



FRESH GOAL
Actor Vaani Kapoor wants to be a part of pan-Indian films to reach out and connect to a wider audience
LEISURE | P2



NO PANDEMIC FEAR: WHO
WHO's top expert says she doesn't expect the monkeypox cases reported will turn into another pandemic
INTERNATIONAL | P10



INDIA AIM FOR FINAL
India look for an outright win against South Korea to book their place in the final of the Asia Cup hockey
SPORTS | P12

Drunken man beats wife to death on Sabitri Brata
Baripada: A woman was allegedly beaten to death by her drunken husband, Monday when women across the country are fasting for the long life of their husbands on the auspicious occasion of 'Sabitri Brata'. The heinous incident has been reported from Asura village under Jashipur police limits in Mayurbhanj district. The deceased has been identified as Kali Dehuri, wife of the accused Bharat Dehuri. According to sources, Bharat returned home in a drunken state. A verbal duel soon escalated into a heated argument. Losing his cool, Bharat thrashed Kali brutally following which she sustained grave injuries and died on the spot. **PAGE 5**



ED arrests Satyendar Jain in money laundering case
New Delhi: Delhi minister Satyendar Jain was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) Monday in a money laundering case, with his Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) calling it a political move ahead of the Himachal Pradesh Assembly polls. He was taken into custody under criminal sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) after a few hours of questioning, ED officials said. They alleged he was evasive in his replies. The minister is expected to be produced before a designated court Tuesday. The arrest has been made by the federal agency in connection with alleged hawala dealings. **PAGE 7**



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Minor fights off croc, saves self
Pattamundai, May 30: A 15-year-old boy displayed exemplary courage and saved himself from the jaws of a crocodile when it attacked him while bathing in Kani river at Araji village under this block in Kendrapara district, Monday. The boy was identified as Om Prakash Sahu, son of Manoj Sahu of Araji village. His friends rushed him to the district headquarters hospital in critical condition from where he was shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack after his condition deteriorated. Sources said Om Prakash was bathing with his friends in Kani river near his village when a giant 10-feet long salt water crocodile pulled him into the river. However, the young boy did not give up and kicked the reptile to save himself. He emerged victorious after a 10 minute long battle in the river. The fight left the boy seriously injured as the crocodile bit his limbs and thighs before leaving him alone. He ran to the river bank to save himself when the reptile again chased him. The reptile however, escaped after his friends raised an alarm. Notably, Kendrapara district which is crisscrossed by rivers and several water bodies, has three species of crocodiles- salt-water, gharial and mugger in its river systems.

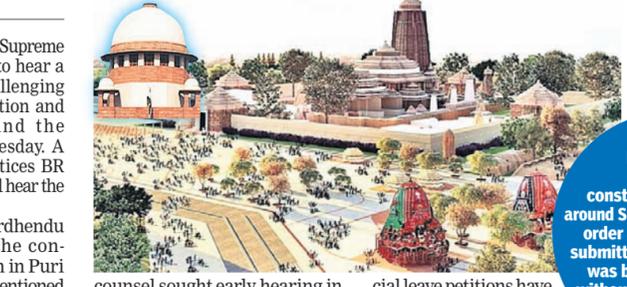


SRIMANDIR HERITAGE CORRIDOR SC HEARING TODAY

A two-judge bench of Justices BR Gavai and Hima Kohli will hear a couple of special leave petitions against the Orissa High Court order of May 9

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, May 30: The Supreme Court Monday decided to hear a couple of petitions challenging alleged illegal construction and encroachment around the Srimandir in Puri, Tuesday. A two-judge bench of Justices BR Gavai and Hima Kohli will hear the matter Tuesday.



A petition filed by Ardhendu Kumar Das against the construction work going on in Puri around the temple was mentioned before the bench of Justice BR Gavai Monday by senior advocate Mahalaxmi Pavan and another petition filed on the same issue was mentioned by advocate Nachiketa Joshi. The senior counsel sought early hearing in the matter. The bench asked the petitioner whether they have approached the High Court in this matter. The counsel replied in affirmative. Significantly, a couple of special leave petitions have been filed in the Supreme Court against the Orissa High Court order of May 9. The High Court had not stayed the construction work going on around the 12th century shrine in

its order passed May 9. The ASI had, in its affidavit filed in the High Court, submitted that the ongoing Puri Heritage Corridor construction work might have caused damage to the temple and the state government project was being carried out without valid permission from competent authority. The High Court, however, termed the ASI's report vague and said that the report failed to be specific as to whether any actual damage had been caused to the temple.

Orissa HC had not stayed the construction going on around Srimandir in its May 9 order after the ASI had submitted that the project was being carried out without valid permission from competent authority

BRAJARAJNAGAR BYPOLL 2.14L to exercise franchise

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 30: The by-election to the Brajaraj Nagar Assembly seat will be held Tuesday. Over 2.14 lakh voters will exercise their franchise from 7am at 279 booths.



Ruling BJD candidate Alaka Mohanty, BJP's Radharani Panda and Congress nominee Kishore Patel are in the fray for the by-poll. Of the total booths, 22 are new and 30 are model booths while 60 booths have been identified as sensitive booths. Moreover, 5 pink booths have been formed where only women polling agents will be appointed, sources said. To ensure free and fair voting, security arrangements have been in different booths for the poll while 1,228 polling officers have been appointed in the booths. The 1,000 police officials and 3 companies of Central armed forces have been deployed at different booths to maintain law and order. The voting will be carried out following Covid-19 norms with arrangements of sanitisers and thermal scanning at all polling booths. Moreover, liquor outlets have been closed for 48 hours for the election in the district. Voters can exercise their franchise by producing 12 different identity cards as an alternative. The bypoll was necessitated following the untimely demise of BJD's Kishore Mohanty's in last December. The Assembly seat was with CPI and Congress till 2009 and went to BJP in 2014. Ruling BJD grabbed the seat in the last election held in 2019. Now, all eyes are on the by-poll as all three parties have a strong hold in the constituency.

Naveen meets Modi, says no talks on Prez election

Patnaik also met Home Minister Amit Shah to discuss several state specific issues

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, May 30: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Prime Minister's Office here but denied having any discussion on Presidential elections.



Minister also assume significance in the context of the President's election in July this year as the BJP-led ruling NDA may require the support of parties like the BJD and YSRC to ensure victory of their candidate. The BJD has on many occasions backed the Central government in Parliament on various issues. Significantly, the President of India is elected by an electoral college comprising members of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and Legislative Assemblies. While the value of the vote of the MPs from both houses remains uniform - 708 a seat, the value of votes of MLAs depends on the population of the state. According to the Presidential Electoral College, the value of each Odisha MLA is 149.

MONA LISA CAKED



PARIS: A man disguised as an old woman in a wheelchair threw a piece of cake at the glass protecting the Mona Lisa at the Louvre Museum and shouted at people to think of planet Earth. The cake attack left a conspicuous white creamy smear on the glass but the famous work by Leonardo da Vinci wasn't damaged. Security guards were filmed escorting the wig-wearing man away as he called out to the surprised visitors in the gallery "Think of the Earth! There are people who are destroying the Earth! Think about it. Artists tell you think of the Earth. That's why I did this."

IRREGULAR by MANJUL
IPL 2022 GUJARAT WINS

We will play better and defeat Team Gujarat next time. Thanks God, it is cricket and not politics

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	55925.74 ↑ 1041.08
NIFTY	16661.40 ↑ 308.90
DOLLAR	79.13 ↑ ₹0.24
EURO	83.86 ↑ ₹0.39
GOLD	₹51,057 ↑ ₹144
SILVER	₹61,835 ↓ ₹281

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	34.6°C	35.4°C
TEMP MIN	24.4°C	23.5°C
Humidity	91%	79%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

Forecast: Light rain very likely

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES 2021

Shruti Sharma tops; women bag first three ranks

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 30: Shruti Sharma, a student of history, has topped the civil services examination 2021, with the first three rank holders being women in results announced by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Monday. Ankit Agarwal and Gamin Singhla have secured the second and third rank respectively. A total of 685 candidates - 508 men and 177 women - have qualified and they have been recommended by the Commission for appointment to various central services, the UPSC said. "Among the finally qualified candidates, top three are women candidates," the Commission said, adding that the "top 25 comprise 15 men and 10 women". It is after six years that women have bagged the

top three slots. In 2015, the top four positions were achieved by women. All the three women achievers said they would like to work for women empowerment and other important areas such as education and healthcare. They said self-study helped them a lot in preparing for the examination and finally clearing it. Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated

CM LAUDS ODIA RANKERS

Bhubaneswar: In his congratulatory message to all the successful candidates from Odisha, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said, "Congratulate all the successful candidates from Odisha who have cleared UPSC CSE 2021 examination. May they work with dedication and commitment to bring visible changes in people's lives at the grassroots. Wish them bright careers ahead." Around 15 from Odisha have cleared the UPSC CSE, 2021. They are Karthik Panigrahi (rank 63), Gourav Kumar Agarwal (86), Tharun Patnaik Madala (99), Sambhav Mishra (116), Puja Sahu (199), Durga Prasad Adhikari (205), Mayank Mishra (228), Biswa Bisruta Tripathi (rank 232), Siddharth Mishra (255), Anup Garg (269), Samir Kumar Jena (273), Soumya Ranjan Pradhan (306), Harshit Meher (376), Manas Ranjan Sahu (513) and Nayan Ranjan Das (614). **MORE P3**

wishes to these youngsters who are embarking on their administrative careers at an important time of India's development journey, when we are marking Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. "I fully understand the disappointment of those who couldn't clear the Civil Services Exam but I also know that these are outstanding youngsters who will make a mark in any field they pursue and make India proud. My best wishes to them," the Prime Minister tweeted. Sharma, an alumna of St Stephen's College Delhi, qualified in the sought-after examination in her second attempt. "It is a great feeling. I owe gratitude to everyone who supported me in this journey to success. I used to prepare my own notes. Self-study helped me a lot besides patience and consistency," she said. **Contd...P4**

TOPPER SHRUTI SHARMA

Plaint over felling of trees for MLA houses

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 30: An environment activist Monday lodged an FIR at Kharavela Nagar police station here against the felling of trees for construction of MLA quarters in the area Saturday. The complainant Sudarshan Das, convener of Mahanadi Bachao Andolan, said in the FIR that he came to know about the felling and immediately rushed to the spot. "While interacting with people engaged in the activity, it was revealed that one Mahendra Nayak, an ex-employee/field officer of Odisha Forest Development Corporation has engaged them for the same. We also found a vehicle engaged in the transit of the timbers which attracts the cognisable offence under Section 379 of IPC and Odisha Timber and Other Forest Produce Transits Rules 1980," the FIR read. **MORE P4**

Asst professor sexually abused in City hotel

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 30: A 24-year-old woman working as an assistant professor of a private educational institute in City has accused her male friend of sexually abusing her in a hotel here after allegedly giving her drug-spiked drink. The lady who hails from Chhattisgarh has recently lodged a complaint at the Kabir Nagar police station in Raipur. Chhattisgarh Police filed a zero FIR and sent the case details to Khandagiri police for registration of the case as the incident occurred in a hotel at Jagamara area under its jurisdiction. Following the receipt of complaint and other case related documents from the DIG of Raipur, Khandagiri police initiated a probe after registering a case (283/22) in this regard. The lady in her complaint claimed that she joined a private college at Jagamara in March 2021. Meanwhile, the accused, Umesh Sudhakar, a resident of Chhattisgarh, who is known to the lady since the college days visited Bhubaneswar in September 2021. Sudhakar later called the victim to hotel Sandhya Inn where he allegedly offered the victim drug-spiked cold drink and later reportedly sexually abused the victim who was under influence of the drugs for three days. **Contd... P4**

leisure



ED SHEERAN TO SING IN HONOUR OF QUEEN ELIZABETH, PRINCE PHILIP

Grammy award winning singer Ed Sheeran will honour the late Prince Philip at this year's Platinum Jubilee Pageant in London. He is set to perform a musical tribute to the Queen and her late husband during a special celebration June 6.

ALYCIA DEBNAM-CAREY EXITS FEAR THE WALKING DEAD

Australian actress Alicia Debnam-Carey, who played the role of Alicia Clark in the post-apocalyptic horror drama television series *Fear the Walking Dead*, has bid adieu to the show after 7 seasons on the episode titled *Amina*, reports *Deadline*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

If your work has anything to do with money, today you will be busy counting your riches! If you've applied for a loan, it may get sanctioned today. Look for variety, says Ganesh, and you may find your day filled with smiles and what not.

TAURUS

You are likely to be mentally alert and watchful today, says Ganesh. Creativity will run through your veins no matter what you attempt. You may dabble in performing arts, designing, graphics or special effects. Your charm will play Pied Piper to the opposite gender today.

GEMINI

Your physical appearance and personal attitude will see a marked improvement today, predicts Ganesh. A well-groomed you will climb up the popularity chart among peers, friends and members of the opposite sex. You will keep people under your spell with your wit and wisdom both at the workplace and at social gatherings.

CANCER

You will be firing all cylinders in the creativity department, says Ganesh. Even your colleagues may pitch in, and will give you new ideas to make your work better.

LEO

Karmic balance dictates an equitable distribution of joy and sorrow, says Ganesh. So if your day seems drab and depressing today, rest assured, your evening shall be all the more refreshing and exciting. Surround yourself with family and friends, as you will receive royal treatment from them.

VIRGO

Play dodge ball with prejudice today. Do not let intolerance find shelter in you today, advises Ganesh. Instead, chances are you will seek to find love, affection and goodwill among those around you. Stay away from negativity as it may bog you down.

LIBRA

Lights, camera, and action! Be prepared as the limelight is focused on you on this very motivating and inspiring day, enabling you to attract excellent public praise. Today is an encouraging day to set in motion innovative projects, especially for those who desire to be their own masters and embark upon fulfilling self-financed ideas.

SCORPIO

You are most likely to resent the dominating and over-bearing nature of your partner today. Patience will probably go to the dumps in this case then. But Ganesh advises you to sit together and resolve all personality clashes and quarrels in view of the larger scheme of things.

SAGITTARIUS

Expect a call to late-night revelry and a chance to binge. But you don't seem to be in the mood to let your hair loose and party, says Ganesh. However tempting it may be, your serious side will take over and you shall deny the offer.

CAPRICORN

You will start the day with verve and vigour, and will appear a completely different person at work. There will be a discernible change in your way of working, especially in terms of the level of energy and concentration you will put in. The switch to the new strategy will better your performance considerably and will make you feel that it was a good change after all.

AQUARIUS

A productive day, as you will receive unrestrained support from your bosses and colleagues. Your creativity will reach its zenith and the resulting work will augment your reputation. The day will seem complete when you spend quality time with your family in the evening, says Ganesh.

PISCES

Happiness shared is double the joy; sorrows shared are half the burden. Your family is the foundation of your success, and it is to them you will turn to in times of failure as well. With their support, getting back to the top of the game will take no time, says Ganesh.

Vaani talks about her ultimate goal

Mumbai: Of late, pan-Indian films have been making a lot of noise. Movies like *Pushpa: The Rise, RRR* and *K.G.F: Chapter 2* that released in multiple languages across the country set the cash registers ringing at the box office.

Seeing the success stories of these projects, many actors are now willing to be a part of pan-Indian films. Like, Vaani Kapoor! In a recent interaction with a portal, the actress wished that she gets to be a part of such a project soon.

She said, "I would love to be a part of a pan-Indian film. The bigger the audience, the better your chances of reaching out and connecting to a wider audience. Well, that is the ultimate goal and I shall manifest to find a project like that."

Currently, Vaani is excited to be working with Ranbir Kapoor on her next film. Earlier, she shared her experience working with the actor saying, "I really feel that Ranbir puts his soul into his characters and you can connect to the soul of the person he's playing on screen. His acting looks so real, that you don't feel like he is acting! This is exactly why it feels magical to see him perform on screen and it is for this reason that I am looking forward to seeing us together on screen."

AGENCIES

Kiara finds her voice finally

Mumbai: Kiara Advani says early rejections and recent successes -- *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2* and *SherShaah* -- have given her a sense of clarity about the kind of films she wants to be a part of.

The actor made her debut in 2014 with *Fugly* and featured in films like *MS Dhoni: The Untold Story* (2016) and Abbas-Mustan's 2017 thriller *Machine*, but it was the 2018 Netflix anthology *Lust Stories* that proved to be a career turnaround for her.

"I feel grateful for the start of my journey, even though there were things that didn't work out. I am grateful for the support I got from people, who gave me those chances and believed in me," Kiara told in an interview.

In the past three years, the actor has been a part of two back-to-back blockbusters -- *Kabir Singh* and *Good Newz* and critically-acclaimed Netflix film *Guilty* -- which she said has helped her find her 'voice'.

"Today, I have understood more about myself, which wasn't the case earlier. I started when I was 21. I didn't know who I was, who I wanted to be, what I

wanted to say.. I had a dream of becoming an actor, but I didn't know what kind of stories I wanted to tell or what my voice was," Kiara, 29, said.

AGENCIES

Drake mourns Sidhu Moosewala's death

Los Angeles: American rapper Drake has mourned the death of popular Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala, who was shot dead by gangsters close to his ancestral village in Mansa in Punjab in broad daylight Sunday.

Drake Monday took to Instagram Stories to share a picture of Moosewala and his mother.

On the picture wrote: RIP Moose and added a bird emoji.

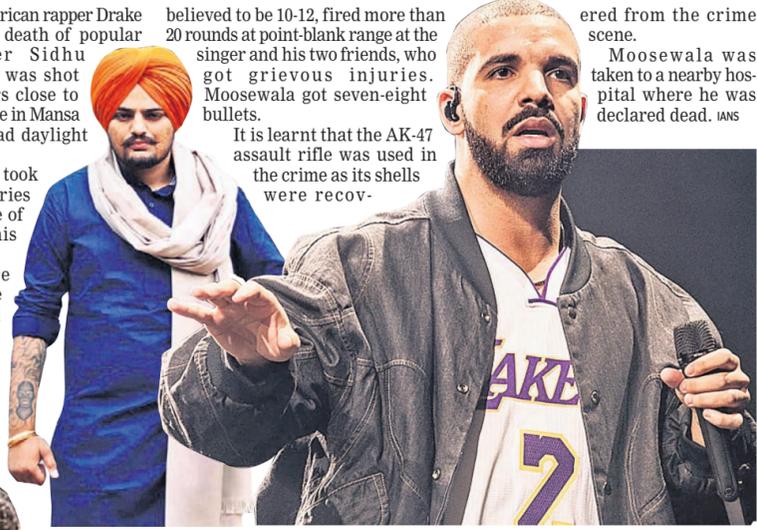
Moosewala was on the wheel in Mahindra Thar SUV when the assailants,

believed to be 10-12, fired more than 20 rounds at point-blank range at the singer and his two friends, who got grievous injuries. Moosewala got seven-eight bullets.

It is learnt that the AK-47 assault rifle was used in the crime as its shells were recov-

ered from the crime scene.

Moosewala was taken to a nearby hospital where he was declared dead. IANS



Working on Jug Jugg Jeo track was a joyride: Zahrah

Mumbai: Actress-turned-singer Zahrah S Khan, who has crooned the recently released track *The Punjaabian* song from the Varun Dhawan-starrer *Jug Jugg Jeeyo*, is currently on cloud nine with the kind of response that the song is garnering.

The groovy dance number features Varun Dhawan along with Kiara Advani, Anil Kapoor, and Neetu Kapoor doing Bhangra on dhol beats. The song is a fresh rendition of the much revered Pakistani track *Nach Punjaban*.

Soaking in the love and accolades coming her way, Zahrah, who has sung the song along with Gippy Grewal, Tanishk Bagchi and Romy, said, "The song has really caught on and I am filled with gratitude for how it's received. It's a pretty iconic number but Tanishk made it his own by giving it the desired Bollywood tadka."

"Friends and family are calling in to tell me how much they liked it. I loved working on the song. It was a joyride all along. Now that I see the video, I feel Varun, Kiara, Anil sir and Neetu ma'am have upped the energy of the number," she added.

The track has been designed by Tanishk Bagchi with lyrics from Abrar Ul Haq. The original *Nach Punjaban* was sung by Abrar. IANS



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

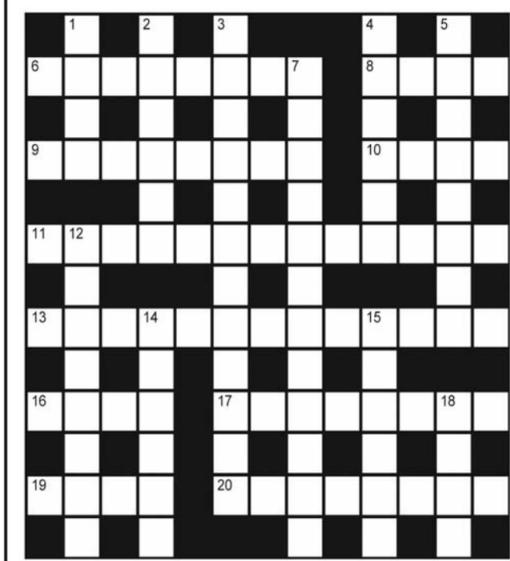


BREVITY



FUN post

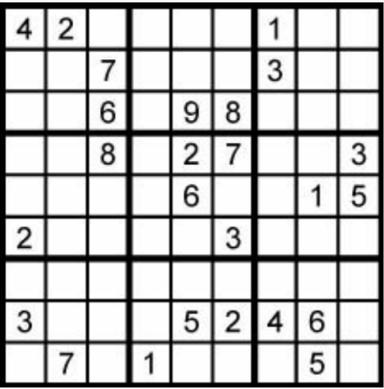
CROSSWORD



- Across
- 6 Sweet-talk (4-4)
 - 8 In use
 - 9 Potato dish (2,6)
 - 10 Historic periods
 - 11 Change radically
 - 13 Clumsy person
 - 16 Rum-soaked cake
 - 17 Ocean occurrence (4,4)
 - 19 Colourful salamander
 - 20 Precious stones
- Down
- 1 Vegetarian staple
 - 2 Sound system
 - 3 Haitian capital (4-2-6)
 - 4 Acquire
 - 5 Taxing bureaucrat
 - 7 Speaks pompously
 - 12 Enlightened
 - 14 Nice and warm
 - 15 Rich and elaborate cake
 - 18 Extinct pigeon relative

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.

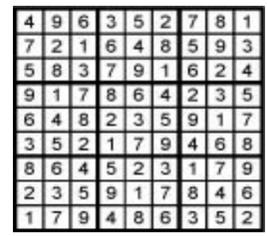


SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

6 new Cov cases

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, May 30: Odisha recorded six new Covid cases Monday, three less than the previous day, with the tally rising to 12,88,437, the state Health department said in a bulletin.

The death toll remained at 9,126 as no fresh fatality due to the infection was reported in the last 24 hours, it added. Fifty-three other coronavirus patients have died due to comorbidities so far.

Eight more people recuperated from the disease since Sunday, taking the total number of recoveries to 12,79,184, the Health bulletin said. Odisha now has 74 active cases.

The coastal state's daily test positivity rate (TPR) was 0.05 per cent as the fresh cases were detected from 11,718 sample tests, it added.

The state pool recorded six new infections. The pool shows the number of individuals coming from outside the state and testing positive upon arrival.

The state currently contributes 2.99 percent of infected cases of the National caseload. Likewise, it houses 0.47 per cent of the total active cases in India. The percentage of national recovered cases in Odisha is at 3.01 and the state contributes 1.75 per cent of the total Covid fatalities across the country.

Khurda tops the list of active cases with 26 infections, followed by Boudh at 12 and Cuttack at seven cases. Districts without active cases are Angul, Bhubaneswar, Bolangir, Deogarh, Dhenkanal, Gajapati, Ganjam, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Jharsuguda, Puri, Malkangiri, Kandhamal, Nayagarh, Mayurbhanj, Nabarangpur, and Subarnapur.

Puri police launches helpline number ahead of Rath Yatra



POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, May 30: Puri police Monday launched a helpline number keeping in mind the safety and security of tourists who will visit the Holy City for the Rath Yatra this year.

As a large number of tourists are expected to visit the Holy City to witness the Grand Rath Yatra after a hiatus of two years owing to the pandemic curbs, the police have started exercises to ensure their safety and security.

Under the chairmanship of Puri SP Kanwar Vishal Singh, a joint coordination meeting of hotel owners and associations was held today where the helpline number 06370967100 was launched.

"The 24x7 helpline number will also be displayed at buses and auto

rickshaws including a few important places. Tourists can dial the number at any moment for any kind of assistance. City DSP, J N Padhi has been appointed as the nodal officer to deal with the grievances received through the helpline number," said Singh adding that the number will remain functional even after the Rath Yatra.

"The hoteliers have been directed to get their CCTV cameras repaired and make them functional with seven days' capacity. They have been asked to share their occupancy status with the concerned police station. Similarly, the IICs and police stations have also been directed to create a WhatsApp group involving the hoteliers and associations so that their problems can be dealt with expeditiously," added Singh.

Termining the meeting a successful one, Kedarnath Khuntia, secretary, hotel owners' association, Puri said they will cooperate with the police as tourists' satisfaction and safety have also been their prime concern.

"The SP has shared his personal number with us and asked us to contact him at any moment, especially when we find the helpline number unresponsive," said Khuntia.

TRIBUTE TO MAESTRO



Governor Ganeshi Lal graced the 99th birth anniversary of Sangeet Sudhakar Balakrushna Dash and award ceremony held at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Monday

OP PHOTO

FELLING OF TREES FOR MLA QUARTERS

Locals voice dissent; FIR lodged



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 30: An environment activist Monday lodged an FIR at Kharavela Nagar police station here against the felling of trees for construction of MLA quarters in the area Saturday.

The complainant Sudarshan Das, convener of Mahanadi Bachao Andolan, said in the FIR that he came to know about the felling and immediately rushed to the spot.

"While interacting with people engaged in the activity, it was revealed that one Mahendra Nayak, an employee/field officer of Odisha Forest Development Corporation has engaged them for the same. We also

found a vehicle engaged in the transit of the timbers which attracts the cognisable offence under Section 379 of IPC and Odisha Timber and Other Forest Produce Transits Rules 1980," the FIR read.

"Since felling of the trees is a cognisable offence, I request you to register the FIR and enquire in to the matter," he wrote.

Meanwhile, City Forest Division sources said that around 870 trees will be felled for the MLA Quarters project for which enumeration has already been completed in the project area at Unit IV. Locals said many valuable trees, more than 60-70 years old, were chopped off. Bhagaban Acharya, an octogenarian residing in the area said,

City Forest Division sources said around 870 trees will be felled for the MLA Quarters project for which enumeration has already been completed in the project area

The felling has been started by the Odisha Forest Development Corporation (OFDC) as per the requisition of Odisha Bridge and Construction Corporation (OBCC) which is executing the project

The apartment complex for the lawmakers intends to promote vertical construction in City to pave way for more open spaces

The project, taken up at an investment of ₹275 crore, is expected to be ready in the next two-and-half years, for which ₹50 crore has already been allocated to OBCC for groundwork



"Government colonies in the area have many old and valuable trees like deodar, banyan, peepal, jamun, mango and jackfruit. During the early years of the Capital city, the arboriculture wing of the forest department had planted these trees in this locality. Later, occupants of these quarters also planted many fruit trees. Due to the thick green cover, this area felt cool even in summers. The government should plan the high-rises for legislators keeping the greenery intact."

Sources said any government or private agency or individual needs permission from the City forest division, the custodian of

all trees in the City, before chopping those off. An undertaking for planting 10 times the number of trees to be felled also needs to be given.

The concerned felling was started by the Odisha Forest Development Corporation (OFDC) as per the requisition of Odisha Bridge and Construction Corporation (OBCC) which is executing the project.

The multi-storey apartment complex for the lawmakers intends to promote vertical construction in City to pave way for more open spaces. The project taken up at an investment of ₹275 crore is expected to be ready in the next two-and-half years, for which ₹50 crore has already been allocated to OBCC for groundwork.

Railway Board Chairman concludes his three-day Odisha visit with Paradip

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 30: Railway Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) VK Tripathi on the concluding day of his three-day visit to Odisha inspected the Railway developmental works at Paradip Monday forenoon and took stock of activities concerning traffic facilities and hassle free train operations.

East Coast Railway (ECoR) General Manager (In Charge) Sharad Kumar Srivastav and Divisional Railway Manager of Khurda Road Railway Division Rinkesh ray accompanied him.

Tripathi discussed various issues with the authorities of Paradip Port Trust (PPT) and other stake holders like Jindal

Steel, PPL, IOCL, IFFCO and Mittal Steels, and assured them to provide all kinds of support in the field of transportation and traffic facilities.

Senior officials from ECoR headquarters, Khurda Road Division and other stake holders participated in the inspection and the subsequent review meeting in the afternoon at the ECoR headquarters in Bhubaneswar.

During the review meeting, different infrastructure and train traffic related issues were discussed. Tripathi also advised officials to increase in speed of passenger trains under the ECoR jurisdiction. Apart from this, he stressed on early completion of ongoing projects and increase in revenue.



Why some roads make steering wheels change sides

The custom of driving on the left side of the road in around 78 countries and territories is not just a sign of their eccentricity, but is supported by very sensible reasons

Anyone visiting the UK or its former colonies like India, Australia and New Zealand will find driving on the road a little disorienting for one obvious and largely annoying difference. While around 65 per cent of the world drives on the right side of the road, people in these countries drive on the left. Along with the aforesaid countries, people in Ireland, Japan, and some Caribbean islands too follow suit.

The 'why' of it drags us, on a seemingly complicated timeline, back to the Medieval era or perhaps even further to the age of gladiators. For instance, in 1300AD, Pope Boniface VIII declared that all pilgrims travelling to Rome should keep to the left.

Back in those days, travellers were almost always prone to attacks. Since most of the people were right-handed, they preferred travelling on the left so as to keep their sword fighting hand free and ready for defense. This also reduced the chance of the scabbard worn on left hitting other people. It was also safer to mount and dismount towards the side of the road rather than in the middle of traffic.

So why did people ever switch to the right? Well, it turns out Napoleon preferred to ride on the right and so did Hitler, in fact Hitler forced Czechoslovakia and Austria to switch to right-hand driving. However, since Britain resisted both Napoleon



and Hitler, the country never switched to the right.

Things changed in the late 1700s when large wagons pulled by several pairs of horses were used to transport farm products in France and the United States. Instead of sitting inside the wagon, the driver sat on the rear left horse, with his

right arm free to use his whip to keep the horses moving. Since he was sitting on the left, he wanted other wagons to pass on his left, so he kept to the right side of the road. It wasn't till 1792 and 1804 respectively that Pennsylvania and New York made it official by regulating it. Many states then fol-

lowed their example and the practice was cemented.

In 18th century, London saw the introduction of a traffic law to make all vehicles on London bridge keep to the left. This was in an effort to reduce collisions. The British Government refused to give up their left-hand driving ways, and in 1773 introduced the General Highways Act, which encouraged driving on the left. The rule was then incorporated into the Highway Act of 1835 and was later adopted throughout the UK making left-hand driving mandatory in Britain.

Meanwhile, post-revolution France under their left-handed ruler Napoleon embraced a permanent move to the right side of the road. Amidst all this driving confusion, the British and the French were yielding their power across the globe, and as part of their rapid colonisation, they insisted that the countries they occupied drive on the same side of the road. This explains why India still drives on the

left, while former French colonies like Algeria, Ivory Coast, and Senegal drive on the right.

When Henry Ford unveiled his Model T in 1908, the driver's seat was on the left, meaning that cars would have to drive on the right-hand side of the road to allow front and back passengers to exit the car onto the curb. According to National Geographic, this influenced a change in many countries like Canada, Italy, and Spain changing to right-side driving in the 1920s and most of Eastern Europe following suit in the 1930s. As recently as 1967 (and thanks to around \$120 million from their government's pocket), Swedish drivers began driving on the right. However British drivers remain on the left and this is highly unlikely to change.

The 20th century saw an attempt to harmonise road laws in Europe leading to a shift in right-hand driving but that did not affect the UK. Today there are around 78 countries and territories that drive on the left.

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SHORT TAKES

Fake zarda unit busted

Bhadrak: Police here Monday busted a fake zarda (tobacco flakes) manufacturing unit and seized over 1 quintal of the chewing product worth over 1 lakh at Chidiasahi in Mirzapur village under Puruna Bazaar police limits of this district. Acting on a tip-off, a team of Puruna Bazaar police raided the house of a resident at Chidiasahi and found fake zarda of various brands being manufactured in the unit. The team seized over 1 quintal of zarda flakes but the accused persons involved in the trade escaped. The total cost of the seized items is estimated to be over Rs 1 lakh, police said. A case was registered in this connection and further investigations are on.

Lightning kills BU student

Berhampur: A student of Berhampur University (BU) died after lightning struck him Sunday while he was strolling on Gopalpur beach and talking over his cellphone. The deceased was identified as Amit Nayak, a student of MSc Second Year of Botany department. He was a native of Ashok Nagar area in Bhubaneswar. According to reports, Amit sustained serious injuries on his thigh and ear due to the lightning, while the mobile phone also exploded. A group of hotel staffers on Gopalpur beach witnessed the mishap and rushed Amit to MKCG Medical College and Hospital where he succumbed to the injuries.

Youth dies of electrocution

Baliapal: A youth was electrocuted Sunday after he came in contact with high voltage transmission wires while unloading a merry-go-round from a truck here in Balasore district. The deceased was identified as Vijay Sayeed, 18, a helper of the truck and a native of Bankura district in West Bengal. The incident occurred when Vijay got up on the carriage to unload an amusement ride for the Gramin Mela to be held in the area from June 1. Unfortunately, he came in contact with an 11-kv transmission wire. He suffered critical burns. Locals rushed him to the DHH where doctors pronounced him dead.

Man nabbed for betraying widow

Berhampur: Police Sunday arrested a man for allegedly betraying a widow after having physical relationship with her on the pretext of marriage. The accused has been identified as Narayan Padhi, 27, a native of Sapuapalli village under Hinjilicut police limits. A medical examination was conducted on the accused and the survivor. Police said Padhi, who works in a private firm in Mumbai, fell in love with the widow in this city. They got involved in a physical relationship after Padhi promised to marry her. But, later the woman came to know that Padhi's marriage had been fixed elsewhere. When she insisted on marrying him, Padhi trashed her plea following which the victim lodged a police complaint.

113 vacant doctor posts cripple MKCG

Berhampur, May 30: Healthcare at MKCG Medical College and Hospital here has gone haywire with more than 113 doctor posts lying vacant in the premier hospital of South Odisha, a report said. Locals alleged that the doctors' crunch is due to negligence of the state government. The local representatives were also blamed for their inability to place the demand for filling up of vacant posts before the government. It is alleged that doctors of MKCG are being transferred to other places but no attempt is made to fill these vacant posts. Reports said that the hospital has 426 sanctioned posts of doctors of which 113 are lying vacant. This has raised questions about proper care of patients at the hospital.



A man drying up harvested paddy before taking it to a procurement centre at Bhaludunguri village under Khaprakhol block of Bolangir district

Mega drinking water project a pipedream

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nilagiri, May 30: As a mega drinking water project in tribal-dominated Nilagiri block of Balasore district has missed the deadline due to land acquisition and other hurdles, a new deadline of January 2023 has been set for it. A team of officials from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) has taken stock of the developments and directed the contractor concerned to expedite the work to meet the extended deadline. According to sources, many villages in Nilagiri block have been suffering due to scarcity of water, particularly in summer. In view of this, a mega drinking water project is being constructed at a cost of Rs 172 crore. The expenses are being shared by both the state and the Union governments. The Nabard team visited Ajodhya



village and conducted an inspection of the water treatment tank and an intake well at Kathapal on the bank of Sona river. Work for the project started November 5, 2019 and was supposed to be completed by November 21, 2021. However, the project was delayed due to land acquisition issues. The mega drinking water project will cater to the needs of 1.03 lakh people in 90 villages under 20 panchayats in the district.

BJD organiser stabbed to death

Youth leader of the ruling party Babu Gouda died in the attack while his aide Pradip Kumar Sahu is battling for life

POST NEWS NETWORK

Digapahandi, May 30: A few days after two BJD leaders - Sudarshan Suar and Sudhir Kant Patra - were brutally murdered over political rivalry, an organiser of the ruling party was stabbed to death at Nabarangpur village under Digapahandi block in Ganjam district late Sunday night. BJD youth leader Babu Gouda died in the attack while his aide Pradip Kumar Sahu is battling for life. The stabbing was so severe that a portion of Sahu's intestine has come out. According to reports, a rift ensued between two groups of villagers during the recently concluded panchayat elections. A sarpanch candidate supported by Babu Gouda faced defeated while the candidate supported by the accused Tofan Gouda won the election. Since then, Tofan and Babu were



Police conducting a probe; Babu Gouda (inset)

at loggerheads. The two came face-to-face Sunday evening while Babu was returning home after taking bath in a pond with Sahu. Even as a verbal fight ensued between the two at the spot, villagers intervened and pacified the two. Later, Babu along with Sahu went to Digapahandi over some work. On their way back home, they

IPL betting: 9 held in Ganjam, Bargarh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh/Berhampur, May 30: Police have busted IPL betting rackets in Ganjam and Bargarh districts and arrested nine persons, said sources. Bargarh SP Parmar Smit Parshottamdas told a presser Monday that Vicky Mittal, Prakash Agrawal, Arjun Senapati, Bimalkant Nag and Dilip Dash have been arrested for running the racket at an under construction house during the IPL 2022 match between Rajasthan Royals (RR) and Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB). Police recovered Rs 6.14 lakh in cash, one LED TV, mobile phones and cards from their possession. Similarly, four persons have been arrested in Ganjam district for allegedly taking bets for the IPL final between RR and Gujarat Titans. Acting on a tip-off, police raided



premises of a temple in Aska Sunday and caught the suspects who were collecting money from the public. Six others managed to flee, an officer said. They were operating the racket through an online website and placed bets for customers through mobile phones, Aska police station inspector Prasant Sahoo said. Six mobile phones and Rs 7.6 lakh in cash were seized from their possession, Sahoo said.

NEPAL PLANE CRASH 'Still can't believe they are not with us'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sonepur, May 30: Family members of four Odias, who lost their lives in Tara Air Plane-9 NAET crash in Nepal's mountainous Mustang district Sunday, mourned their untimely demise Monday and said that it's hard to believe that they are not with us anymore. The deceased family members have been identified as Ashok Tripathy, 50, his wife Vaibhabhi Tripathy, 45, son Dhanus Tripathy, 23, and daughter Ritika Tripathy, 15. "I still cannot believe they are not with us. I had talked to them four days back. Ashok had told me how he was taking his family for a trip in Nepal. However, we are shocked to know about their death through social media posts and news channels," said an inconsolable Kalyani Tripathy, widow of Ashok's elder brother. "They did not deserve such a painful death," she added as tears rolled down her cheeks. "He had come to Sonepur in March and stayed with me for a few days. The whole family had gathered and we had a great time before he went back to Bhubaneswar," she stated.



"Ashok had settled in Bhubaneswar's Jaydev Vihar since 1995. But, since his wife and son worked in Mumbai, he also had recently shifted there," she further said. Ashok was the fourth son of well known lawyer Krushnachandra Tripathy in Sonepur town. His two elder brothers Debabrata and Subrat have passed away while Subrat's wife Kalyani lives in

ASHOK WAS THE FOURTH SON OF WELL KNOWN LAWYER KRUSHNACHANDRA TRIPATHY IN SONEPUR TOWN
HIS TWO ELDER BROTHERS DEBABRATA AND SUBRAT HAD PASSED AWAY WHILE SUBRAT'S WIFE KALYANI LIVES IN SONEPUR
ASHOK HAD SETTLED IN BHUBANESWAR'S JAYDEV VIHAR SINCE 1995. BUT, SINCE HIS WIFE AND SON WORKED IN MUMBAI, HE ALSO HAD RECENTLY SHIFTED THERE
THE TRIPATHY FAMILY, WHO HAD BEEN TO KATHMANDU ON A TOUR, HAD BOARDED THE TARA AIR PLANE TO VISIT SOME SCENIC PLACES IN NEPAL. HOWEVER, THE PLANE WENT OUT OF SIGHT AND REMAINED CUT OFF FROM THE CONTROL ROOM BEFORE IT CRASHED

Air Plane to visit some scenic places in Nepal. However, the plane went out of sight and remained cut off from the control room before it crashed. The aircraft could have met with the accident after hitting a cliff, reports said.

TIPSY MAN BEATS WIFE TO DEATH ON 'SABITRI BRATA'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, May 30: A woman was beaten to death by none other than her husband on this auspicious day of 'Sabitri Brata', Monday, sending shock waves in Jashipur area of Mayurbhanj district. The deceased has been identified as Kali Dehuri, wife of the accused Bharat Dehuri, a resident of Asura village. According to sources, Bharat returned home in a drunken state and indulged in a fight with his wife. Their verbal duel soon escalated into a heated argument. Losing his cool, Bharat thrashed Kali brutally following which she sustained grave injuries and died on the spot. The accused then fled the spot. On being informed, police rushed to the spot and recovered the body which was later sent for post-mortem. Further investigation into the matter is underway to unearth details and nab the culprit, said a police officer. In another incident from Bolangir district, a woman allegedly committed suicide over a fight with her husband at Talbahal village under Saintala block. The deceased has been identified as Bijuli Bagarti, 26, wife of Banamali Bagarti. According to sources, the couple was at loggerheads for a couple of days over various family issues. Under severe stress, Bijuli allegedly committed suicide while her husband had gone out for some work Monday. The woman is survived by a 6-year-old daughter.

Worth mentioning, on the occasion of 'Sabitri Brata', married Odia women take bath early in the morning, wear new sarees, bright bangles and apply vermilion on their forehead. Later, they go to the temples to worship while some women perform their puja at home wishing long life of their husbands. They wash 'Silapua' (the grinding stone) and decorate it with haldi, vermilion and new saree. Women offer nine types of flowers and nine types of fruits such as jackfruit, banana, mango, palm fruits, kendu, dates and pineapple among others to the Goddess. Women take the blessings of their husbands and elderly people and consume bhog after listening to Savitri Brata Katha.

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Many locals are of the view that patients from various South Odisha districts and neighbouring Andhra Pradesh depend on this hospital for their healthcare needs. The government is laying stress on providing quality healthcare services to the patients for which it has implemented a host of measures. However, quality healthcare has eluded the patients who die due to lack of adequate number of doctors

Many locals are of the view that patients from various South Odisha districts and neighbouring Andhra Pradesh depend on this hospital for their healthcare needs. The government is laying stress on providing quality healthcare services to the patients for which it has implemented a host of measures. However, quality healthcare has eluded the patients who die due to lack of adequate number of doctors at the hospital. Sources said out of 39 sanctioned professor posts at the hospital, four are lying vacant. The posts of professors are lying vacant in surgery, gastroenterology (surgical & medicine) and emergency medicine departments. The state government has recently opened gastroenterology department but it is yet to appoint any professor. Similarly, the hospital has 81 as-

sociate professor posts of which 30 are lying vacant. Moreover, out of 162 sanctioned assistant professor posts, 11 are lying vacant. Likewise, out of tutor 40 posts, 23 are lying vacant and out of 84 sanctioned posts of senior residents, 41 are lying vacant. Further, two posts of women medical officers are lying vacant while two out of 17 junior residents are also lying vacant. Recently, all departments in a super speciality block, constructed in phases under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), were made operational. When contacted, Dr Abanikant Mishra, dean-cum-principal of MKCG Medical College and Hospital said that the state government has been informed about the vacant posts and that it would take steps in this regard soon.

FOCUS ECONOMY

BEYOND JOBS & INCOME



Resilience is not built overnight but is the effect of cumulative economic policies. On this count certainly Indian economy has come a long way

flow of dollars from developing countries. Which in turn caused their currencies to crash, and the Indian rupee was one of them. This led to much macroeconomic vulnerability, hence the term victims of the "taper tantrum."

But beyond the trajectory of variables like GDP, jobs and incomes, is the somewhat qualitative aspect of resilience of the Indian economy. This term "resilience" is difficult to quantify, as compared to the number of jobs, or rupees of investment or percentage of growth in GDP. The term resilience refers to the ability of the economy to withstand economic shocks, be they internal or external. For instance, 1991 was an external shock, caused by the first Gulf War and steep rise in oil prices. Because India's macroeconomic fundamentals were weak, i.e. very high inflation, very low stock of foreign exchange and negative growth in the industrial sector and very high fiscal deficit, the country almost went to the brink of default. This meant that the economy was not "resilient" enough. Similarly, in earlier decades, whenever there was an adverse shock from the weather front, like failed monsoons or drought, the agricultural output and incomes would suffer, and so would the economy. This too is an example of inadequate resilience. Thankfully, the agricultural sector

is much less vulnerable to weather shocks, thanks to better irrigation systems, integration of markets domestically and internationally, and diversification of sources of income for farmers, away from agricultural commodities to animal husbandry and the services economy.

In the past eight years, the economy has suffered major adverse shocks both internal and external. There have also been positive shocks (although one can debate whether these should be called positive shocks or windfall gains). The positive shock was a steep fall in oil prices worldwide, by more than fifty per cent, and they stayed low for nearly two years. The internal negative shocks were the big crash of a large non-banking finance company (NBFC) called Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services Limited (ILFS) in September 2018. Two years prior to that was the sudden announcement of the banning of high denomination notes i.e. demonetisation of nearly 86 per cent of the currency in circulation. And a third internal shock, which was not sudden and somewhat diffused was the clumsy implementation of the rollout of the Goods and Services Tax, a major tax reform which made the entire country shift to a completely different tax regime. One of the more recent external shocks has

been the pandemic caused by COVID-19, which has affected us for more than two years. And now the war in Ukraine. These are of great magnitude for they have affected the entire global economy. Beyond these six shocks, there are several smaller scale ones, like the severe floods and natural disasters, hurricane induced evacuation and so on. There was also another generalised shock, since the Trump Presidency, of a receding of globalisation, and fall in the volume of world trade. This negative sentiment can hurt exporting nations like India, which depends on strong exports to aid domestic growth. India also took some "shock" like decisions like walking out of a free trade agreement called RCEP at the last moment in November 2019.

The resilience of the economy is a measure of how well the economy was able to cope with these negative shocks. The short answer is "quite well." In earlier times each of these shocks would have caused the economy to founder. But now there is sufficient resilience, in the form of diversification of economic activity, safety buffers in terms of stock of food or forex, and well-funded welfare schemes which do not allow the economy to go off the rails. An example of the latter is the free food scheme that has been running for more than two years and has protected a large section of India's public from food inflation and ensured food security. This has prevented an income and jobs crisis (caused by the pandemic) from becoming a food crisis. The contrast with neighbouring Sri Lanka and Pakistan is quite stark and displays the relative lack of resilience in their respective economies. Resilience is not built overnight but is the effect of cumulative economic policies. On this count certainly the Indian economy has come a long way. Though there is no cause for complacency, the dark clouds of war and inflation do have this silver lining.

The writer is a noted economist.
@THE BILLION PRESS



Ajit Ranade

IN THE PAST EIGHT YEARS, THE ECONOMY HAS SUFFERED MAJOR ADVERSE SHOCKS BOTH INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL

As the Narendra Modi-led government completed three years during this Lok Sabha, and cumulatively eight years since Modi first became Prime Minister in 2014, there have been many articles assessing the government's performance. Such assessments can be done through the social, political or economic lens. On the former, we can look at the metrics of social mobility and empowerment, social cohesion and reduction in social tensions, enhancement of law and order and feeling of safety and so on. For the political lens, we can look at stability and evidence of political will to enforce difficult decisions. For the economic lens, which is the topic that this column will cover, it is metrics like generation of jobs, rise in people's incomes, and price stability. These are the main variables that affect most people's daily lives. For people care about economic well-being and opportunities to rise, especially for their young ones. The non-income related variables are education and health. One can examine many other indicators which are indirectly related to job creation and income rising. These could be exports, investment, savings, stock markets, foreign inflow of investment, rising stock of foreign exchange and so on.

We will not undertake a detailed analysis of how various conventional economic indicators have behaved in the past eight years. That would be left to another column, for another day. Suffice to say that eight years ago India was emerging from an externally induced shock called "taper tantrum," and internally caused stress due to high inflation and perceptions of high scales of corruption. Perhaps voters were unhappy with the perceived scale of corruption (remember the three-year movement called "India Against Corruption?"), and were also worn out with the prevailing double-digit inflation. The "taper tantrum" refers to the phenomenon that the United States had started to "taper" their monetary expansion, leading to an instinctive and massive out-

SPECTRUM GLOBALISATION

The death of Davos?

Now that we have entered a new period of geopolitical conflict, protectionism, and regionalism, one wonders whether the cosmopolitan, globalised world of Davos is gone forever. Returning after a two-year pandemic hiatus, this year's World Economic Forum meeting in the Swiss Alps was a shadow of its former self.

In previous decades, the event was brimming with optimism. New peace agreements were forged, emerging markets were propelling themselves toward prosperity, and democracy was on the march. As the New York Times columnist Thomas L. Friedman famously put it, the world seemed increasingly "flat," with all the old hurdles to international interconnectivity disappearing. It was all somewhat hyped, as was typical of that era. Few really believed that an earthly paradise was around the corner, or that history had really ended. But there was no denying that things were looking up, and that Davos was the place to go to pay homage to the spirit of the time. This year, the weather was grey and drizzly, and the talk was of war, sanctions, inflation, and supply shortages. The International Monetary Fund's managing director, Kristalina Georgieva, sought to reassure everyone that she does

not expect an economic recession. But depression was the dominant mood in most of the formal and informal discussions.

Pessimism certainly seems justified. With no end in sight to Russia's war on Ukraine, any engagement with the Russian economy or the Kremlin will remain off limits for most of the world - and certainly the West - for the foreseeable future. China's trajectory meanwhile, has become increasingly uncertain. My guess is that the country's leadership is feeling rather uneasy about President Xi Jinping's recent commitment to a "no limits" friendship with Russia, not to mention his "zero-COVID" strategy, which has locked down Shanghai - China's center of dynamism - and exacerbated the country's mounting economic problems.

But it is not all doom and gloom. The fight against COVID-19 has been a triumph for science and ultimately for the idea of an open global economy. Yes, the inequities in the distribution of vaccines, treatments, and tests will leave a stain on the international community's response; but the initial wave of trade restrictions and vaccine nationalism has given way to more cooperation. The past two years have underscored the value

of global scientific cooperation, open markets, and well-functioning supply chains.

The pandemic offers important lessons for managing future challenges, particularly climate change. While recent developments have injected some pessimism into the climate debate, there may yet be a silver lining. Rapidly rising oil and gas prices are creating powerful incentives to accelerate the transition to renewable and alternative energy sources. If science could deliver on vaccines, it should also be able to deliver on the climate challenge. Already, there is a growing awareness that the problem warrants urgent attention.

Even surveying the bleak political landscape, one can find the occasional bright spot. For example, Finland's and Sweden's applications for NATO membership have renewed the alliance's credibility and relevance, and strengthened transatlantic relations. And the European Union, having exceeded its own expectations in marshaling support for Ukraine, is now emerging as a critical pillar in the European security order. While major challenges lie ahead, the EU now has a strong foundation on which to build. More broadly, the democratic

West has regained some of its lost vigor and moral clarity in its firm, united opposition to Russia. With Russia continuing to commit the international crime of aggression (as well as numerous atrocities), its support in the United Nations General Assembly has dwindled to just a handful of outlaw regimes.

Looking ahead, the critical international issue will be how to maintain global cooperation on global challenges. Russia will be out of the picture, but China will remain a key player alongside increasingly relevant countries like India. It remains to be seen what, if anything, will emerge from the ruins of the G20 this year. The creation of a new grouping with a more relevant membership would not be the worst outcome.

The old Davos glory days are certainly gone. Far from becoming flat, the world has become scattered with new trenches and barriers. But it is not all bad. The current (psychological) depression may be as unwarranted as was the previous ebullience. We should focus on being realistic and clear-eyed about the mounting global challenges we face. If we can manage to do that, we may yet prevail over them.

The writer is a former Prime Minister of Sweden.
@PROJECT SYNDICATE



Carl Bildt

FAR FROM BECOMING FLAT, THE WORLD HAS BECOME SCATTERED WITH NEW TRENCHES AND BARRIERS

The plastic problem

Sir, The Centre's decision to impose a nationwide ban on single-use plastics from July 1 is a positive move in the right direction at a time when several countries have already done so. The move comes "to limit single-use plastic to enhance environmental sustainability." A total of 175 countries pledged 2 March this year to end the use of plastics by 2030. India was also a signatory to the promise, which was made at the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) in Nairobi, Kenya. India is now banning 20 single-use plastic products. Single-use plastic has become an integral part of our lives that we often overlook its enormous negative consequences. Despite the fact that most of us only use single-use plastic for a few minutes at a time, it persists in our surroundings for years, degrades into microplastics, and pollutes the environment. This type of environmental hazard affects not only humans but also the entire ecosystem. These plastics are not properly disposed of frequently and hence are not recycled. Thus, single-use plastic has become a big issue in India in recent years. India is confident about the ban on single-use plastics and plans to phase them out by 2025. Meanwhile, there is an urgent need to find better alternatives to single-use plastic that are inexpensive, durable and readily available.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

The Congress exodus

Sir, The quitting of the Congress by prominent leaders like Kapil Sibal has exacerbated the crisis the party faces. Sibal announced that he had resigned from the Congress as he filed Rajya Sabha nomination papers with Samajwadi Party backing. Sibal's resignation from the party has come as a terrible blow to the Congress which is struggling to pick up the pieces after its lacklustre performance in the recently held elections. Sibal is the fifth prominent leader to leave the party after Sunil Jakhar, Hardik Patel, Ashwani Kumar and RPN Singh. The party leadership is at a loss for how to tackle the exodus the party faces. Sibal's quitting of the Congress is a wake-up call for the party. The party leadership must not take the resignation of high-profile leaders lightly. The party leadership needs to wake up to reality and realise the ills the party faces. A weak Congress cannot counter the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The leadership needs to come out of the cocoon and take immediate steps to rejuvenate the party.

Venu GS, KOLLAM

There is no better way to become friends than to laugh together.

THE MOTHER



Now, Xinjiang Files

The cat is out of the bag, again. The impregnable Chinese Wall of one-sided propaganda suppressing alleged persecution, domination and torture of Uyghur Moslems in Xinjiang province appears to have been breached. The purported secret documents - known as Xinjiang Police Files - recording ruthless attempts to subjugate the minority population by the Han China rulers give a horrifying picture of the repression that the Chinese leadership has, for so long, been rubbishing as a Western propaganda. These documents are claimed to have come directly from the Chinese security forces and were published May 24. Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation with cooperation from 13 media outlets from 10 countries have given the world an inside view of China's 're-education camps' and the 'prison-like' conditions that Uyghur Moslems are forced to endure inside them. The 'files', which include leaked internal police documents and over 2,800 photographs of detained Uyghurs, including some as young as 15, were released first as part of a research article authored by Dr Adrian Zenz, Senior Fellow, China Studies, at the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation in Washington.

The media outlets which got access to the research findings include the BBC, Le Monde, and USA Today. The documents confirm what has been known from various sources and inside information. They describe, with chilling precision, the system under which entire families belonging to the Uyghur minority are crushed, held under suspicion through association and detained for being close to another detainee, or because of a 'strong religious family atmosphere.'

The 'files' reveal how the head of the region, Chen Quanguo, in internal Chinese Communist Party speeches, congratulated himself on the fact that the 'four ruptures' had been 'well accomplished.' The 'ruptures' are breaking family lineages, people's roots, their relationship with the outside world and with their own origins. No one has ever believed Beijing's official explanation that the internment camps for Uyghurs and other Moslem ethnic groups in the Xinjiang region are 'professional training centres.' The many testimonies of survivors that have appeared in the press in recent years have given the world a clear idea of the arbitrary targeting of entire populations, the prison system, forced sterilizations and indoctrination intended to erase the distinctive signs of their culture.

The leaked information contains records of speeches from officials in 2018 with orders of "first shoot, then report" for incidents of suppression of the inmates. Dr Zenz tweeted May 24 that he could obtain the mine of information by "hacking into Xinjiang police/re-education camp computers." He claims to have unearthed "first-ever image material from inside camps". According to his sources China's President Xi Jinping wants new camps to be set up because the existing ones are overcrowded.

The Uyghurs live in the Xinjiang region of China which is located in the country's northwest. In the past, the Uyghurs, who are ethnically different from the Han Chinese forming the largest ethnic group in China, demanded greater autonomy. This is because most Uyghurs consider their own culture as distinct from that of the Han Chinese. Moreover, the Chinese government has been systematically resettling more Han Chinese to Xinjiang for top jobs and even encouraging them to marry, in some cases through official pressure. Uyghur women so as to cut off the future generations from their ethnic roots. This has caused widespread resentment among Uyghurs.

The Chinese government has adopted the strategy of demonising many Uyghur groups and individuals branding them as terrorists and extremists. Since 2018 international organisations have reported alleged detention of Uyghurs in large numbers. China, however, has consistently denied such reports. It says that Uyghurs are being given vocational training for acquiring various skills. The Chinese government has also maintained that some of the camps are 'de-radicalisation' and 'counter-terrorism' centres.

But the Xinjiang Police Files have punctured the Chinese propaganda claiming that around 2 million Uyghurs have been herded into these camps to indoctrinate them through coercion. This is contrary to reports carried in the Chinese communist party-backed Global Times newspaper that the measures taken against Uyghur terrorists have been successful and that "there have been no violent terrorist cases for over four consecutive years in the region."

The BBC, however, reported in 2018 that Uyghur villages in the region were under strict surveillance. Uyghur government officials were prohibited from practising Islam, attending mosques and fasting during Ramadan. In 2021, China banned BBC World News from broadcasting in China mainly due to their coverage of Xinjiang. The next year The New York Times carried a report based on more than 400 pages of leaked documents from China. Some of these were speeches given by Xi Jinping explaining the principle of a ruthless and total crackdown.

The Xinjiang Police Files have revealed the extent of state-sponsored atrocities on the religious-minded minority Uyghurs whose moorings in their traditional culture and belief system pose a challenge to the political doctrine of the Chinese government. Also, these sudden leakages of information from inside China could also point to a brewing discontent within the superstructure. Someone or some people, fed up with Xi's style of functioning, may have a hand in these spill out of vitally secret information.

Interestingly, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet, who is on a six-day trip to China from May 23, is being taken on a conducted tour. The trip will turn into China's public relations exercise to tell the world that all is well in Xinjiang. International brands are in a dilemma. It is difficult for them to decide whether to leave Xinjiang or not. With the rising costs of both cotton and shipping and increasing competition, the West is likely not to rub China the wrong way no matter what explosive truths tumble out of the Xinjiang Files.

WISDOM CORNER

- The season of failure is the best time for sowing the seeds of success. PARAMAHANSA YOGANANDA
- Life is like a game of cards. The hand you are dealt is determinism; the way you play it is free will. JAWAHARLAL NEHRU
- Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth. MUHAMMAD ALI

WORDSWORTH

Tatterdemalion

A tatterdemalion is a tattered or ragged person. It's a lively, rattling, machine-gun word, one chosen by many writers as suitable accompaniment to invective or disparagement. But where it comes from is open to argument. The first part seems pretty certain to be our English tatter. Some writers trace the second bit to the French maillon, swaddling clothes. Others say it comes from the Italian maglia for undershirt or (British English) vest. Support for this comes from the very earliest use, by Ben Jonson in 1611, which he spelt as tatter-de-mallian, reportedly said as though it were Italian.

LOL

Solving a dispute

Two little squirrels were walking along in the forest. The first one spied a nut and cried out, "Oh, look! A nut!" The second squirrel jumped on it and said, "It's my nut!" The first squirrel said, "That's not fair! I saw it first!" "Well, you may have seen it, but I have it," argued the second. At that point, a lawyer squirrel came up



and said, "You shouldn't quarrel. Let me resolve this dispute."

The two squirrels nodded, and the lawyer squirrel said, "Now, give me the nut." He broke the nut in half, and handed half to each squirrel, saying, "See? It was foolish of you to fight. Now the dispute is resolved." Then he reached over and said, "And for my fee, I'll take the meat."

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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national

of the day quote

We will take strict action against tenants and house owners, who fail to provide 'information' at the police station

PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CHIEF MINISTER

Why a section of the people in the political and administrative circles have become so greedy

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

Those who have joined Trinamool recently after measuring waters for a long time will be given election nominations immediately. Whatever happened in the past will not be repeated. I can guarantee that

ABHISHEK BANERJEE | TRINAMOL CONGRESS'S GENERAL SECRETARY



Congratulations to all those who have cleared this year's #UPSC civil services exam. Very happy to see women bag the top 3 ranks. All of you now have a great responsibility of serving India with utmost integrity and commitment. My best wishes for your future careers

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

FLOOD SITUATION IMPROVES

The flood situation in Assam improved Monday with all rivers flowing below the danger mark even as four persons, including three children, lost their lives and over 2.90 lakh people continued to suffer from the deluge across six districts, an official bulletin said



STEPS TOWARDS GOOD HEALTH: Army personnel and other participants perform *yoga asanas*, ahead of International Yoga Day, at Cobra Ground in Jabalpur. 'Yoga for Humanity' has been chosen as the theme of the eighth International Day of Yoga to be organised in India and across the globe June 21

PM CARES SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

Nearly 4K kids orphaned during Covid benefitted

AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 30: Nearly 4,000 children who were orphaned during the Covid-19 pandemic have benefitted under a new PM CARES scholarship scheme, the social justice and empowerment ministry said Monday.

The new "Scholarship for PM-CARES Children" scheme under the ministry was formulated as a central sector scheme, it said.

Under the scheme, a scholarship allowance of ₹20,000 per child per annum would be given, which will comprise a monthly allowance of ₹1,000 and an annual academic allowance of ₹8,000 to cover the school fees, the cost of books, uniforms, shoes and other educational equipment, the ministry said in a statement.

The scholarship will be disbursed through direct benefit transfer to the children from Class



1 until they pass the Class-12 exam. The ministry said 3,945 children have benefitted under the scheme with an amount of ₹7.89 crore during 2022-23. Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the benefits under the PM-CARES for Children Scheme Monday. Modi transferred the scholarship to school-going children. Also, a passbook of PM CARES for Children and a health card under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana were handed over to children during the programme.

SHORT TAKES

RS polls: Jayant files papers

Lucknow: Rashtriya Lok Dal chief Jayant Chaudhary Monday filed his nomination for the Rajya Sabha polls as a joint candidate of the Samajwadi Party-RLD combine. Accompanied by Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, Chaudhary reached Uttar Pradesh Assembly premises in the morning to file his nomination. The SP won 111 seats in the recent Assembly polls in the state while its ally RLD got eight. The Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party, another ally of the SP, won six seats. According to the Election Commission of India, the last date for filing the nomination for the Rajya Sabha polls is May 31. The documents will be scrutinised June 1 and the last date for withdrawal of candidature is June 3.

2 ultras killed in encounter

Srinagar: Security forces shot dead two Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) militants in an overnight encounter in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said Monday. One of the slain terrorists was involved in the killing of police constable Reyaz Ahmad earlier this month, a police spokesman said. He said that on a specific input generated by the Kulgam police regarding the presence of terrorists in village Gundipora of Pulwama, a joint cordon and search operation was launched by security forces.

Sadhu Yadav gets 3 yrs jail

Patna: A special court for cases against MLA-MLCs here Monday sentenced Sadhu Yadav, the brother-in-law of RJD supreme Lalu Prasad Yadav, to three years jail in 2001 assault case. The MLA-MLC court held him guilty under Sections 347 (wrongful confinement), 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty), 448 (house-trespass), and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code for entering the office of state Transport Department in Patna and manhandling officials there.

Petrol dealers not to buy fuel today

New Delhi: Petrol pump dealers across 24 states have decided not to purchase diesel and petrol from oil companies Tuesday to mark their protest against dealers' commission which has not been revised since long, it was announced Monday. Around 70,000 outlets across 24 states will not buy fuel from oil marketing companies.

MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

ED arrests Satyendar Jain

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

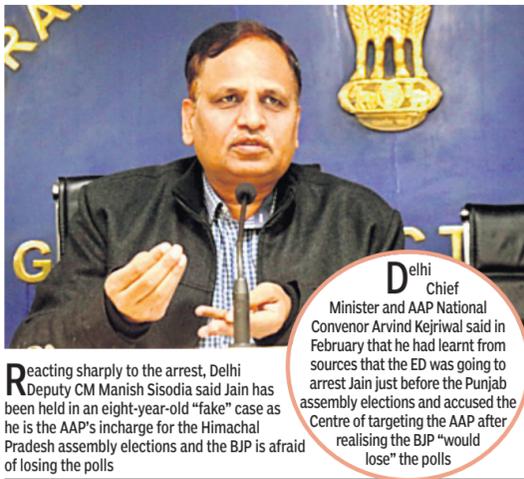
New Delhi, May 30: Delhi minister Satyendar Jain was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday in a money laundering case, with his Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) calling it a political move ahead of the Himachal Pradesh assembly polls.

He was taken into custody under criminal sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) after a few hours of questioning, ED officials said.

They alleged he was "evasive" in his replies. The minister is expected to be produced before a designated court Tuesday.

The arrest has been made by the federal agency in connection with alleged hawala dealings. Reacting sharply to the arrest, Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said Jain has been held in an eight-year-old "fake" case as he is the AAP's incharge for the Himachal Pradesh assembly elections and the BJP is afraid of losing the polls.

"A fake case has been going on against Satyendar Jain for eight years. He has been called by the ED several times so far. The ED had stopped calling him for some time because it did not find anything



Delhi Chief Minister and AAP National Convener Arvind Kejriwal said in February that he had learnt from sources that the ED was going to arrest Jain just before the Punjab assembly elections and accused the Centre of targeting the AAP after realising the BJP "would lose" the polls

against him. Now it has again started because he is the incharge of Himachal Pradesh elections," Sisodia said in a tweet in Hindi.

"The BJP is afraid of losing the elections and hence he was arrested to prevent him from going to Himachal. He will be released soon as he has been arrested in a fake case," Sisodia added. Jain, 57, is the minister for health, industries,

power, home, urban development and water in the Arvind Kejriwal-led government.

The Himachal Pradesh assembly polls are slated for later this year and the AAP is looking to make inroads into the state after its stupendous victory in Punjab earlier this year. The ED had said last month that assets worth ₹4.81 crore of Jain's family and com-

panies "beneficially owned and controlled" by him were provisionally attached as part of a money laundering probe against him. In a statement issued then, the ED had said it issued a provisional order under the PMLA to "attach immovable properties worth ₹4.81 crore belonging to Akinchan Developers Pvt. Ltd., Indo Metal Impex Pvt Ltd, Paryas Infosolutions Pvt. Ltd., Manglayatan Projects Pvt. Ltd., J.J. Ideal Estate Pvt. Ltd., Swati Jain, wife of Vaibhav Jain, Sushila Jain, wife of Ajit Prasad Jain, and Indu Jain, wife of Sunil Jain."

The probe found that "during the period 2015-16, when Satyendar Kumar Jain was a public servant, the companies beneficially owned and controlled by him received accommodation entries to the tune of ₹4.81 crore from shell (paper) companies against cash transferred to Kolkata-based entry operators through the hawala route."

The named persons in the attachment order are associates and family members of Jain, officials said. The money laundering case against the AAP minister stems from an August 2017 FIR filed by the CBI against him and others on charges of alleged possession of disproportionate assets.

Two die as heavy rain lashes Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 30: Two persons were killed and several injured as a fierce thunderstorm packing winds of up to 100 kmph and heavy rains battered the national capital Monday evening, uprooting hundreds of trees, disrupting road and air traffic and damaging vehicles and buildings, including the iconic Jama Masjid.

Police and fire brigade personnel responded to scores of rescue calls while commuters went through a harrowing time as they were caught in massive traffic jams in many areas, including Lutyens' Delhi, ITO, Kashmiri Gate, MB Road and Rajghat, caused by waterlogging and uprooting of trees.

This was the first storm of "severe" intensity in Delhi since 2018, a Met department official said. Delhi recorded 17.8 mm of rainfall till 5.30 pm, and the thunderstorm led to a drastic fall in the temperature at the Safdarjung Observatory -- from 40 degrees Celsius at 4:20 pm to 25 degrees Celsius at 5:40 PM.



Chidambaram, Ramesh, Tankha file nomination

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 30: Congress leaders P Chidambaram, Jairam Ramesh, Vivek Tankha and Imran Pratapgarhi filed their nomination papers Monday for the June 10 election to Rajya Sabha, amid voices of discontent emerging from within the party over the choice of candidates.

Congress president Sonia Gandhi had on Sunday night cleared the names of 10 party leaders including Ajay Maken, Randeep Surjewala and Mukul Wasnik.

Soon after the announcement of the candidates, actress-turned-politician Nagma Morarji and the party's national spokesperson Pawan Kherra made clear their disappointment over not being nominated.

Nagma also raised questions over the candidature of minority cell head Imran Pratapgarhi while Congress leader Acharya Pramod Krishnam said that suppression of talent is a "suicidal step" for the party. Sanyam Lodha, who is also an adviser to Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, said the

RS POLLS



Congress should re-reconsider its decision to field candidates to the Rajya Sabha from outside the state. "Shayad meri tapasya mein kuch kami reh gayi (Maybe my penance

fell short)," Kherra tweeted. Responding to it, Nagma said, "My 18 years of penance fell short before Imran bhai (Imran Pratapgarhi, who has been fielded from Maharashtra) "Sonia Ji our Congress president had personally committed to accommodating me in RS in 2003/04 when I joined Congress party on her behest we weren't in power then. Since then it's been 18 years (but) they didn't find an opportunity. Mr Imran is accommodated in RS from Maha. I ask am I less deserving," she tweeted.

However, both Kherra and Nagma later congratulated the nominees. Imran Pratapgarhi, when asked about his candidature said, "There is no opposition to my candidature and the entire party stands united. The entire country comes within Maharashtra and there is no question of outsider or insider."

"There is no question of any kind of opposition to the decision of Congress chief Sonia Gandhi and the entire party stands together behind her decision. We will win the Rajya Sabha election."

Curbing tobacco use will cut cancer cases by one-third: Experts

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 30: To combat the rising menace of cancer in India, curbing tobacco use is the best way, experts said Monday ahead of the World No Tobacco Day, observed every year May 31.

Tobacco is a prominent cause of heart disease, cardiovascular disease, lung disease and brain stroke. India has the world's highest incidence of tobacco-related cancer.

The number of Indians suffering from cancer is projected to increase to 29.8 million in 2025 from 26.7 million in 2021, revealed a recent report by the Indian Council for Medical Research.

According to Dr. Dinesh Pendharkar, Director, Sarvodaya Cancer Center at Sarvodaya Hospital, Faridabad, there are about 15 lakh new cases of cancer in India every year, but 40 per cent of these are caused by tobacco alone.

"If we want to combat the challenge of cancer, our focus should be on radically curbing the consumption of tobacco. This will prevent 5-7 lakh new tobacco-related cases of cancer every year, substantially reducing the cancer burden of the society," he said.

Tobacco contains nicotine and 4,000 other chemicals which cause cancer not only of the mouth and lungs, but also of food pipe, stomach and kidneys. The impact of

The use of tobacco in various forms such as gutka, zarda, mawa, kharr, khaini, cigarett, bidi, and hookah is a major cause of tumour development in the oral cavity. It is directly associated with approximately 80 per cent of oral cancers in men and women

tobacco on health goes much beyond cancer as it affects every organ of the body. While there is a marginal de-

Youngsters are increasingly consuming smokeless tobacco either due to imitation and/or peer pressure. While early detection improves the chances of survival, the treatment includes surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy

cline in the habit of smoking among Indians in recent years due to the stigma and curbs on smoking. However, this has been compen-



sated by people switching from smoking tobacco to chewing tobacco to meet their nicotine addiction, Pendharkar said.

He noted that Indians are more vulnerable to tobacco-related cancers because it is easy to get addicted to tobacco in the country.

"This is due to the widespread habit of chewing paan (betel nut), which quickly escalates to chewing tobacco. While there is a social taboo against smoking at a young age, no such inhibition exists for paan, which leads many youngsters to get addicted to tobacco at an early age," he said.

Experts also stated a surge in types of mouth cancer occurring on the lip, gums, tongue, the inner

lining of the cheeks, the roof of the mouth, and floor of the mouth (under the tongue) in India due to tobacco usage. Widespread use of paan masala amongst the youth is also a major reason.

"I am now seeing cancer patients as young as 15-17 years who have been consuming tobacco in some form or the other," Pendharkar said.

"Cases are not just rising in rural areas, but in urban areas as well. Nowadays, there is a shocking trend seen wherein youngsters in the age group of 20-30 are affected with oral cancer," added Dr Suhas Aagre, Oncologist and Hemato-Oncologist at Asian Cancer Institute.

18 murders in 20 days: Chennai mirrors TN's rising crime graph



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, May 30: Citing the recent killings in Chennai, former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition K. Palaniswami, has said that the state capital is "turning into a murder city with 18 murders in 20 days". However, Greater Chennai City police commissioner, Shankar Jiwal refuted the claim, saying that only 10 murders took place in the city, and of them, four were due to personal enmity and six because of family disputes.

Palaniswami made the remark immediately after the killing of BJP's district leader, K. Balachander in Chennai's Chintadripet area. While the top police officer has all the right to defend his force, the killing of a small-time financier, Arumugham (36), on the busy Aminjikarai road in broad daylight was a shock. Four men chased the financier and hacked him to death.

The DMK government has assumed office in May 2021 with the promise that the police will be strict and would deal with the miscreants with an iron fist. However, with number of killings on rise in many parts of Tamil Nadu, the police force and the state administration seems to be on the receiving end.

On May 26, the day when the Prime Minister was arriving in the state, Lakshmanan, a 55-year-old priest, was hacked to death in Madurai by a three-member gang while he was on way to temple. This was another major blow for the Tamil Nadu Police, forcing the Director-General of Police (DGP) to intervene in the matter. Police acted swiftly and arrested the culprits who were close relatives of the deceased priest.

Meanwhile, in another embarrassment for the state police, two al-

leged custodial deaths took place on April 19 and 26 in two separate incidents in Chennai and Myladuthurai. In Chennai, a Scheduled Caste youth Vignesh who was picked up by the police along with an accomplice Suresh on April 18 died on 19 in the police station. Autopsy revealed that Vignesh had 13 injuries including a broken right leg and bruises on the face, hands, shoulders, and chest. Sub-Inspector of Police and constables were arrested in the case.

Similarly, on April 26, **The DMK government has assumed office in May 2021 with the promise that the police will be strict and would deal with the miscreants with an iron fist**

Even as killings have turned routine and people are worried over the frequent murders, DGP C. Sylendrababu said that the law and order situation was well maintained in the state

Thangamani(46) died in Myladuthurai sub-jail. He was picked by the police on April 25 charging that he was brewing illicit liquor. The relatives of the deceased alleged that Thangamani was brutally tortured in the station and he died in sub-jail on next day morning due to the torture inflicted in the station. In Chengalattu district, adjoining Chennai, two youths were hacked to death by a three-member gang in January. Chengalattu district is home to several major industries in Tamil Nadu including international automobile manufacturers and software companies, and the brutal killings could possibly lead to the loss of investors' confidence.

R. Swaminathan, head of industrial relations in a big multinational company in Chengalattu said: "Any investor will be comfortable when the law and order situation is good but after the murder of two youths and another killing have led to sort of uneasiness in our management. The government is trying its best it seems, but we need assurance that the police will deal with an iron hand."

Even as killings have turned routine and people are worried over the frequent murders, DGP C. Sylendrababu told reporters on May 24 that the law and order situation was well maintained in the state. The DGP said: "No instances of caste or communal clashes in Tamil Nadu or firing or deaths due to spurious liquor; occurred in the state. So it is very peaceful."

However, he admitted that illicit liquor was brewed in certain parts of the state but the police have arrested several people who were indulging in illicit brewing of liquor. While the DGP is claiming that there are no caste-related killings in the state, four beheadings in 10 days during September 2021 had sent a chill through the spines of people of south Tamil Nadu. All the murders were caste-related and the DGP had to camp in Madurai and intervene to quench the violence erupted following the incidents. C. Rajeev, Director, Centre for Policy and Development Studies, a think tank based out of Chennai, said: "Back to back killings and custodial deaths have dented the image of Tamil Nadu police and the Chief Minister who is in charge of the home department must ensure that law and order are maintained properly for a safe and peaceful Tamil Nadu. No one must be allowed to take the law into his hands, and beyond a point, situation would turn grave and out of control if it is not handled now."

HIJAB-CLAD STUDENTS DENIED ENTRY

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Dakshina Kannada (Karnataka), May 30: The hijab crisis is yet again showing signs of resurgence in Karnataka as some students were sent back from their college on Monday in Mangaluru city of Dakshina Kannada district.

Twelve hijab-clad students of University College in Mangaluru tried to enter classrooms, but were stopped by the college authorities. They were sent back after refusing to take off their hijabs.

These students were sent back on earlier occasions also after the college reopened following the protests by hundreds of students against the wearing of hijab in classrooms.

After being refused to enter classrooms, the students went to the office of the District Commissioner (DC) of Dakshina Kannada Dr Rajendra K.V to submit a memorandum in this regard. The students demanded that the DC direct the college management to allow



them inside classrooms with hijab.

The hijab crisis, which started as a protest by six students of Udupi Pre-University Girl's College, has turned out to be a major situation in Karnataka over the past year.

The issue attracted international attention. The students filed a petition with the High Court seeking permission to wear hijab in classrooms. The High Court constituted a special bench of

Twelve hijab-clad students of University College in Mangaluru tried to enter classrooms, but were stopped by the college authorities. They were sent back after refusing to take off their hijabs

The hijab crisis, which started as a protest by six students of Udupi Pre-University Girl's College, has turned out to be a major situation in Karnataka over the past year

three judges and heard the petition immediately.

The Special Bench headed by the Karnataka High Court Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi dismissed the petition filed by the students and observed that wearing of hijab is not an essential practice in Islam.

The government of Karnataka has issued guidelines for the schools and pre university colleges making uniform compulsory for students without giving any room for wearing of hijab in classrooms.

TN HR&CE sends notice to temple

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, May 30: The Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments(HR&CE) department, which controls the administration of all major temples in the state, has sent a notice to diskshithars of Nataraja temple, Chidambaram asking them to keep the details of accounts and assets of the temple ready for inquiry on June 7 and 8.

It is to be noted that the dikshithars are already annoyed with the HR&CE department for issuing orders to resume darshan at the Kanaga Sabha of the temple.

The HR&CE, in its notice to the general diskshithars of the Nataraja temple, said that the inquiry committee will look into the petitions received regarding the management of the temple, to check whether the management is fol-

The HR&CE, in its notice to the general diskshithars of the Nataraja temple, said that the inquiry committee will look into the petitions received regarding the management of the temple, to check whether the management is following the rules and give suggestions on the same

lowing the rules and give suggestions on the same. The notice was issued on May 26 by the HR&CE Cuddalore district assistant director and inquiry committee coordinator C. Jothi. The no-

notice, according to sources in the HR&CE, was issued to the secretary, general dikshithar's council of Arulmigu Sabhanayagar Temple or Nataraja Temple.

In the notice, the HR&CE department has directed the dikshithar council which is managing the day-to-day affairs of the temple to keep ready the details regarding the income and expenditure of the temple since 2014. The notice also stresses on producing audited reports, details of work done in temple, permission obtained from archeological and HR&CE departments, and assets including jewels, cash, and land records of the temple.

An office-bearer of the dikshithar council, said: "We have approached for a legal advice regarding the notice of the HR&CE department. We will respond after we get the advice."



Bangalore logs over 200 Covid cases after 88 days



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, May 30: For the first time in 88 days, Bangalore has reported more than 200 Covid-19 cases in just 24 hours, raising concerns among health authorities.

According to the Karnataka Health Department, the state capital registered a total of 232 cases, while the positivity rate has also increased to 1.20 per cent.

The last time Bangalore breached the 200 cases mark was on March 3 with 239 infections. Currently, there are 1,943 active Covid cases in the city and majority of them are being treated at home. There were no new containment zones declared in the last 24 hours. The city has five containment zones presently and a total of 12,930 Covid tests were conducted Sunday.

In the same period, the state registered a total of 241 new Covid cases. For the 11th consecutive day, no deaths were reported.

The total number of active cases in the state has gone up to 2,041 and the positivity rate stood at 0.95 per cent. Some 18,000 tests were conducted across Karnataka Sunday.

Yoga Day in Mysuru: PM reviews preparations

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, May 30: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to participate in the International Yoga Day celebrations to be held in Mysuru on June 21 as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', an official communication from the Karnataka Chief Minister's office stated Monday.

Modi held a video conference with Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai to discuss the preparations for the event.

"All the preparations have been completed. The stage is set to conduct the International Yoga Day in a big way at the Mysuru Palace premises in Karnataka and I am looking forward to your arrival," Bommai told the Prime Minister. State Chief Secretary P Ravikumar, Additional Chief Secretary Vandita Sharma, CM's Principal Secretary N Manjunath Prasad and other officials were present.

Modi held a video conference with Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai to discuss the preparations for the event

The Union Ministry of Ayush had earlier confirmed the 8th International Day of Yoga (IDY) at Mysuru city on June 21.

The Ministry had written to Karnataka Chief Secretary P. Ravikumar and asked him to issue directions to all the concerned to make arrangements for the successful organisation of the main event of IDY-2022.

The letter said "the preparations for IDY-2022 are already underway. As the upcoming 8th IDY is falling in 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' year, this Ministry plans to observe IDY at 75 iconic sites across the country. This year, the IDY will be focused on Branding India on the global stage."



TN tribal hamlet deprived of power connection



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, May 30: The Erumaiparai tribal hamlet in Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR) is deprived of power connection and people are still in the dark when night sets in the settlement. The Tamil Nadu forest department has submitted applications to the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution (Tangedco) company for providing power to the tribal hamlet. The project has hit a roadblock after Tangedco demanded a payment of ₹6 lakh extra for insulated power lines.

A senior official of the Anamalai Tiger Reserve said, "The ATR had given a proposal to the Tangedco for providing power connection to 34 houses in Erumaiparai tribal hamlet. However, Tangedco is demanding ₹6 lakh extra for insulated cable wires and the project has hit a roadblock. This means we are depriving the most marginalised people of the society of power

connection and are leaving them in the dark".

K. Murugadasan, member of the eco-development committee of ATR said, "Each family has deposited ₹3,500 for electricity connection six months ago. However, there is no information on the power connection and during rainy season solar panels don't work and our children are forced to study under kerosene lamps."

According to guidelines of the Supreme Court, standing committee of National board for wildlife and the Union environment min-

The ATR had given a proposal to the Tangedco for providing power connection to 34 houses in Erumaiparai tribal hamlet. However, Tangedco is demanding ₹6 lakh extra for insulated cable wires and the project has hit a roadblock. This means we are depriving the most marginalised people of the society of power connection and are leaving them in the dark

FARMER ESCAPES LEOPARD ATTACK



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mandya, (Karnataka) May 30: In a shocking development, a farmer miraculously escaped a leopard attack in H. Hosur village of Maddur taluk in Mandya district in Karnataka.

The incident had come to light Monday. The locals have appealed to the forest department to catch the leopard which is creating havoc and panic among surrounding villages.

Sunday evening, Jagadish, who was going towards his agricultural land at 6.30 p.m., was attacked by a leopard. He fought with the leopard for about 15 minutes. "While struggling to save my life, I also screamed out for help. On hearing my screams, the people nearby rushed to help. On seeing them, the leopard ran away," he said. The farmer suffered severe injuries and received ten stitches on his head and is undergoing treatment in a hospital. According to the locals, the leop-

Sunday evening, Jagadish, who was going towards his agricultural land was attacked by a leopard. He fought with the leopard for about 15 minutes

ard had been on a prowl in the region for the past three days. It had terrorised people in Hosalli and Kembutanagere villages and taken away two goat kids.

In spite of all these developments, the forest department is turning a blind eye to their plight, they alleged. Farmers are now scared to go to their agricultural fields since it has started attacking human beings, they added. They have urged the district authorities to catch the feline posing a life threat and rehabilitate it.

of the day quote

Spiralling fuel rates, high inflation rate, and the surging price of essentials are synonymous with the Modi regime. What is also worrisome is that the Constitution is constantly undermined and disregarded

CHANDRIMA BHATTACHARYA | MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE OF WB

All the preparations have been completed. The stage is set to conduct the International Yoga Day in a big way at the Mysuru Palace premises and I am looking forward to your arrival

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI | KARNATAKA CHIEF MINISTER

While considering the people of the state as our family, we have worked with the spirit of Haryana Ek-Haryanvi Ek

MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR | HARYANA CM

SHORT TAKES

Idukki: 15-yr old girl gangraped

Idukki(Ker): A day after a 15-year old girl, daughter of migrant workers from West Bengal, was allegedly gangraped by four persons in Idukki district of Kerala, police Monday said it was questioning several persons including those suspected of being involved in the crime. Speaking to reporters, Idukki SP Karuppasamy R said questioning of the suspects and others has revealed some clues and based on that police were moving forward with the investigation.

Delhi Congress stages protest

New Delhi: The Delhi Congress staged a protest near Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence here Monday accusing the Aam Aadmi Party of being responsible for Sidhu Moosewala's killing in Punjab a day before. The protesters, including Delhi Congress president Anil Kumar, marched from Sushruta Trauma Centre towards Kejriwal's residence but were stopped by the Delhi Police at a barricade.

4 killed in Raj road mishap

Jaipur: Four people, including two children, were killed and seven others injured Sunday in a collision involving three vehicles in Rajasthan's Pratapgarh district, police said. Two critically injured have been referred to Udaipur for treatment, they said.

Bimal Gurung hospitalised

Gangtok/Darjeeling: GJM supreme Bimal Gurung has officially ended his 100-hour hunger strike after he has been hospitalised following a deterioration of his health while his party has decided not to contest the upcoming GTA elections. Gurung, who was staging an indefinite hunger strike at his party's Singamari office in Darjeeling town since May 25 demanding the deferment of the June 26 Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) polls and expansion of the semi-autonomous council's jurisdiction, fell ill Sunday and was admitted to a hospital in the hill town in West Bengal.

Labourer dies

Imphal: A labourer from West Bengal died and four others were injured after unidentified miscreants triggered a suspected improvised explosive device (IED) at a community hall in Manipur's Thoubal district in the early hours of Monday, police said.



Today, the manufacturing and servicing/repairing of ships and aircraft of ICG is being done indigenously. The ICG is spending almost 90 per cent of its capital budget on the development of indigenous assets

RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

Centre aims to cut power output from 81 coal plants

India faced a crippling power crisis in April, when a rapid surge in power demand led to a scramble for coal, forcing the country to roll back plans to cut thermal coal imports to zero



AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 30: India plans to reduce power generation from least 81 coal-fired utilities over the next four years, the federal power ministry said in a letter, in an effort to replace expensive thermal generation with cheaper green energy sources.

The plan aims to maximize green energy potential and save costs, the letter sent to top energy department officials of state and federal government said, but will not involve shutting down old and expensive power plants. India has 173 coal-fired plants.

"The thermal power plants in future shall operate up to the technical minimum to accommodate cheaper renewable energy when it is available," the ministry said in the letter dated May 26.

India faced a crippling power crisis in April, when a rapid surge in power demand led to a scramble for coal, forcing the country to

roll back plans to cut thermal coal imports to zero.

An increase in peak power consumption during the night when solar power is not available has made phasing out coal-fired generation a big challenge. The addition of alternative sources such as nuclear and hydro power have also been slow.

India is the world's second largest consumer, producer and importer of coal, and the fuel accounts for nearly 75% of annual electricity generation. The world's third largest greenhouse gas emitter is currently 37% short of its end-2022 green energy target.

India's current power crisis could have been averted if its target to install 175 GW in renewable energy had been on track, think tank Climate Risk Horizons said in a report in May.

"The additional generation from solar and wind ... would have allowed power plants to conserve their dwindling coal stocks for evening peak periods," Climate

Risk Horizons said.

The power ministry's plan to reduce coal-fired generation when renewable sources are available could also ease pressure on logistics. India's power crisis has been made worse by a shortage of trains to move coal.

India expects the plan to reduce power generation by 58 billion kilowatt hours (kWh) from the 81 utilities to save 34.7 million tonnes of coal and cut carbon emissions by 60.2 million tonnes, the letter said.

The Central Electricity Authority of India (CEA) has predicted a peak power demand of 214 GW in August. In addition, the average energy demand could also increase to more than what it is in the month of May to 1,33,426 million units (MUs).

"The onset of the southwest monsoon will further hamper mining and transportation of coal from mines to power stations. If coal stocks are not replenished to adequate levels before monsoon, the country might be heading towards yet another power crisis in July-August 2022," CREA said.

JAYA PRADA KEEN TO SHIFT TO TELUGU POLITICS

Actor-politician Jaya Prada Monday said that she is keen to shift to the politics of the Telugu states. The former MP and BJP leader told reporters that she wants to become active in politics of Telangana or Andhra Pradesh. "This time, I am very keen to come to the politics of Telugu states," she said during an interaction with media persons



Black ink thrown at Tikait; 3 nabbed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, May 30: Miscreants Monday threw ink on farmer leader Rakesh Tikait during an event organised by a farmers' organisation at the Gandhi Bhavan here following which three people were arrested for the attack.

Soon after the incident, clashes took place between the organisers and the miscreants leading to both sides attacking each other with plastic chairs. The miscreants then allegedly shouted 'Modi-Modi'. The High Grounds police have arrested three people in this connection.

Karnataka Home Minister Araga Jnanendra said, "We are in touch with the officers. Three people have been arrested and are being interrogated. I denounce this act. Everyone has got the right to freedom of expression under the Constitution."

He also dismissed the allegation that those who targeted Tikait were BJP leaders.

According to the organisers, the programme, which also included a press conference, was convened to "clear doubts" on farmer leader Kodihalli Chandrashekar following a sting operation against him, and Tikait was invited for it.

In the meeting, the miscreants appeared in the crowd posing as journalists and pretended to take notes.

One of them then then went to the stage apparently to adjust the microphone in front of Tikait and then tried to attack him with the mike.



Soon after the incident, clashes took place between the organisers and the miscreants leading to both sides attacking each other with plastic chairs

Eye-witnesses said that Rakesh Tikait suffered an injury on his head

The SKM has demanded strict punishment for those who threw ink on Tikait

Another person came there and threw ink on Tikait that stained his turban, face, white kurta, and green shawl worn around his neck. Reacting to the incident, Tikait said the attack on him was in connivance with the state government.

"The local police is responsible for it and it happened due to the connivance of the government," Tikait told reporters. He demanded an independent and fair investigation into the case to ascertain the credentials of the men who staged the attack. After the incident, Karnataka Congress chief D K Shivakumar called on the farmer leader. The Aam Aadmi Party too condemned the assault.

Gyanvapi row: Case adjourned till July 4

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Varanasi, May 30: The district court here Monday heard the 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

District Judge AK Vishvesh posted the matter for further hearing July 4. During the hearing Monday, the Muslim side argued against the maintainability of the plea, district government counsel Rana Sanjiv Singh said.

The counsel for the Hindu side Vishnu Shankar Jain told reporters that the court has categorically stated that the report on the videography survey of the complex will be made available to all the parties.



However, only the court will tell what will be the conditions for this, he said. 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 had claimed a 'Shivling' was found during the exercise. 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 with an experience of over 25-30 years handles this case.

DGCA slaps ₹10L fine on Spicejet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 30: The aviation regulator DGCA has imposed a fine of ₹10 lakh on SpiceJet for training its Boeing 737 Max aircraft's pilots on a faulty simulator as it could have adversely impacted flight safety, sources said Monday.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had last month barred 90 SpiceJet pilots from operating the Max aircraft after it found them being trained on a simulator that had its stick shaker on the co-pilot's side inoperative.

Stick shaker warns pilots whenever it detects that the plane has stalled mid-air.

After barring the pilots, the regulator issued a show-cause notice to the airline in April, the sources told PTI. The response sent by the airline was not found satisfactory, they mentioned.

Mann announces setting up judicial panel for probe



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh/Dehradun, May 30: Amid protests over the Sidhu Moosewala's murder, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann Monday announced setting up a judicial commission headed by a sitting high court judge to probe the killing of the famous Punjabi singer, even as police said it has got several important leads in the case.

The Punjab Police also said it has rounded up some suspects, including five in Uttarakhand, in connection with the case after a CCTV footage emerged on social

media which shows the Moosewala's vehicle being followed just before he was shot dead.

The Chief Minister's announcement came after Moosewala's father Balkaur Singh urged him to order a probe by a sitting high court judge into the killing of his son. Expressing shock over the killing, Mann said, "The Punjab government will request the Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court to get the case inquired into by a sitting judge of Punjab and Haryana High Court."

MOOSEWALA KILLING

The state government will extend full cooperation to this panel, including roping in any of the central agencies such as the National Investigation Agency (NIA), he said. Facing severe criticism from opposition parties over the pruning of the singer's security cover, the chief minister said he has already ordered an inquiry at the highest level to look into the matter and fix responsibility.

TOUCHING THE SKY



Aircraft of the Indian Air Force during an air show at the Passing Out Parade of the 142nd course of the National Defence Academy (NDA), at Khadakwasla in Pune

'MASS DEATHS' IN PEACE TIMES

AHMEDABAD: You cannot escape responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today, said Abraham Lincoln. If so be true, is an elected government and its bureaucracy not culpable if it is found fudging death figures and has faulted in tackling a health emergency like the Covid pandemic?

It seems not in Gujarat, for despite the 'seismic' faults brought to light by a vigilant judiciary there has hardly been any noticeable action, the high mortality figures, notwithstanding.

Though fearful of the likely fall-out of the large-scale mishandling of the pandemic and its fall-out on the elections due in Gujarat this year, the BJP top brass (read PM Modi) removed Chief Minister Vijay Rupani and his entire cabinet and brought in little known Bhupendra Patel as replacement with a laundry fresh cabinet. This was, however done, more to tide over the anti-incumbency than with a genuine desire to fix both lacunae and responsibility and bring the guilty to book in a state where the pandemic had consumed over a lakh of people.

Whether it was the Rupani government which was in power from August 2016 to September 2021 or

Bhupendra Patel who replaced him as Chief Minister thereafter, the Gujarat government adamantly stuck to the figure of 10,094 (10,164 as of January 17, 2022) Covid related deaths in the state.

The shroud however lifted when, in details placed before the Supreme Court, the Gujarat government had to admit that till February 3, 2022 it has received 1,02,230 Covid death claims, approved 87,045 and disbursed the compensation amount of ₹50,000 to 82,605 families while rejecting 8994 applications with 6000 applications still under scrutiny. The figure for children orphaned in Gujarat due to the pandemic at the time of the submission was 5867 with compensation being paid in 3287 of these cases.

Further proof, if needed, came March 9 when the Gujarat government made an additional provision of ₹585 crore for providing compensation to the next of kin of Covid-19 victims as per the apex court guidelines. By rough calculation the government was provisioning for a total compensation payment to 1.17 lakh people.

Hauled over the coals following the disclosure, the state government explained away the discrepancy in



figures due to the Supreme Court amending the definition of coronavirus deaths last year.

One of the legacies handed down by the 13 years of Modi's chief ministerial stint to his successors has been a marked tendency towards opacity in information sharing. This was most noticeable in Gujarat when government agencies moved every sinew in their system to thwart data collection of Covid death victims by media persons. Obviously the state was hiding a mountain of data as the figures of Covid-19 deaths in Gujarat has risen ten times over followed by Telangana with eight times.

It is the Supreme Court which has proved the saviour of the next of the kin of Covid victims. The Centre initially sought to wash its hands off the affair. When the Supreme Court insisted that compensation will have to be paid and the Centre may decide the quan-

tum that it came up with a figure of ₹50,000 to be paid by the states.

It is not merely the Supreme Court which took up cudgels on behalf of a harassed population left to battle a killer virus, the Gujarat High Court also tried hard to stir a somnolent Rupani government into action, but apparently in vain.

When the first Covid wave hit Gujarat in 2020, it's High Court, had suo motu initiated a PIL. It had strong words to say for the Rupani government's handling of the pandemic. In an order May 23, 2020, it had termed conditions at the Government Civil Hospital in Ahmedabad where 377 Covid-19 patients had died by then as 'pathetic'. "The hospital is as good as a dungeon, may be even worse," a division bench of Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice IJ Vora had observed as it issued a host of directions to the state government. "Does the health minister of the state have any idea about the problems which patients, doctors, nursing staff and other employees are facing? How many times has the concerned minister interacted with medics and staff on the spot to understand their difficulties," the order questioned. A year later, it was again the High Court which

rallied to the help of the citizenry.

Just about an year later, April 11, 2021, the High Court, this time the Chief Justice Vikram Nath took suo motu cognizance and initiated a PIL observing that media reports indicated that the "state is heading towards a health emergency of sorts" and also that there was an uncontrolled upsurge and serious management issued in Covid-19 control."

On April 16, 2021, in an order, the division bench of Chief Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Bhargav Karia had asked the state government to release the actual figures of death of Covid-19 patients and those who died with co-morbid conditions. "Suppression and concealment of accurate data would generate more serious problems including fear, loss of trust and panic amongst public at large," it had pointed out.

If the judiciary was straining every nerve, the executive's response seemed tepid, even when the highest court of the land was concerned. The Supreme Court, through an order of October 4, 2021 ordered disbursement of ₹50,000 compensation to the next of kin of Covid-19 victims with directions for disbursing the amount

within 30 days. "No state government will deny the benefit on the ground that the cause of death on the death certificate is not Covid-19 and the district authorities should take remedial measures to get the cause of death correct," ruled the Supreme Court.

A word for the wise should be enough but the Gujarat government response stumped enough to make lawyer Amit Panchal approach the Supreme Court to point out that the state had April 29 issued a notification appointing a committee to certify the claims.

The apex court sought to simplify procedures through setting up of district committees to address grievances of compensation seeking families. The Gujarat government found its own interpretation and used this window to appoint a scrutiny committee to award compensation. Apparently, taking advantage of the court order to simplify procedures, the government had gone ahead and appointed a scrutiny panel of its own to award compensation eliciting an angry reaction from the apex court and forcing the Gujarat government to retreat. There is accountability in war crimes, what about 'mass deaths' in peace times?

international



Next summit in Madrid will be a "historic" opportunity to strengthen the alliance in the face of Russian aggression against Ukraine on its eastern edge
JENS STOLTENBERG | NATO SECRETARY-GENERAL

NEW UK VISA OPTION

Graduates from the world's top 50 non-UK universities, including Indian students, can now come and work in Britain through a new High Potential Individual visa route launched in London Monday



of the day quote

Turkey will not allow "terrorism-supporting" countries to join the NATO
RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN | TURKEY PRESIDENT

The minimum threshold for foreign direct investment will be brought down to 20 million NPR (\$160,760) from the existing 50 million NPR
JANARDAN SHARMA | NEPAL FINANCE MINISTER

Our government signed an agreement with Russia to buy oil at 30 per cent discounted rates. Our government was dislodged under a conspiracy
IMRAN KHAN | FORMER PAK PM

Pak's LeT, JeM have hundreds of fighters, camps in Af: UN report

United Nations, May 30: Pakistan-based terror groups such as Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba, led by 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks mastermind Hafiz Saeed, maintain their training camps in some provinces of Afghanistan and some of them are directly under the Taliban control, according to a UN report.

The 13th report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team cites a UN Member State as saying that Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), a Deobandi group ideologically closer to the Taliban "maintains eight training camps in Nangarhar, three of which are directly under Taliban control."

India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador T S Tirumurti, in his capacity as Chair



document of the Council." The report said that Jaish-e-Mohammed, a Deobandi group led by Masood Azhar, is ideologically closer to the Taliban. Qari Ramazan is the newly appointed head of

JeM in Afghanistan. It added that Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) is described in the previous Monitoring Team reports as having provided finance and training expertise to Taliban operations.

"Within Afghanistan, according to one Member State, it is led by Mawlawi Yousuf," the report said, adding that in October 2021, according to one Member State, another LeT leader, Mawlawi Assadullah, met with Taliban Deputy Interior Minister Noor Jalil.

The same Member State reported that in January 2022, a Taliban delegation visited a training camp used by LeT in the Haska Mena district of Nangarhar. "The group was said to maintain three camps in Kunar and Nangarhar. Previous LeT members have included Aslam Farooqi and Ejaz Ahmad Ashangar (a.K.A. Abu Usman al-Kashmiri), both of whom

joined ISIL-K," the report said. Another Member State said that there was no evidence of the presence of JeM and LeT in the region as a consequence of effective security operations targeting them, according to the report.

The 13th report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team of the Taliban Sanctions Committee is the first report since the August 15 takeover of Kabul by the Taliban.

It notes that the period between then and April 2022 has seen the Taliban consolidate control over Afghanistan, appointing 41 United Nations-sanctioned individuals to the Cabinet and other senior-level positions in their de facto administration. They have favoured loyalty and seniority over competence, and their decision-making has been opaque and inconsistent.

Beijing man sends 5,000 into quarantine



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Beijing, May 30: A man in Beijing is under criminal probe after he skipped out on mandated Covid-19 home isolation, prompting authorities to send his more than 5,000 neighbours into home or government quarantine, officials said Monday.

The actions by the man, who later tested positive, come as the Chinese capital and Shanghai begin to ease restrictions, the Guardian reported. According to the officials, the man, in his early 40s, had been told to isolate at home after he entered a shopping plaza deemed a risk area on May 23.

They alleged that during his period of isolation he "went out many times, and moved in the community, risking the spread of the epidemic", before he and his wife tested positive five days later, the Guardian reported. In response, authorities ordered 258 people who lived in his building to go to government quarantine centre, and the more than 5,000 others who lived in the residential community to stay at home.

China has imposed harsh curbs on its population as it works to eliminate outbreaks of the highly transmissible Omicron variant of Covid-19.

China's zero-Covid policy has come under criticism for its significant negative impact on the economy and people, particularly in Shanghai, but President Xi Jinping has doubled down on demands that it continue, and succeed, the Guardian reported.

WB TO GIVE \$700 MN TO SL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, May 30: The World Bank is planning to disburse USD 700 million to crisis-ridden Sri Lanka by re-purposing its existing loans, a move that will help the island nation grappling with an unprecedented economic crisis much-needed breathing space till a bailout package with the IMF is worked out, media reports said Monday.

Sri Lanka is nearing bankruptcy and has severe shortages of essentials from food, fuel, medicines and cooking gas. For months, citizens have been forced to stay in long lines to buy the limited stocks.

The World Bank Country Manager Chiyo Kanda met Sri Lankan Foreign Minister last week and assured him that the agency will work with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the UN office to "re-purpose their already committed projects," news portal Colombo Gazette reported.

"Minister Peiris sought assistance from the World Bank until long term assistance materialises through the IMF, other international institutions and donor countries," the report said, quoting a statement from Sri Lanka's Foreign Ministry.

SHORT TAKES

4 dead in crash

Zagreb: Authorities in Croatia said Monday that the wreckage of a small plane that had gone off the radar on the weekend was found, and that all four people on board were dead. Search teams found the Cessna 182 plane near Brocanac, central Croatia, said the head of the civil protection teams, Damir Trut. He said police have launched a probe into the accident.

Journalist killed

Paris: The French news broadcaster BFM TV said a 32-year-old French journalist was killed Monday in eastern Ukraine, fatally hit by shell shrapnel while covering a Ukrainian evacuation operation. BFM TV said its journalist Frédéric Leclerc-Imhoff was killed as he was "covering a humanitarian operation in an armoured vehicle" near Sievierodonetsk, a key city in the Donbas region that is being hotly contested by Russian and Ukrainian forces. He had worked for six years for the French television channel. French President Emmanuel Macron paid tribute to Leclerc-Imhoff on Twitter.

10 more rescued

Makassar: Ten more survivors of an Indonesian boat that sank three days earlier were rescued Monday by local fishermen, leaving 11 people still missing, an official said. The captain and other crew of the cargo vessel, which was carrying 42 people, were among those rescued Monday, said Djunaidi, head of the provincial search and rescue agency.

PTV anchor fired

Islamabad: Pakistan Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb said Monday that Pakistan Television (PTV) has terminated the services of one of its anchorpersons who was part of a Pakistani-American delegation that visited Israel earlier this month, media reports said. The removal of the anchorperson came a day after Israeli President confirmed a meeting with a delegation of Pakistani expatriates which he termed as "an amazing experience", Express Tribune reported.

Brazil floods: Death toll rises to 91

Brasilia: Authorities in northeastern Brazil's Pernambuco state said Monday that 91 deaths have been confirmed from flooding over the weekend, with more than two dozen people still missing. Hundreds of state and federal rescue workers were searching for 26 people currently unaccounted for, according to the official statement. Brazil's President flew over the affected area of Pernambuco's capital, Recife, and neighbouring Jaboatao dos Guararapes.

Nepal plane crash: 21 bodies found

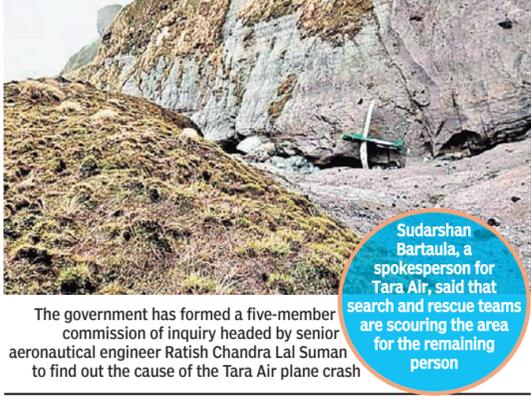
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, May 30: Rescuers Monday recovered 21 bodies from the wreckage site of the Tara Air plane that crashed in Nepal's mountainous Mustang district on Sunday with 22 people on board, including four Indians, minutes after taking off from the tourist city of Pokhara, officials said.

The turboprop Twin Otter 9N-AET plane went missing on Sunday morning in the mountainous region of Nepal. The Canadian-built plane, flying from Pokhara to the popular tourist town Jomsom in central Nepal, was carrying four Indians, two Germans and 13 Nepali passengers, besides a three-member Nepali crew.

Rescuers have recovered 21 bodies from the crash site, said a statement issued by the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN). One person was still missing, the statement added. It said that 10 bodies were brought to Kathmandu, while 11 bodies were taken to the base camp from where the rescue operation is being coordinated.

Sudarshan Bartaula, a spokesperson for Tara Air, said that search and rescue teams are scouring the area for the remaining person. The government has formed a five-member commission of inquiry headed by senior aeronautical engineer Ratish Chandra Lal Suman to find out the cause of the Tara Air plane crash.



The government has formed a five-member commission of inquiry headed by senior aeronautical engineer Ratish Chandra Lal Suman to find out the cause of the Tara Air plane crash

to the right, instead of turning to the left due to inclement weather, CAAN Director-General Pradeep Adhikari said during a meeting of the International Committee of the Parliament on Monday.

Earlier in the afternoon, the CAAN in a statement said that the plane had crashed at Thasang-2 in Mustang district at the height of 14,500 feet. Inda Singh, who was on his way to clear a blocked road, found out that the plane had crashed. He said the plane was found in a completely damaged condition, MyRepublica newspaper reported.

"All the passengers on the aircraft are found dead," he was quoted as saying by the paper. "The dead bodies are intact and the faces of all victims are recognisable." He said

there was no fire on the aircraft. The aircraft could have met with an accident after hitting a cliff nearby. Search and rescue teams from Nepal Army, Air Dynasty, Kailash Helicopter and Fishtail Air Helicopter and other rescue workers were deployed at the crash site. The 9N-AJR Helicopter of Fishtail Air was the first to land at the crash site and confirmed it at 8:10 am today, according to the CAAN. The airline's passengers list identified four Indians as Ashok Kumar Tripathy, his wife Vaibhavi Bandekar (Tripathy) and their children Dhanush and Ritika. The family was based in Thane city near Mumbai. The relatives of the Indian victims were waiting in Kathmandu for identification of the bodies.

BUILDING COLLAPSE DEATH TOLL RISES

More unrest in Iran

While the protests so far still appear to be leaderless, even Arab tribes in the region seemed to join them Sunday, raising the risk of the unrest intensifying



Representative Image

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dubai, May 30: Protesters angry over a building collapse in southwestern Iran that killed at least 31 people shouted down an emissary sent by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, sparking a crackdown that saw riot police club demonstrators and fire tear gas, according to online videos analysed Monday.

The demonstration directly challenged the Iranian government's response to the disaster a week ago as pressure rises in the Islamic Republic over rising food prices and other economic woes amid the unravelling of its nuclear deal with world powers. While the protests so far still appear to be leaderless, even Arab tribes in the region seemed to join them Sunday, raising the risk of the unrest intensifying. Already, tensions between Tehran and the West have spiked after Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard on Friday seized two Greek oil tankers seized at sea.

Ayatollah Mohsen Heidari AleKasir tried to address upset

mourners near the site of the 10-story Metropal Building but hundreds gathered Sunday night instead boed and shouted. Surrounded by bodyguards, the ayatollah, in his 60s, tried to continue but couldn't.

"What's happening?" the cleric stage-whispered to a bodyguard, who then leaned in to tell him something. The cleric then tried to address the crowd again: "My dears, please keep calm, as a sign of respect to Abadan, its martyrs and the dear (victims) the whole Iranian nation is mourning tonight."

The crowd responded by shouting: "Shameless!" A live broadcast on state television of the event then cut out. Demonstrators later chanted: "I will kill; I will kill the one who killed my brother!"

The Tehran-based daily newspaper Hamsahri and the semi-official Fars news agency said the protesters attacked the platform where state TV had set up its camera, cutting off its broadcast. Police ordered the crowd not to chant slogans against the Islamic Republic and then ordered them to leave, calling their rally illegal.

China's maternal, infant mortality rates drop

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Beijing, May 30: China's maternal and infant mortality rates have both dropped to a historic low, the National Health Commission said Monday.

In 2021, China recorded a maternal mortality rate of 16.1 per 100,000, said Song Li, head of the commission's department of maternal and child health.

At the same time, the mortality rates of infants and children under five have decreased to 5 per thousand and 7.1 per thousand, respectively, both dropping to a record low, reports Xinhua news agency quoted Song as saying.

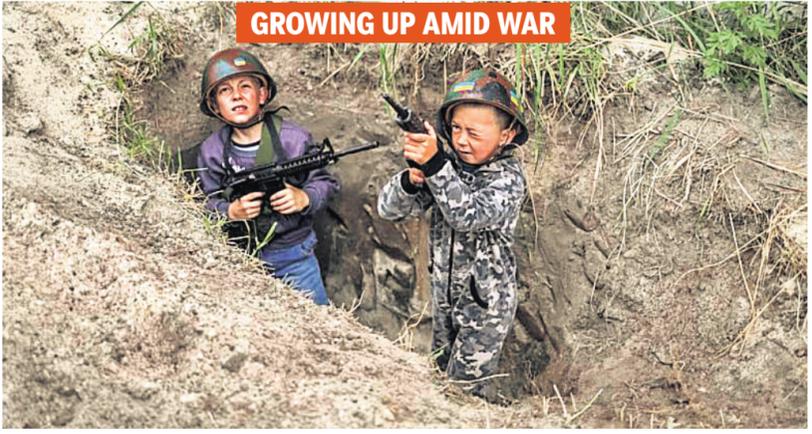
Compared to 10 years ago, maternal mortality rate, the mortality rates of infants and children under five have dropped by 38 per cent, 58 per cent and 54 per cent, respectively, according to the Commission.

Song noted that the country has made notable achievements in building healthcare mechanisms for women and children, improving related health services, and ensuring equal access to these services.



In 2021, China recorded a maternal mortality rate of 16.1 per 100,000, said Song Li, head of the commission's department of maternal and child health. Compared to 10 years ago, maternal mortality rate, the mortality rates of infants and children under five have dropped by 38 per cent, 58 per cent and 54 per cent, respectively, according to the Commission

There are 3,032 maternal and child healthcare institutions, 793 maternity hospitals and 151 children hospitals nationwide. The number of obstetrician-gynaecologists and paediatricians in the country has grown respectively to 373,000 and 206,000. With the improvement of the medical system, people in China now enjoy more equal access to maternal and child health services, Song said, adding that the rate of women giving birth in hospitals has remained above 99 per cent in recent years.



Ukrainian children Andrii, 12 and Valentyn, 6, stand in a foxhole near their houses in the village of Stoianka, in Kyiv REUTERS

Monkeypox won't turn into pandemic: WHO

MONKEYPOX IS KNOWN TO SPREAD WHEN THERE IS CLOSE PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH AN INFECTED PERSON OR THEIR CLOTHING OR BEDSHEETS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, May 30: The World Health Organisation's top monkeypox expert said she doesn't expect the hundreds of cases reported to date to turn into another pandemic, but acknowledged there are still many unknowns about the disease, including how exactly it's spreading and whether the suspension of mass smallpox immunisation

decades ago may somehow be speeding its transmission.

In a public session Monday, WHO's Dr Rosamund Lewis said it was critical to emphasise that the vast majority of cases being seen in dozens of countries globally are in gay, bisexual or men who have sex with men, so that scientists can further study the issue and for populations at risk to take precautions.

"It's very important to describe this because it appears to be an increase in a mode of transmission that may have been under-recognized in the past," said Lewis, WHO's technical lead on monkeypox.

Still, she warned that anyone is at potential risk of the disease, regardless of their sexual orientation. Other experts have pointed out that it may be accidental that the disease was first picked up in gay and bisexual men, saying it could



quickly spill over into other groups if it is not curbed.

Lewis said it's unknown whether monkeypox is being transmitted by sex or just the close contact between people engaging in sexual activity and described the threat to the general population as "low."

"It is not yet known whether this virus is exploiting a new mode of transmission, but what is clear is that it continues to exploit its well-known mode of transmission, which is close, physical contact," Lewis said.

Monkeypox is known to spread when there is close physical con-

tact with an infected person or their clothing or bedsheets. She also warned that among the current cases, there is a higher proportion of people with fewer lesions that are more concentrated in the genital region and sometimes nearly impossible to see.

"You may have these lesions for two to four weeks (and) they may not be visible to others, but you may still be infectious," she said. Last week, a top adviser to WHO said the outbreak in Europe, US, Israel, Australia and beyond was likely linked to sex at two recent raves in Spain and Belgium.

That marks a significant departure from the disease's typical pattern of spread in central and western Africa, where people are mainly infected by animals like wild rodents and primates, and epidemics haven't spilled across borders.

of the day quote

The fluctuating market scenario and increased preference for sustainable mobility have necessitated the availability of strong finance schemes to encourage the EV shift

SOHINDER GILL | CEO, HERO ELECTRIC

The real estate sector is seeing a strong revival with housing loan interest rates at decadal lows and property prices largely remaining flat

A BALASUBRAMANIAN | MD & CEO, ADITYA BIRLA SUN LIFE AMC

We are growing 20 per cent every month, and with the rigorous expansion on cards, we are on the lookout for a lot of talent. In the current times when many startups are laying off, we are aggressively hiring quality talent

ARCHIT GARG | CO-FOUNDER, GLAMYO HEALTH

SHORT TAKES

Google supports India's ShareChat

New Delhi: The parent company of India's ShareChat has raised nearly \$300 million in fresh funding from Alphabet Inc's Google, media giant Times Group and Singapore's Temasek Holdings, valuing the social media firm at nearly \$5 billion, two sources involved in the deal discussions told Reuters. This is Google's second key investment in India's short video space, having previously backed Josh, which competes with ShareChat's sister firm Moj.

LIC Q4 net profit declines 17% YoY

New Delhi: Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India Monday said its consolidated net profits for the quarter ended March stood at ₹2,409.39 crore, down 17.41 per cent compared to ₹2,917.33 crore in the same quarter last year. Net premium income stood at ₹1,44,158.84 crore, up 17.88 per cent from ₹1,22,290.64 crore in the corresponding quarter year ago. This is the first earnings statement from the insurance behemoth after getting listed on the bourses.

Gail to invest ₹6K cr on RE

Mumbai: State-owned Gail India will invest ₹6,000 crore in the next three years in renewables, a top official said Monday. The investment can go up by an additional ₹20,000 crore by 2030, GAIL India chairman and managing director Manoj Jain told reporters here. GAIL India Director (Finance) Rakesh Kumar Jain said the company, which reported a 112 per cent jump in FY22 post-tax net profit at ₹10,364 crore, has outlined an overall capital expenditure plan of up to ₹40,000 crore in the next five years, which will cover a wide array of areas.

Ethos shares dip 9% in debut trade

New Delhi: Shares of luxury and premium watch retail player Ethos Ltd Monday listed with a discount and settled nearly 9 per cent lower against the issue price of ₹878. The stock made its debut at ₹830, registering a decline of 5.46 per cent from the issue price on the BSE. The company's market valuation remained at ₹1,874.01 crore on the BSE. The initial public offer of Ethos was fully subscribed by 1.04 times on the last day of subscription May 20. The Initial Public Offering (IPO) had a fresh issue of equity shares aggregating to Rs 375 crore and an offer-for-sale of up to 11,08,037 equity shares.



In so far as banking privatisation is concerned, there is already a statement on the floor of the house by the finance minister for making enabling provision. Advance action on this is underway

SANJAY MALHOTRA | SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

NO WINDFALL TAX: ONGC

The government is not looking to impose any new tax on windfall gains that oil and gas producers earned from shooting energy prices, India's top producer ONGC said Monday. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd (OIL) reported bumper profits in the March quarter (when international prices soared to a near 14-year high of USD 139 per barrel) and record earnings in 2021-22



AMID PRIVATE EXPORTS BANNED

India urged to supply over 1.5MT wheat

The government has procured 184.58 lakh tonne of wheat at a MSP value of ₹37,192.07 crore so far in the ongoing 2022-23 rabi marketing year, benefitting 17.50 lakh farmers, the Food Ministry said



HALF A DOZEN COUNTRIES HAVE APPROACHED INDIA: OFFICIAL

BULK OF THE REQUEST HAS COME FROM BANGLADESH, A REGULAR BUYER OF INDIAN WHEAT

INDIA HAS ALSO RECEIVED REQUESTS FOR WHEAT FROM THE UN'S WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME FOR THE SUPPLY OF THE GRAIN TO COUNTRIES SUCH AS UGANDA AND ETHIOPIA

New Delhi, May 30: India has received requests for the supply of more than 1.5 million tonne (MT) of wheat from several countries that need the staple to overcome shortages triggered by the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, trade and government sources said Monday. "More than half a dozen countries have approached India for more than 1.5 million tonne of wheat and we will see how to go about these requests," said a government official who didn't wish to be identified in line with official rules.

"India is keen to help vulnerable countries and anyone who needs wheat," said the official involved in decision making. The bulk of the request has come from Bangladesh, a regular buyer of Indian wheat, the sources said. India, which has banned private wheat exports, is open to specific requests for grain from foreign governments. For Bangladesh, Indian wheat is at least 30% cheaper than supplies from other origins, and it takes

the world's biggest wheat importer, has also requested the supply of 500,000 tonne of the grain through diplomatic channels, they said. Jamaica and a few Asian countries are among other buyers looking for wheat from India, they said.

Bangladesh needs a lot of wheat and India might not be able to fulfil the entire requirement, said another dealer with a global trading firm. India has also received requests for wheat from the United Nations' World Food Programme for the supply of the grain to countries such as Uganda and Ethiopia. The government has procured 184.58 lakh tonnes of wheat at a MSP value of Rs 37,192.07 crore so far in the ongoing 2022-23 rabi marketing year, benefitting 17.50 lakh farmers, the Food Ministry said Monday.

Total wheat purchases made by the Food Corporation of India and state agencies are, however, much lower than the year-ago period. Other than Bangladesh, Egypt,

Norms tightened to check wheat export through fake papers

NEW DELHI: The Commerce Ministry Monday further tightened the norms for obtaining registration certificates for wheat exports with a view to curbing fraudulent practices such as submission of improper documents by scrupulous traders. On May 19, the DGFT issued guidelines to all its regional authorities (RAs) for strict compliance before issuance of Registration Certificates (RCs) to the eligible exporters. These instructions, by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), are being issued as it has received information from sources that fraudulent back dated L/C showing date of issuance as on or prior to May 13, 2022, are being submitted by some unscrupulous exporters for issue of RCs. The government is allowing wheat shipments for which irrevocable letters of credit (LoC) were issued on or before May 13, when the ban of the export of the food grain was imposed. In a trade notice, the DGFT said that in spite of these steps and due diligence exercised by RAs in the process, it has been apprehended that some of the exporters are applying for RCs based on "improper documents", so more checks are needed to be put in the system.

Sensex, Nifty rally to nearly 4-week highs

Reports of early onset of monsoon in Kerala and gains in global equities following easing inflation concerns and less hawkish tone of the US Federal Reserve in the recently released minutes boosted the investor sentiment



Equity investors' wealth jumped by over ₹10.19 lakh crore in the three-day market rally to Monday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 30: Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty surged by nearly 2 per cent Monday extending their winning run to a third straight day on gains in index major Reliance Industries, Infosys and TCS amid a firm trend in global equities.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rallied 1,041.08 points or 1.90 per cent to settle at a four-week high of 55,925.74. During the day, it soared by 1,197.99 points or 2.18 per cent to touch a high of 56,082.65. As many as 26 Sensex stocks ended in the green.

The broader NSE Nifty jumped 308.95 points or 1.89 per cent to settle at nearly four-week high of 16,661.40 with 45 of its constituents ending with gains. In the three day rally to Monday, Sensex jumped by 4 per cent or 2,176 points while Nifty soared by 635 points or 3.92 per cent.

Among Sensex stocks, Titan rose the most by 4.94 per cent. Mahindra & Mahindra rallied 4.69 per cent, Infosys by 4.57 per cent, L&T by 3.77 per cent and Rech Mahindra by

3.5 per cent.

Index heavyweight RIL soared by 3.44 per cent, and TCS by 3.47 per cent. HCL Technologies, UltraTech Cement, Wipro, and Bharti Airtel were also among leading gainers. In contrast, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Sun Pharma, Dr Reddy's and ITC were the laggards.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap jumped 2.28 per cent and smallcap gained 2.23 per cent.

All BSE sectoral indices ended higher, with consumer durables jumping 4.41 per cent, followed by realty (3.96 per cent), Information Technology (3.75 per cent), teck (3.53 per cent), consumer discretionary goods & services (2.85 per cent) and energy (2.72 per cent).

International oil benchmark Brent crude gained 0.43 per cent to \$119.9 per barrel. Foreign institutional investors continued their selling spree as they offloaded shares worth ₹1,943.10 crore Friday, according to stock exchange data.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE PUSH

Tata Motors inks pact to buy Ford India plant

The owner of Jaguar Land Rover already dominates India's fledgling electric car market



REUTERS

Bangalore, May 30: Indian automaker Tata Motors Ltd has signed an agreement to potentially buy a Ford Motor manufacturing facility in the western state of Gujarat as it looks to ramp up its production of electric vehicles.

The memorandum of understanding announced Monday covers the land, assets and all eligible employees working at the Sanand facility. The financial details of the agreement were not disclosed.

Tata said it would invest in new machinery and equipment at the plant through its electric mobility unit and expects the facility to have a production capacity of 300,000 units each year after the works complete. The capacity can be increased to more than 400,000 units.

"Rising customer preference for passenger and electric vehicles made by Tata Motors has led to a multi-fold growth ... this potential transaction will support expansion of capacity," said Shailesh Chandra, MD of Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd. Tata last year raised \$1 billion from private equity firm TPG for

M&M's electric vision

MUMBAI: Home-grown auto major Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) Monday said it is planning to launch the fully electric version of its XUV 300 SUV in the market in the first quarter of next year. The company also announced that it will unveil its electric vehicle business strategy, 'Born Electric Vision' of EV concept in the UK August 15. The Mumbai-based company has recently partnered with Volkswagen to explore the use of the latter's modular electric drive matrix components that can be used in its e-cars.

its EV business and competes in the space with Mahindra and Mahindra. The interest in the Sanand plant follows US automaker Ford's decision last year to stop production in India, where it had a less than 2% share of the passenger vehicle market and had struggled to turn a profit for more than two decades.

Dalmia, NABARD join hands to push financial dependency in 38 villages

BHUBANESWAR: Aiming to strengthen value chain in tribal development and boost the financial growth of panchayat families of 38 villages in Odisha, Dalmia Bharat Foundation (DBF) Monday undertook WADI project in association with the NABARD. Under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Dalmia Bharat, took the project which will strengthen financial growth of panchayat families of 38 villages under Rajgangpur and Kutra panchayats in Sundergarh. Through the initiative, farmers will be organised to form committees in every village, and the process to set up a farmer producers company by bringing together 500 farmers. While over 420 beneficiaries will receive assistance in mango and cashew plantation on 420 acres of land, 80 beneficiaries will be provided assistance in apiculture under the project. Moreover, DBF with this project is also aiming to expedite various programmes such as development of water resources, women empowerment through Self Help Groups (SHGs), training, skill development and income-generating programs in a bid to make farmers financially independent. "Our partnership with NABARD and the WADI model of tribal development goes a long way with successful adoptions in West Bengal and the North East region. We now look forward to extending these synergies in Rajgangpur and Kutra, with a core focus of empowering tribals to lead a sustainable livelihood," said Chetan Shrivastav, Unit Head, Dalmia Cement Bharat Limited, Rajgangpur.

Central Bank GM visits Bhubaneswar

BHUBANESWAR: Mukul N Dandige, General Manager, Central Bank of India, visited state capital for two days May 26-27 and interacted with many premium customers canvassing new business for the bank. A Customer Meet cum credit camp was also organised at the regional office here in which he interacted with the customers and stressed upon providing optimum service to them. Furthermore he distributed sanction letters aggregating to an amount of ₹50 crore. The Credit Camp was organised simultaneously across all branches in Bhubaneswar region. The programme was held in presence of Regional Head, Anadi Biswas and Chief Managers MK Tripathy, SC Mohapatra and LK Bhagat.



'CONSULTATION PAPER ON CRYPTO READY'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 30: The government will soon finalise a consultation paper on cryptocurrencies with inputs from various stakeholders and institutions, including the World Bank and the IMF, Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth said Monday.

He also underlined the need for a global response to deal with issues concerning cryptocurrencies as these operate in the virtual world.



"We have consulted not just the domestic institutional stakeholders but also organisations like the World Bank and the IMF. So, we hope that we will soon be in a position to finalise our consultation paper," he said. Simultaneously,

he said, India has also started work on some sort of global regulations.

"Countries which have prohibited, they can't success unless there is a global consensus around that. There has to be a broad framework of participation. Digital assets, whatever way we want to deal with those assets, there has to be a broad framework on which all economies have to be together. No country can choose to either of the position. We need a global consensus on crypto regulation," he said.

GST has not boosted states' tax collections: Ind Ra

Odisha is the only state having average SGST collection exceeding 14% with a 20.06% growth in SGST between FY19-22, and is followed by Bihar (13.89%), Assam, Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 30: Domestic ratings agency India Ratings Monday said the GST has not helped states achieve the key objective of boosting their tax revenue.

The rating agency said that the data does not point to any benefits to the states in the last five years since the implementation of GST (Goods and Services Tax). "...The data available so far does not instill confidence with respect (of) GST achieving or is on course to achieve its two key objectives, namely it boosts the tax revenue and is beneficial for the consuming states," the rating agency said.

The share of state GST (SGST) in States' Own Tax Revenue (SOTR) at 55.4 per cent during FY18-FY21



compared 55.2 per cent during FY14-FY17 indicates that the growth in both SGST and non-SGST components of SOTR has been broadly similar, it said.

"This means the GST implementation did not result in any incremental benefit to the SOTR. Moreover, SGST growth at an av-

erage 6.7 per cent during FY18-FY21 has been lower than the 9.8 per cent growth recorded by the taxes subsector under GST during FY14-FY17," it added.

From June this year, the Centre will stop giving states any compensation for tax collection shortfall

Several states have asked for an extension of the SGST compensation. However, FM Nirmala Sitharaman, while presenting the Budget for FY23, has already said that the compensation period will not be extended beyond June 2022

Sales Tax (CST) of up to 2 per cent on the inter-state sales, it said.

States where CST was contributing more than 4.5 per cent to their SOTR during FY12-FY17 were Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Odisha, Sikkim and Tamil Nadu - a mix of both pro-

ducing and consuming states.

"After the GST implementation, the proportion of CST in SOTR declined to 0.95 per cent in FY21 (RE) from 4.16 per cent in FY17," it said.

The agency said another way of assessing the GST performance of states is to examine the SGST growth during FY19-FY22, and pointed out that Odisha is the only state having average SGST collection exceeding 14 per cent with a 20.06 per cent growth in SGST between FY19-22, and is followed by Bihar (13.89 per cent), Assam, Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

A total of 17 major states recorded average SGST growth of below 10 per cent, while Uttarakhand recorded negative average SGST growth of 4.02 per cent during FY19-FY22.

HARDIK LAUDS 'MEMORABLE JOURNEY'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, May 30: Five-time IPL winner Hardik Pandya Sunday said his latest triumph, while leading first-timers Gujarat Titans, is something the coming generations will talk about.

Hardik's team capped off a dream campaign in its maiden season by lifting the Indian Premier League title with a seven-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals in the final here.

"This title is going to be a special one because we talked about creating a legacy. The coming generations will talk about it," Hardik said. "Everyone will remember this was the team who started this journey and to win the championship first year is very special."

The Gujarat Titans' triumphant skipper said he knew he was going to bat at number four for the first-timers after they got done with the mega auction ahead of IPL-15.

"When the auction finished, I knew I would have to bat at No.4," Hardik said at the presentation ceremony.

Hardik has won four IPL titles with Mumbai Indians. Gujarat's highly-rated bowling attack, led by skipper Hardik (3/17) himself, limited a formidable Rajasthan Royals batting unit to 130/9 after losing the toss.

Asked about his bowling, he said, "Wanted to show at the right time what I've worked hard for. Today was the day from the bowling point of view I saved the best for the best."

"Second ball of my spell when I got Sanju (Samson) out, saw that if you hit the wicket hard and hit the seam something is gonna (going to) happen. It's all about sticking to the right lengths, asking the batters to play the right shots."

Hardik, known for his big-hitting abilities, curbed his attacking instinct to some extent during the tournament, focussing more on guiding his team with his calm and composed leadership.

"For me my team is the most important. I've always been that kind of individual. If I were to have a worse season and my team wins, I'll take that. I will take the trophy any day over striking at 160. My team comes first for me."

Speaking about his batting, he said, "Batting comes first to me, always going to be close to my heart." Hardik has enjoyed a splendid run in his fresh IPL season with his home franchise. In 14 innings, he has scored nearly 500 runs at an average of 45.30 while also picking up plenty of wickets, which has earned him praise from many quarters.

Player of the Tournament, Jos Buttler, for amassing 863 runs, said he has "exceeded all my expectations apart from today".

"The trophy we really wanted. Disappointed with that. Big congratulations to Hardik and team. Deserving champions. My goals are to play my role for the team and try and react on the day regarding what the game is asking me to do," Buttler said.

"In good teams you have a lot of trust in everyone. We have huge trust in everyone in our team. Very grateful for the opportunity to play today. Disappointed - that's completely natural."

Notwithstanding the loss in the final, RR captain Sanju Samson was proud of the way his team played through the season.

"This season is a really special for us. We have been able to play good cricket and give fans some happy moments. All the youngsters, seniors played well as a team, I am proud of my team," Samson said.

"We believe quality bowlers win you the tournament. So we invested in them. With Jos playing throughout 20 overs, my role was a bit different. It was a decent season for me, nice 30s and 40s and 20s. But there is a lot to learn. And huge congratulations to Gujarat Titans," he added.



NUMBERS SAY IT ALL

BATTING

863 Runs scored by Jos Buttler (RR) in IPL-15 in 17 innings, most in the edition and he was followed by KL Rahul (LSG; 616, 15 innings). Buttler's number is second in the chart for most runs in a single edition after Virat Kohli's 2016 exploit (973 runs in 16 innings)

83 Number of 4s hit by Buttler in this edition, most in the chart ahead of David Warner's (DC) 52

13 Number of 4s hit by Moeen Ali (CSK) in an innings (vs RR), most by a batter in a match in 2022 IPL

45 Number of 6s hit by Buttler in this edition, most in the chart ahead of Liam Livingstone's (PBKS) 34

10 Number of 6s hit by Quinton de Kock (LSG) in an innings (vs KKR), most by a batter in a match in 2022 IPL

14 Balls faced by Pat Cummins (KKR; vs MI) to reach half century, fastest in this edition and joint fastest in the history of IPL alongside KL Rahul's feat in 2018

49 Balls faced by Rajat Patidar (RCB; vs LSG) to reach century, fastest in this edition

140* Quinton de Kock's knock against KKR is the highest individual score in a match in IPL-2015. This was the third highest in the history of IPL after Chris Gayle's 175 not out in 2013 and Brendon McCullum's unbeaten 158 in 2008 IPL opener

222/2: Team total by RR against DC, highest in this edition

68 Team total by RCB against SRH, lowest in this edition

42 Aggregate runs scored in a match (DC vs RR), highest in this edition

210* The unbeaten partnership between Quinton de Kock and KL Rahul (LSG; vs KKR) was the highest stand in this edition. This also became the highest opening stand in the history of IPL, while the third highest for any wicket, after two partnerships between Virat Kohli and AB de Villiers (229 vs Gujarat Lions in 2016 & unbeaten 215 vs MI in 2015)

BOWLING

27 Wickets taken by Yuzvendra Chahal (RR) in 17 innings, most in this edition ahead of RCB's Wanindu Hasaranga (26 in 16 innings)

3 Maiden overs bowled by Trent Boult and Prasad Krishna (both RR) in 16 and 17 innings, respectively

201 Dot balls bowled by Krishna, most by a bowler in this edition, ahead of his teammate Boult (176 dot balls)

19 Dot balls bowled by RCB's Harshal Patel (vs KKR) and SRH's Umran Malik (vs RCB), most by any bowler in an innings in IPL-15

5.57 Economy of Sunil Narine (KKR) in his 14 innings, where he had bowled 56 overs, best in this edition

5/10: Bowling figures of MI's Jasprit Bumrah (vs KKR), best in this edition

64 Runs conceded by RCB's Josh Hazlewood (PBKS) in an innings, most by any bowler in this edition. SRH's Marco Jansen (vs GT) was second in the list, conceding 63 runs

Yuzvendra Chahal (RR) is the only bowler to bag a hat-trick in this edition, achieving the feat against KKR



4 Number of centuries scored by Buttler in this edition of IPL

5 Number of half centuries scored by Warner in this edition of IPL



INDIA AIM FOR ASIA CUP FINAL BERTH



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jakarta, May 30: Defending champions India would look for an outright win against South Korea in their final Super 4 round-robin league match to book their place in the final of the Asia Cup men's hockey tournament here Tuesday.

India had almost clinched a spot in the title clash on Sunday before Rizie Rahim turned out to be Malaysia's saviour with a hat-trick in an enthralling 3-3 draw in their second 'Super 4' encounter. India had earlier defeated Japan 2-1 in their first match Saturday.

As the Super 4's table stands, South Korea with a goal difference of +2 (5-3) are on top with India (GD) of +1 (5-4) are placed second.

Japan with two defeats are out of the reckoning while Malaysia (GD) 0 (5-5) have an outside chance if they can beat Japan by a comprehensive margin (minimum 2 goals) provided India and South Korea match ends in a draw.

But come Tuesday, the Indians would look to avoid the permutations and combinations with an outright win over the Koreans.

However, it would be easier said than done as the Koreans looked a completely different side in the Super 4s, having drawn 2-2 against Malaysia and then beating Japan 3-1.

The Indians too upped their game by leaps and bounds after their first two pool games. India not only achieved an impossible task of beating hosts Indonesia by more than 15-goal margin in their last pool

India women rise to 6th, men drop to 4th

New Delhi: The Indian men's hockey team slipped to fourth spot but the women side gained a place to rise to No.6 in the latest FIH World Rankings, issued Monday.

At the top, Australia (2842.258) and Netherlands (3049.495) continued to be the world number one ranked teams in the men's and women's ranking.

In men's category, Netherlands (2465.707) replaced India (2366.990) in the third place based on their impressive results in the FIH Pro League.

Germany (2308.156) continues to hold fifth place but England's (2171.354) recent wins over France and South Africa completed their move to sixth, ahead

of Argentina (2147.179). Further down the table, New Zealand (1798.247) are in eighth place followed by Spain (1779.462) and Malaysia (1704.115), who moved into the top 10 due to a strong performance at the ongoing Hockey Asia Cup.

In women's world rankings, Australia (2440.750), England (2204.590) and Germany (2201.085) remain in third, fourth and fifth place respectively.

India (2029.396) have jumped to sixth at the expense of Spain (2016.149) who drop to seventh. Belgium (1991.089) are in eighth and followed by New Zealand (1914.412). The top ten is completed by Japan (1800.350).

Singh, SV Sunil and Pawan Rajbhar shining brightly with their industrious play.

The mid-field fared well so far but it is the Birendra Lakra-led backline which needs to pull up its socks as they conceded unnecessary penalty corners from which the Malaysians benefited.

But against the Koreans the Indians will have to be at their best as their opponents are known for brisk counterattacks. Meanwhile in the other Super 4 match of the day, Japan will play Malaysia.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Melbourne, May 30: The Indian women's team is set to host World Champions Australia for a five-match T20I series in December later this year.

The dates and the venue of the series, which was announced by Cricket Australia Monday as part of its men's and women's schedule for the season, remain unconfirmed.

The Indian women's team, which last appeared in the ODI World Cup in March, will next compete at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham in July before taking on hosts England in a white-ball series comprising three ODIs and as many T20Is in September.

"It is the start of an exciting eight months for the team that also includes a tour to India, home series against Pakistan, the opportunity to play in the Hundred and our own extended domestic season, before the T20 World Cup," Cricket Australia CEO Nick Hockley said.

CASH REWARD FOR CURATORS, GROUNDSMEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 30: Calling them 'unsung heroes', the BCCI on Monday announced a prize money of Rs 1.25 crore for the curators and groundsmen, who worked during the just-concluded Indian Premier League.

"I'm pleased to announce a prize money of INR 1.25 crores for the men who gave us the best games in #TATAIPL2022. The unsung heroes - our curators and groundsmen across 6 IPL venues this season," Shah said in a tweet.

"We've witnessed some high octane games and I would like (to) thank each one of them for their hardwork. Rs 25 lacs each for CCI, Wankhede, DY Patil and MCA, Pune. Rs 12.5 lacs each for Eden and Narendra Modi stadium."

For the first time, the BCCI is giving hefty incentives to groundsmen. The league matches were played at four venues in Maharashtra - Wankhede Stadium and Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai, the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai and the MCA Stadium at Gahunje in Pune.

The playoffs were played at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata and the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

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