



## ACTOR BY CHANCE

Former Miss World Manushi Chhillar says she never came to Mumbai wanting to become an actor

LEISURE P2



## IMRAN SETS DEADLINE

Imran Khan gives a 6-day deadline to Pak govt for dissolving provincial assemblies and declaring fresh elections

INTERNATIONAL P10



## INDIA ROUT INDONESIA

India beat Indonesia 16-0 to advance in Asia Cup hockey championship, shutting World Cup door on Pakistan

SPORTS P12

# UGC stricture to state on university postings

The UGC urges OPSC to abide by the Supreme Court's stay order on recruitment of teaching and non-teaching staff in universities

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, May 26:** The University Grants Commission (UGC) has cautioned the Odisha government over violation of the stay order issued by the Supreme Court on the Odisha Universities (Amendment) Act, 2020.

UGC secretary Rajnish Jain has written letters to the state Higher Education department Commissioner-cum-Secretary and Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) in this regard.

In the letters, the UGC said that the Supreme Court May 20 had issued a stay on the Odisha Universities (Amendment) Act, 2020 through which the state government had sought to control appointment to important academic and administrative posts in state universities, including the recruitment of teaching staff.

The court stayed the recruitment process in state universities for the next three months after



Despite a stay order from the SC, the OPSC continues to asst prof posts in pursuant to a 2020-21 advertisement

hearing a petition filed by the UGC and retired professor of JNU, Ajit Kumar Mohanty.

The court has also sought a reply from the Odisha government and set the date for the next hearing on the matter after two months.

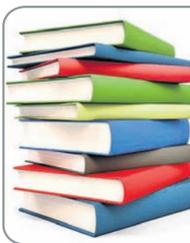
However, the UGC said, it had noticed that, despite the stay granted by the SC, the OPSC, which is a party to the case, is continuing to

undertake recruitment to the post of assistant professor (sociology) and assistant professor (commerce) in pursuant to an advertisement issued in 2020-21.

"Since the recruitment of teachers / faculty by the OPSC, and that of non-teaching staff by the State Selection Board (SSB), is directly in issue in the aforesaid SLPs pending before the SC, the continuation of the recruitment process will be in the teeth of the stay order granted by the court," Jain said in his letter.

Stating that the court's stay order also applies with respect to any recruitment process that commenced prior to the order, he urged the state government to refrain from undertaking any further step(s) for any recruitment of teachers and non-teaching staff, including the above mentioned one.

The UGC secretary further warned that it also reserves all its rights to take appropriate legal remedy in this regard.



## B Ed entrance test likely July 31

**Bhubaneswar:** The state Higher Education department Thursday issued a notification for the conduct of OMR-based entrance tests for admissions to B Ed, BH Ed and M Ed courses for 2022-24 academic year. In the notification, the department's additional secretary Ramakant Nayak said that online applications would be received from June 1 to 27, 2022. The tentative date of conduct of the examination is July 31. The B Ed examination will be conducted in the first sitting from 10am to 12 noon. BH Ed (Bachelor of Hindi Education) exam will be conducted from 2pm to 4pm.

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## FLEXING MUSCLES!



South Korean and US missiles were displayed at Korea War Memorial Museum in Seoul, South Korea, Thursday

PTI PHOTO

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



The huge savings I made on fuel lasted full 11 minutes till I reached vegetable market

## GRIM SCENARIO

# Centre drops offer to sell 53% stake in BPCL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 26:** The Union government Thursday withdrew its offer to sell its entire 52.98 per cent stake in BPCL, saying that majority of bidders have expressed their inability to participate in the current privatisation process due to prevailing conditions in the global energy market.

The government had planned to sell its entire 52.98 per cent stake in Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and invited Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from bidders in March 2020. At least three bids came in by November 2020.

However, the privatisation was stalled after two bidders walked out over issues such as lack of clarity in fuel pricing, with just one bidder left in the fray.

The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) said multiple Covid-19 waves and geopolitical conditions affected industries globally, particularly the oil and gas industry. "Owing to prevailing conditions in the global energy market, the majority of QIPs (qualified interested parties) have expressed their inability to continue in the current process of disinvestment of BPCL," it said.

In view of this, the group of ministers on disinvestment has decided to call off the present EOI



The privatisation was stalled after two bidders walked out over issues such as lack of clarity in fuel pricing, with just one bidder left in the fray

process for the strategic disinvestment of BPCL and the EOIs received from QIPs shall stand cancelled, DIPAM said.

"Decision on the re-initiation of the strategic disinvestment process of BPCL will be taken in due course based on review of situation," it added.

Mining mogul Anil Agarwal's Vedanta group and US venture funds Apollo Global Management Inc and I Squared Capital Advisors had expressed interest in buying the government's 53 per cent stake in BPCL.

But the two funds withdrew after failing to rope in global investors amid waning interest in fossil fuels.

The government had not invited financial bids.

## ULTRAS TORCH FOUR VEHICLES

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhawanipatna, May 26:** Maoists have set ablaze at least four vehicles after storming the makeshift camp of a contractor engaged in road construction in Kalahandi district, police said Thursday.

The Naxals left handwritten banners and posters, alleging that one of their cadres, who was reported to have surrendered earlier this month, was actually arrested with the assistance of the contractor.



At least 20 armed ultras reached the spot near Tala Pipili village in Bhawanipatna block late on Wednesday and torched an excavator, a truck and two tractor trolleys, a police officer said. SP Abilash G said a combing operation was carried out and a bomb detection squad deployed at the spot.

The officer added that security would be provided to the contractor, who claimed to have been receiving threat calls.

# Bus fares slashed by 3, 6 & 9 paise



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 26:** With the reduction in diesel prices, the state government has reduced the bus fares for across the categories.

The State Transport Authority (STA) has issued an order revising the bus fares as per the automatic fare revision mechanism.

The Union government had May 21 slashed **SOFTENING FUEL PRICES** by 9 paise per km. With this, the fare for ordinary buses has been reduced from 92 paise to 89 paise per km, express buses from 96 paise to 93 paise, deluxe buses from ₹1.35 to ₹1.29 and AC deluxe buses from ₹1.63 to ₹1.57 per km. Likewise, passengers travelling in super deluxe buses will now have to pay ₹2.44 per km instead of ₹2.53 per km.

riages, other than town buses, plying within the state has been fixed at a decreased rate. It will be effective from Thursday, the STA said.

As per the notification, the fares for ordinary and express buses have been reduced by 3 paise per km, whereas the same have been slashed by 6 paise per km for deluxe and AC deluxe buses. Similarly, the fare for super premium buses has been cut

by 9 paise per km. With this, the fare for ordinary buses has been reduced from 92 paise to 89 paise per km, express buses from 96 paise to 93 paise, deluxe buses from ₹1.35 to ₹1.29 and AC deluxe buses from ₹1.63 to ₹1.57 per km. Likewise, passengers travelling in super deluxe buses will now have to pay ₹2.44 per km instead of ₹2.53 per km.

## IAS couple who used to walk dog in stadium shunted

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 26:** In a swift action, the Centre Thursday shunted IAS couple Sanjeev Khirwar and Anu Dugga to Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh respectively following media reports suggesting misuse of official position by them, officials said here.

In an order, the Home Ministry said Khirwar, a 1994-batch IAS officer from AGMUT cadre, is shifted to Ladakh and his wife to Arunachal Pradesh with immediate effect. According to official sources, the home ministry had sought a report from the Delhi Chief Secretary on the news report regarding the misuse of facilities at Thyagraj Stadium by Khirwar and his wife.

The chief secretary submitted a report to the MHA in the evening on the factual position, prompting the ministry to order their transfer; they said. Khirwar is currently posted as Principal Secretary (Revenue) in Delhi. It was alleged in the media report that the Thyagraj Stadium was being closed for sports activities earlier than usual so that Khirwar could walk his dog at the facility.

# TRS banners with 17 questions greet Modi in Hyd

MOST OF THE QUESTIONS PERTAIN TO THE COMMITMENTS MADE BY THE CENTRE IN 2014, AT THE TIME OF FORMATION OF TELANGANA

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad, May 26:** Banners with 17 questions to Prime Minister Narendra Modi were put up at different places in Hyderabad during his visit to the city.

The Prime Minister was asked about the commitments made to Telangana that remained unfulfilled even after eight years. While the banners did not carry the names, it was apparently placed by supporters of the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS).

The banners came up around Hussain Sagar Lake in the heart of the city, at Osmania University, and other prominent places. Most of the questions pertained

to the commitments made by the Centre in 2014 at the time of formation of Telangana - and which remained unfulfilled even after eight years. "Modi Ji why medical college not sanctioned by the centre?" reads a banner.

"Modi ji where is Indian Institute of Science Education and Research for Telangana," asks another banner put up at Arts College on Osmania University campus.

The PM was also asked why the defence corridor was not sanctioned for Telangana.

Another banner said why the global centre for traditional medicine moved from Hyderabad to Gujarat? Modi was also reminded of the Centre's commitment to set



up Rail Coach Factory at Kazipet. He was also asked through two banners as to why national project status was not given for Kaleshwaram project and why new Navodaya Vidyalaya not sanctioned for Telangana.

The state's ruling party had asked Modi similar questions during

his previous visit to Hyderabad February 5. As the PM was in the city to unveil the statue of equality, the party had asked 'Where is equality for Telangana'.

A huge flexi held by a group of youth on Tank Bund in the heart of the city had attracted the attention of all. It had several questions, reminding the PM of unfulfilled promises. Modi was in Hyderabad Thursday for about three hours to attend annual day celebrations at the Indian School of Business (ISB). He also addressed BJP leaders and workers at Begumpet Airport, launching a bitter attack on TRS over what he calls the family rule and appeasement politics in the state.

# STATE TOPS COUNTRY IN IMR POINT DECLINE

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 26:** In what has brought laurels to the state government, Odisha has fared well in terms of prenatal and postnatal care as it has topped the list of states that have registered decline in Infant Mortality Rate (IMR).

With the decline of 39 points in IMR in between 2005 and 2020, Odisha tops in the decline point list in the entire country, officials said here Thursday.

This was reported in the Sample Registration System (SRS) Bulletin-2020 published by the Registrar General of India. Odisha is followed by Rajasthan, which has

reported a decline of 36 points in IMR and Uttar Pradesh (35 points) during the period.

As per the bulletin, Odisha's IMR now stands at 36/1,000 live births.

The Infant Mortality Rate, which is widely accepted as a crude indicator of the overall health scenario of a country or a region, is defined as the infant deaths (less than one year) per 1,000 live births in a given time period and for a given region.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has congratulated the Health, Women & Child Development and Mission Shakti departments for the huge achievement.

# leisure

## FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
You will find some decisions difficult to make, but be intent and resolute. Emotions may put you off rail, but once you have resolved, don't stray from it. Besides, Ganesha advises you to learn to endure setbacks in a mature manner.

**TAURUS**  
Today Ganesha sees you overdoing your aggression, domination bit and urges you to keep your assertiveness in check. This day is not a favourable one for new ventures and undertakings. Don't therefore attempt anything new. Talk pleasantly. Harshness, roughness in your tone is only going to antagonize and alienate valuable friends. Above all, don't lose your temper. Stay calm. Act normal. Yoga and meditation will help.

**GEMINI**  
Ganesha advises that while today will be a day filled with a lot of festivity, you still need to guard against getting carried away. You will spend the day socialising with friends and family. You might end up neglecting your household duties in organizing some function or picnic, says Ganesha.

**CANCER**  
You will make new friends. You will have a jolly time with them, but some worry or tension will nag you. But Ganesha says that all worries will go away by evening, when you relax with friends.

**LEO**  
You will be seized by a desire to do something new for a change today. Your mood will be bright throughout the day. You will be able to achieve success owing to your energy and enthusiasm. The planets are in your favour, hence you can accept the challenges coming your way and prevail over them, says Ganesha.

**VIRGO**  
Ganesha predicts that you will be rewarded today for all the good work done earlier. You will prefer to manage things in your own way, rather than taking orders from others. However, Ganesha advises you not to throw your weight around, but to stay calm and composed.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesha says today is the right day to get closer to your loved one. You will spend the evening with your beloved. Today you will be mentally very energetic too. Make the most of the day.

**SCORPIO**  
Yet another mundane day in your life, as nothing exciting is on the cards. However, be cheerful and keep trying hard to bring in some spice in life. You never know when the planets change their mood and make an exciting future. Keep the hope alive, says Ganesha.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Your leadership qualities are likely to bag compliments today. As you follow law and order and also make others follow it. You leave no stone unturned to get the work done, and that too systematically. However, make sure you also give them space and freedom to express themselves.

**CAPRICORN**  
If at first you don't succeed, try again. Many people underestimate the power of perseverance and patience. But, these qualities will lead you success. Rather than exploding with anger and anxiety, keep your faith in your plans intact, especially when the results are not as per your plans, advises Ganesha.

**AQUARIUS**  
You are in for a challenging day today. But, luck is by your side and you will be able to come out of the storm hale and hearty, assures Ganesha. If you are a businessman, you may enter into some major business venture, sign important contracts and take up new projects.

**PISCES**  
Your patience and capabilities will be on trial today and will be put to test with every work you undertake. Even simple tasks and common goals will seem hard to achieve and will require a considerable amount of effort to complete.



## BRITT ROBERTSON ENGAGED TO BOYFRIEND PAUL FLOYD

*I Still Believe* actress Britt Robertson is engaged to Brit Paul Floyd after he popped the question on a rooftop. The 32-year-old American actress accepted her significant other Paul's proposal last weekend. Paul also shared a video of the moment.

## KIM CALLS FOR GUN CONTROL

Reality TV star Kim Kardashian is heartbroken, disgusted and furious about the inaction over gun control following the US' second deadliest mass shooting at a Texas primary school. *The Kardashians* star condemned the lack of movement by the authorities in enacting gun laws that protect the children.



# 'Didn't want to be part of films'

**Mumbai:** Miss World Manushi Chhillar says she would have continued on her path to study medicine if not for her family who convinced her to give acting a try in the upcoming historical *Prithviraj*. Born in Haryana and raised in New Delhi, Chhillar was pursuing her MBBS degree from BPS Medical College for Women in Sonapat when she went on to be crowned as Miss World aged 20 in 2017. Post her win, Chhillar said there were many film offers which came her way but she turned all of them down as she never saw herself as an actor, until Yash Raj Films approached her for *Prithviraj*, headlined by superstar Akshay Kumar.

The Chandraprakash Dwivedi directorial depicts the life of legendary warrior king Prithviraj Chauhan and features Chhillar as Princess Sanyogita. "I never came to Mumbai wanting to become an actor. When I was with Miss World, I got protected exposure, where I got to be in front of the camera for some campaigns. There were a few opportunities which came my way. I could have debuted much earlier than *Prithviraj*, but at that time, I was sure I didn't want to be a part of films, so I didn't even consider them. The timing of *Prithviraj* was perfect. Also, this is not an opportunity that you choose, the

movie chose me," Chhillar concluded.

AGENCIES



Manushi Chhillar

## SHOOT OF MODERN LOVE: MUMBAI

# Chitrangda shares her special experience

**Mumbai:** Filming *Modern Love: Mumbai* was an extremely special experience for actress Chitrangda Singh who essayed the role of the simple yet powerful Latika in *Cutting chai*, part of the six-part OTT anthology.

Though the actress carries many special memories from the filming back with her, one that stood out in particular was her first experience travelling on a local train, visiting Mumbai's CST station and exploring its heritage beauty. As Chitrangda hails from Delhi, she never quite experienced it before.

Talking about her experience, Chitrangda says: "Being a Delhiite I never travelled by Mumbai local trains and since Mumbai is very close to my heart, shooting *Modern Love* gave me the chance to actually explore the lifeline of the city - its local trains."

"My first time in a Mumbai local was a great experience, very lively amidst the crowd. It was also wonderful interacting with the people and listening to their stories through the course of the journey," she adds.

After *Modern Love: Mumbai*, next up for Chitrangda is *Gaslight*, a suspense drama also starring Sara Ali Khan and Vikrant Massey.

AGENCIES

## Two-day painting exhibition in City on menstrual health

**Bhubaneswar:** A painting competition-cum-exhibition titled *MoTuli Re - Kahinki Luheiba* organised as an attempt to raise awareness on the topic of Menstrual Health and Hygiene at Soochana Bhawan, Thursday. The event, organised by Aaina in collaboration with Purpose under its special campaign *Baatein Unlocked*, was participated by more than 90 students from various institutions



and schools of Bhubaneswar. Inaugurating the exhibition former captain of Indian hockey team Dillip Tirkey said, "The event is really a good initiative taken up by the organisers and the beautiful paintings will help to raise awareness among the community about menstruation." The young masses have a lot of responsibility in bringing about change in society, and their participation will create fresh hope in eradicating the misconceptions that exist in society about menstruation, says Aaina's secretary Sneha Mishra. The finest five paintings in the exhibition received cash awards, while seven others bagged consolation prizes. The two-day program will conclude May 27.

PNN



## Odissi dance festival in Rome, Madrid

**BHUBANESWAR:** In a first, a pan-European Odissi Dance Festival was held spreading across two largest European cities- Rome and Madrid. The four-day event kicked off May 21 at the iconic Garbatella Theatre in Rome, the cultural capital of Europe.

United Nations Assistant Secretary-General Manoj Juneja flagged off the mega event May 22 with several European leaders, parliamentarians, celebrities and diplomats in attendance.

The festival was organised by Europe-based GCP Performing Arts Centre (GCPPAC) in association with OYSS of Odisha at the capital cities of Italy and Spain. The Indian Embassies in both the countries were the supporting partner for the event which was organised under the supervision of UN Diplomat and Odissi exponent Baisali Mohanty who founded the Oxford Odissi Centre at Oxford

University in 2015 and heads the GCP-PAC. Well-known Italian dance exponent Silvia Vona who is the Europe Coordinator of GCPPAC is the co-convenor of the festival.

All dance choreographies were composed on the festival theme Art for Peace with an underlying message of global peace. The festival featured live performance by renowned Odissi dancers from both India and Europe including Padma Shri Ileana Citaristi, Guru Rina Jana (Kolkata), Ganga Devi Sheth, Dr Elana Catalano (London), Lipa Satpathy, Silvia Vona, Baisali Mohanty, Karine Leblanc (France), Shilpa Bertuletti and their troupes. PNN



## PEANUTS



## CALVIN AND HOBBS

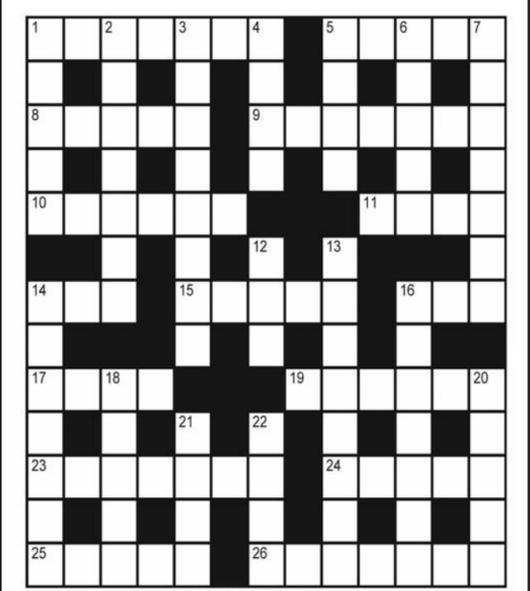


## BREVITY



## FUN post

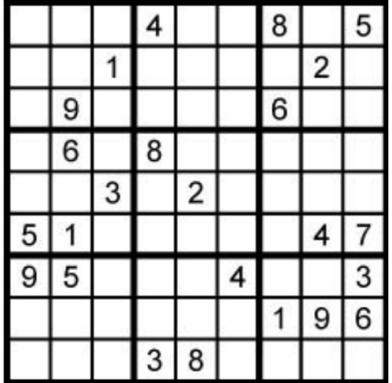
## CROSSWORD



- Copyright ©2022 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Equal to the task
  - 5 Marina sight
  - 8 Ridgeline
  - 9 Grand style
  - 10 Coiffure
  - 11 Heroic deed
  - 14 Stinger
  - 15 Geneva's river
  - 16 Born
  - 17 Egg holder
  - 19 Mountainous
  - 23 Theft
  - 24 Weeper of myth
  - 25 Train stop
  - 26 Bear witness
  - 5 Longings
  - 6 Secret store
  - 7 Cinema
  - 12 Milk source
  - 13 Diminishes
  - 14 Flubbed
  - 16 Kenya's capital
- Down**
- 1 Fender-bender
  - 2 Assumption
  - 3 Stockmen
  - 4 Notice
  - 18 Ort
  - 20 Hostile force
  - 21 Piquancy
  - 22 Skin problem

## SUDOKU

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

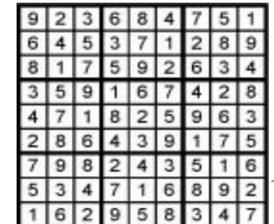


## SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



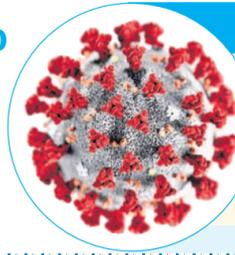
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown



## SERVICE TO THE LORD

Carpenters busy constructing chariots at Rath Yard in Puri for this year's Rath Yatra, Thursday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	52,99,36,771	50,04,26,256	63,06,910
India	4,31,44,820	4,26,04,881	5,24,525
Odisha	12,88,401	12,79,155	9,126

# Hectic lobbying in BJD for RS poll tickets

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, May 26:** With polls to four Rajya Sabha (RS) seats from Odisha set to be held next month, hectic lobby within the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) to secure a ticket for the elections is underway.

The notification for three RS seats was issued by the Assembly secretariat May 24 while the same for the 4th seat was issued Thursday.

Sources in the BJD said that the party, which has 113 MLAs in the 147-member Assembly, is likely to capture all four seats as the opposition BJP and the Congress are expected to keep away from the contest.

Around 40 aspirants in the state's ruling camp are currently making all-out efforts to grab a BJD ticket, which might be a direct pass to the Upper House of Parliament.

Polis to three seats are scheduled to be held June 10 as the tenure of MPs Nekkanti Bhaskar Rao, Prasanna Acharya and Sasmit Patra ends July 1, and bypoll to one seat - vacated by BJD's Subhas Singh after being elected as the mayor of Cuttack city - is scheduled for June 13.

Voting will be conducted from 9 am to 4 pm on both the dates, and the counting process will be held the same day as the elections.

A BJD leader said on the condition of anonymity that Patra, younger than many of his peers, might be accorded a second tenure in Rajya Sabha by party president and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

He also said that Patnaik, who recently fielded quite a few women



in panchayat and urban polls, might think of doing something similar for the Upper House polls.

A recent remark BJD vice-president Usha Devi has added fuel to the speculation.

"The party fielded women in large numbers in panchayat and urban local body elections. It won't be surprising if the BJD presi-

dent selects women for the vacant Rajya Sabha seats," Devi said.

BJD insiders said the name of Pradeep Majhi, a tribal leader from the state's southern region who quit the Congress and joined the BJD ahead of panchayat polls, is also doing the rounds.

Last time, Patnaik had allotted seats to BJD leaders keeping in

**THE RULING BIJU JANATA DAL, WHICH HAS 113 MLAs IN THE 147-MEMBER ASSEMBLY, IS LIKELY TO CAPTURE ALL FOUR SEATS AS THE OPPOSITION BJP AND THE CONGRESS ARE EXPECTED TO KEEP AWAY FROM THE CONTEST**

**AROUND 40 ASPIRANTS IN THE STATE'S RULING CAMP ARE CURRENTLY MAKING ALL-OUT EFFORTS TO GRAB A BJD TICKET, WHICH MIGHT BE A DIRECT PASS TO THE UPPER HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT**

mind the clout they enjoyed in different parts of the state -- Acharya in the west, Rao in the south, Patra and Singh from the coastal belt.

This time, too, Patnaik may adopt the same policy while choosing candidates, they added.

## Notification for Rajya Sabha bypoll

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 26:** The Assembly secretariat Thursday issued a formal notification for the by-election to a Rajya Sabha (RS) seat from Odisha lying vacant following the resignation of Subhas Singh.

As per the notification, candidates can file their nomination papers for the RS bypoll till June 2 while the papers will be scruti-

**BJD MP Subhash Singh had resigned from the post in April this year after he was elected as the Mayor of Cuttack city**

**The bypoll is being held for the rest of the period that is from April 24, 2022 to April 24, 2026**

nised at 11.30 am June 3. The candidates can withdraw their nominations till 3 pm June 6.

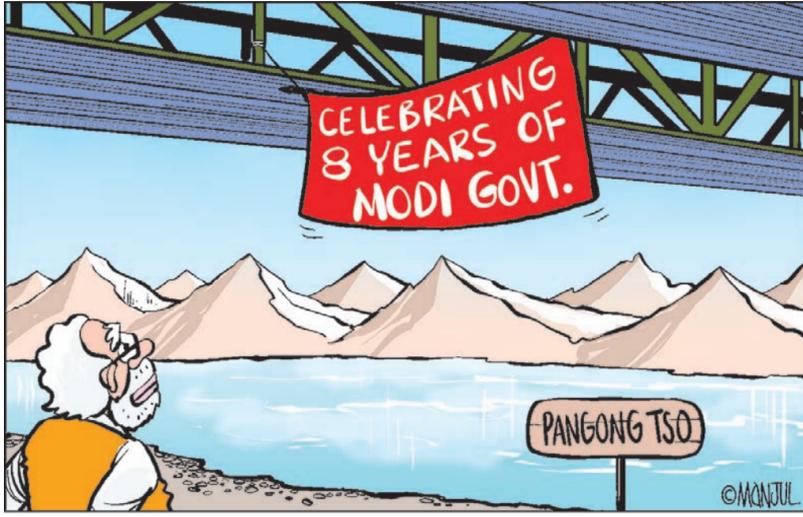
If required, the polling will be held from 9 am to 4 pm June 13

while counting will take place at 5 pm on the same day.

BJD MP Subhash Singh had resigned from the post in April this year after he was elected as the Mayor of Cuttack city. The bypoll is being held for the rest of the period that is from April 24, 2022 to April 24, 2026.

Earlier, the Assembly secretariat had issued notification for the biennial poll for three RS seats from the state.

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



# State forms committee for doubling farmers' income

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 26:** The state government has formed a working committee that would formulate strategies for doubling farmers' income, an official said Thursday.

With the Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment department Special Secretary as its head, the committee has experts from various domains like Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority ex- chairman Bibhuti Bhushan Pattanaik, cold chain specialist Pawanexh Kohli, agriculture journalists - Sandip Das, Bikash Kumar Pati and Pramod Kumar Joshi - and Rainfed Area Development Authority expert

**The committee will study the baseline data of different parameters and progress made so far before preparing strategies to be adopted and models to be introduced to increase the farmers' income**

**The panel will also prepare a roadmap for agriculture and allied sectors for raising farmers' income. All the work will be completed within four months**

Bisweswar Rath as its members.

Sources said the state government has planned to involve one lakh farmers under the programme.

The committee will study the baseline data of different parameters and progress made so far before

preparing strategies to be adopted and models to be introduced to increase the farmers' income. The panel will also prepare a roadmap for agriculture and allied sectors for raising farmers' income. All the work will be completed within four months, added a source familiar with the development.

The committee will also collect information for the year 2021-22 in comparison to baseline data of 2015-16.

The first meeting of the committee was held recently, where all related departments and directorates have been asked to submit the updated data. Next meeting of the panel will be held soon, sources said.

## FESTIVAL AHEAD



A vendor sells bangles in Banka Bazar area of Cuttack ahead of Sabitri Brata, Thursday

OP PHOTO

## Fraudster held for duping man of ₹78k

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 26:** The Commissionerate Police Thursday arrested a fraudster on charges duping a person of Rs 78,000 on the pretext of high returns against investment in a website.

The accused has been identified as Sridhar Kumar Mahapatra, 49, of Karady under Kaniha police limits in Angul district.

According to police, complainant Bibeka Nanda had met the accused at a blood donation camp in January this year.

The accused lured the victim to invest money in a website against promise of high returns.

The accused reportedly told Nanda that he would deposit 2 per cent interest on the amount invested in the website in the latter's bank account on daily basis.

Subsequently, the victim transferred Rs 78,000 to the bank account of the accused.

However, the accused did not deposit the interest amount in Nanda's account.

Later, Nanda lodged a complaint with the Cyber Crime and Economic Offences police station May 21.

Subsequently, the police registered a case and arrested Mahapatra.

A local court Thursday sent Mahapatra to judicial custody, sources said.

## AIIMS-Bhub performs total femur replacement

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 26:** In a first in Odisha, a team of doctors at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhubaneswar has performed a total femur replacement (TFR), which is used as an alternative to lower limb amputation, surgery on a 30-year-old man, who had a huge tumour on his left thighbone.

According to Sujit Kumar Tripathy, an additional professor at the Orthopaedics department of AIIMS-Bhubaneswar, the patient, who hails from Kendrapara district, was suffering from primitive neuroectodermal tumour, one of the highly cancerous tumours, in thighbone.

"The patient had undergone two surgeries - in 2018 and 2019, but those were too little to ensure complete removal of the malignant tumour. The patient subsequently developed a recurrence of the tu-

mour, which was close to the blood vessels, and received chemotherapy prior to the current surgery," said Tripathy.

"The entire tumour was excised in toto and total femur megaprosthesis was implanted in the four-hour-long surgery," said Tripathy, who along with his team performed the procedure - claimed to be the first in Odisha.

Post surgery the patient is fine, said Tripathy, adding that the patient has to receive further chemotherapy and the postoperative period needs a vigilant management. Aparajita Panda, an associate professor at AIIMS - Bhubaneswar's Anaesthesiology and Critical Care department, and her team also played a key role in the surgery, it was learnt.

AIIMS-Bhubaneswar Director Mukesh Tripathi and superintendent SN Mohanty were among the many who congratulated the team for the feat.

### FIRST IN ODISHA

# Is waning smallpox vax protection behind monkeypox outbreak?

The World Health Organisation said it does not believe the monkeypox outbreak outside of Africa requires mass vaccinations as measures like good hygiene and safe sexual behaviour will help control its spread

smallpox vaccination may be contributing to the increasing outbreaks of Monkeypox." Prof. Raina MacIntyre, from the University of New South Wales, was quoted as saying to the Medical Journal of Australia.

"It has been more than 40-50 years since mass vaccination ceased," she said.

A study published in the journal PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases, in February, warned monkeypox cases were rising as a result of the cessation of widespread smallpox vaccination, as the virus was declared eradicated by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

According to Dr Romulus Breban, a researcher at the Pasteur Institute in Paris, the "outbreak was really waiting to happen", the Guardian reported.

"Our immunity level is almost zero. People aged 50 and above are likely to be immune but the rest of us are not, so we are very, very susceptible," he was quoted as saying. He, however, believes the out-

**OWING TO THE MASS IMMUNISATION CAMPAIGN, NATURALLY OCCURRING SMALLPOX WAS WIPE OUT WORLDWIDE BY 1980. THE SMALLPOX VACCINE ALSO OFFERED THE BONUS OF STRONG PROTECTION AGAINST MONKEYPOX**

**A STUDY PUBLISHED IN THE JOURNAL PLOS NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES, IN FEBRUARY, WARNED MONKEYPOX CASES WERE RISING AS A RESULT OF THE CESSATION OF WIDESPREAD SMALLPOX VACCINATION**

break can be contained and said it was an opportunity to propose vaccination campaigns in countries where the virus is endemic.

Further, the surge in cases has also raised questions about whether the monkeypox virus has evolved into a more transmissible form. So far scientists have found no



evidence for this being the case, but researchers are studying the DNA to see if mutations in the virus may have changed its behaviour: Genetic studies so far suggest the virus matches strains that reached the UK, Singapore and Israel in 2018 and 2019. The WHO also believes there is

no evidence that the Monkeypox virus has mutated.

"Viruses in this group tend not to mutate and they tend to be fairly stable," Dr. Rosamund Lewis, who runs the WHO's smallpox research, said recently.

Meanwhile, several countries are planning to stock up the ex-

isting smallpox vaccines that are reportedly 85 per cent effective against the monkeypox virus.

The UK has secured a supply of tecovirimat and is offering a smallpox vaccine to close contacts of people diagnosed with monkeypox to reduce the risk of symptomatic infection and severe illness. Sources suggest an extra 20,000 doses of the vaccine have been ordered to add to the UK's stock of 5,000, Guardian reported.

The US is also preparing to give monkeypox vaccines to close contacts of people infected and to deploy treatments, with five cases now either confirmed or probable and the number likely to rise. EU health authorities have also advised member states to prepare a monkeypox vaccine plan.

However, the WHO said it does not believe the monkeypox outbreak outside of Africa requires mass vaccinations as measures like good hygiene and safe sexual behaviour will help control its spread.

## Cuttack school celebrates alumni's contributions in freedom struggle

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, May 26:** Joining the country in observing 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', on the occasion of the country's 75 years of independence, the alumni association of Ravenshaw Collegiate School in Cuttack, has established a 'Revolutionary Archive' for sourcing and sharing information on some of the institute's illustrious former students, who contributed in the freedom movement.

Many people in the state and the country are aware of the fact that the school was the alma mater of greats such as Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and former Chief Minister Biju Patnaik, but what they may not know is that the forgotten hero of the Ghadar revolt, Shaheed Kartar Singh Sarabha, is also an alumnus of the institution, established way back in 1851, members of the association said.

Kartar Singh's 126th birth anniversary was celebrated in a big way from May 22 to May 25 in Odisha, with academicians, historians and other prominent personalities recently emphasising the need to preserve the legacy of the revolutionary fighter.

"The archive has been established to document contributions of heroes such as Kartar Singh Sarabha, who may not have found a place in history books. On the occasion of the country's 75 years of Independence, it is imperative we commemorate these not-so-popular heroes along with the better-known ones," Biswaranjan Sasmal, one of the members of the association, said.

According to Umakant Mishra, a professor at the department of history in Ravenshaw University, Sarabha, whom Saheed-i-Azam Bhagat Singh considered his political guru, studied in the eminent school for two years. He was senior to Netaji, Mishra said.

"Kartar Singh finished his primary education in a local school. He studied in the Cuttack school from 1909 to 1911. One of his three paternal uncles, Bakshesh Singh, was a police inspector in Bengal Province, posted in Cuttack. At that time, Odisha and Bihar were part of Bengal Province," he narrated.

Sarabha, born in 1886, was sent to the gallows, along with six of his compatriots, on November 16, 1915.

## ICAR-CIFA, SSU ink pact on agri science research



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 26:** A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA) and the Sri Sri University (SSU), Bhubaneswar, at the university Thursday marking the institutes' collaboration on agricultural science and extension of scientific knowledge from lab to land.

While addressing the gathering, SSU President Rajita Kulkarni expressed her happiness for signing the MoU and said that this collaboration will help students of SSU with their research and training at ICAR-CIFA.

ICAR-CIFA Director Saroj K Swain spoke on various cutting edge research activities of this institute and the role of various innovative technologies in enhancing farmers' income. He thanked SSU for coming forward with this collaboration with ICAR-CIFA. ICAR-CIFA National Professor Pramod Kumar Sahoo mentioned about the research collaboration in the key areas of mutual interests.

## CARE Hosp's health camp at Kendrapara

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 26:** CARE Hospitals, Bhubaneswar, organised a free mega health camp for people of Kendrapara, Wednesday.

Consultations at the camp were provided by renowned Cardiologist Mahendra Prasad Tripathy, Ophthalmologist Sanghamitra Dash, Orthopaedics Consultant Sandeep Singh and Swarup Bhanja, Senior Consultant, General Medicine at CARE Hospitals here.

On this occasion MP Tripathy stressed on the importance of maintaining a balanced diet and having regular exercise for healthy heart. He highlighted on preventive health check-ups as the need of the hour.

He also added that the medical camp was organised to inspire people to take care of their health and implement necessary lifestyle changes in accordance to the prevailing pandemic conditions to live healthier lives.

## NCM seeks report on 'toilet' in Puri gurdwara

**New Delhi:** The National Commission for Minorities (NCM) Thursday asked the Chief Secretary of Odisha to submit a report within 10 days in connection with an allegation of construction of toilet at a gurdwara in Puri. The commission's move came while hearing a plea filed by a Nihang of Budha Dal alleging that the place at a gurdwara in Puri, which was earmarked for construction of a memorial of Guru Nanak's visit to the Holy City, was used for construction of toilets. The commission said as the reported incident has hurt the feelings of the Sikh community, the Chief Secretary should revert with a detailed report in connection with the reported incident within 10 days.

## CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Priyansu Priyaranjan Pradhan (DOB 01.11.2006), S/o. Purna Chandra Pradhan of At: Balikudia, P.O.: Barapalli, P.S./Dist.: Nayagarh by mistake in my father's service record, my name erroneously endorsed as Priyanshu Priyaranjan Pradhan instead of Priyansu Priyaranjan Pradhan and DOB noted as Dt.01.11.2007 instead of Dt.01.11.2006 affidavit No. 523/22 Dt.25.05.2022.

# Mumbai man held in fake loan app case

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 26:** The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Crime Branch has arrested one more accused in the fake loan app case from Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi.

The accused has been identified as Ram Shriram Pathade, a resident of Sonam Heights Apartment in Mumbai, EOW sources said.

Pathade, the managing director of Mahagram Payments Private Limited, also holds the post of director in several other companies involved in the fake loan app case.

The companies are Sarsewa Simplified Innovations Limited, Mahagram Foundation, Finnovity Global Payments Private limited and Express Digital Money Private Limited, sources said.

Pathade was produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate,

The accused would credit small amounts ranging from ₹3,000 to ₹10,000 to the customer's bank account

Once the amount was credited, within a week the customers were asked to repay the loan amount with high rate of interest

A FEW PEOPLE OUTSIDE ODISHA HAVE REPORTEDLY COMMITTED SUICIDE AFTER FACING HUMILIATION FROM THE FRAUDSTERS

Patiala House Court in New Delhi May 25 and brought to Odisha on a transit remand. He would be produced in the court of Bhubaneswar SDJM, sources added.

Pathade in connivance with Md. Javed Sahifi, proprietor and director of IWT-India, and Tarun Kumar Dudeja, proprietor of many shell companies like Digital Batua and Bacchat Online, used to cheat people through digital loan apps like KOKO and JOJO loan without having any valid authority from the RBI or other regulatory bodies.



When a customer refused to pay the high rate of interest, he was humiliated

The fraudsters sent obscene messages and indecent pictures to the customer and his contacts through WhatsApp as a coercive measure to recover the amount with interest

The accused would credit small amounts ranging from ₹3,000 to ₹10,000 to the customer's bank account. Once the amount was credited, within a week the customer were asked to repay the amount with high rate of interest.

When a customer refused to pay the high rate of interest, he was humiliated by the fraudsters. The fraudsters sent obscene messages and indecent pictures to the customer and his contacts through WhatsApp as a coercive measure to recover the loan amount with interest.

A few people outside Odisha have reportedly committed suicide after facing humiliation from the fraudsters, sources said.

"There have been already more than 1.5 lakh downloads of KOKO and JOJO loan apps. The EOW has received more than 100 complaints from different parts of Odisha in connection with the illegal loan apps," said an official.

During investigation, the EOW came to know that the people who had downloaded KOKO and JOJO loan apps from the play

store were credited small amounts of loans from Mahagram Payments Pvt. Ltd.

"The company was lending money from its payout account maintained with a payment gateway But for repayment by the borrowers, the amount was being remitted through other shell companies/accounts. But, the money was ultimately landing at Mahagram Payments Pvt. Ltd. It has been ascertained that there are about 1,058 such virtual accounts were created by the company for receiving repayments from the borrowers," said an official of the EOW. The EOW have succeeded in blocking all 1,058 virtual accounts.

Earlier, the EOW had arrested Sahifi and Dudeja in connection with the case and succeeded in freezing ₹6.57 crore lying in accounts of Mahagram Payment Pvt. Ltd, sources said.

## Issue NOCs to colleges for ITEP courses: Mishra

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 26:** The Higher Education department Thursday directed all state public universities to issue NOCs in favour of colleges applying for Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP) courses.

In a letter to Registrars of all universities, Higher Education Secretary Saswat Mishra said as a policy decision of the state government, colleges have been directed to submit their online application to National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), New Delhi, by May 31 to start ITEP from academic session 2023-2024.

Colleges are required to obtain NOCs from their respective affiliating universities and upload the same on the NCTE portal.

"Therefore, you are requested to issue NOC in favour of these colleges immediately," the HE department Secretary added.

## TELLING A TALE



The cultural wing of state Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water department presented a play 'Jiyanta Saba' at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Thursday OP PHOTO

## 'AMTs can reduce power loss during transmission'

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 26:** With the state facing large amount of loss every year in terms of power transmission, experts have suggested use of amorphous metal transformers (AMTs) rather than conventional transformers to reduce power loss.

As per the Economic Survey for 2020-21, Transmission and Distribution (T&D) losses have been more than 20 percent of generation across the country, which is more than twice the world average.

While the ideal level of T&D loss ranges between 6-8 per cent, Odisha registers an average annual loss of around 6.2 per cent at 33KV transmission, which is only the

**It's surprising that while Odisha was the first to use amorphous transformers, it has switched to CRGOs. Fourteen states in the country have already switched to amorphous transformers. The distribution for the same can be done under RDSS, the flagship scheme of the Union government to promote energy efficiency by loss reduction**

PRAFULLA PANDA | EX-GM, GRIDCO

second highest to Madhya Pradesh.

The Union Power Ministry in September last year had advised the state government to bring all 33KV systems under Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited (OPTCL) for upgradation in order to reduce transmission loss to a sustainable level. The Ministry had stated that "even one per cent loss reduction by better upkeep may ensure incremental revenue of ₹7,865

crore per annum'.

"It's the need of the hour that we shift from the conventional (CRGO) transformers to amorphous metal ones which are 20-30 per cent more efficient. Moreover, the amorphous metal transformers also help greatly reduce the T&D. For instance, in a normal CRGO transformer, around 200watt energy is lost during 100KV electricity distribution while only 65watt is lost in the amorphous

one," said Debasish Das, Director, Alfa Transformers Limited.

Compared to conventional transformers, which consist of stacks of laminations that are made from silicon steel transformers, in amorphous transformer a ribbon of steel is wound to form the core. This ensures less energy wastage due to heating during magnetisation and demagnetisation of the core.

"Fourteen states in the country have already switched to amorphous transformers. The distribution for the same can be done under Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) which is the flagship scheme by the Indian government to promote energy efficiency by loss reduction," said Prafulla Panda, GRIDCO ex-GM.

# Pet goldfish might be threat to native biodiversity

*The research shows goldfish to be voracious, consuming much more than the white cloud mountain minnow or native species and in terms of behaviour patterns, goldfish have been found to be much braver, a trait linked with invasive spread*

**I**nvasive species are one of the leading causes of global biodiversity loss, and the pet trade is responsible for a third of all aquatic invasive species.

Pet owners releasing unwanted pets into the wild has become a major problem. Whilst many believe this is a humane option, new research suggests that attempting to 'save' the life of a goldfish could in fact lead to catastrophic outcomes for native biodiversity.

To better understand the ecological risks posed by species within the pet trade, the researchers focused on the two most commonly

traded fish species in Northern Ireland i.e. the goldfish and the white cloud mountain minnow.

The globally popular goldfish was first domesticated over a thousand years ago and has since established non-native populations around the world. The white cloud mountain minnow on the other hand is a species with a limited invasion history to date.

This study, published in NeoBiota, developed a new method for assessing the ecological impacts and risks of potential pet trade invaders, based on availability, feeding rates and behaviour.



The research showed goldfish to be voracious, consuming much more than the white cloud mountain minnow or native species. In terms of behaviour patterns, goldfish were also found to be much braver, a trait linked with invasive spread.

Lead author, James Dickey from the School of Biological Sciences at Queen's University Belfast, ex-

plains to IANS. "Our research suggests that goldfish pose a triple threat. Not only are they readily available, but they combine insatiable appetites with bold behaviour. While northern European climates are often a barrier to non-native species surviving in the wild, goldfish are known to be tolerant to such conditions, and could

pose a real threat to native biodiversity in rivers and lakes, eating up the resources that other species depend on."

"Our research highlights that the goldfish are high risk, but we hope that the methods developed here can be used to assess others in the pet trade across Ireland and further afield. Readily available species are most likely to be released, so limiting the availability of potentially impactful ones, alongside better education of pet owners, is a solution to preventing damaging invaders establishing in the future," he said.

The research led by Queen's University Belfast was funded by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Inland Fisheries Ireland and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), NI.

The study was presented at the International Conference on

**Not only are the goldfish readily available, but they combine insatiable appetites with bold behaviour. While northern European climates are often a barrier to non-native species surviving in the wild, goldfish are known to be tolerant to such conditions, and could pose a real threat to native biodiversity in rivers and lakes, eating up the resources that other species depend on**

JAMES DICKEY | LEAD AUTHOR, SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

Aquatic Invasive Species in Ostende, Belgium along with a range of other leading research from Queen's on alien species. IANS

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2 PACHYDERMS 'POACHED' IN BOUDH

# Jumbo carcass cut & buried at midnight



by poachers for ivory. But, we wonder why they buried the carcass and tried to construct a road to hide the truth," a local said. The matter came to the fore after locals alerted a few mediapersons about the incident.

Locals have seized salt and phenyl used to bury the carcass. A few pieces of meat from the carcass also have been seized from the spot, reports said.

When contacted, Boudh forest division officer Debapriya Kamp said, "Yes, two carcasses were recovered. One of them was a tusker. I'm not sure, if the tusk was intact in the tusker before its burial. I have ordered a probe into the sudden burial of the carcass."

avoid suspicion.

"We spotted the carcass and informed the officials concerned. Tusks of the elephant was also missing. We are sure it was hunted

## Probe ordered into poaching

Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Bikram Keshari Arukha expressed concern over alleged poaching of an elephant in Bhukapada forest under Baghiapada section in Boudh district. Talking to mediapersons here Wednesday, he assured that action will be taken against the guilty and the errant officials after a probe into the incident.

A few days ago, forest officials had recovered the carcass of a tusker and given the circumstantial evidence, the animal was suspected to have been poached for tusks.

It was stated that the elephant

was hunted about 10 days ago before its carcass was recovered by the forest department. While wildlife hunting is rampant in these forests, all are left intrigued that how the forest department could not get even an inkling about the poaching of the elephant soon after it occurred.

The minister told media persons that the elephant poaching has come to his notice and he has ordered an investigation into the matter. And action will be taken against the officials who have neglected their duties.

Notably, STF had raided various parts of Boudh district I the past and seized leopard skins, elephant tusks and live pangolins.



Pottangi MLA Pritam Padhi and people's representatives hand over kits as part of livelihood enhancement programme to the women in Kotia panchayat of Koraput

## Pathargad dam needs renovation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Loisingha, May 26: Pathargad dam in reserve forest area under Loisingha forest range of Bolangir district has been in bad shape for years owing to lack of restoration. Locals have urged Bolangir DFO Nitish Kumar to restore the dam so as to make it usable for irrigation. Besides, they have proposed the DFO to set up a deer park near it and develop facilities for picnickers as the dam is in a scenic forested setting.

The dam is situated five kilometre to the west of Loisingha. Locals, united under Loisingha Senior Citizens' Assembly, submitted a memorandum to the DFO in this regard.

The dam is spread over 100 acres of land in Siabahal, Dumdumi and Nagaon villages. It is well inside a reserve forest and surrounded by hills. The reserve forest is home to a variety of wild animals such as deer, rabbits, monkeys and foxes.

The dam used to irrigate acres of land in Dumdumi and Budagaon villages. But now, it has lost its water retention capacity

Between November and February, the reserve forest area plays host to herds of elephants.

It was stated that the dam was renovated many years ago, and it used to irrigate acres of land in Dumdumi and Budagaon villages. However, the dam has lost its water retention capacity as its bed has deposits of earth, stones and gravels. In summer, the dam goes dry and wild animals face difficulties to get water.

The locals have also proposed a pucca road from Santika side to the dam site so as to facilitate communication of the tourists.

## 10-YEAR JAIL FOR TEEN'S RAPE

PHULBANI: A court in Kandhamal district Thursday sentenced a man to 10 years of imprisonment for raping a 13-year-old girl. Phulbani special POCJO judge Bhaskar Chandra Sahu also imposed a fine of 50,000 lakh on 23-year-old Sitapur Beheramajhi, special public prosecutor Banamali Behera said. February 25, 2017, the teenager was returning home to her village in Kotagarh block when the accused dragged her to the roadside and raped her under a tree. The girl was rescued by the villagers in critical condition. The court gave the judgement after examining 13 witnesses.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Boudh, May 26: In a horrific incident, forest officials have been accused of chopping the carcass of a tusker into pieces and burying it in the middle of the night in Baghiapada Section's Bankamundi Reserve Compartment-8 forest under Boudh forest division. Such an act is seen as an attempt by the forest officials to cover up the poaching that exposes the negligence of their duties.

Local residents have levelled serious allegations against forest officials.

According to sources, a carcass of an elephant was spotted at the reserve compartment Tuesday. Just one day later, another carcass was spotted Wednesday. Fearing outrage over the death of two jumbos within two days, forest officials reportedly buried the carcass in the middle of the night.

Worse, they even used a machine to build a road and show the graveyard as part of the newly-constructed road in the forest to

## Six teachers play truant; showcased

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, May 26: As many as six teachers are in a soup for playing truant in Bhanjanagar block of Ganjam amid allegations that some teachers are coming late to schools.



Meanwhile, the block education officer has served show cause notices on Swagatika Pardhan, Jhuna Mallick, Sonita Kumari Gouda, Santosh Kumar Senapati, Babita Kumari Swain and Purna Chandra Behera.

These teachers were absent from their respective schools during the recent inspection by the block education officer.

Besides, a day's salary of five teachers was held up for negligence in duty. The block education officer has intimated the decision to the district education officer.

The teachers were clearly told that action will be taken against them if they failed to reply satisfactorily about their absence.

# 15K LITRE OIL SPILLS INTO FARMLANDS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paradip, May 26: The Paradip-Haldia crude oil pipeline of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) burst near the IOCL Township in Paradip Thursday.

Owing to the breakage in the pipeline, huge quantity of crude oil leaked out and spread into nearby farmlands in the area.

Fire Service personnel and technicians rushed to the spot and started plugging up the leakage to avoid a possible hazard. Oil is being recovered with sponges. However, the cause of the leakage had not been ascertained.

Technicians from IOCL refinery have joined hands with Fire Service personnel to plug the leakage and restore normalcy.

## LEAKAGE IN PARADIP-HALDIA PIPELINE



IOCL officials said that over 15,000 litre of crude oil has spilled out into the farmlands.

To avoid the occurrence of any untoward incident movement of vehicular traffic on the road adjacent

to the leakage site has been suspended.

Sealing of the leak was underway till reports last came in.

Alok Sahoo, CGM, IOCL Pipeline Division, Paradip, visited the area and took stock of the situation.

He said, "Right now we can't say what caused the leak. Our people are at work and oil is being mopped up from the ground. Right now it is difficult to tell the quantity of crude oil that has leaked since it's now mixed with water. We are requesting the public to restrict movement in this part of the road since petroleum vapour is in the air."

Notably, from here, crude oil is being supplied to three oil refineries. From 2009 till date, 10 such leakages in the pipeline have been reported.

## Here, banking is done under a banyan tree

POST NEWS NETWORK

Pottangi, May 26: An unusual sight is routinely seen under a banyan tree at Deopanga panchayat under Pottangi block of Koraput—a large number of people crowding around a woman to withdraw pension money and some to check their bank balance. This is the only place of the panchayat where mobile network is reachable and the coverage is said to be strong enough to get things done.

Reports said, poor network has hampered banking services in inaccessible and fringe areas under Pottangi



block. Panchayat staff and bank staff have to face difficulties when people, particularly beneficiaries of pension, gather under the tree to avail banking services in Deopanga panchayat. They deliver online banking services under Kiosk near a banyan tree at Karanjguda Chhak.

Every day, a woman bank official visits the spot as network is available only at the place.

Though people have been approaching the administration for resolving the poor network issue, no step has been taken, locals alleged.

Zilla Parishad member Tikai Gemel said that she would talk to the Collector regarding the network issue.

Sarpanch Narendra Gadnayak said that MP Saptagiri Ullaka had visited the area recently and he had drawn his attention towards the network issue. He had proposed the MP to help set up a mobile tower in the area.

## Driver, helper nabbed for tying man to truck

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paradip, May 26: The Paradip police Thursday arrested and produced a driver and helper in the court for tying a man, allegedly a mobile thief, on the front of their truck and driving the vehicle with him hanging in the air. A video of the incident had created a buzz on social media a couple of days back.

"Police have lodged case against the truck driver and the helper in connection with the viral video of a man who was tied to a truck with garland of slippers around his neck for allegedly stealing a mobile phone. The accused driver, his helper were produced before court today," a senior police official said.

# 'Swabhiman Anchal' sees spurt in child marriages

'Bride kidnapping', a ritual practiced among the tribals since ages, still exists and is very common in these tribal-dominated villages

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chittrakonda, May 26: An alarming rise in child marriages has been seen among the most vulnerable tribals residing in villages under the 'Swabhiman Anchal' of Chittrakonda block in Malkangiri district.

Sources said, most girls are being forced to get married before reaching the age of 18. Even as the Central government recently raised the minimum legal age of marriage for women to 21 and for men to 23 years; teenage girls in these villages are forced to marry as soon as they attain the tender age of 13-15. On the other hand, there has been a drastic increase in crimes against women and children, especially cases of domestic violence and child marriages. Moreover, during the pandemic, with closure of



Women taking a pledge against child marriage at an awareness camp

schools and discontinuation of mid-day meals, several parents from weaker economic background opted to marry off their girl children.

Ralegada panchayat under Chittrakonda block reported the highest number of child marriages thanks to lack of awareness, silence of officials concerned, people representatives' and intellectuals.

Recently, a 14-year-old girl of Panasaput village was married off to a youth from RSC-13 under Nuagada panchayat. Similarly, another 14-year-

old girl from Tatipar village under Ralegada panchayat was forced to marry a youth from Sakrubandha village. Swinging into action, CDPO Hajar along with his team reached the village and called off the marriage after he came to know about it from a reliable source.

The officials also spread awareness on the government's initiative to stop child marriages. The parents of the girls were made to give a written undertaking that they would not force the girl to get married until she reached the marriageable age.

The officials warned the girl's parents of stringent action as per government rules if they dared to marry off the girl again. Similarly, a 14-year-old girl of Kodigandhi village under Adirapali panchayat was married off to a youth from Ralegada village through 'bride kidnapping', despite protest by her parents. 'Bride kidnapping' also known as 'marriage by abduction' or 'marriage by capture', is a practice in which a man abducts the woman he wishes to marry.

'Bride kidnapping' has been practiced among the tribals since history and still exists and is most common in tribal-dominated villages. The administration has been taking steps to rescue the girl after a complaint by her parents, but to no avail.

"We have managed to stop two child marriages recently. But, there is more to do. Officials concerned do no work in the ground level. Moreover, they do not take action against the wrongdoers," said Ralegada sarpanch Kamalu Hantal.

Malkangiri Zilla Parishad chairperson Samir Tungal said, "Child marriage is a crime and strict action should be taken in this regard."

## EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender notice No. e-Tender-Elect-G-52-21  
Description of Work: PROVISION OF TEMPORARY LIGHTING, FAN, MOBILE CHARGING POINTS, TOWER AIR CONDITIONER, ALTERNATE POWER SUPPLY ARRANGEMENT & DECORATION AT IMPORTANT SERVICE BUILDINGS AND STATIONS DURING YATRA-2022 & ON SPECIAL OCCASIONS AND LIGHTING OF STATION YARDS WITH STANDBY SUPPLY IN NON INTERLOCKING WORKS OVER KHURDAROAD DIVISION FOR ONE YEAR.  
Approx cost of work: ₹46,89,697.89, EMD: ₹93,800/-, Completion period of work: 12 months.  
Tender closing date & Time: 1500 hrs of 16.06.2022.  
No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-Tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.  
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-Tenders is available in website <http://www.irps.gov.in>  
Note: The prospective bidders are advised to visit the website Ten days before the date of closing of tender to note any Changes/Corrigendum issued for this tender.  
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G)/PR-135/N-22-23 Khurda Road

**कार्यालय पुलिस उप महानिरक्षक ग्रुप केन्द्र**  
**केन्द्रीय रिजर्व पुलिस बल भुवनेश्वर (उड़ीशा)**  
कन्दोल रुम सम्पर्क संख्या - 06742558206  
ईमेल: [diggcbbsr@crpf.gov.in](mailto:diggcbbsr@crpf.gov.in) / [gcbbsr@crpf.gov.in](mailto:gcbbsr@crpf.gov.in)  
सं.-ईएफक-1/2022-23-मां/कन्दोल दिनांक: 23.05.2022

**विज्ञापन**

सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि ग्रुप केन्द्र, केओरिओउबल, भुवनेश्वर (उड़ीशा) के मॉन्ट्रेसरी स्कूल में नर्सरी, एग्रीकल्चर एवं यूकेओसी की कक्षाओं के बच्चों को शिक्षा प्रदान करने हेतु 11 माह के लिये 01 सहायक अध्यापिका पद के लिये साक्षात्कार के आधार पर अस्थाई नियुक्ति की जाएगी। उपरोक्त पद पर नियुक्ति अवधि के दौरान सहायक अध्यापिका राशि रु0 8500/- प्रतिमाह की दर से मानदेय राशि का भुगतान किया जाएगा। इच्छुक योग्य उम्मीदवार योग्यता के अनुसार उक्त पदों पर नियुक्ति के लिए अपना आवेदन फॉर्म दिनांक 04.06.2022 को 17.30 बजे तक कार्यालय में जमा कर सकते हैं। आवेदन फॉर्म ग्रुप केन्द्र केओरिओउबल भुवनेश्वर के कन्दोल रुम से किसी भी कार्यदिन में प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं। आवेदन प्रस्तुत करने वाले उम्मीदवारों को दिनांक 06.06.2022 को 11.30 बजे कार्यालय पुलिस उप महानिरक्षक ग्रुप केन्द्र केओरिओउबल भुवनेश्वर में साक्षात्कार के लिए उपस्थित होना होगा। इसके लिये आवेदन करने वाले उम्मीदवारों को अलग से पत्राचार द्वारा कोई सूचना नहीं दी जाएगी।

**नोट: चयन प्रक्रिया निम्नलिखित प्राथमिकताओं के अनुरूप किया जाएगा:**

- नर्सरी प्रशिक्षित अध्यापकों, जोकि मैट्रिक तथा ज्यादा पढ़े हुए हैं, अध्यापक ने नर्सरी प्रशिक्षण डिप्लोमा किसी मान्यता प्राप्त प्रशिक्षण संस्थान से प्राप्त किया हो तथा पूर्व अनुभव हो।
- दूसरी प्राथमिकता जेबीओटी/प्रशिक्षित स्नातको/प्रशिक्षित स्नातकोत्तर तथा अन्य प्रतिभाओं को दी जाएगी जैसे ड्राइंग, संगीत आदि।
- चयन प्रक्रिया तिथि- समय प्रशासनिक कार्यों से कमी भी रद्द व संशोधित की जा सकती है।
- चयन के पश्चात् बिना कारण बताये नियुक्ति कमी भी रद्द की जा सकती है।

स्वा. / - पुलिस उप महानिरक्षक  
ग्रुप केन्द्र केओरिओउबल भुवनेश्वर (उड़ीशा)

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER**  
**SAMBALPUR (R&B) DIVISION-I: SAMBALPUR**  
**e-Procurement Notice**  
BID IDENTIFICATION No: SE/R&B/SBP/ 10/ 2022-23  
E-mail - [exeengsbp@rediffmail.com](mailto:exeengsbp@rediffmail.com) Phone/Fax-0663-2548013  
No.3563 Dated: 13.05.2022

**No.B-228:1. The Superintending Engineer, Sambalpur (R&B) Division No-1, Sambalpur** on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites Percentage Rate bids in Double cover & Single Cover System in ONLINE MODE for construction of Road & Building works as detailed in the DTCN from the eligible Class of Contractors.

- No. of works : 03(Three)
- Tender Cost : Rs.6000/- & Rs.2000/-(On Line)
- Class of Contractor : D & C Class Contractor
- Date and time Available : 16 Hrs 27.05.2022 to in Web site & receipt 10:00 Hrs of 06.06.2022 of Bids
- Date of Opening of Tender: 06.06.2022 at 10:30 Hrs.
- The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Web Site.
- Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the website [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in) only.

Sd./Superintending Engineer,Sambalpur (R&B)Division No.1  
OIPR-34112/11/0004/2223

**75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav** **पावरग्रिड POWERGRID**

**NOTICE**

- Approval under regulation-86 of CERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations' 1999 and CERC (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations' 2019 i) Truing up of Transmission tariff for 2014-19 tariff block and ii) Determination of Transmission tariff for 2019-24 tariff block for **Petition-1: Transmission assets under "Fiber Optic Communication system for central sector Sub-stations & Generating Stations in Southern Region."**
- The beneficiaries of the above mentioned Transmission system are: 1) NTPC 2) NLC 3)NPCIL 4) NTECL 5)MPEL 6)SEPL 7) Lanco 8) KPTCL 9) APTRANSCO 10) KSEB 11) TNEB 12) Electricity Dept. of Goa 13) Electricity Dept. of Puducherry.
- Tariff details: a) 2014-19 block **Rs. In lakhs**

Asset	Particulars	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Asset-A1	Revised AFC based on truing up	113.00	133.79	126.79	132.65	134.20
Asset-A2	Revised AFC based on truing up	72.19	101.75	95.33	100.58	102.39
Asset-B1	Revised AFC based on truing up	25.45	35.85	45.59	45.13	43.58
Asset-B2	Revised AFC based on truing up	32.70	67.43	71.02	74.17	71.19
Asset-B3	Revised AFC based on truing up	33.84	70.94	74.37	77.59	74.50
Asset-B4	Revised AFC based on truing up	3.20	608.17	599.69	594.88	583.28
Asset-B5	Revised AFC based on truing up	-	1.18	424.52	378.34	360.59
Asset-B6	Revised AFC based on truing up	-	-	218.18	377.99	414.37
Asset-B7	Revised AFC based on truing up	-	-	4.01	252.09	288.92
Asset-B8	Revised AFC based on truing up	-	-	-	120.37	432.72
Asset-C1	Revised AFC based on truing up	-	-	-	1.10	114.31
Asset-C2	Revised AFC based on truing up	-	-	-	-	4.65

b) 2019-24 Block **Rs. In lakhs**

Project	Tariff	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Combined Assets (2019-24)	AFC	2813.18	2786.73	2709.53	2626.28	2542.77

- A copy of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of the applicant at [www.powergrid.in](http://www.powergrid.in)
- The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application be filed by any person, including the beneficiary before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 3 & 4' floor, Chandrakol Building, Janpath, New Delhi - 110001 (or other address where the office of the Commission is situated), with a copy to the applicant at the address of its corporate office within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Place: Gurgaon  
Date: 23.05.2022 **Sr. General Manager (Commercial)**

**POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED**  
(A Government of India Enterprise)  
Registered Office: B-9, Qutab Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi 110 016  
Corporate Office: Sauramini, Plot No. 2, Sector-29, Gurgaon, Haryana - 122 001  
[www.powergridindia.com](http://www.powergridindia.com) CIN : L40101DL1989G0038121  
A Maharatna PSU



Timidity is a form of vanity. When you are timid, it means that you attach more importance to the opinions others have of you than to the sincerity of your actions.

THE MOTHER



## Predictive Analytics

We all tend to follow habits at work and in other aspects of our lives. I generally work best in the morning and hate working after dinner. Our habits usually reflect preferences, learning, or a combination of the two – or, as Charles Duhigg notes in his book *The Power of Habit*, the mere repetition of an act might generate a routine.

My own recent research shows that criminals are not all that different from law-abiding citizens when it comes to sticking to a routine, possibly as a result of their experience, their tendency to specialise, and their belief that they have developed an ideal strategy. And police departments are catching on, with the assistance of an increasingly common tool: algorithms.

Because algorithms use patterns in data to predict future behaviour, they can forecast the movies someone might like on Netflix or the books she might buy on Amazon. But they can also help law-enforcement agencies fight crime. Some algorithms calculate prison inmates' future recidivism. Others underpin predictive-policing tools, which generate crime forecasts with the aim of optimising patrols.

Investments in predictive analytics lead to a reallocation of resources (including through different policing strategies and alternative sentencing), and thus alter the probability of arrest or detention across individuals. For this reason, it is important to understand whether these algorithmic tools reduce crime, and whether they do so without generating biases against certain groups.

The most elaborate and well-known predictive-policing software has essentially evolved from hotspot maps. These programmes operate on the principle that areas recently subject to high crime are more likely to have high near-term crime rates. Thus, law-enforcement agencies should focus on these areas in order to deter the largest number of criminals.

While researchers have shown that these statistical algorithms have greater predictive power than simple averages, proving that they actually reduce crime is considerably more difficult. Police departments tend to embrace predictive policing when crime is high, and subsequent reductions might reflect a natural decline that has nothing to do with that decision. Area-focused policing may also simply shift crime elsewhere. A proper evaluation therefore requires a better counterfactual scenario: What would have happened to crime without the use of predictive policing?

As for bias, it is not inconceivable that predictive policing may distort law-enforcement outcomes. More deprived areas may have higher crime rates and will be patrolled more intensively once predictive policing is introduced. If police resources remain fixed, criminals in deprived areas will have a greater chance of encountering a police patrol than criminals in more affluent neighbourhoods. But while this is a fair outcome for serial offenders who contributed to the spike in crime that led to the extra patrolling, today's first-time offenders did not previously increase the crime numbers. Because most predictive-policing algorithms bundle together crime incidents without separating habitual criminals from first-time offenders, they may be biased against the latter in deprived areas.

To help address the questions of effectiveness and bias, I evaluated predictive-policing software used in Milan, Italy. This allowed me to establish a proper counterfactual: For historical reasons, Milan has two police departments that share the same objectives, but only one of them uses predictive policing.

KeyCrime, the predictive software developed by Mario Venturi that is used in Milan, differs from common predictive-policing tools because it focuses on arresting perpetrators rather than deterring them (thus denying criminals the opportunity simply to go somewhere else) and distinguishes first-time offenders from recurrent criminals. The software uses information gathered from victim reports and CCTV cameras to link criminals to commercial robberies, and then predicts when and where a particular individual or group will strike next. KeyCrime generates individual predictions, which reduces the scope for bias.

The results indicate that analysing the habits of recurrent criminals more than doubles the likelihood of arresting them. Thieves tend to act in a similar way over time, targeting a specific neighbourhood and type of business, as well as sticking to a certain time of day. So, for example, someone who previously robbed a jewellery shop at nine o'clock in the morning is likely to reoffend in the same neighbourhood, at around the same time, and against another jeweller. Since there are only so many matches that fit the predictions, the software highlights the potential future targets, and the police department organises patrols to catch the thief.

Micro-predictions based on individual criminal groups' behaviour have been proven to work in combating robberies and are now being extended to other types of serial offenders, like sex offenders and terrorists. Whether predictive policing will be equally successful in bringing these criminals to justice remains to be seen, as reduced interaction with victims and availability of CCTV footage might make it more difficult to link offenders across incidents. More widespread use of predictive policing may lead criminals to change their habits and become less predictable. But the development of more powerful algorithms and data-gathering processes provides some grounds for optimism among police departments.

"Crime is terribly revealing," Agatha Christie wrote. "Try and vary your methods as you will, your tastes, your habits, your attitude of mind, and your soul is revealed by your actions." For now, building capacity to predict individual crimes by using criminals' habits against them appears to be a good investment.

The writer, Carlo Alberto Chair at Collegio Carlo Alberto, is Professor of Economics at the University of Essex.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

### WISDOM CORNER

There are two different types of people in the world, those who want to know, and those who want to believe. FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE

People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel. MAYA ANGELOU

It is not uncommon for people to spend their whole life waiting to start living. ECKHART TOLLE

### WORDSWORTH

#### Tabnabs

These are well known to crews of British merchant navy ships and North Sea oil rigs. They're pastries or cakes, always baked on board, that are usually served at tea breaks, morning or afternoon. The first known user of the term in print is Malcolm Lowry. In his *Under the Volcano* of 1947 appears: "The tabnabs were delicate and delicious little cakes made by the second cook." Its provenance is obscure. It may originally have been Royal Navy slang, but every written reference is to merchant shipping. An editor's footnote to *The Collected Poetry of Malcolm Lowry* (1992) says they were "small pasty delicacies, usually reserved for officers and passengers (thus, to be nabbed from the table)." The suggested origin is plausible, but unverified (and probably unverifiable).



DK Giri

**THE QUAD LEADERS TOOK SERIOUS NOTE OF CHINESE AND RUSSIAN JETS FLYING OVER JAPANESE WATERS AS THE QUAD SUMMIT WAS IN PROGRESS**



Giovanni Mastrobuoni

**Micro-predictions based on individual criminal groups' behaviour have been proven to work in combating robberies and are now being extended to other types of serial offenders**

### FOCUS THE QUAD

# BACK ON TRACK?



**Ukraine is still the elephant in the room. Until the war in Ukraine ends, world politics and partnerships will not be steady**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was in Tokyo to attend the Quad meeting. He also met the other three Quad leaders bilaterally - Joseph Biden of America, Anthony Albanese of Australia and Fumio Kishida of Japan. It was assumed that Modi may not be received so warmly as before for his divergent view from other three partners on the Ukraine war. But, from the reports in the press, Modi came out unscathed. On the contrary, Modi's deliberations in the Quad and bilaterally, seem to have enhanced India's standing vis-à-vis the Quad partners.

Biden said to Modi that he is committed to making America's partnership with India among the closest on earth. He added that there is so much that the two countries can and will do together. The Australian Prime Minister, swore in 48 hours before he met Modi, said, "Australia-India ties have never been closer." The Japanese Prime Minister did the icing on the cake as he acknowledged India's stand on the war between Russia and Ukraine. In response to questions from media about India's stand on Russia and its impact on relevance of Quad, he said, "in international situation, each country has its own historical development and geographical situation. Even amongst like-minded, positions may not agree fully."

From the above accounts which are certainly not fully diplomatic hyperboles, it appears that Modi scored well for India in consolidating the bilateralism with Quad partners, and retaining their warmth and confidence. To be sure, in such summits, the bilateral meetings on the fringe are the real tangible events. Scanning the outcome of the bilateral meetings, look at the common ground created as well as reiterated with the United States. Prime Minister Modi commented that the strategic relations between India and US, is truly a "partnership of trust" and Quad is a "force for good" for global peace and stability. American President reciprocated the feelings with complete commitment to the partnership.

On Australia, both leaders re-

viewed the multi-faceted cooperation under the comprehensive strategic partnership, including in trade and investment, defence manufacturing, renewable energy, science and technology, agriculture research, sports and people-to-people. With Japan, India has a range of trade and investment relationship based on shared concerns, trust and goodwill. In keeping with spirit of friendship with Japan, Modi met three former Prime Ministers, corporate leaders and the Indian diaspora.

In Quad, as usual, several decisions were taken, a new project initiated, resolutions made on international affairs. To start with, in the important joint-statement, in the wake of Russia-Ukraine war, the Quad said, "as Russia's invasion on Ukraine is shaking the fundamental principles of the international order... (we) confirm that unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force, will never be tolerated anywhere, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region."

Along with the forgoing reference to Russian war, Quad declared that, they would champion adherence to international law as reflected in the UN Convention in East and South China seas. As expected, Quad unequivocally con-

demned terrorism and violent extremism. What is important to note is the reference to the terrorist attacks in India - 26/11 Mumbai and 2016 Pathankot attacks perpetrated by terror groups based in Pakistan.

The Quad announced the formation of the Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) which will track the maritime activities in partners' waters quicker and wider. It will also track 'dark shipping' and other tactical level activities such as rendezvous at sea, protect fisheries, vital to many Indo-Pacific economies. On development, Quad pledged to strengthen global health architecture in getting ahead of the virus which caused havoc in the world. 21 March, last year, the Quad countries had announced 'the Quad vaccine partnership' and in pursuance to that, the Quad leaders announced, "we commit to adapt our respective approaches to get ahead of the virus by focussing on preparing for new variants, making vaccines, tests, treatments, and other medical products for those at high risk."

Recognising the urgent need to tackle climate change, Quad leaders launched, "Quad Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Package (Q-CHAMP)". This initiative was in the offing from the first in-person Quad summit. In this meeting, while launching the mech-

anism for addressing climate change, the Quad leaders said they will, both individually and collectively strengthen their cooperation to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change, in line with the suggestions made by IPCC and COP26.

On infrastructure, Quad leaders agreed to deepen their cooperation. After COVID crippled the world economies, including in the Indo-Pacific region, the Quad leaders resolved to drive productivity and prosperity in the region. The leaders agreed to bring their respective skills and experiences to the table to leverage infrastructure delivery to the region. To secure this, Quad leaders agreed to extend around USD\$50 billion for the Indo-Pacific over the next five years. In parallel, the US launched the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) to support the economic development in the region. IPEF comprises 13 countries from the region. India was invited into this group to which Modi promptly agreed. This will perhaps make-up for the withdrawal from RCEP - the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership. The Quad leaders took serious note of Chinese and Russian jets flying over Japanese waters as the Quad summit was in progress.

From the above account, it appears that Quad and bilateral meetings went well for India. But Ukraine is still the elephant in the room. Until the war in Ukraine ends, world politics and partnerships will not be steady. Biden strongly said: "Putin is trying to extinguish culture. This is more than just a European issue, it is a global issue. Food crisis may worsen as Russia blocks Ukraine from exporting its grains." Mark this, Biden said, "as long as Russia continues the war, the US will work with its partners."

Biden's statement is fraught with uncertainties, possibilities and scope for disruption. India has to choose any of these outcomes and eventuality arising out of the war.

The writer is Professor of International Relations, JIMMC.

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### SPECTRUM INVESTMENT

# Creating a secular all weather portfolio

The market has witnessed a series of events in the last two years' time. This has led to constant changing and chopping of portfolios as well as investment strategies. The post-pandemic era saw equity funds delivering overwhelming returns. It was a phase of record-breaking number of demat accounts being opened, wherein the major contributors were the millennials. Crypto currencies, IPOs, PE funds, were the new fad and 'go to' products. Any return below 15% was considered to be 'underperformance' or in fact 'non-performance'. At the same time, investors were disillusioned by fixed income category.

The 'sell off' by FIIs (Foreign Institutional Investors) and FPIs (Foreign Portfolio Investors) were commensurated by DIIs (Domestic Institutional Investors) and domestic retail investors. The market cap to GDP ratio (Buffet Indicator) for Indian market was 118%. Nifty and Sensex reached all time high numbers during October last year. Everything looked rosy.

The US-China trade war, the Russia-Ukraine war posed temporary impediments to the bullish outlook. But sooner rather than later, the central banks had to ad-

dress the issue of inflation. The 'elephant in the room' had to be addressed amidst the euphoria. The Federal Reserve's imminent rate hikes have sent the market into a dizzy and have posed a plethora of ambiguous scenarios. The need of the hour is to create a 'secular all weather portfolio'. This avoids the vagaries and vicissitudes of market intricacies. The core objective of investment is 'diversification' i.e. putting eggs into different baskets. A single investment style of 'buy and hold' should be replaced by multiple investment styles of 'core and satellite'.

An investment style implies your approach towards segregation of assets in your portfolio. It is a reflection of your risk-return conundrum. Investment strategies are based on expected returns, risk appetite, liquidity requirements and time horizon. A 'core and satellite' investment strategy implies that the bulk of the portfolio belongs to core, while satellite is the tactical aspect of the portfolio aiming to earn higher returns.

The holistic investment framework should comprise of a blend of investment strategies. For example, a portfolio built on 80:20 allocations into core and satellite. The core comprises of index funds,

ETFs, large cap/bluechip funds. The satellite comprises of mid and small cap allocation. This ensures well defined diversification across market capitalization. The passively managed funds (index funds and ETFs) have lower expense ratio and hence are cost effective in nature.

In the debt investment strategy framework, interest risks and credit risks need to be addressed from duration perspective. One must choose buckets with different maturity periods - less than 1 year, 2-3 years, 3-5 years, 5-7 years and more than 7 years. This strategy mitigates the interest rate risk and provides flexibility of reinvestment as well.

For HNI (High Net-worth Individuals) and UHNI (Ultra High Net-worth Individuals) clients, PMS (Portfolio Management Services) is also an option. The minimum ticket size is 50 lakh. Hence this makes a tailor-made product for the HNI segment. Under this category, a multi-cap portfolio with a large cap bias fits the bill. Generally alternate assets (PMS, AIF) are risky propositions, but a thorough understanding of the investment philosophy, historical track record, credentials of the fund manager renders credibility and attractiveness to this segment.

The time horizon for this product is 4-5 years, with an expected return of close to 20%.

From a deployment strategy, one should also have a combination of both lump sum as well as staggered investment strategy. When it comes to staggered investment strategy, SIPs (Systematic Investment Plans) and STPs (Systematic Transfer Plans) are imperative in one's portfolio. They help in averaging out the market volatility and uncertainty. The SIPs and STPs must be in the 'satellite' space, wherein the choice of funds can be thematic or mid and small cap categories.

Gone are those days of 'buy and hold' strategy. One must rebalance and realign the portfolio in terms of risk-return matrix. With different phases of life, the financial goals and requirements of an individual also change. Hence the allocation ratio in core and satellite must be in sync with one's financial goals. Having the right mix of allocation across asset class as well as market cap, we can create a secular portfolio for all weatherers. It provides adequate immunity and insulation from the vagaries of a volatile market.

The writer is an investment banker.



Sourajeet Pradhani

**A SINGLE INVESTMENT STYLE OF 'BUY AND HOLD' SHOULD BE REPLACED BY MULTIPLE INVESTMENT STYLES OF 'CORE AND SATELLITE'**

### Boosting digital payments

Sir, Online commerce and digital payments are expanding all over the world. Recent years have witnessed a surge in the number of people handling digital payments. Digital payments in India have seen innovation in recent times. Digital banking is becoming more popular in India. The number of people using cashless transactions is increasing rapidly across the country. COVID-19 has played a significant role in accelerating the adoption of digital payments in India, as lockdowns and movement restrictions encouraged consumers to switch to cashless payment alternatives. Digital banking is being used by more than 20 crore Indians. India's rapid growth of digital payments has resulted in an innovative financial ecosystem that benefits ordinary people. The progress is the consequence of a mix of changes to the payment regulatory environment and extensive use of technology to meet customer needs. According to a recent report, India ranks number 1 in recording the highest number of real-time payments in 2021 among businesses across the world. It made 48.6 billion real-time payments last year, surpassing China. India continues to push the boundaries of digital payments. According to experts, the value of digital payments in India will triple by 2026, reaching \$1 trillion. Newer technologies that assure digital payments in a more secure, safe and sustainable environment are badly needed to satisfy consumers.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

### Wimbledon fiasco

Sir, That ATP and the WTA have decided to penalize Wimbledon for its decision to ban Russian and Belarusian players from the tournament this year by stripping ranking points will certainly take the sheen out of the most prestigious Grand Slam tennis tournament of the world and will reduce it to a mere exhibition event. Wimbledon has earned more wrath worldwide, particularly because Russian and Belarusian players are still allowed to compete in other tournaments, including in the ongoing French Open. The ATP ranking system is the gold standard when it comes to tennis, and a professional tennis player's ability is solely determined by his/her position in the rankings. Perhaps, the unfortunate decision to deprive the ranking points may lead to a significant divide among the tennis governing bodies in the long run. Both ATP and WTA might have served a volley to Wimbledon for its intransigent and uncompromising nature, but in the end players and fans are the real losers. Set point, match point and championship point, but no ranking points. So sad of you Wimbledon!

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

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

# national

## of the day quote

There will not be any relationship (alliance or understanding) with JD(S). We (Congress) will not have any political relationship with JD(S), there will not be any relationship during the elections or any other political relationship

**SIDDARAMAIAH** | SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER

We (govt) can be a facilitator. We need to know why co-working space is less. We need to discuss all these issues on one common platform

**ROHAN KHAUNTE** | GOA INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MINISTER

I want to tell each citizen of Delhi that I will work in the capacity of a local guardian rather than as LG. You will see me less in Raj Niwas and more on the roads

**VINAI KUMAR SAXENA** | LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF DELHI

## SHORT TAKES

### 9 killed as cab falls into gorge

**Srinagar:** Nine people, including an Army personnel, were killed when their cab rolled into a deep gorge on the Srinagar-Leh national highway in Jammu and Kashmir's Ganderbal district, officials said Thursday. The cab, on its way from Kargil to Srinagar, skidded off the road late Wednesday at Zojila and rolled down the gorge, they added. The police, army and locals launched a search-rescue operation and recovered four bodies and rescued five others who were rushed to a hospital, officials said.

### 56 kg cocaine seized near Mundra port

**Bhuj, Gujarat:** The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has seized 56 kg of cocaine, estimated to be worth around ₹500 crore, from a container near the Mundra port in Gujarat's Kutch district, an official said Thursday. While DRI officials did not disclose the value of the seized contraband, it could be close to ₹500 crore as one kilogram of cocaine is known to fetch around ₹10 crore in international markets. Based on specific inputs, a team of DRI officials searched the container which had arrived at the Mundra port some time ago from a foreign country and was kept at a Container Freight Station nearby, the official said.

### TV artiste's killing: Two ultras trapped

**Srinagar:** Two Lashkar-e-Taiba militants, involved in the killing of a female TV artiste Wednesday, have been trapped in an encounter with security forces in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said Thursday. Amreen Bhat, who worked as a TV artiste besides being an emerging social media starlet, was shot dead and her 10-year-old nephew injured by ultras inside her house at Chadoora in Budgam district Wednesday.

### Flood situation grim in Assam

**Guwahati:** The flood situation in Assam remained critical Thursday with two more persons, including a child, losing their lives and over 5.61 lakh people still suffering in the deluge across seven districts, as per an official bulletin. According to the daily flood report of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), one person each died in Kamrup and Raha of Nagaon district. With this, the total number of people losing their lives in this year's flood and landslides has reached 30.



Our state is a pioneer not only in economic and other related factors but also in social justice, equality and women empowerment and this is the Dravidian model of governance

**MK STALIN** | TN CHIEF MINISTER

## WHO AIDS RAJASTHAN

Rajasthan is the first state in the country going to institutionalise health accounts which will help in estimating the amount spent on the health sector and its impact. The data or facts available from these accounts would be used in future for policy making, and technical and financial assistance will be provided by the WHO to create health accounts, said officials



# Treat sex workers with dignity: SC to police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 26:** Observing that human decency and dignity extend to sex workers and their children, the Supreme Court has directed police forces in all states and Union territories to treat sex workers with dignity and not to abuse them, verbally or physically. Issuing a slew of directions, a bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao, B R Gavaai and A S Bopanna said the constitutional protection that is given to all individuals in this country shall be kept in mind by the authorities who have a duty under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956. Any sex worker who is a victim

of sexual assault should be provided with all facilities available to a survivor of sexual assault, including immediate medical assistance, in accordance with law, it said. "It has been noticed that the attitude of the police to sex workers is often brutal and violent. It is as if they are a class whose rights are not recognised. The police and other law enforcement agencies should be sensitised to the rights of sex workers who also enjoy all basic human rights and other rights guaranteed in the Constitution to all citizens. Police should treat all sex workers with dignity and should not abuse them, both verbally and physically, subject them to violence or coerce them into any sexual ac-



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

tivity," the bench said. The court also said the Press Council of India should be urged to issue appropriate guidelines for the media to take utmost care not

to reveal the identities of sex workers, during arrest, raid and rescue operations, whether as victims or accused and not to publish or telecast any photos that would result in disclosure of such identities. "Besides, the newly introduced Section 354C, IPC which makes voyeurism a criminal offence, should be strictly enforced against electronic media, in order to prohibit telecasting photos of sex workers with their clients in the garb of capturing the rescue operation," it said. It also directed the state governments to do a survey of shelter homes so that cases of adult women who are detained against their will can be reviewed and processed for release in a time-bound manner. The apex court passed the directions on recommendations of a panel formed for the rehabilitation of sex workers.

## Visa scam: Karti gets interim protection from arrest till May 30



AGENCIES

**New Delhi, May 26:** Rouse Avenue Court here Thursday granted interim protection from arrest to Lok Sabha MP Karti Chidambaram till May 30 in a money laundering case registered by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) linked to an alleged Chinese visa scam. The ED had filed the money laundering case against the Congress MP, his close aide S Bhaskararaman, and others in connection with the alleged scam, which facilitated project visas for Chinese nationals for a power project of the Vedanta group in Punjab in return for bribes, when his father P Chidambaram was the Union Home Minister during the Congress regime. Earlier in the day, Karti appeared before the CBI at its headquarters here to record his statement in connection with the case. On Wednesday, Bhaskararaman, Chartered Accountant of Karti, was arrested by the CBI from Chennai for allegedly helping Chinese nationals get visas by flouting the rules.

# ED raids Sena minister Anil Parab, associate

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, May 26:** In another rude jolt to the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), the Enforcement Directorate (ED) swooped on the homes and offices of Shiv Sena leader and Transport Minister Anil D Parab, and his associates, here early Thursday.

Around 7 a.m., ED teams simultaneously fanned out to around half a dozen locations in Mumbai, including Parab's official bungalow and private residence, besides his native Ratnagiri, and in Pune where two premises of a business associate Vibhas Sathe were searched.

A team of senior ED officials zeroed in on Parab at his official home where he was undergoing the 'preliminary' round of investigations. The action follows a complaint lodged by the central probe agency in an alleged money-laundering case against Parab, certain shady land deals, besides other reported financial irregularities, arising out of the probe into allegations hurled by sacked Mumbai police officer Sachin Vaze. The developments rattled the MVA as Parab became the second sitting Minister who has been targeted by the central probe agencies in the past four months. Earlier in February, MVA constituent Nationalist Congress Party's Minister Nawab Malik had also been raided and is currently in jail. In an early operation, ED teams with CRPF posses swooped at the

## JOLT TO MVA



ANIL D PARAB

## Chargesheet against Shivakumar

**New Delhi:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed a chargesheet under the anti-money laundering law against Karnataka Congress president D K Shivakumar and others, officials said Thursday. The prosecution complaint has been filed under various sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) before a Delhi court, they said. The federal probe agency had in September 2018 registered a money laundering case against Shivakumar, A Haumanthaiah, an employee at the Karnataka Bhavan in New Delhi, and other people. The case was based on an Income Tax Department chargesheet filed against Shivakumar and others before a court in Bengaluru for alleged tax evasion and hawala dealings.

locations to conduct searches and reportedly gathered incriminating electronic devices and other documents. An MLC with a law background, Parab was one of the key players that led to the formation of the MVA government in November 2019. Sena Chief Spokesperson Sanjay Raut and Congress state Chief Spokesperson Atul Londhe slammed the raids "with vendetta and ulterior political motives" to harass the MVA government. "BJP leaders face more serious charges and cases, but nobody touches them. The Central

agencies are being deliberately misused to demoralise the MVA allies, but we shall not be cowed down. We are with Parab," said a grim Raut. Londhe said that the BJP has not yet digested its 2019 defeat in Maharashtra and is now hounding the MVA allies in its efforts to topple the state government. Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party former MP Kirit Somaiya, who had predicted the ED actions, said this is only the beginning and many more persons shall be in the dragnet.

# Gyanvapi case: Next hearing on Monday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Varanasi, May 26:** The district court here Thursday heard arguments on the maintainability of a plea by five Hindu women seeking permission for daily worship of the Shringar Gauri Sthal in the Kashi Vishwanath-Gyanvapi complex, and posted the matter for further hearing May 30.

The court had Tuesday fixed May 26 for the hearing of arguments on the maintainability of the plea filed by the five Hindu women who have sought round-the-year access to pray at the Shringar Gauri Sthal in the Kashi Vishwanath-Gyanvapi complex. The Muslim side has argued that the plea is not maintainable as the Places of Worship Act 1991 prohibits conversion of any place of worship and mandates the maintenance of the religious character of any place of worship as it existed August 15, 1947.

After the plea was filed, a lower court had ordered a videographic survey of the Gyanvapi complex, and the Hindu side claimed a 'Shivling' was found during the exercise. Vishnu Jain, the advocate of the Hindu side, said Thursday. "The Shivling which was found in the Gyanvapi Masjid complex, was in custody of the Muslim side. They had first tampered with the Shivling which was clearly evident. We will raise the issue in the court," Jain said. The Muslim side presented its side Thursday. "We will get photos from the videography survey and the copy of the CD tomorrow (Friday)," Jain said. Singh had earlier said the court has given one week to both Hindu and Muslim sides to file objections to the report of the court-mandated videography survey of the Gyanvapi mosque premises.

On May 20, the Supreme Court had transferred the 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.



## RAISING VOICE



Street vendors block the Gandhi Maidan road during a protest against anti-encroachment drive by the administration near Udyog Bhawan, in Patna

# Heart problems, pneumonia, asthma claimed 42% of total deaths in 2020

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 26:** Heart diseases, pneumonia and asthma together claimed the highest number of lives - over 42 per cent - of the total 18,11,688 medically certified deaths registered in the country in 2020.

However, the total number of registered deaths in the country was 81,15,882. According to the 'Report on Medical Certification of Cause of Death 2020', prepared by India's Registrar General and Census Commissioner, Covid-19, which hit the country in that year, claimed nearly nine per cent of the lives - 1,60,618 people.

While diseases of circulatory system claimed 32.1 per cent lives, respiratory system related diseases were responsible for 10 per cent deaths. Those who died due to diseases of pulmonary circulation and other forms of heart diseases and ischemic heart diseases were categorised as deaths due to 'diseases of circulatory system'.

Deaths from pneumonia, asthma, and related diseases were termed as deaths due to the 'diseases of respiratory system'.

The third leading group, constituting 8.9 per cent of the total medically certified deaths, was classified under the 'Codes for special purposes: Covid-19'.



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

## While diseases of circulatory system claimed 32.1% lives, respiratory system related diseases took 10%

The fifth leading cause, endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases were responsible for 5.8 per cent of the total medically certified deaths. Diabetes and mellitus were the major causes under this category. The sixth leading reason of country's deaths was injury, poisoning, and certain other consequences of external causes (fractures, poisoning by drugs and biological substances) and it constituted 5.6 per cent of the total deaths. Neoplasm (cancer) was the seventh leading cause, accounting for 4.7 per cent of the total medically certified deaths. Male and female constituted 64 per cent and 36 per

cent respectively of the total medically certified death. The highest number of deaths (5,17,678 or 28.6 per cent of total medically certified deaths) were reported for the age-group 70 years and above. For the age-groups of 45 years and above, diseases of circulatory system (heart diseases) were the first leading cause of death. A total of 5.7 per cent of total medically certified deaths were reported among infants (age less than 1 year). About 71.7 per cent of all infant deaths were reported to be caused by certain conditions originating during the perinatal period. In the age-group of 15-24 years, diseases of circulatory system claimed 18 per cent of deaths - the highest - followed by injury, poisoning, and certain other consequences of external causes, which constituted 15.7 per cent of deaths, implying the age group to be particularly vulnerable to 'injuries and poisoning related deaths.'

# KCR hints at grand alliance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bangalore, May 26:** Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao Thursday hinted at a grand opposition alliance saying that there will be sensational news in the next two to three months regarding such a front.

The Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) chief also said despite 'bhaashanbaazi' (rhetoric), industries are closing down, the nation's GDP is crashing and the rupee is falling drastically compared to the US dollar.

He was speaking to reporters after holding a discussion with



JD(S) supreme and former prime minister H D Deve Gowda, his son and former Karnataka chief minister HD Kumaraswamy and his grandson Nikhil Kumaraswamy.

"Lots of talks happen but now India will change. India has to change and take a shape for

future. It has to rise despite politics, politicians and 'isms'. Efforts should be made to change the situation of the country. After two to three months, you will get to see some sensational news," the Telangana Chief Minister said. Rao said he discussed everything regarding the political situation at the national level and in Karnataka during his meeting with the first family of JD(S). The Telangana CM said he had been to Karnataka ahead of assembly elections in 2018 and predicted Kumaraswamy becoming chief minister, which turned out to be true.

# Yogi's big Budget bet for 2024 polls

**YOGI GOVT PRESENTED THE MAIDEN BUDGET OF ITS SECOND TERM, THE LARGEST SO FAR IN UTTAR PRADESH, CLAIMING THAT IT IS ON THE WAY TO TURNING THE STATE INTO A TRILLION DOLLAR ECONOMY IN THE COMING YEARS**



the police and maintain law and order in the state.

Tabling the budget in the Assembly, state Finance Minister Suresh Khanna said that the government has not only made a record payment of ₹1,72,745 crore to sugarcane farmers until May 16, 2022, which is ₹77,530 crore more than the five years of accumulated payment of ₹95,215 crore during Akhilesh Yadav's government, but has also proposed ₹1000 crore for payment to the remaining sugarcane farmers.

The budget proposes free irrigation facility to farmers through 34,307 government tube-wells and 252 minor branch canals as well as ₹1000 crore under Mukhya Mantri

Laghu Sinchai Yojana to address irrigation related issues of the state. Furthermore, the budget proposes accidental insurance of ₹650 crore for farmers under Mukhya Mantri Krishak Durghatana Kalyan Yojana.

The Yogi government aims to distribute 2 crore smartphones and tablets in the next five years, including 12 lakh in the current financial year itself.

It has also proposed ₹897 crore for multi-modal connectivity projects under PM Gati Shakti Yojana and ₹694.34 crore for the 594 km long six-lane Ganga Expressway from Meerut to Prayagraj.

The total receipts in the current financial year are estimated

## Oppn slams budget, calls it directionless

Opposition parties in Uttar Pradesh Thursday criticised the state's budget and called it directionless and a web of statistics. Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Akhilesh Yadav said that it was a wizardry of numbers and a web of statistics. He said that this was the sixth budget of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath but lacked a vision and had nothing for the common man. The SP chief added that the budget did not say anything about doubling farmers' income and checking inflation. The common man does understand it. Under the double-engine government, inflation has doubled. Youngsters who wanted employment are depressed. Employment is seen in the statistics but not in reality, Akhilesh said, adding that the government talked about unemployment but does not give out the figures. "We have seen dreams of free medicine, treatment and electricity, but this government is constantly increasing inflation." BSP president Mayawati said that the budget was a clichéd exercise and lacked steps for public interest. She said the government failed to run schemes for the poor and for the development of the state's infrastructure. "Where is the basic work that should have been done on a priority basis by the so-called double-engine government to bring 'achche din' in the lives of crores of people of Uttar Pradesh?" she said in a tweet in Hindi. "How would a policy like that come about when there is a lack of clear intention? How long will this game of fooling people continue?" she asked. Congress MLA Aradhana Mishra Mon said that the budget had nothing new to offer for the poor and even the middle class, saying it was routine and uninspiring.

at ₹5,90,951.71 crore, including revenue receipts of ₹4,99,212.71 crore and capital receipts of ₹91,739 crore.

The share of tax revenue in revenue receipts is ₹3,67,153.76 crore. This includes its own tax revenue of ₹2,20,655 crore and the state's share in central taxes of ₹1,46,498.76 crore. The fiscal

deficit is estimated of ₹81,177.97 crore which is 3.96 per cent of the estimated Gross State Domestic Product.

The budget not only focuses on the education of youth and their employment, but also empowerment of women and farmers as well as all-round growth of the state and law and order.

# Goa's Guv office defends need for new Raj Bhavan

BJP has announced that Prez Kovind will lay the foundation stone for the new Raj Bhavan building May 30, on his Goa visit

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Panaji, May 26:** The Goa Raj Bhavan Wednesday defended the need to construct a new residential complex for the Governor in place of a centuries old heritage building which presently serves as the official gubernatorial abode.

In a statement, the Raj Bhavan said that crores of rupees were being spent on constant repairs and upkeep of the structure, which was constructed in 1534, even as the Congress has criticised the move to construct a new residential complex for the Governor.

The Governor's office clarified after objections were raised on construction of a new Raj Bhavan.

Over the years the needs and requirements of Raj Bhavan have undergone great deal of change, requiring more space with modern facilities and amenities. Hence, it is proposed to construct a Raj Bhavan Annexe in the land available within the campus. It is also informed that the present building of Raj Bhavan and the Governor's Secretariat Building will remain intact and will not be disturbed or modified in any manner, the press release by the



Governor's office stated.

Congress leader and South Goa MP Francisco Sardinha had recently said that it will be a wrong decision to construct a new 'Raj Bhavan' if its foundation is strong.

"It is a heritage house, many generations lived there. If the foundation of Raj Bhavan is strong then they have no right to construct a new one," Sardinha had said.

The BJP has announced that President Ram Nath Kovind will lay the foundation stone for the new Raj Bhavan building May 30, on his Goa visit.

# 2.4 lakh senior citizens in UP reach out to 'Elderline'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Lucknow, May 26:** More than 2.4 lakh senior citizens in Uttar Pradesh have availed the 'Elderline' service in the past one year.

The Elderline, a helpline for senior citizens, has received as many as 2,40,335 calls, including over 67,027 actionable calls.

The toll-free helpline, 14567, launched for senior citizens, is run by Uttar Pradesh Industrial Consultants Limited (UPICON).

According to the government spokesman, majority of callers sought information on the procedure to be followed to avail benefits of the government welfare schemes, health-related infor-

mation, Covid support, legal aid, and emotional support.

UPICON Managing Director Pravin Singh said that the initiative promises help to senior citizens within 48 hours and remains operational from 8am to 8pm, and provides free information, guidance, emotional support, field intervention in cases of abuse, rescues and reunion of homeless elderly driven by values of consistency, care, empathy and encouragement.

In every district, a field response officer (FRO) has been deputed to resolve the complaints. While medical or personal emergency, depression, loneliness, break-down are accorded the high-

est priority, issues about property disputes, delay in disbursement of the welfare schemes and others are passed on to the department concerned.

Currently, Elderline provides services on four set parameters Information (health related, shelter, age, day care centres, caregiver, etc.); Guidance (maintenance issues, legal, dispute resolution, pension related, and government schemes); Field Intervention (care and support for abused, rescue and reunion of homeless elderly); Emotional Support through chat (anxiety resolution, relationship management and family disputes, loneliness).



A birthday party being celebrated inside a metro coach, at Sector-51 station of Aqua Line, in Noida, UP

# Minor asked to clean cow shelter for posting CM's edited image

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Budaun (UP), May 26:** A 17-year-old boy held for posting "objectionable" pictures of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was asked to clean a cow shelter and a public place for 15 days each as punishment by the Juvenile Justice Board.

The boy had shared an edited image of the chief minister on social media January 18. After investigation, police detained the minor; who confessed to have posted the pictures.

Judge Anchal Adhna, along with JJB members Arvind Gupta and Pramila Gupta, in the verdict Wednesday said, "The minor will clean a cow shelter and a public place for 15 days each. This will instill a sense of service in him and he will get a chance to correct himself."

# Tourists booked under riot provocation charge for namaz at Taj mosque

According to some, prohibition on offering of namaz inside the Taj mosque was unheard of till a few days back

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Agra, May 26:** Four people were arrested for offering 'namaz' at the Shahi mosque in the Taj Mahal premises, police said Thursday.

The four were booked under section 153 of the IPC which punishes provoking with intent to cause riots. Four tourists were arrested for offering namaz at the mosque in Taj Mahal premises on Wednesday. Three of them are from Hyderabad and one is from Azamgarh. They have been booked under the section of 153 of IPC. They have been presented in the court, said Vikas Kumar, Superintendent of Police (City).

Superintending archaeologist, ASI, Agra Circle Raj Kumar Patel said there is a Supreme Court order that prohibits offering of namaz inside Taj premises on all days except Friday. He said even on Friday, only the residents of Tajganj locality - where the mausoleum is located - are allowed to pray between 12pm and 2pm.

The four men were spotted offering namaz at the Shahi mosque at about 5pm Wednesday evening. They were accosted by the offi-

cials from the Archaeological Survey of India and CISF and were handed over to the local police.

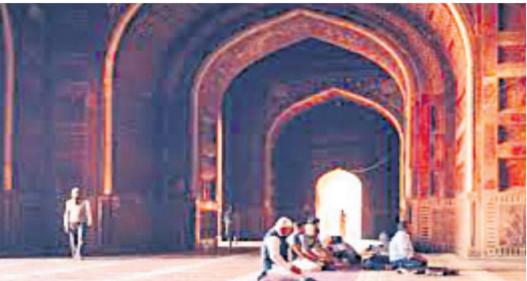
According to some, prohibition on offering of namaz inside the Taj mosque was unheard of till a few days back.

"Namaz has been offered at the mosque of the Taj Mahal regularly. But some days ago the Archaeological Survey of India claimed that as per the order of the Supreme Court of India offering Namaz is prohibited in the mosque premises except Friday," said Ibrahim Zaidi, the head of the Intezamia Committee at Taj Mahal.

Zaidi said the committee has asked the ASI to give the prohibition in writing with proof and also display a board announcing the prohibition to the tourists.

Vinod Dixit, a tourist guide from Lucknow, who accompanied the tourists, claimed that the accused had no idea they were committing a crime.

"They had no idea that they cannot offer namaz. They did it by mistake. There wasn't even any notice board saying that it's prohibited," he said.



# 'Sunburn festival may find no space in Goa'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

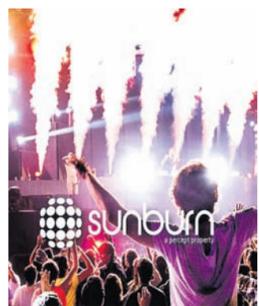
**Panaji, May 26:** The Sunburn electronic music festival in Goa might face a competition from the Goa government this year, as it has plans to start the 'Goa festival' on similar lines.

Started in 2007, the Sunburn festival attracts thousands of music lovers to the coastal state.

Responding to a question about the advertisement of Sunburn festival on social media, Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte said that no one has come to seek permission for the festival.

"The Goa government this year is trying to create its own festival," Khaunte told reporters here.

"If we are able to organise a festival in December, which will be on the same lines of Sunburn,



then why not (to organise it)," Khaunte said.

"I think the organisers of Sunburn festival should understand that permission from the Goa government is required to organise the event. They can't take

## Govt wants to earn through corruption: AAP

Claiming Electronic Dance Music (EDM) festivals in Goa are dens of drug peddlers and even drug-related deaths have reported during the fests, AAP Vice President Valmiki Naik said the BJP government is planning such a festival to earn money through corruption. The fact that the government itself is considering holding such a festival is worrying, Naik said, addressing media persons here. AAP has claimed that EDM festivals are a big source of corruption and this is just another strategy of the BJP's to settle scores. Everyone knows the tactics used by the government and festival organisers to settle scores. Festivals of this type are a source of corruption, and the BJP government is now exploring the prospect of earning more money from the fest, Naik said.

us for granted every time," he said.

"We are planning our own festival during that particular time, hence Sunburn may not find the space," he added.

The minister said that the government is planning a week-long festival.

"If Goa can create its own identity, then why not," Khaunte said.

"The organisers of Sunburn should first understand that they need to take permission from the Goa government and then think about posting advertisements (on social media)," Khaunte said.

# Goa village that emerges once a year remains underwater

About 630 houses located in old Kurdi were rehabilitated five decades ago to other nearby villages for the construction of a dam which provides water to most parts of Goa. Now the whole area of this village remains under water

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Panaji, May 26:** Kurdi, a submerged village in south Goa, emerges once every year, when summer is at its peak and the catchment area of the Selaulim dam nearly dries up.

This year, thanks to unseasonal, but heavy pre-monsoon showers, Kurdi has remained underwater.

This has led to cancellation of the Sorneshwar Maha Utsav, an annual festival held at the Sorneshwar temple when it surfaces in the summer months of April and May.

The cancellation of the festival has led to disappointment, especially among the former residents of the village, who were relocated by the government, after the construction of the Selaulim dam in whose catchment, the village lies submerged most of the year.

Gurucharan Kurdikar, a software engineer working in Bangalore, said that the Maha Utsav had started in the year 2015 with a gathering of few people. It rose to around 6,000 people in the year 2019. "Because of Covid restriction for the last two years we couldn't hold it in a big way, however, only 'Abhishek' was performed," said Kurdikar, one of the organisers.

"For last eight years, the displaced villagers are having celebrations at the temple. However, we



couldn't hold it for the last two years because of Covid restrictions and even this year as the temple remains under water," said another villager.

Subhash Phal Dessai, Sanguem MLA and Minister in Pramod Sawant's government, told IANS that pre-monsoon showers are the sole reason behind cancelling the festival. Temple wasn't exposed this year as pre-monsoon shower

continued to lash the area. Hence, the temple remained in water, he said.

Responding to the question whether Salaulim Dam authorities failed to release water from the temple area, Dessai said that rain was only the reason. Dam authorities are not at fault, he said.

Some locals had complained that failure of dam authorities to re-

lease water for irrigation, fearing shortage of potable water, had resulted in the temple remaining in knee deep water.

Sorneshwar temple dedicated to lord Shiva has remained intact despite being submerged for at least ten months

in a year. About 630 houses located in this area were rehabilitated to other nearby villages for the construction of a dam

which provides water to most parts of Goa. Now the whole area of this village (old Kurdi) remains under water.

The dam was constructed five decades ago. Since then the displaced villagers visit the temple and offer a prayer in April and May when water recedes.



Although the number of hospitalisation (on account of coronavirus) is low, everyone should be alert and cautious as the virus has not gone away completely as yet

UDDHAV THACKERAY | MAHARASHTRA CHIEF MINISTER

## SIDHU GETS MUNSHI CLERK ROLE IN JAIL

Jailed Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu has been appointed as 'munshi' (assistant) to do clerical work in the Patiala central prison where he is lodged to serve a one-year jail term in a 1988 road rage death case. A 65-year-old man, named Gurnam Singh, had died in the incident. The 58-year-old cricketer-turned-politician will perform the job from his barrack only because of security reasons, a jail official said



## of the day quote

Parivaarvadi (family-run) parties are not only political problems. They are the biggest enemies of democracy and youth

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

It has come to my notice that sportspersons are facing problems because of the heat and the stadiums get closed by 6 or 7 pm. We are issuing instructions that all sports facilities should remain open till 10 pm so that the sportsperson can use them

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

In Kashmir, mournings have sadly become the norm & a daily ritual. Countless innocent civilians are killed in one way or the other & devastated families are left behind to pick up the pieces. What will it take for GOI to recalibrate their J&K policy to end this bloodshed?

MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP PRESIDENT

# Vegetables become costlier amid supply shortage

Apart from tomatoes, green vegetables have also gone costlier in comparison to the last week

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 26: After LPG cylinder, rising prices of tomatoes and green vegetables are jeopardising the common man's kitchen budget. In the national capital, tomatoes are being sold for ₹ 60-80; while in many cities its prices have reached ₹ 100 amid shortfall in supply. Apart from tomatoes, green vegetables have also gone costlier in



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

and Ghazipur Mandi, Asia's largest vegetable and fruit market, the arrival of tomato (in the market) has fallen down to about a third, leading to a steep rise in its prices. Tomato is selling at ₹ 65-80 per kg in the retail market.

Lemon is being sold in Delhi for ₹ 200 to ₹ 250 per kg. Similarly, brinjal is at ₹ 60 to 80 per kg, calabash (lauki) ₹ 50, cauliflower ₹ 100 to ₹ 120, onion and potato ₹ 40, capsicum ₹ 100 to ₹ 130, carrot ₹ 80 and spinach is being sold at ₹ 60 per kg.

Other vegetables are also becoming expensive amid the shortfall in supply, said a trader, adding that the farmers have not planted new crops due to fear of loss, which would further increase the prices of vegetables in coming days.

## SCENE AFTER YASIN'S CONVICTION

# UPSURGE IN VIOLENCE, TENSE IN KASHMIR

Shops and businesses in Kashmir remained closed for a second day of protesting against the verdict, while police detained 10 people for throwing stones and for sloganeering outside Malik's residence



AGENCIES

Srinagar, May 26: Indian security forces have killed six militants in Kashmir in the past 24 hours while militants shot dead a female TV performer and a police officer, officials said Thursday, following the conviction of the region's best-known separatist.

The police have arrested 10 people allegedly involved in stone pelting and raising anti-national slogans at the Maisuma area here, officials said Thursday.

A Delhi court Wednesday awarded life imprisonment to Malik, one of the foremost separatist leaders, in a terror funding case, saying the crimes committed by him struck at the "heart of

the idea of India" and were intended to forcefully secede Jammu & Kashmir from Union of India. "10 accused arrested so far in anti-national sloganeering & stone pelting outside home of Yasin Malik prior to sentencing in Maisuma yesterday." "All other areas remained peaceful. Youths are again requested not to indulge in activities that can spoil their careers & disrupt families," Srinagar Police tweeted Thursday.

The sentencing prompted warnings from politicians that it would promote alienation and separatism in India's only Muslim-majority region. India and Pakistan each rule part of Kashmir and claim it in full.

## 'Jack' & 'John' played key role

NEW DELHI: 'Jack', 'John' and 'Alpha' were among the NIA's protected witnesses who helped nail banned JKLF chief Yasin Malik. These names were given to important protected witnesses, with hidden identities for their safety, in the terror funding case in which the National Investigation Agency (NIA) had seized around 600 electronic devices during its raids at 70 places. Malik, who had pleaded guilty for the terror funding crimes, was sentenced to life by a Delhi court Wednesday. There were nearly four dozen protected witnesses but code names were given only to selected few, who could be of help in making a watertight case, officials privy to the developments of the case said.

Mainly Hindu India has been fighting an armed insurgency in its portion of the region since the late 1980s. More than 3,400 Hindus from Kashmir have been given government jobs there in recent years, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has tried to lure them back into the region after militant attacks forced them to flee in 1990.

## SHORT TAKES

### AIADMK names RS candidates

Chennai: The Opposition AIADMK has announced two of its seniors as the party's candidates for the biennial elections to Rajya Sabha. Former state Law Minister C Ve Shanmugam, who is the party's Villupuram district secretary and R Dharmar, former district secretary of Ramanathapuram and Mukulathur panchayat union chairperson, have been named as the official candidates by AIADMK coordinator O Panneerselvam and co-coordinator K Palaniswamy Wednesday night. The announcement followed an hour-long discussion held at the party headquarters here along with deputy coordinators K P Munusamy and R Vaithilingam Wednesday.

### Vardhan walks out of LG's oath ceremony

New Delhi: BJP MP and former Union minister Harsh Vardhan Thursday left the swearing-in ceremony of newly appointed Delhi LG Vinai Kumar Saxena at Raj Niwas here, expressing unhappiness over seating arrangement for the dignitaries. The Chandni Chowk MP said in a tweet that he was asked by an officer to vacate the seat, stating that it was reserved. After waiting for 15 minutes, he left the venue when no seat was given to him, Vardhan said.

### HC allows Sharjeel to move trial court

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Thursday permitted JNU student Sharjeel Imam to approach a trial court for interim bail on account of a Supreme Court order to keep in abeyance proceedings in all sedition cases in the country. Imam was arrested in a case related to alleged inflammatory speeches made by him during protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in 2019.

### Hijab row resurfaces

Mangalore: The hijab issue once again came to the fore Thursday as a group of students from the University College here staged a protest on the campus alleging that a few Muslim girl students are attending classes wearing the head-scarf. The protesting students, who were wearing the college uniform, claimed that 44 students are wearing hijab to college and some of them are doing so in classrooms too.

## No legal right with candidate on mere application of job: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 26: A candidate who has applied for a job does not have a legal right to insist that the recruitment process set in motion be carried to its logical end, the Supreme Court has said.

A bench of Justices K M Joseph and Hrishikesh Roy said that even the inclusion of a candidate in the select list may not provide the candidate with such a right.

"The cardinal principle we must bear in mind is that this is a case of direct recruitment. A candidate who has applied does not have a legal right to insist that the recruitment process set in motion be carried to its logical end. Even inclusion of a candidate in the select list may not clothe the candidate with such a right," the bench said.

The apex court, however, clarified that this is different from holding that the employer is free to act in an arbitrary manner.

The observations came while deciding a case in which advertisements were issued March 1, 2018, inviting online applications to fill up among other posts, the post of Associate Professor for the colleges run by the Employees' State Insurance Corporation.

On March 21, 2018, a notice was issued to keep the recruitment process in abeyance in regard to the post of Associate Professor and Professor for administrative reasons. One of the applicants approached the Central Administrative Tribunal seeking directions to fill up the post of Associate Professor in terms of advertisement and the tribunal passed an order in his favour.

## BRAVING THE ODDS



Porters carry goods on a van-rickshaw amid rains, in Kolkata, West Bengal

pti photo

# Bihar girl travels 1 km on 1 leg to reach school

WHERE THERE'S A WILL THERE'S A WAY

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, May 26: Seema Kumari, a 10-year-old disabled school girl of Bihar's Jamui district has become a talking point due to her high spirit and willpower.

Seema lost one leg as it came under the wheels of a tractor in her native village Fatehpur under Khairabad two years ago. During the treatment doctors suggested that she may die if her injured leg would not be cut. Her parents agreed on it and the doctors chopped



her left leg. Despite losing her one leg, Seema did not lose hope. She used to go to school. She uses long jump technique to travel the distance of 1 km from her home to school and that too with a school bag on her back.

"I want to study and become a teacher so that I could teach the next generation students," Seema, a class 4 student says. "My father and mother are not literate. They are labourers. My father is a migrant labourer while mother is

A video of Seema went viral on social media where she is moving step by step forward through one leg to reach the school

staying in the village and working in a brick kiln," Seema says.

Her mother Beby Devi says: "When she lost her one leg in a road mishap, she was staying at home. As other students used to go to school, she often insisted that she also wanted to go to school for study. Due to her obstinacy, we got her admitted to the

government school of the village. Now, she used to do every work including wearing school dress, arranging books in the school bag, putting it on the back and reaching school on her own. She never takes help from any person to reach school." A video of Seema went viral on social media where she is moving step by step forward through one leg to reach the school.

Following the video, Jamui district magistrate Awanish Kumar and other senior officials went to Fatehpur village Wednesday and gave her a tri-cycle. The officials are also mulling to arrange an artificial leg for her. Ashok Chaudhary, Bihar Building Construction Minister, tweeted: "Seema will study and she will also walk."

## Germany approves Covaxin for travel



AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 26: Germany Thursday approved the 'Made in India' Bharat Biotech's Covid vaccine Covaxin.

"Covaxin has been approved by Germany. The entrants will no longer need proof of vaccination as the Federal Cabinet relaxes restrictions," said Bharat Biotech in a tweet on Thursday.

"The Federal Cabinet of Germany has approved Covaxin and relaxed restrictions on the entry for those vaccinated with WHO approved vaccines. The promulgation takes effect from June 2022," said the vaccine manufacturer in a statement.

Walter J Lindner, German Ambassador to India, Thursday hailed the German government for recognizing the WHO-listed Bharat Biotech's Covid vaccine, Covaxin for travel to the country starting June 1.

Taking to Twitter, the Ambassador said: "Very happy that GER government just decided to recognize WHO-listed Covaxin for travels to GER, starting June 1! This Embassy has been pushing very actively for such decision (because of Covid-backlogs visa sections have longer waiting periods than normal, please have patience)"

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WALTER J LINDNER | GERMAN AMBASSADOR TO INDIA & BHUTAN

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## Monsoon advances to SL, onward to Kerala

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 26: After a six-day pause, the south-west monsoon has started lingering towards Kerala, having covered southern Sri Lanka Thursday, the weather office said.

"Conditions are favourable for further advance of Southwest Monsoon over some more parts of South Arabian Sea, entire Maldives and adjoining areas of Lakshadweep and some more parts of Comorin area during next 48 hours," the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Thursday afternoon.

According to reports, parts of Kerala have been receiving heavy rainfall and the weather office has forecast widespread rain over the southern state and Lakshadweep over the next two days.



"Advance of the monsoon over Kerala is being continuously monitored," the IMD said. The weather office had earlier said that the south-west monsoon was likely to have onset over Kerala May 27, with an error margin of four days. The normal onset date for Kerala is June 1. According to monsoon watchers, the south-west monsoon had gathered momentum due to Cyclone Asani in the Bay of Bengal earlier this month. Monsoon had reached Andaman and Nicobar Islands May 16, earlier than normal, and was expected to sprint ahead under the influence of remnants of Cyclone Asani, which were lingering over the south peninsula after the landfall in northern Andhra Pradesh May 12.

## HATE SPEECH CASE

# Court remands PC George to judicial custody

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram/Kochi, May 26: Hours after senior politician PC George, arrested by the police following cancellation of his bail in connection with a hate speech case, was sent to judicial remand by a magisterial court here Thursday, the Kerala High Court asked the state what was the purpose of keeping him in custody if police had recordings of the speeches made by him.

The query by the High Court was posed to the state government during hearing of George's two pleas - one seeking anticipatory bail in a hate speech case registered at Palariavattom police station and the other appealing against the cancellation of his bail in another hate speech case lodged against him in Thiruvananthapuram.

The high court asked the state what was the purpose of taking George into custody when the investigating agency already had video recordings of the speeches made by him.

It asked the Director General of Prosecution to answer the queries, posed by it, on the next date of hearing - Friday.

The court also said that George's pleas would be considered on that day and as a result, he would have to spend at least one more day in jail. During the hearing before the high court, the politician's lawyers urged the court to grant him interim bail.

# international

## of the day quote

The Japanese government is accelerating the build-up of military-political cooperation with the United States and non-regional outsiders from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and conducting joint military exercises of unprecedented scale near the Russian borders

Tragedy after tragedy, shooting after shooting, young life after young life: how many more children will die before government leaders act to keep children and their schools safe?

Japan remains one of Sri Lanka's key development partners, and we hope that the negotiations now underway regarding bridging funds from Japan will conclude soon, and support Sri Lanka as we try to stabilise our economy and our nation

MARIA ZAKHAROVA | RUSSIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON  
CATHERINE RUSSELL | UNICEF CHIEF  
GOTABAYA RAJAPAKSA | SRI LANKAN PRESIDENT

## SHORT TAKES

### 'Trump must testify in New York probe'

**New York:** Former US President Donald Trump must answer questions under oath in New York state's civil investigation into his business practices, a state appeals court ruled Thursday. A four-judge panel in the appellate division of the state's trial court upheld Manhattan Judge Arthur Engoron's Feb 17 ruling enforcing subpoenas for Trump and his two eldest children to give deposition testimony in Attorney General Letitia James' probe. Trump had appealed, seeking to overturn the ruling. His lawyers argued that ordering the Trumps to testify violated their constitutional rights.

### Kevin charged with sexual offences

**London:** Hollywood star Kevin Spacey has been charged with four counts of sexual assault against three men, the UK's Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) said Thursday. The 62-year-old Oscar-winning American actor, behind famous films such as 'Usual Suspects' and 'American Beauty' and the Netflix political drama 'House of Cards', has also served as artistic director of London's Old Vic theatre from 2004 to 2015. "The CPS has authorised criminal charges against Kevin Spacey, 62, for four counts of sexual assault against three men," said Rosemary Ainslie, Head of the CPS Special Crime Division.

### 11 babies killed in hospital fire

**Dakar:** A fire in the neonatal unit of a hospital in Senegal has killed 11 newborns, President Macky Sall said. Only three infants could be saved. "To their mothers and families, I express my deepest sympathy," Sall tweeted. The fire was blamed on a short circuit at the Mame Abdou Aziz Sy Dabakh Hospital in Tivaouane, a town 120 kilometres northeast of Dakar, Mayor Demba Diop said. The fire comes a year after four other newborns died in a hospital fire in Linguere in northern Senegal.

### Quake shakes Peru

**Lima (Peru):** A magnitude 7.2 earthquake shook a remote region of southern Peru on Thursday, sending frightened people running into the streets in nearby Bolivia, though there were no immediate reports of damage or injury.

# Imran gives 6-day deadline to announce polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Islamabad, May 26:** Ousted prime minister of Pakistan Imran Khan Thursday gave a six-day deadline to the Shehbaz Sharif government for dissolving provincial assemblies and announcing fresh general elections, warning that if the "imported government" failed to do so, he would return to the capital with the "entire nation".

Addressing a rally of thousands of protesters of the 'Azadi March' at Jinnah Avenue here Thursday morning, Khan lashed out at the government for using "tactics" like raids and arrests to stop his party's march, even as he thanked the Supreme Court (SC) for taking notice of the matter.

"Government has tried every method to crush our Azadi March, they used teargas on peaceful protest, our homes were raided and privacy of the homes were violated, however, I have seen the nation free itself of fear of slavery," he said.

"My message for the imported government is to dissolve assemblies and announce elections, otherwise, I will come back again to Islamabad after six days," he was



quoted as saying by the Geo News. Noting that there was a "huge responsibility" on the Supreme Court judges, Khan asked where in a democracy peaceful protests were not allowed and demonstrators had to face tear-gas shelling, police raids and arrests.

"I had decided that I will sit here until the government dissolves assemblies and announces elections, but of what I have seen in the past 24 hours, they (govt) are taking the nation towards anarchy," he said, claiming that the government was also trying to create a divide between the nation

and police. Khan said the government would be happy if he staged a sit-in in Islamabad as it would lead to clashes between the people and police and the army, the Dawn newspaper reported. He claimed that five protesters from his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) were killed

- Addressing a rally of thousands of protesters of the 'Azadi March' at Jinnah Avenue Thursday morning, Khan lashed out at the government for using 'tactics' like raids and arrests to stop his party's march, even as he thanked the Supreme Court (SC) for taking notice of the matter
- Ousted Prime Minister Imran Khan and other senior leaders of his party were booked by police Thursday in two separate cases of arson and vandalism

in clashes after the party's march, saying that one had fallen off the Attock bridge amid tear-gas shelling and the other was pushed into the Ravi river.

He said he had also received information that three were killed in Karachi. "I am again asking the judiciary to save your

FIA (Federal Investigation Agency). In the future, no FIA officer will investigate the powerful if he will meet the same end as Dr Rizwan and Asghar," he said. The PTI chief said he and the entire nation were looking towards the judiciary after what

had happened during the past 48 hours. He said he had reached Islamabad after 30 hours of travelling from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Following his six-day deadline announcement, ex-premier Khan left for Bani Gala, leaving behind his supporters who marched for hours in anticipation of a major public gathering and sit-in.

Khan had entered Islamabad in the early hours of Thursday and marched towards D-Chowk, while the federal government authorised the deployment of the army in the Red Zone to "protect important government buildings".

Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah tweeted a notification saying the government was "pleased to authorise the deployment" of the army in the Red Zone under Article 245 of the Constitution.

**I want to clarify to the leader of this group (Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party), your dictation won't work. This House will decide when to hold elections**  
SHIBHAZ SHARIF | PAKISTAN PRIME MINISTER

# Russia to seize western firms looking to leave

REUTERS

**Moscow, May 26:** Russia is advancing a new law allowing it to take control of the local businesses of western companies that decide to leave in the wake of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, raising the stakes for multinationals trying to exit.

The law, which could be in place within weeks, will give Russia sweeping powers to intervene where there is a threat to local jobs or industry, making it more difficult for western companies to disentangle themselves quickly unless they are prepared to take a big financial hit.

The law to seize the property of foreign investors follows an exodus of western companies, such as Starbucks (SBUX.O), McDonald's (MCD.N) and brewer AB InBev (AB.BR), and increases pressure on those still there.

It comes as the Russian economy, increasingly cut-off due to western sanctions, plunges into

recession amid double-digit inflation. Italian lender UniCredit (CRD.LM), Austrian bank Raiffeisen (RBI.VI), the world's biggest furniture brand, IKEA, fast food chain Burger King, and hundreds of smaller firms still have businesses in Russia.

IKEA, which has paused all operations in Russia, said it was closely following the development. Raiffeisen, said it was assessing all options, including a carefully managed exit. UniCredit declined to comment while Burger King did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The bill paves the way for Russia to appoint administrators over companies owned by foreigners in "unfriendly" countries, who want to quit Russia as the conflict with Ukraine drags down its economy. Moscow typically refers to countries as "unfriendly" if they have imposed economic sanctions on Russia, meaning any firms in the European Union or United States are at risk.

- Moscow eyes sweeping powers to shield jobs, local industry
- Exodus of western companies, sanctions roils Russia
- New laws would allow seizure of firms



A view shows the dismantled McDonald's Golden Arches after the logo signage was removed from a drive-through restaurant of McDonald's in Khimki outside Moscow

## WHAT'S COOKING



A man holds a chicken bought from a market in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

# Japan, US fly fighters after China drill

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Tokyo, May 26:** Japanese and US forces have conducted a joint fighter jet flight over the Sea of Japan, Japan's military said Thursday, in an apparent response to a Russia-China joint bomber flight while U.S. President Joe Biden was in Tokyo.

The Japan-US joint flight on Wednesday involved eight warplanes based in Japan, including four U.S. F-16 fighters and four Japanese F-15s, the Joint Staff of the Japan Self-Defense Forces said.

The joint flight was meant to confirm the combined capabilities of the two militaries and further strengthen the Japan-US alliance, it said in a statement.

The flight occurred hours after North Korea fired three missiles, including an intercontinental bal-



Chinese H-6 bombers joined Russian TU-95s over the Sea of Japan and flew to areas over the East China Sea, but did not violate Japanese airspace, Japanese Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi said.

istic missile, toward the sea between the Korean Peninsula and Japan, amid concerns about another nuclear test by the North. The missiles fell in waters outside of Japan's exclusive economic zone.

Chinese and Russian strategic bombers conducted joint flights near Japan on Tuesday, Japan's Defense Ministry said. Biden was meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and their counterparts from India and Australia for the Quad, an Indo-Pacific security and economic

coalition meant as a counterweight to China's growing influence in the region.

Chinese H-6 bombers joined Russian TU-95s over the Sea of Japan and flew to areas over the East China Sea, but did not violate Japanese airspace, Japanese Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi said. Separately, a Russian IL-20 reconnaissance plane was spotted flying off the northern Japanese coast.

The Chinese-Russian joint flight represented an "increased level of provocation" and a threat to the Quad, Kishi said. China said the flights were over the Sea of Japan, the East China Sea and the western Pacific. Defense Ministry spokesperson Wu Qian said it was a "routine joint strategic air patrol" that has been carried out four times since 2019.

## 'PANDEMIC WON'T STOP US'

# BEIJING RESIDENTS FIND THEIR WAY AROUND CURBS

China is hitched to a zero-Covid policy which triggers mass lockdowns, routine tests and movement restrictions whenever infection clusters emerge

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Beijing, May 26:** Mothers hosting playdates near cordoned-off parks, mahjong maestros huddled in streets and youngsters slugging night-time beers on barricaded sidewalks - Beijingers are making the most of the small spaces available as China's coronavirus controls close in.

Meanwhile in Shanghai, a grow-

ing number of residents are being allowed to briefly venture outside as the city gradually eases out of an extended lockdown, celebrating their first hours outside in weeks with champagne and roadside picnics.

China is hitched to a zero-Covid policy which triggers mass lockdowns, routine tests and movement restrictions whenever infection clusters emerge - the last major economy to do so in a world now living with the coronavirus.

Beijing, a city of 22 million people, looked on in horror as Shanghai entered a slow-motion lockdown in April, with millions still under stay-at-home orders. The capital has recorded just dozens of cases each day but has also gone quiet since May with schools closed and everyone - other than doctors and a few essential workers - told to



work from home.

Now the city is watching and waiting to see which way the virus trends. Hundreds of thousands of people have been restricted to their homes, still well short of a full lockdown but enough to leave only the brave and the rebellious

out on the streets of a pandemic-weary city.

"Everything is closed! Cinemas, museums... football pitches," said Eric Ma, a programmer sharing a few beers with friends around the Liangma River in downtown Beijing. "It feels claustrophobic.

We have to find creative ways to have fun."

### Cat-and-mouse

Those, like Ma, who venture out face a cat-and-mouse game with police and city authorities enforcing strict virus rules and sealing off access to riverbanks and other gathering spots. A large blue sign near the river captured the authorities' approach: "Be patient to enjoy the sunshine when the pandemic ends."

Still, dozens of people were seen jumping over the barricades or wriggling through police tape to go for a dip on a warm Monday afternoon. A middle-aged man stood in the water singing an aria from a famous Peking Opera.

Some brought folding chairs, tables and small gas stoves to cook outside. Since restaurants have been shuttered, only allowing take-

# Over 200 monkeypox cases globally: EU



AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Washington, May 26:** The number of confirmed cases of monkeypox worldwide has reached 219 outside of countries where it is endemic, according to an update released by the European Union's disease agency.

More than a dozen countries where monkeypox is unusual, mostly in Europe, have reported at least one confirmed case, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) said in an epidemiological note released Wednesday night.

"This is the first time that chains of transmission are reported in Europe without known epidemiological links to West or Central Africa, where this disease is endemic," the note said.

It added that most of the cases were detected in young men, self-identifying as men who have sex with men. The United Kingdom - where monkeypox's unusual appearance was first detected in early May - currently has the largest bulk of confirmed cases, 71.

It is followed by Spain with 51 cases and Portugal, 37. Outside of Europe, Canada has 15 and the United States has nine. The total number of cases reported Wednesday has increased fivefold since its first count on May 20, when the EU agency said there were 38 cases.

# Pak parliament scraps overseas voting rights

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Islamabad, May 26:** Pakistan's National Assembly Thursday passed a bill to abolish the former Imran Khan government's election reforms giving expats the right to vote through E-Voting and the use of electronic voting machines (EVMs) in the country.

The Elections (Amendment) Bill 2022 presented by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Murtaza Javed Abbasi was passed with a majority vote in the lower house, with only members of the Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) opposing it. Abbasi, before presenting the bill, presented a motion to allow the bill to be sent directly to the Senate for its approval, bypassing the relevant standing committee. The bill is expected to be sent to the Senate on Friday.

Describing the bill of "immense significance", PML-N minister Azam Nazeer Tarar recalled the ousted PTI government had made multiple amendments to the Election Act, 2017, including those that allowed the use of EVMs and granted overseas Pakistanis the right to vote in general elections. The PTI government had made the amendments through the Elections (Second Amendment) Bill, 2021, which it had bulldozed through the National Assembly along with 32 other legislations, Tarar said.

## of the day quote

The G-7 can perhaps take on a certain pioneering role to push forward ending the use of coal for electricity and in decarbonizing the transport system

**ROBERT HABECK** | ENERGY AND CLIMATE MINISTER, GERMANY

Our 38 per cent increase in revenue for FY 2021-22 clearly shows that Lenovo is meeting the expanding need for transformational technology solutions in India

**SHAILENDRA KATYAL** | MD, LENOVO

We have kept our promise of bifurcating MSSL into two separate listed companies, one being domestic wiring harness business in India, to meet the demand and expectations of our shareholders and other stakeholders

**VIVEK CHAAND SEHGAL** | CHAIRMAN, MSWL

## SHORT TAKES

### CIL to divest 25% stake in BCCL

**New Delhi:** State-owned CIL Thursday said it is planning to divest 25 per cent stake in its unlisted arm Bharat Coking Coal Ltd (BCCL) and will go for the subsequent listing of the subsidiary on stock exchanges after obtaining further clearances. A meeting of the board of directors to this effect was held March 10, 2022, Coal India Ltd (CIL) said. Stating that the company's board had given only "in principle" approval to the proposal, CIL said that only after getting further clearance from the government, subsequent action would be initiated.

### RIL gives ₹1,185cr as CSR in FY22

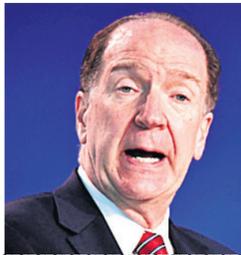
**New Delhi:** Diversified conglomerate Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has contributed ₹1,184.93 crore towards supporting a number of need-based and impactful Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives during the fiscal FY22. The CSR initiatives were spearheaded by Reliance Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Reliance Industries, led by Founder and Chairperson of the foundation Nita M Ambani. The works included in areas such as rural transformation, health, education, disaster response along with sports for development initiatives.

### HDFC divests 10% stake in HCAL

**New Delhi:** The country's largest mortgage lender HDFC Ltd Thursday said it has sold 10 per cent of its stake in HDFC Capital Advisors Ltd (HCAL) to Abu Dhabi Investment Authority for ₹184 crore. With this, HCAL ceases to be a wholly-owned subsidiary of HDFC. In April, Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) had entered into a share purchase agreement for sale of 2,35,019 equity shares of HCAL, representing 10 per cent of paid-up share capital, to a wholly-owned subsidiary of Abu Dhabi Investment Authority.

### BMW's all-electric sedan i4 at ₹69.9L

**Gurugram:** German luxury carmaker BMW Thursday launched its all-electric sedan i4 in India at an introductory price of ₹69.9 lakh, as it accelerates electric mobility drive in the country. The company, which had in November last year announced plans to launch three electric vehicles in six months in India as part of its electric mobility journey, has already launched its technology flagship all-electric SUV iX and all-electric MINI luxury hatchback.



As we look at the global GDP, it's hard right now to see how we avoid a recession. The idea of energy prices doubling is enough to trigger a recession by itself

**DAVID MALPASS** | PRESIDENT, WORLD BANK

### PAREKH ONE OF THE HIGHEST PAID CEOs

Infosys CEO Salil Parekh has got a massive 88 per cent jump in annual remuneration to ₹79.75 crore, making him one of the highest-paid executives in the country. The software services firm has sought shareholders' approval for the reappointment of Parekh as CEO and MD for a second five-year term beginning July 1



## SBI FLAGS 'FORECASTER'S NIGHTMARE'

# Q4 growth may be less than 3%

The rise in crude oil, food and fertiliser prices will weigh on household finances and spending in the months ahead. Rate hike to prevent energy and food inflation from becoming more generalised will slow the demand recovery's momentum

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, May 26:** Upcoming release of official data for economic performance is likely to register a 2.7 per cent growth for the January-March period, and the FY22 growth is expected to be 8.5 per cent, economists at SBI said Thursday.

They were, however, quick to add that it is difficult to comprehend the numbers due to the spate of revisions that we have seen till now and termed this situation as a forecaster's nightmare.

"We ...believe the GDP projection for Q4 FY22 is clouded by significant uncertainties. For example, even a one per cent downward revision in Q1 GDP estimates of FY22 from 20.3 per cent, all other things remaining unchanged, could push Q4 GDP growth to 3.8 per cent," they noted.

Official data on the economy is expected to be released May 31.

The Central Statistics Office (CSO) had projected Q4 GDP at ₹1.04 lakh crore and FY22 real GDP growth at ₹147.7 lakh crore, an improvement of 1.7 per cent over



### DECLINING TREND

- S&P Global Ratings had cut India's growth projection for 2022-23 to 7.3%, from 7.8% earlier
- In March, Fitch had cut India growth forecast to 8.5% from 10.3%
- World Bank in April slashed India's GDP forecast for 2022-23 to 8% from 8.7%
- IMF has cut the projection to 8.2% from 9%
- ADB has projected India's growth at 7.5 per cent, while RBI last month cut forecast to 7.2%, from 7.8%

pre-pandemic levels, they said, adding that the 'SBI Nowcasting model' with an unchanged quarterly numbers pegs the growth rate of Q4GDP at ₹40 lakh crores, that is lower by ₹1 lakh crore from the CSO preliminary projections.

"We believe that downward adjustments in Q1, Q2 and Q3 numbers could have a soothing impact on Q4 GDP numbers. Every ₹10,000 crore revision adds/subtracts 0.07 per cent from GDP growth," the note said.

Early trends for the March quarter results from listed corporates reported better growth numbers across parameters, as compared to the year-ago period, with a contraction in operating margin due to higher input cost, it said.

Sectors such as steel, FMCG,

chemicals, IT and auto ancillary reported better growth numbers while automobile, cement, capital goods, edible oil registered negative growth in profits despite a growth in topline, it noted.

Meanwhile, the economists said

### Moody's slashes growth forecast to 8.8% for 2022

**New Delhi:** Moody's Investors Service Thursday slashed India's economic growth projection to 8.8 per cent from 9.1 per cent earlier, citing high inflation. In its update to Global Macro Outlook 2022-23, Moody's said high-frequency data suggests that the growth momentum from December quarter 2021 carried through into the first four months this year. "We have lowered our calendar-year 2022 growth forecast for India to 8.8 per cent from our March forecast of 9.1 per cent, while maintaining our 2023 growth forecasts at 5.4 per cent," Moody's said. Strong credit growth, a large increase in investment intentions announced by the corporate sector, and a high budget allocation to capital spending by the government indicate that the investment cycle is strengthening. "But unless global crude oil and food prices rise further, the economy seems strong enough to maintain solid growth momentum," Moody's added.

the oil prices are unlikely to stay elevated for long, and added they expect the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to hike rates again at the June policy review. The close coordination between RBI and the government was welcomed by the economists by terming it as the best thing to have emerged during the pandemic.

## ONGC to invest ₹31K cr in finding oil, gas

THE COMPANY SAID ITS BOARD HELD A MEETING THURSDAY TO FIRM UP ITS 'FUTURE EXPLORATION STRATEGY'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 26:** India's top oil and gas producer ONGC Thursday said it will invest ₹31,000 crore over the next three years in exploring the Indian sedimentary basin for fuel reserves which could augment the nation's production in its attempt to be self-reliant in the energy sector.

"The company has drawn up a comprehensive roadmap to further intensify its exploration campaign, allocating a capital expenditure of about ₹31,000 crore in the next three fiscal years during FY 2022-25. This is 150 per cent of its exploration expenditure of ₹20,670



crore in the last three fiscals during FY 2019-22," it said.

ONGC said it also plans to leverage international collaborations with reputed global majors for this, for which talks are in an advanced stage. India is 85 per cent dependent on imports to meet its oil needs and half of the natural gas requirement is shipped from abroad. Finding and producing more oil

## 2022's 2nd biggest deal globally

# Chipmaker Broadcom acquires cloud services firm VMware in \$61bn

REUTERS

**Washington, May 26:** Broadcom Inc said Thursday it will acquire cloud computing company VMware Inc in a \$61 billion cash-and-stock deal, the chipmaker's biggest and boldest bid to diversify its business into enterprise software.

Broadcom's offer price of \$142.50 per VMware share represents a premium of nearly 49% to the stock's last close, when talks of the deal were first reported May 22. Broadcom will also assume \$8 billion of VMware's net debt.

The chipmaker's shares were down nearly 1% in premarket trading Thursday, while VMware rose 1.3%. Broadcom Chief Executive Hock Tan, who built his company into one of the world's biggest chipmakers through acquisitions, is bringing his dealmaking playbook to the software sector.

In one fell swoop, the deal will almost triple Broadcom's software-related revenue to about 45% of its total sales. Broadcom will instantly be validated as a major software player with the acquisition of VMware, Futurum Research analyst Daniel Newman said. "Having something like VMware ... will have a significant number of doors open that their current portfolio probably doesn't open for them," Newman added.

The agreement is also a coup for Dell Technologies Inc Chief Executive Michael Dell, who spun VMware out of the computer maker last year. Michael Dell owns a 40%



The proposed deal comes just weeks after billionaire and Tesla CEO Elon Musk offered to spend \$44 billion on Twitter and it is second in size this year only to Microsoft's nearly \$70 billion acquisition of Activision Blizzard, the maker of Candy Crush and Call of Duty

stake in VMware, while his financial backer Silver Lake, a private equity firm, owns 10%.

VMware is dominant in the so-called virtualization software market, allowing corporate customers to run multiple applications on their servers.

This business has started to slow down as companies have found new tools to operate through cloud computing, pushing VMware to seek new offerings, including through a partnership with Amazon.com Inc.

## VEHICLE INSURANCE

# Third-party premium to go up from June 1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 26:** The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has increased the third-party motor insurance premium for various categories of vehicles with effect from June 1, a decision which is likely to jack up the insurance cost of cars and two-wheelers.

According to the revised rates notified by the MoRTH Wednesday, private cars with an engine capacity of 1,000 cc will attract rates of ₹2,094 compared to ₹2,072 in 2019-20.

Similarly, private cars with an engine capacity between 1,000 cc and 1,500 cc will attract rates of ₹3,416 compared to ₹3,221, while owners of cars above 1,500 cc will see a drop in premium from ₹7,897 to ₹7,890.

Two-wheelers over 150 cc but not exceeding 350 cc will attract a premium of ₹1,366, and for over 350 cc, the revised premium will be ₹2,804. After a two-year moratorium due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the revised Third-Party (TP) insurance premium will come into effect from June 1.

According to the ministry's notification, a discount of 7.5 per cent on the premium shall be allowed for hybrid electric vehicles.

While electric private cars not ex-



ceeding 30KW will attract a premium of ₹1,780, those exceeding 30 KW but not 65 KW will attract a premium of ₹2,904.

The premium for goods carrying commercial vehicles exceeding 12,000 kg but not 20,000 kg will increase to ₹35,313 from ₹33,414 in 2019-20. In the case of goods carrying commercial vehicles exceeding 40,000 kg, the premium will increase to ₹44,242 against ₹41,561 in 2019-20.

As per the notification, a discount of 15 per cent has been provided for educational institution buses. According to the notification, a discount of about 15 per cent on the premium has been allowed for electric vehicles.

The third-party insurance cover is for other than own damage and is mandatory along with the own damage cover that a vehicle owner has to purchase.

### UCO Bank Balasore gets new Zonal Head

**BHUBANESWAR:** Debabrata Mohanty, Deputy General Manager took over the charge of new Zonal Head of UCO Bank Balasore Zone May 16. Earlier, he was posted as DGM, department of Information Technology, Head Office, Kolkata and has an experience of 24 years in banking Sector. Mohanty emphasised on good customer service along with growth of advances under retail, MSME & agriculture Sector during his maiden message to 79 Branches under Balasore Zone. "More than 70% of our branches are situated in rural areas, credit linkage to SHG will be vital for credit growth of agriculture sector," he added.



### NTPC Darlipali launches mobile health clinic service

**Bhubaneswar:** AK Tandon, Head of Project (NTPC Darlipali) launched a mobile health clinic under community development of NTPC Darlipali for better health care of people in the peripheral villages. Tandon with senior officials and CMO of NTPC Darlipali along with Sarpanch of nearby villages flagged off the mobile health clinic accompanied with two doctors including one lady doctor and three paramedical staff and nurse. The mobile health clinic will ensure better medical facilities at doorstep, free-of-cost access to medical consultation along with free medicines. The vehicle will offer major emphasis towards reproductive health services such as antenatal and postnatal care along with other minimum test facilities. The Mobile health clinic will operate for 24 days in a month and will cover more than 25 villages from different gram panchayats like Darlipali, Raidihi, Laikera, Loising, Rajpur, Godmal, Chandnimal and J Raiboga.



# UPS, InterGlobe JV to dive into India logistics market

The joint venture entity, MOVIN, will offer day-definite, express as well as time-definite solutions, which would help businesses with better predictability and competitiveness to integrate into the global value chain

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 26:** Rahul Bhatia-led InterGlobe Enterprises and Atlanta-based UPS Thursday announced a joint venture (JV) to

cater to B2B logistics services in various segments, including automobiles, pharmaceuticals and electronics, in the Indian market.

The joint venture entity - MOVIN - will be based out of Gurugram and will have representation on its board from both UPS and InterGlobe Enterprises. In an interaction with PTI, InterGlobe Enterprises Director JB Singh said the B2B segment is large and would continue to grow significantly.

He noted that the JV firm, with its separate board and management team, will have presence across various sectors, including auto, pharma, healthcare, apparels, electronics and e-commerce B2B among others. While declining to



Together, we will empower local businesses to grow and connect them to trade opportunities around the world

**UFKU AKALTAN** | PRESIDENT (INDIAN SUBCONTINENT, MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA), UPS

share details about the investments in the JV and its structure, Singh noted that it would have presence across the country.

"MOVIN has genes of InterGlobal and UPS, both organisations who know how to build scale. India is about scale, so MOVIN

More importantly, this express segment where we are going to operate (will grow). India will need more excellence, more transparency, more predictability for businesses to become efficient. So we see this segment growing enormously

**JB SINGH** | DIRECTOR, INTERGLOBE ENTERPRISES

will build scale in India," he said. The JV entity has already started operations in Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore, he added.

When asked if the new brand would have any sort of connection with other group entities like

IndiGo, Singh said: "No. It (MOVIN) has a separate board, separate investors. We are operating in a different market. We will of course work with multiple suppliers on land and air and IndiGo will be one of the suppliers." He noted that India's growth towards a \$5 trillion economy will be largely supported by the growth of local businesses and logistics, which are key contributors to India's economy.

Leveraging UPS' global logistics expertise combined with InterGlobe's deep understanding of the Indian market, MOVIN will build technology-backed solutions that will link companies across the country to international businesses with speed, reliability and enhanced digital customer experience.

# India's day out

Lakra & Co enter knockout stage of Asia Cup with 16-0 win over hosts Indonesia, shutting the World Cup door on Pakistan in the process



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jakarta, May 26:** Rising to the occasion, Indian men's hockey team slammed six goals in the final quarter for a crushing 16-0 victory against Indonesia, a result that took the holders into the Super-4 stage of the Asia Cup but shut the World Cup door on Pakistan, here Thursday. India needed to win the Pool A contest by at least a 15-0 margin to qualify and the young players of the side delivered under pressure. Both India and Pakistan finished on four points each in Pool A behind Japan but the defending champions qualified for the Super 4s due to better goal difference (1). Pakistan had lost 2-3 to Japan earlier in the day. The result not only pushed Pakistan out of the tournament but also dashed their hopes of World Cup qualification since only the top three teams here will be given tickets for the big event. India, being the hosts, will play the World Cup later in the year and hence Hockey India decided to

send young players to this tournament for exposure. Dipsan Tirkey (42nd, 47th, 59th, 59th minutes) starred for India, scoring four goals in the match, while Sudev Belimagga (45th, 46th, 55th) also scored a hat-trick in the match. Pawan Rajbhar (10th, 11th), SV Sunil (19th, 24th), and Karthi Selvam (40th, 56th) also scored a brace each in the match, while Uttam Singh (14th), Nilam Sanjeep Xess (20th) and Birendra Lakra (41th) scored a goal each to help their team pick up the win. India started the match against Indonesia at a relentless pace against the hosts, showcasing their intention to get a big win from the first minute itself. In the 7th minute, the team missed a clear chance to get the first goal for India. But they did not have to wait for long to get off the mark as Pawan Rajbhar struck two goals in two minutes to give his team a 2-0 lead before Uttam Singh added another goal just before the closing of the first quarter.

SV Sunil made an impact in the 2nd quarter as he deflected the ball into the Indonesia nets in the 19th minute. A minute later, Nilam Sanjeep Xess added another goal for India from a PC as India extended their lead to 5-0. SV Sunil deflected the ball into the back of the nets a few minutes later to extend India's lead to 6-0 before the half-time. Indonesia goalkeeper Alam Fajar defended well in the third quarter as India continued to search for more goals. Karthi Selvam finally broke the resistance in the 40th minute, getting the 7th goal for India. Skipper Lakra made an impact, getting the 8th goal for India in the 41st minute, after which Dipsan and Sudev scored a goal each to take India to 10-0 before the start of the final quarter. In the final 15 minutes, Tirkey scored thrice, Sudev scored a brace, while Karthi added another goal as India picked up a consolidating 16-0 win. India will play their first game of the Super 4s against Japan Saturday.

## Velocity advance despite suffering loss vs Trailblazers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Pune, May 26:** Velocity suffered a 16-run defeat in the Women's T20 Challenge but still qualified for the final on the basis of a better net run rate, knocking out victors Trailblazers from the tournament here Thursday. Velocity will face Supernovas in the summit clash Saturday. Invited to bat, Sabhineni Meghana (73, 47b, 7x4, 4x6) and Jemimah Rodrigues (66, 44b, 7x4, 1x6) smashed scintillating fifties to help the defending champions post a huge 190/5, the highest total in the history of the tournament. But they needed to restrict Velocity to 159 to become the second team to qualify for the final but it was not to be as Kiran Navgire (69, 34b, 5x4, 5x6) had other ideas. The Trailblazers bowlers, led by Poonam Yadav (2/33) and Rajeshwari Gayakwad (2/44), managed to restrict Velocity to 174/9 to also open their account but they would rue their heavy 49-run defeat to Supernovas. Trailblazers (-0.825), Supernovas (+0.912) and Velocity (-0.022) ended with two points each but the top two teams made it to the final.

## BANGALORE FANCY THEIR CHANCES AGAINST RAJASTHAN IN IPL QUALIFIER-2 A ROYAL CLASH ON CARDS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Ahmedabad, May 26:** Rajasthan Royals will need to shake off an ordinary bowling performance in their last outing when they clash with Royal Challengers Bangalore, a team which seems to be peaking at the right time, in the high-stake IPL Qualifier-2 here Friday. Having sneaked into the play-offs, RCB seem are on a roll and a tight win over Lucknow in the Eliminator has fuelled expectations for a long-awaited trophy. They take on Rajasthan, a team which has all bases covered but still came up short against Gujarat in Qualifier 1. The IPL caravan moves to Ahmedabad after a couple of high-scoring games in Kolkata. It has been a quick turnaround for RCB but they won't mind that as they look to ride the momentum. Rajat Patidar, who played the innings of his life on Wednesday, will be a man with supreme confidence in another high-pressure knockout fixture. For someone who went unsold in the IPL auction and came into the RCB squad as a replacement player, it has been a



career-changing season for him. Both the high-profile openers, Kohli and Faf du Plessis, are big match players and will be itching to make an impact after low returns in the previous game. Dinesh Karthik has managed to maintain consistency in a tough role and the team management would be also hoping for more runs in the back end of the innings from Glenn Maxwell. The team is likely to stick to the winning combination. While Wanindu Hasaranga has shown the courage even when he has been taken to the cleaners, Harshal Patel has been the go-to pacer in slog overs. Mohammad Siraj returned for the LSG game and bowled well with the new ball. Josh Hazlewood enhanced his reputation as a death bowler with a match-deciding penultimate over and with the addition of a yorker in his armoury, has only become tougher to score of. RCB bowlers will have to be on the top of their game against a formidable Rajasthan batting line up which rely heavily on Jos Buttler and skipper Sanju Samson. Both scored against Gujarat but it did not prove to be enough. Samson will be eager to convert his 30s and 40s into a substantial knock and lead from the front. It remains to be seen how the bowlers comeback after a forgettable outing. R Ashwin had a rare off day against Gujarat while Prasidh Krishna paid the price for bowling length balls to David Miller in the final over.

## DEEPA, PYARI HELP SPORTS ODISHA MAUL MATA RUKMANI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, May 26:** Sports Odisha dished out a dominant 7-0 win against Mata Rukmani FC, while Kickstart FC registered a narrow 1-0 win over Indian Arrows in the Indian Women's League season here Thursday. Deepa Nayak netted four goals, while Pyari Xaxa scored a hat-trick to help Sports Odisha end its campaign with three more points at the 7th Battalion Ground. Sports Odisha opened the scoring just minutes before the halftime break. Three goals in quick succession right at the end of the first half turned the tide in favour of Sports Odisha. A miscued backpass by Nilima

Khakha presented Deepa with the opportunity to break the deadlock. Thereafter, Deepa scored another after a good interception, while Pyari added a third, scoring off a header from a corner. Pyari scored her second with a tap-in on the 51st minute, before setting up Deepa's hat-trick. In the last quarter of the game, Pyari once again found the net to complete her own hat-trick, making it 6-0 for Sports Odisha. Deepa Nayak netted here fourth goal in added time, as she slipped one past the keeper. With this win, Sports Odisha ended their campaign fourth with 20 points from 11 matches, while Mata Rukmani finish their campaign at 11th with three points from 11 matches.

## KT Global School Tennis C'ship kicks off May 27

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 26:** The KT Global School Tennis Championship, organised by IIG Sports Academy under the banner of Odisha Tennis Association, is set to start May 27. This is an open tennis junior tournament, which will conclude May 29, the organisers informed in a press conference here, Thursday. The event has three events Boys U-12, Girls U-16 and Boys U-16. The purpose of the tournament is to promote tennis in Odisha and provide budding junior talents a platform to play more international tournaments and get more exposure into tennis sports.

The event is prize money tournament where both boys and girls are given equal prize money to encourage more girl participants to pursue the sports. Approximately 100 participants from Odisha and few other states have registered for the tournament. **MEDALS GALORE** The participants from Odisha had an impressive outing at the 31st North & East India ITF Taekwon-Do Championship. Six participants managed to secure seven medals, including a gold, three silver and an identical number of bronze medals. The tournament took place May 20-22 in a Youth Hostel in Dalhousie, Himachal Pradesh.

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# MUTUAL FUNDS

## Sahi Hai

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