) you are not just talking about inflation, then you're talking about bigger threats. And if the global economy goes in that direction, everyone, including the oil producers, everyone will have to face the consequences then inflation**

HARDEEP SINGH PURI | OIL MINISTER

## AKASA AIR REVEALS FIRST LOOK

Stock market maverick Rakesh Jhunjhunwala-backed airline Akasa Air Monday revealed a picture of its first aircraft. Through a Twitter post, it attached a picture of the aircraft with the caption: "Can't keep calm! Say hi to our QP-pie! Coming soon to Your Sky." The airline said it is on track to receive its first Boeing 737 Max plane by mid-June and launch commercial operations by July



## WIDER FISCAL GAP RISKS

# Inflation fight to hurt growth

After retail and wholesale inflation hit multi-year highs in April, the government cut taxes on petrol and diesel, taking a revenue hit of ₹1 trillion, and will take a hit of another ₹2 trillion if the situation worsens

REUTERS

**New Delhi, May 23:** India's export duty hikes and tax cuts will likely hurt economic growth and raise the chances of the fiscal deficit widening, but do little to bring down retail prices within the central bank's tolerance level, economists and industry officials said. Over the past month, India's fiscal and monetary policy have turned from being growth-focused to honing in on inflation - with the central bank raising the key interest rate by 40 basis points, and the government cutting taxes on fuel and disincentivising exports. "The measures announced mark a tacit admission by the government that both fiscal and monetary policies are set to be deployed to bring



RETAIL INFLATION TO REMAIN ABOVE RBI'S TOLERANCE BAND

EXPORTS OF WHEAT, STEEL TO BE HIT

INDIA'S 2022/23 FISCAL DEFICIT MAY WIDEN 40-50 BPS

Higher food inflation, a pending rise in electricity tariffs, the continued passage of higher input costs from firms to consumers and other second-round effects are likely to drive inflation

SONAL VARMA | ANALYST, NOMURA

inflation down," said Sonal Varma, an analyst at Nomura.

Still, despite government intervention, India may end up with retail inflation at least 100 basis points above its 6% tolerance level, as key food prices are likely to be on the rise, economists at banks like HSBC and Nomura said.

The moves could hurt growth and the fiscal deficit could widen by 40-50 basis points, they said, despite the central bank governor saying India was likely to achieve its fiscal deficit target at 6.4% of GDP.

India imposed an export tax of 15% on 11 steel products and raised taxes on iron ore exports, effec-

tively slowing exports of such products, months after pushing companies to boost capital expenditure and exports.

"This will discourage capital expenditure in this country. People started to invest in capex, and it was not designed to service the domestic market," VR Sharma, managing director of Jindal Steel & Power, told Reuters.

Sharma said the move drives the industry away from boosting exports and helping the government achieve its \$1 trillion export target by 2030, from \$669.65 billion in 2021/22.

A basket of iron and steel products recorded the second highest

## METAL STOCKS CRACK

# Markets pare gains to end flat in risky trade

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, May 23:** Equity indices frittered away a good start to close with modest losses Monday, pressured by heavy selling in metal stocks after the government imposed export duties on steel-making raw materials to curb soaring prices. The 30-share BSE Sensex opened strong and gained momentum as the session progressed, but came under severe selling pressure in afternoon trade to close 37.78 points or 0.07 per cent lower at 54,288.61. On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty slipped 51.45 points or 0.32 per cent to end at 16,214.70.

Metal stocks took a knock after the government Saturday hiked the tax on export of iron ores and concentrates to 50 per cent, and imposed a duty of 45 per cent on iron pellets in a bid to increase their domestic availability and curb soaring steel prices.

Tata Steel was the biggest loser in the Sensex pack, plummeting 12.53 per cent, followed by UltraTech Cement, ITC, PowerGrid, HDFC, HDFC Bank, HCL Tech and

Rupee recovered from record lows and settled 15 paise higher at 77.55

Reliance Industries. In contrast, M&M, Maruti, HUL, Larsen & Toubro, Asian Paints, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Wipro were among the gainers, climbing as much as 4.14 per cent.

Among BSE sectoral indices, metal plunged 8.33 per cent, followed by basic materials (4.08 per cent), oil and gas (1.74 per cent) and energy (1.47 per cent). In contrast, auto jumped 1.90 per cent, capital goods 0.91 per cent, IT 0.79 per cent and consumer discretionary goods and services 0.78 per cent.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap declined 0.64 per cent and midcap slipped 0.26 per cent. International oil benchmark Brent crude gained 1.15 per cent to \$113.8 per barrel. Continuing their selling spree, foreign institutional investors offloaded shares worth ₹1,265.41 crore on Friday, as per stock exchange data.



## POST FUEL EXCISE DUTY CUT

# RIL-BP says ops unsustainable

PETROL UNDER-RECOVERY AT ₹13.08/LITRE, DIESEL ₹24.09/LITRE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Mar 23:** RBML - the joint venture of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) and BP Mobility Ltd - has told the government that fuel retailing for the private sector in India has become unsustainable after market-controlling public sector firms frequently froze petrol and diesel prices at rates way below the cost, sources said.

"They have written to the petroleum ministry over the fuel pricing issue," a highly placed source in the government, who didn't want to be quoted, told reporters here. While RBML is scaling down its retail operations to cut some of the ₹700 crore loss it is incurring every month, Russia's Rosneft-backed Nayara Energy has raised prices of petrol and diesel by up to ₹3 a litre



over and above the PSU rates, to cover for some losses.

The government over the weekend cut excise duty on petrol by ₹8 per litre and by ₹6 a litre on diesel. This reduction was passed on to the consumers and not adjusted against the under-recovery or losses oil firms make on selling petrol and diesel.

Two sources aware of the matter said RBML contends that PSU oil marketing companies control over 90 per cent of the market and are the price-setters, leaving no

room for private fuel retailers in fixation of the retail selling price of petrol and diesel. PSUs have not increased fuel prices in line with escalating international crude prices eventually leading to huge under-recoveries (losses) for all fuel retailers since February 2022. As of May 16, 2022, net under-recoveries in the industry were ₹13.08 per litre for petrol and ₹24.09 per litre for diesel. A top ministry official said petrol and diesel prices are decided by the PSU oil companies after considering not just the international oil prices but also gains from other businesses such as petrochemicals and oil refining.

"Reliance is exporting diesel to Europe and other countries at highly lucrative prices but rationing supplies for its petrol pumps," the official said.

## New Nexon EV MAX launched at Gugnani Auto Car

## BIZ BUZZ

**Bhubaneswar:** Tata Motors launched an extension to India's bestselling EV in the personal mobility segment, the new Nexon EV MAX, available across dealerships in Gugnani Auto Car, Bhubaneswar. Sabyasachi Das, Territory Sales Manager, Tata Motors; Sisir Srivastab, Regional Manager (East-4), Tata Motors; Rajan Gugnani, MD, Gugnani Auto Car and Ranjit Das, CEO, Gugnani Auto Car were present on this occasion. The Nexon EV Max has been launched at an attractive starting price of ₹17.74 lakh (ex-showroom All India). With this launch, Tata Motors is taking the lead to enhance the appeal of EVs and expand the market with a new offering for customers who are looking for longer intercity travel. The new Nexon EV MAX is powered by high voltage state-of-the-art Ziptron technology and will be available in two trim options - the Nexon EV Max XZ+ and Nexon EV Max XZ+ Lux. It will come in 3 exciting colours - Intensi-Teal (exclusive to the Nexon EV MAX), Daytona Grey and Pristine White. The 7.2 kW AC fast charger can be installed either at home or at workplace, which helps in reducing charging time to 6.5 hrs. Making it an irresistible proposition, the Nexon EV MAX will support a faster charging time of 0 - 80% in just 56 mins from any 50 kW DC fast charger. Sourav Rath, AGM, SBI; Susanta Kumar Sethi, CM, SBI; Bijaylaxmi Priyadarshini, CM, SBI; Goura Chandra Purohit, CM, Canara Bank; Chinmaya Padhi, State Head, Axis Bank; Mrutyunjaya, RM, ICICI among others were present on this occasion.



# PM meets Japan biz leaders, discusses India investment

Modi noted that during the visit of his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida to India in March this year, both countries had set an ambitious target of investment of 5 trillion Japanese yen over the next five years

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Tokyo, May 23:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday chaired a roundtable in Tokyo with Japanese business leaders, including top executives and CEOs of 34 companies which have investments and operations in India. The companies represented di-

verse sectors including automobiles, electronics, semiconductors, steel, technology trading and banking and finance.

Stressing that India and Japan are natural partners, he lauded the business community as brand ambassadors of the immense potential of bilateral ties.

Highlighting the recent developments in economic ties, such as the India-Japan Industrial Competitiveness Partnership (IJICP) and Clean Energy Partnership, among others, the PM also talked about initiatives such National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP), Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, and semiconductor policy and highlighted the robust start-up ecosystem of India.

During the meeting, he also said that despite the slowdown in global



India's future is bright. Prime Minister Modi is committed to the success of India, for supporting startups, for creating more unicorns and making it the centre of high technology in the world

MASAYOSHI SON | FOUNDER, SOFTBANK GROUP

FDI, India has attracted record FDI of \$84 billion in the previous

financial year, which, he described, as "a vote of confidence in India's

Reforms of Prime Minister Modi are undecipherable, in the sense that he is bringing reforms which are changing the whole of India into a model landscape

TOSHIHIRO SUZUKI | PRESIDENT, SUZUKI MOTOR CORP

economic potential".

Inviting greater participation by Japanese companies in India, he proposed celebrating Japan's contribution to India's development journey in the form of a 'Japan Week'.

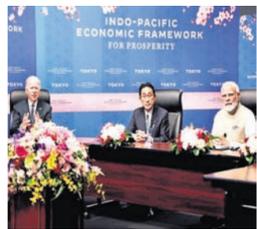
After the business meeting, the Prime Minister, in a tweet, said: "Met top business leaders in Tokyo. Our conversations focussed on diverse topics ranging from innovation to investments, tech to tex-

tiles, reforms to StartUps. There is great enthusiasm towards India and there is great appreciation for the entrepreneurial skills of India's youth."

Nissan Motor Corporation, Toyota Motor Corporation, Yamaha Motor Corporation, Suzuki Motor Corporation, Mizuho Bank Ltd, MUFJ Bank Ltd and JIBCC and Japan-India Business Co-operation Committee were among the 34 companies who participated in the business roundtable.

Key business bodies and organisations from India and Japan such as Keidanren, Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), Japan-India Business Consultative Committee (JIBCC) and Invest India also participated in the event.

## US mulls \$4bn extra support for India



REUTERS

**New Delhi, May 23:** The United States is considering "investment support" of \$4 billion for India on top of billions of dollars extended earlier, New Delhi said Monday after the two sides signed an agreement to keep such money flowing.

The US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) or its predecessor agencies have so far provided India with \$5.8 billion, of which \$2.9 billion is outstanding, for Covid-19 vaccine manufacturing, healthcare, renewable energy, financial inclusion and infrastructure.

"Proposals worth \$4 billion are under consideration by DFC for providing investment support in India," India's Ministry of Finance said as officials from the two countries met in Tokyo where their leaders will hold a summit Tuesday. The ministry said the latest agreement "would lead to enhanced investment support provided by DFC in India".

Monday, US President Joe Biden and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi were among government heads from 13 countries who jointly launched a partnership called the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity.

# India draw with Pakistan Vastrakar spell lifts Supernovas

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jakarta, May 23:** Defending champions India conceded a late goal to allow arch-rivals Pakistan walk away with a 1-1 draw in their opening Pool A match of the Asia Cup men's hockey tournament, here Monday.

India took the lead in the ninth minute through Karthi Selvam before Abdul Rana broke their neighbours' heart by equalising in the 59th from a penalty corner. India will next play Japan Tuesday.

Pakistan had the first scoring chance in the third minute in the form of a penalty corner, but they failed to stop the ball properly as India survived.

Seconds later, it was India's turn to secure a penalty corner but Neelam Sanjiv Xess' effort was saved by the Pakistan goalie Akmal Hussain.

The Indians continued to put pressure on the Pakistan defence and secured two more penalty corners in the first quarter; the second of which was converted by Karthi, who scored his first international



Players in action during India-Pakistan Asia Cup match, Monday

goal after his flick went inside the Pakistan citadel after getting a deflection off the stick of defender Muhammad Abdullah. In between Pakistan also got another penalty

corner but the effort went wide. Soon after the start of the second quarter, Pakistan goalkeeper Hussain made a fine reflex save to deny Pawan Rajbhar from point

blank range. The Indians dominated the ball possession and secured another penalty corner in the 21st minute which went abegging.

Pakistan made a bright start after the change of ends and threatened the Indian defence early on.

India had a flurry of chances but Pakistan goalkeeper Hussain was there to save his side. The Indians kept up the pressure and secured a few more penalty corners in the third quarter but could convert none. Credit should also go to Pakistan keeper Hussain, who stood like a rock in front of the goal.

A lapse in concentration cost India dearly as a long ball caught, an otherwise alert Indian defence, off guard in the final two minutes, resulting in a penalty corner for Pakistan. Rana pushed in from a rebound after Mubashar Ali's flick was saved at the goal line by Yashdeep Siwach.

Meanwhile in the other matches of the day, Malaysia beat Oman 7-0 and Korea defeated Bangladesh 6-1 in Pool B, while Japan thrashed hosts Indonesia 9-0 in Pool A.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Pune, May 23:** Pooja Vastrakar (4/12) gave a brilliant pace-bowling display as Supernovas notched up an easy 49-run win over Trailblazers in a record-breaking opening match of the Women's T20 Challenge here Monday.

The 22-year-old Vastrakar claimed the wickets of Trailblazers' captain Smriti Mandhana (34, 23b, 4x4), her opening partner Hayley Matthews (18), No.4 Sophia Dunkley (1) and Salma Khatun (0) in two separate spells to tear apart the batting line-up of the defending champions.

England left-arm spinner Sophie Ecclestone (2/19) and Australia all-rounder Alana King (2/30) chipped in with two wickets apiece as Trailblazers could only score 114/9 in 20 overs while chasing 164. The Supernovas had earlier scored the tournament's highest-ever score of 163 all out after opting to bat.

Trailblazers made a strong start to their chase with Mandhana and Matthews putting on 39 runs for the opening wicket in five overs. But Vastrakar struck triple blows on



Pooja Vastrakar (R)

Trailblazers to leave the defending champions in deep trouble.

Runs were hard to come by for Trailblazers as they reached 71/4 at the halfway mark. But two wickets in the 11th over bowled by Ecclestone virtually ended the contest.

Earlier, Supernovas captain Harmanpreet Kaur top-scored with 37 (29b, 4x4) while Harleen Deol and Deandra Dottin chipped in with 35 (19b, 5x4) and 32 (17b, 5x4, 1x6) respectively.

They, however, lost five wickets

in the last two overs for just eight runs, including that of Kaur, in a dramatic collapse. Matthews was the pick of the Trailblazers bowlers with figures of 3/29 while Salma Khatun finished with the figure of 2/30.

**BRIEF SCORES:** Supernovas 163 (Harmanpreet Kaur 37, Harleen Deol 35, Deandra Dottin 32; Hayley Matthews 3/29, Salma Khatun 2/30) beat Trailblazers 114/9 (Smriti Mandhana 34; Pooja Vastrakar 4/12, Sophie Ecclestone 2/19, Alana King 2/30) by 49 runs.

## PRAGGNANANDHAA SAILS INTO LAST 8 IN CHESSABLE MASTERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chennai, May 23:** Young Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa defeated compatriot and GM Vidit Gujrathi to book a spot in the quarterfinals of the Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Chessable Masters 2022 online tournament.

The win in the 15th and final round of the preliminaries late Sunday saw the teenaged GM knock Gujrathi out of contention. The 16-year old Praggnanandhaa will take on Wei Yi of China in the quarterfinals.

Praggnanandhaa, who created a stir by beating world No.1 Magnus Carlsen of Norway earlier in the sixth round, scored 25 points to finish fourth behind Anish Giri (the Netherlands, 29 points), Carlsen (28 points) and Ding Liren (China, 25 points).

The two other Indian players, P

Harikrishna and Gujrathi in the 16-player field, finished outside the top 8 and failed to make the cut for the knockout bracket. While the experienced Harikrishna took the ninth place with 18 points, Gujrathi (17 points) ended up 11th.

Praggnanandhaa scored an impressive win over American Abhimanyu Mishra, the world's youngest Grandmaster, in 41 moves before settling for a draw against another US player Sam Shankland in round 13 and 14 respectively. In the game against Gujrathi, the teenaged GM capitalised on an error on the 35th move to force a win.

Fast-improving Dutch GM Jorden Van Foreest and Eric Hansen were among Praggnanandhaa's other scalps in the preliminary rounds. He finished with eight wins, four defeats and three draws.

## AC Milan end Serie A title drought

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Milan, May 23:** The city of Milan was swarming with a sea of celebrating red-and-black fans as AC Milan secured its first Serie A title in 11 years Sunday with a 3-0 win at Sassuolo. Thousands of supporters in the team's colors had started gathering in Milan's Piazza del Duomo, in front of the iconic cathedral, even before the Rossoneri clinched its 19th scudetto.

And it was the man who thrives in the big occasions who helped Milan do it, as veteran forward Olivier Giroud scored twice to set his side on the way to the win. Rafael Leao set up all three first-half goals. The 22-year-old Leao was presented with the Serie A player of the season award after the match.

The result meant Milan finished two points ahead of defending champion — and city rival — Inter Milan, which won 3-0 at home to



Sampdoria.

The festivities were mirrored at Sassuolo, where there was a joyous pitch invasion at the final whistle, delaying the trophy ceremony. Zlatan Ibrahimovic walked out puffing on a cigar. "This is the most satisfying of my titles," said

Ibrahimovi, who also helped Milan to the last of its Serie A titles in his first spell at the club. "I still remember when I came back I promised to take Milan back to the top and to win the scudetto. Many didn't believe and laughed. Instead I am here as a champion now."

## Motera, not Eden, is my home: Saha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, May 23:** The hurt and disillusionment was palpable as a disgruntled India wicketkeeper-batter Wriddhiman Saha Monday called the Motera Stadium his new "home ground", having played all his life at the iconic Eden Garden.

It would not have been easy for the Gujarat Titans glovesman to return to the venue, where he made a dream Ranji debut with a hundred in 2007, but won't play for the state after a run-in with the establishment.

"Here, I'm representing Gujarat so my home ground is Motera Stadium, I believe in that. Since I'm no longer with KKR, the Eden is not my home," Saha said in a virtual media interaction ahead of their IPL Qualifier One clash

against Rajasthan Royals.

While he called Motera his home ground, ironically, not a single match of the ongoing IPL has been played in Ahmedabad till now.

Asked whether he would be seen playing for Bengal at the Eden again, the 37-year-old said: "I'm not able to answer the second part of your question. I might have played a lot of games here in the past but I'm here to play an away game," Saha said.

Saha was at loggerheads with the establishment of CAB after they named him for the Ranji Trophy quarter final against Jharkhand without his consent. Saha was annoyed that CAB assistant secretary Debabrata Das questioned his commitment after he pulled out of Ranji league stage.

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