



RAKHI ON CASTING COUCH

Rakhi Sawant has a startling opinion on the 'casting couch' in the film industry

GLITTERATI P10



HASINA SEEKS HELP

Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheik Hasina urges India, China, Russia and Japan to support to its bid to resolve the Rohingya crisis

INTERNATIONAL P12



MESSI HAT-TRICK SEALS TITLE

Lionel Messi's hat-trick helped Barcelona wrap up the 25th La Liga title with four matches to spare

SPORTS P15

HOLIDAY NOTICE
The offices of Orissa POST will remain closed May 1 (Tuesday) on account of 'May Day'. Therefore, there will be no edition of the paper May 2.
— EDITOR

SHORT TAKES

41 die in Kabul bombing

Kabul: At least 41 people, including nine journalists, died in a coordinated double suicide bombing here Monday for which the Islamic State militant group claimed responsibility. A militant on a motorbike carried out the first explosion at 8 am in Shashdarak area in Police District 9 which houses the offices of Afghanistan's intelligence service, the Defence Ministry, NATO and a number of foreign embassies, prompting journalists to rush to the scene. A second explosion took place 20 minutes later as a second attacker, disguised as a cameraman, detonated explosives at the site of the blast. **P 12**

Top Hizb ultra killed

Srinagar: A top Hizbul commander, Sameer Tiger, and his associate Aquib were killed in a gunfight with security forces Monday while a civilian also lost his life during clashes in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district. Police said Sameer who was a wanted militant commander in south Kashmir died at Drabgam. Three soldiers including a Major were injured in the gunfight. Although firing had stopped, security operations in the area were still going on.

PRIZED POSSESSION

London, April 30: After Facebook, another major social media outlet Twitter has been caught up in the data scandal involving Cambridge Analytica, the British political consulting firm which collected the data of 87 million Facebook users without their knowledge and permission. Aleksandr Kogan, who created tools for Cambridge Analytica that allowed the political consultancy to psychologically profile and target voters, bought the data from the microblogging website in 2015, before the recent scandal came to light, *The Sunday Telegraph* reported. Kogan had established Global Science Research (GSR), which was granted access to Twitter data. **P 12**

Actress Konkona Sen Sharma with her memento during the 'Dadasaheb Phalke Film Foundation Awards 2018' in Mumbai. PTI PHOTO

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	SENSX	NIIFTY	DOLLAR	EURO	GOLD	SILVER
INDEX	35160.36	10739.35	66.66	80.52	₹30,979	₹38,613
SENSX	↑ 190.66	↑ 47.05	↑ ₹0.0	↓ ₹0.27	↓ ₹232	↓ ₹391
NIIFTY						
DOLLAR						
EURO						
GOLD						
SILVER						

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	36.8°C	36.2°C
TEMP MIN	25.6°C	24.0°C
Humidity	90%	74%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

Forecast: Partially cloudy sky

CM vows to act tough against rapists

THERE WERE 1,283 RAPE CASES IN STATE INVOLVING MINORS IN 2017, AS AGAINST 1,204 IN 2016 AND 1,212 IN 2015

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 30: Amid state-wide uproar over a series of rape assaults on minor girls, the state government Monday informed the state Assembly that there has been a rise in such incidents in the state.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, responding to a question of member Tarapasad Bahinipati (Cong) said in a written reply that 1,283 incidents of rape on minors have been reported in the state in 2017 against 1,050 such cases reported in 2014. The Chief Minister also promised stringent punishment against the culprits.

The Chief Minister, who holds the Home portfolio, said 1,212 cases of rape on minors were reported in 2015, while the number of such incidents reported in 2016 was 1,204. In 2017, the police have arrested 1,148 accused persons in connection with these cases. The number of persons arrested in previous years includes 1,156 in 2016; 1,122 in 2015 and 1,036 in 2014.

On the other hand, 92 cases of gang rape involving minors were reported in 2017. The number of such reported incidents was 93 in 2016, 109 in 2015 and 91 in 2014. Patnaik said 199 persons were arrested in connection with rape incidents in 2017. In 2016 as many as 179 persons were arrested in such rape cases.

The report expresses concern over the spate of assaults on minor girls especially in April, 2018.

RAPE BID ON MINOR

Soro: Soro police Monday arrested a fisherman on charge of attempting rape on a minor girl at Teliganj in Balasore district. The accused was identified as Sk. Tinku, 30, of Kajmahalla village under Soro municipal limits. Tinku was produced in a court which remanded him in judicial custody. His bail plea was rejected. A case was also registered in this connection. The accused who went to the survivor's village to sell fish allegedly tried to outrage the minor girl's modesty when her family members were away. He even tried to entice the girl by showing obscene videos on his mobile phone. The girl reportedly narrated her ordeal to her mother subsequently. Later, the woman lodged a complaint with the police leading to the arrest of the accused.

The white paper released by the state Home Department had also revealed that Odisha witnessed a rise in rape cases in 2017 compared to the previous year.

The number of rape cases registered in 2017 was 2,221, up from 2,144 the previous year, the report

said, adding chargesheets had been filed in 1401 such incidents.

The Chief Minister also expressed his condolences with the bereaved family members of the Salipur minor rape victim and also made a statement in the house in this regard and assured strong action

against the culprits in such cases.

"I feel the deep anguish of the members of this House and of people of Odisha for the rape of a child that took place in Salipur April 21. The accused was arrested within 24 hours of the gruesome incident. The child was given the best medical attention by a team of doctors at the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack. Unfortunately, she died Sunday night," Patnaik said, adding, "I'll see that most stringent action is taken against the accused. A sum of ₹5 lakh has been granted to the immediate kin of the child. And I would like to send my deepest condolences to the bereaved family. And again I repeat, I feel a deep anguish at this terrible incident."
Continued on P5

TWITTER ALSO SOLD DATA TO RESEARCHER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, April 30: After Facebook, another major social media outlet Twitter has been caught up in the data scandal involving Cambridge Analytica, the British political consulting firm which collected the data of 87 million Facebook users without their knowledge and permission.

Aleksandr Kogan, who created tools for Cambridge Analytica that allowed the political consultancy to psychologically profile and target voters, bought the data from the microblogging website in 2015, before the recent scandal came to light, *The Sunday Telegraph* reported.

Kogan had established Global Science Research (GSR), which was granted access to Twitter data. **P 12**

4 sites in Odisha readied for 'adoption'

AFTER RED FORT, PRIVATE PLAYERS SET TO MANAGE KONARK, RATNAGIRI, RAJA RANI AND KHANDGIRI IN ODISHA

MANISH KUMAR, OP

Bhubaneswar, April 30: While the controversy over giving private players a free hand in adopting the historic Red Fort in the national capital is yet to die down, information from the Tourism Ministry reveals that in Odisha too, four heritage sites have been readied for adoption.

As per the information from the Tourism and Culture Ministry, two private players - Dalmia Bharat and TK International - have been selected from among the bidders who wanted to adopt four heritage sites in Odisha. They are currently managed by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) under the 'Adopt a Heritage Site' scheme which was launched in September last year.

As per a statement submitted by the Union Minister of State for Tourism KJ Alphonso in the Lok Sabha during the Budget Session



HERITAGE ADOPTION NORMS

- Private players, public enterprises to adopt 76 heritage sites.
- The successful bidders to spend their own money for upkeep.
- In lieu, the adopters will be given freedom to flaunt their brand at the sites.
- No revenue will be generated from public by way of fee collection.
- Adoption to be valid for five years



in April, the ministry has already issued Letters of Intent (LOI) to these two private bodies giving nod for 'adopting' these sites under the scheme.

Under the plan, TK International will adopt the Sun Temple (Konark), Raja Rani Temple (Bhubaneswar) and Ratnagiri Monuments (Jajpur) in the first phase while Dalmia Bharat which is set to adopt the Red Fort would adopt the Udayagiri-Khandgiri sites (Bhubaneswar) and the Sun Temple (Konark) in the second phase. More adoptions are

likely in the days to come.

The project entails to hand over heritage sites and monuments for adoption to private and public sector companies and individuals (who would be known as 'Monument Mitras') for providing basic amenities as well as management (operation and maintenance) for a period of 5 years initially, subject to review at any time. Regular monitoring and feedback mechanism from all the stakeholders, including tourists, have been incorporated.

In the MoU, the Tourism Ministry makes it clear that the private players on account of their funding would get a chance to boost their identity at these heritage sites. Section 9 of the scheme guidelines said, "Monument Mitras shall be provided with opportunities for their brand promotion in lieu of their CSR (corporate social responsibility) initiatives under the project subject to approval by the Oversight & Vision Committee."
Continued on P5

COLOUR & FRAGRANCE



A woman walks among the rows of tulips during the ongoing Chilliwack Tulip Festival in Chilliwack, BC, Canada

PTI PHOTO

Phone blasts blind child, hurt 4 others

There has been a spurt in incidents of mobile phone explosions in Odisha, invariably, due to ignorance and carelessness of the users in handling electronic gadgets. Stray incidents involving explosion of phone batteries and mobile phones across the country had come to public notice in the past. However, such incidents in rural areas of Odisha have sent shock waves around



POST NEWS NETWORK

Nuapada/Chhatrapur, April 30: A 14-year-old boy ruptured his right eye while four other children were rendered critical in separate incidents of mobile phone explosion in Nuapada and Ganjam districts Monday.

The first incident occurred when Krutibas Majhi, 14, a class VIII student, was charging his mobile phone by plugging the charger to a switch board at his Kalimati house under Komna police station limits in Nuapada district. Majhi noticed his phone was fully charged when he tried to pull the charger out of socket but it went off and a splinter hit his right eye. Profusely bleeding, he was ad-

mitted to the district headquarters hospital under the care of Dr Biraj Shankar Rath. He was later shifted to MKCG Medical College and Hospital at Bhubaneswar.

In the second incident four children were hurt, one of them critically, when a cell phone battery exploded at Lunghuri in Ganjam district. They were identified as Krushna Sahu, 7, Lovely Sahu, 5, Bhola Nahak, 8 and Anajali Nahak, 7. The condition of Krushna, son of Sabar Sahu was stated to be critical. The injured were rushed to Humma health centre. The incident occurred when the children were trying to make use of a battery of a defunct mobile phone.

However, the battery suddenly exploded with a loud noise injuring the four kids.

4 held in Jehanabad molestation

Patna: A special investigation team, formed by Patna zonal Inspector General Nayyar Hasnain Khan, Monday arrested four youths from Bharthua village under Kako police station area in Jehanabad district for disrobing and molesting a minor girl. The accused have been named as Amar Kumar, 18, son of Jagdu Yadav, Deepak Kumar, 18, son of Dinesh Yadav, Sunil Kumar, 18, son of Kapil Yadav and a 14-year-old minor. The incident came to light when a video showing eight youths molesting a girl in broad daylight, while she was pleading for mercy, went viral on social media late Saturday. The video footage helped the cops learn about the assailants and the location of the crime scene. IG Hasnain said the police team has arrested four including a minor from Bharthua in Jehanabad 24 hours after the video went viral.



SAVE MY DIGNITY AM YOUR DAUGHTER

Coaches detach as coupling breaks

Bilaspur: In yet another instance of lackadaisical railway safety, the coupling mechanism of two coaches of the Mumbai-Howrah Express train Monday broke at Saragaon station in Chhattisgarh's Jangjira-Champa district, causing panic among the passengers aboard the train as well as those crowding the platforms, officials said. They added no passenger was injured and the impact of the coupling giving way was minimised because the train was at a slow speed and the loco pilot had applied emergency brakes immediately. "The incident of uncoupling of two coaches of the 12869 Mumbai-Howrah weekly superfast special occurred at 10am Monday. There is no injury reported to anyone and the train left for its destination after a delay of one hour," an official said.



Lalu cries foul over shifting

New Delhi: Convicted RJD chief Lalu Prasad was shifted to a Ranchi hospital Monday for follow-up treatment - after he met Congress chief Rahul Gandhi at AIIMS where he was undergoing treatment for heart and kidney related ailments. The decision by AIIMS authorities sparked off an angry reaction from Lalu Prasad, who asked doctors not to endanger his life under political pressure. Talking to reporters after being discharged, the RJD leader said shifting him back to the Ranchi hospital was a conspiracy so that his health would deteriorate further. "I am being shifted to a place where there are no facilities. It is a tough time, but I will face it." But AIIMS spokesperson BN Acharya said the decision was taken following the recommendation of a medical board constituted for his treatment who found significant improvement in his health. **P 11**





RESEARCH CENTRE INAUGURATED

Guests at the inaugural ceremony of Santha Kabi Bhima Bhoi Chair and Research Centre organised by KISS University at its campus in Bhubaneswar, Monday

COMPETITIONS FOR CHILDREN

Children participate in a school-level competition organised by District Legal Service Authority at DLSA premises in Bhubaneswar, Monday



FORTUNE FORECAST



ARIES
If you are related in any way with the media, Ganesha predicts that you will taste success today. Since all the focus is on you, it is a great time to exhibit your skills. Your talents will get recognition and your short-term goals will come to fruition.

TAURUS
You will not just run the race but will reach the finish line with ease today, predicts Ganesha. Neither pressure nor overload will prevent you from accomplishing your targets this afternoon. However, Ganesha advises that you must learn to be patient to make the most of your success.

GEMINI
Today, luck is on your side. In the afternoon, you will remain reserved and subdued. But as the day progresses, you will be a different person altogether. You will transform into an enterprising and outgoing person. At work, you will impress your bosses with your brilliance, predicts Ganesha.

CANCER
For Crabs, this day brings good tidings for job, business as well as love life. The home is where your heart is. Today, you'll get to spend quality time at your most preferred place with your beloved. Just ensure that you remain loyal to your loved ones. Ones in business may look forward to a profitable day.

LEO
Ganesha foresees that today, you will be gripped by the desire to shop till you drop, even if it means having to spend a small fortune from your hard-earned savings! You have no problem with that, especially if all the money-spending is being undertaken to please your sweetheart. Those who try to warn you against carrying out your plans will be doing so in vain.

VIRGO
You are most likely to hit the mark and accomplish what you set out to do today. Work pressures will have no bearing whatsoever on you. The secret, says Ganesha, is in being patient.

LIBRA
Ganesha foretells of unfavourable situations today. But despite that, your endurance will be your winning formula for success. You are likely to keep your colleagues pleased and entertained all day today. You may decide to make your love life your main concern later in the day.

SCORPIO
Endless ambitions and limitless energy – a day tailored to perfection, forecasts Ganesha. On the career front, you will be looking for some challenging activities. You will have more than enough vigour to tackle anything that work or academics can throw at you. You will socialise later in the day by attending parties or hosting dinner for friends.

SAGITTARIUS
The artist in you will shine today, and how, says Ganesha. You'll be content with your possessions, which have been preserved over long years. Later in the day, your focus may shift to renovating or decorating your home by adding artifacts and furniture.

CAPRICORN
The pace and meticulousness with which you deal with work will leave your colleagues and subordinates in awe, says Ganesha. People will look up to you and respect you for your ability to handle efficiently the cumbersome work that seems deadening to most other people.

AQUARIUS
Today, you will battle clutter! You clean up and organise, and actually find the process therapeutic. You will also solve problems in a jiffy. There are decisions to be made, and Ganesha suggests that you research carefully before you make up your mind.

PISCES
You have been ruminating on your past performance for quite some time now, and today will be the day when you attempt to better it, says Ganesha. Your peers may try to outwit you, but you will manage to pre-empt them with consummate skill. Meditative techniques will help you remain calm.

EVOLUTION OF WEDDING INVITATIONS

Wedding invitations have come a long way from sending inscriptions on banana leaves to posting videos on social media, but the traditional cards still remain the favourite

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: Every wedding is the culmination of a beautiful story – celebrating two individual's unique reasons for a blissful union. So when one sends his/her wedding invitation, s/he is telling their unique story. No doubt, wedding invitation cards have a very important place in Indian marriages. Aside from inviting people to witness a delightful union, it speaks volumes about a new relationship between two people and their respective families.

Over the years, the design and format of these invitation cards have undergone several evolutions keeping pace with the times. Not so long ago, wedding invitations were sent with inscriptions on banana leaves. Gradually, paper replaced the banana leaves and now invitations are sent via various media, including the Internet.

Orissa POST spoke to some city-based businessmen engaged in printing and selling invitation card to learn about their importance as well as evolution over the years.

According to Pratap Kumar Das of Bandhan Cards in Cuttack Road area, despite the advancement of technology and advent of the Internet, traditional invitation cards continue to rule the scene. Moreover, even today people, especially those belonging to the Hindu community, prefer to

print invitation cards with Sanskrit shlokas with images of Radha and Krishna and use terms like jaimala (exchange of garlands), aashirvad (blessings of elders), mangalpera (taking seven rounds around the holy fire).

Similarly, Christian wedding cards have a penchant for including quotes from the Bible.

These days, the more affluent usually go for the vintage-style designs or designer cards accompanied with gift boxes.

Some even print the photographs of the bride

These days, many websites are offering people to design their own wedding invitation cards and print them. The designing of the card is free

SHARMITA BISWAS

and groom on the wedding cards. The price of the cards varies depending on the material, design and format. Most wedding cards



According to Agarwal, the latest trend is people preferring designer invitation bags instead of cards. Mostly these bags are made of paper and cardboards, but some even come in different fabrics. Some people also send sweets and gifts designed to match the invitation cards.

Sanjay Agarwal of Shubh Ayojan informed that these days many people prefer invitation documentary. "We shoot a video film running for seven to eight minutes wherein the bride and groom and their family members invite relatives and friends to the marriage in audio-visual and subsequently upload it on various social media platforms. The entire cost comes to around ₹10,000."

In addition, many websites too offer people to design their own wedding invitation cards and print them. The designing of the card is free," said Sharmita Biswas, who tied the knot recently.

come in the range of ₹15 per piece to ₹600 per piece.

Gunjan Agarwal of Gunjan Cards at Old station area of the capital city said, "In terms of design, invitation cards have undergone a sea change and every time people come to our store demanding something different. The regular designs of religious figures such as Lord Ganesha and Radha-Krishna are embedded in rich texture to seek the blessings of these God."

'TIHASYANA: A HISTORY OF INDIAN TEMPLES' UNVEILED

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: The Indian History Collection Society unveiled its 4th souvenir on the history of Indian temple archeology and development at the Red Cross Bhawan here, Sunday. The souvenir titled Ithasyana was released jointly by Padma Bibhusan Raghunath Mohapatra, Prof Dhabibamana Mishra and archeologist Bijay Kumar Ratha.

Addressing the audience, Mohapatra said, "History is the soul of a country and the current generation realises the richness of the nation through its history. Therefore, we have tried to describe the history of temples in Odisha through Ithasyana".

Seconding his opinion, archeologist Bijay Kumar Ratha said, "This souvenir tries to educate the culture and temple loving peo-



ple of Odisha as well as of India. The book on Srimandir Madala Panji has depicted three important chapters like the Srimandir's rituals, the history of maharaja's in Odisha and Chhamu Chitau, which describes the protocols involved in welcoming kings of other states and other temple matters. Similarly, we also have made efforts to make people realise the structural aspect of different temples and their arche-

ology, as Odisha, especially Bhubaneswar is well-known as the Temple City."

Prof Mishra stressed on the importance of knowing more about the rich temple culture of Odisha and the different temple rituals, besides the Vaastu Shastra related to the mystical aspect of these ancient shrines. This book aims to create more awareness among people about the history of the various temples in the state.

Fashion designing workshop concludes

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: A nine-day long workshop on fashion and interior designing organised by INIFD Bhubaneswar concluded here Monday. The workshop witnessed the participation of a significant number of fashion and interior design enthusiasts from across the state, who showed their keenness to learn various skills.

During the workshop, the participants got an opportunity to learn a variety of crafts, includ-

ing T-shirt making, model making, clay modeling, tie-and-dye, glass painting, lamp-making, marbling and others. The items made by the participants were also put on display at the workshop.

On the concluding day, participants were presented certificates for their efforts. Renowned fashion designer Sweta Parekh, contemporary artist Satyabhama Majhi, fashion designer Harpreet Kalsi and interior designer M Abhishek were present on the occasion.



Skills of 74 meritorious students awarded

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: The two-day skill competition at Skilled in Odisha event organised by Odisha Skill Development Authority concluded Monday.

Altogether 200 students participated in 25 different categories at the event, while 74 were awarded gold, silver and bronze medals for exhibiting innovative ideas. Top two winners from each category are selected for the regional level skill competition where they will contest to qualify for participating in

SKILLED IN ODISHA

the national level. The winners at the national level will compete in World Skill Competition in Russia next year.

Of the 25 categories, 17 competitions were held at the Exhibition Ground here while eight were conducted at the Institute of Hotel management, Central Tool Room & Training Centre, Centurion University and the Skill Development Institute.

Earlier, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had announced cash prizes of ₹1 Lakh for gold medalist, ₹75,000



for silver medalist and ₹50,000 for bronze medalist for students from the state participating at the national level competition. "Our mission at the World Skills Competition is 1-2-3 – a one gold, two silver and three bronze medals," he had stated.

Sanjay Kumar Singh, secretary, state Skill Development and Technical Education, said, "We are focusing on the World Skill Competition 2021 and if our students are able to compete there, it will serve as an excellent learning opportunity."

Orissa POST interacted with the winning students to know their experiences vis-à-vis participation in Skilled in Odisha.

Abishek Swain, a gold medal winner in computer numerical

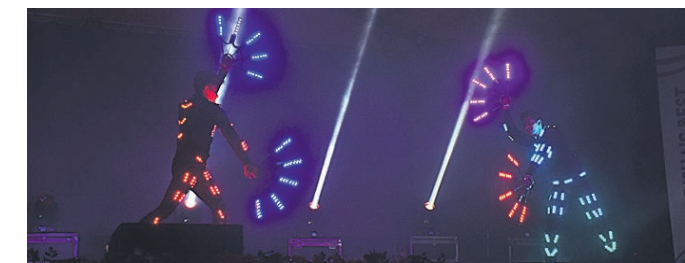
STOP CHILD LABOUR



People from different walks of life formed a human chain at Lower PMG in the capital city Monday demanding eradication of child labour and stringent punishment for the guilty. OP PHOTO

the cooking competition, said that this win will motivate her to showcase her culinary skills at national level. Similarly, Prabhas Nayak, a winner in cabinet-making, opined that getting recognition for this skill at national level was a dream a few years ago, but Skilled in Odisha has already recognised my skill, he added.

Among others, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Chairman of Odisha Skill Development Authority Subroto Bagchi, Director of Technical Education and Training Balwant Singh, Odisha Skill Development Authority chief executive officer Rajesh Prabhakar Patil, and Mansi Nimbhal of SSEP were present on the occasion.



An entertainment programme on the concluding day of 'Skilled in Odisha' at Exhibition Ground in Bhubaneswar, Monday.

2562ND BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Buddha Jayanti observed with fervour

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: Traditionally, Buddha purnima is celebrated to commemorate the birth of Lord Goutam Buddha, founder of Buddhism. The auspicious event was celebrated in the city with fervour, Monday.

A large number of people visited Kalinga Buddha Vihar at Unit-9 here Monday to pay obeisance to Lord Buddha on his 2562nd birth anniversary. A mass diya (lamp) was lighted by devotees and senior monk Thero recited Buddha's Panchashil on the occasion.

A seminar was also organised on the premises where Sri Jagannath Sanskrit University's wherein dean Radhamadhav Das, Bimelendhu Mohanty and other dignitaries participated. In his speech Das said, "Buddha is one of the ten incarnations of Lord Vishnu. Lord Buddha is the epitome of truth, ahimsa and kindness. His preaching on peace and tolerance has

taught us the essence of divinity." Bimelendhu Mohanty also stressed on the teachings of Gautama Buddha and emphasised that everyone needs to follow and practice them to attain mental bliss'.

Surama Khadenga of the Mahabodhi School was feted on the occasion. Earlier, in the morning, a religious procession was led by Karunakar Pradhan along with Namrata Chaddha, Jagabandhu Jena, Siddhartha Panda and Narendra Kumar Mishra. Another programme was organised at Buddha Park in Chandrasekharpur where Shobhaniya Sikhyaashram held a prayer meet. A seminar followed and the programme ended with a dance performance by school children. The seminar was graced by Pravin Kumar, head of Buddhist Studies.

The Department of Posts and Telegraph also released a special cover to commemorate this occasion.



REALITY CHECK NAILS CENTRE'S POWER LIE

POST NEWS NETWORK

BHUBANESWAR: The Centre-managed rural electrification monitoring portal (GARV) Saturday claimed that Odisha has achieved 100 per cent rural electrification target under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY).

The Central government has claimed that all villages in Odisha have been electrified under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana scheme. In the last one week, Orissa POST correspondent Manish Kumar travelled to remote villages in four districts of the state to do a reality check on the success of the rural electrification drive in Odisha and this is what he found out.

through solar energy under the scheme. As per the data from the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC), the nodal central PSU behind rural electrification project, out of the 47,677 inhabited villages (as per 2011 Census), 3,474 villages were found un-electrified in Odisha as on April 1, 2015. During the electrification drive, 571 villages were found uninhabited while 2,903 remaining villages were electrified under the scheme by the end of Saturday (April 28).

Electricity means 6 hours of power

Nuapada: Kholibithar, a remote village in the deep forest of Nuapada district, has been recently electrified off grid with the aid of mini solar grid under the rural electrification project. A visit to the area to examine the success of rural electrification suggested limited benefits to the villagers, that too mostly domestic. Villagers claimed they get power supply only for 6 hours - 6pm to midnight - and they spend the day without electricity. Under the DDUGJY, the government has given three LED lights to each household and also street lights for the village. "We are happy with the rural electrification. With the street lights kids are free to roam and play till late evening. However, it gets automatically cut at midnight, engulfing the whole village in darkness," said a Kholibithar villager Kulug Singh. Using fans in the sunny days is a dream for the villagers as no electricity is available for them during day. OPTCL officials, however, said 24-hour power supply would be ensured.

POWER POINTS

CATEGORY	STATISTICS
Total Inhabited villages	47,677
Un-electrified (As on April 1, 2015)	3,474
Villages electrified	2,903
Uninhabited villages	571
To be electrified	0
Under energisation	0
Total villages visited	10,304

ELECTRIFICATION AT A GLANCE

- Under the DDUGJY scheme, 100% coverage claimed April 28.
- DDUGJY has 60% central and 40% state share for the project.
- The scheme envisions off grid (solar grid) for remote, hilly areas.
- Street lights in villages, lighting panchayat offices planned under DDUGJY.
- Beneficiary households given 3 LED lights and a single electricity point.

Bolangir worst, Cuttack best in household coverage

Bhubaneswar: After the launch of the rural electrification campaign, the Centre has moved on to provide electricity to every rural household and left out urban areas for the Soubhagya scheme. As per Soubhagya records, Bolangir has the lowest level of household coverage of electricity at 42 per cent. The other districts which are also lagging behind in the state with less than 50 per cent household coverage of electricity include Kalahandi (45%), Nabarangpur (45%), Koraput (48%) and Bargarh (49%). On the other side, the district which reported maximum coverage of its households with electricity is Cuttack (86 per cent). Other districts which showed the best electricity penetration are: Ganjam (75.77%), Balasore (74.26%), Bhubaneswar (73.51%), Jajpur (73.14%) and Jagatsinghpur (72.76 %).

However, despite the claims of 100 per cent rural electrification under the scheme, not all households have been covered in the state yet. As per the latest data from the Soubhagya scheme portal, 30.88 lakh households are yet to be electrified in Odisha which will be carried out under the scheme in the coming days. Moreover, officials claimed that during their field visits more un-electrified

villages were found and they were listed for electrification.

"The DDUGJY village target was based on the Socio Economic Caste Census of 2011. During our visits we have found more villages which needed electrification. Attention will also be given to them. Under the DDUGJY scheme, villages were connected either through grid or through off grid (solar systems) in cases of remote and hilly areas," PK Choudhury, General Manager (GM), SOUTHCO told **Orissa POST**.

PK Beura, OSD with the Orissa Renewable Energy Development Agency (OREDA), which was implementing the off grid connections in the state told this newspaper April 17 this year that 21 villages were yet to be electrified in the state and they were working on it.

Fan is a fancy term for these villagers

MAYURBHANJ: Bankisole, a village situated just 11km from the Mayurbhanj district headquarters, has remained literally in dark age even after 70 years of Independence.

Farmers, students, shopkeepers and traders in the village are left with no option but to take assistance from nearby electrified villages and urban areas to recharge their rechargeable LED lights and mobile phones that they need every day. For which they are now shelling out Rs 5 per day.



A woman cleaning a lantern at Bankisole in Mayurbhanj district as the village remains un-electrified till date

Claims versus ground reality

There is a disparity between on record data as maintained by the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) and the on ground reality. Our visit to Bankisole village in Mayurbhanj district proved that while transformers, wires and meters had been connected, the village was yet to receive electricity in reality (was not energised by the DISCOM there yet). Even after getting connections six months ago, the villagers said, there is no electricity. But the Union government-sponsored rural electrification portal GARV data claims all villages in Mayurbhanj district have been electrified, showing a different data against the ground reality. When asked about the matter, an Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited (OPTCL) official said, "That might be due to an issue with the 'taken over' certificate. Once the works are done by the PSU, the DISCOMS have to energise it. This issue could be checked with the PSUs and the DISCOMS involved for the mismatch in ground data."

Centre's data claims no villages in the district are un-electrified

Un-electrified Bankisole spends ₹5 a day to recharge lights

charged. Recently, I bought a solar charger with a loan to charge our lights and mobiles," said Dula Mandi, an 18-year-old boy from the village.

Other people doing small time businesses from the area are also struggling for lack of electric power. "I have a small ration shop which I operate without any light or fan. Fan is a fancy term for us due to prolonged absence of electricity. We still rely on oil-based lanterns for light," said Chandra Mallick, who has a shop on the nearby

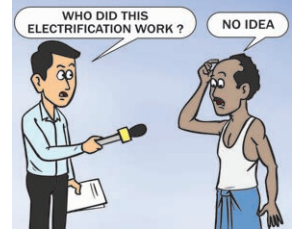
Mayurbhanj-Deuli road.

Other veterans from the area said that while electricity to remote areas reached earlier they are still deprived of power: "While villages away from the main road got electricity, ours are yet to be electrified. While the transformer and wires had been installed and meters have also been fixed, we are yet to actually receive electricity. We are currently using lanterns at night for our daily chores and for study of kids," Rida Mandi said.

PM or CM; villagers see light at the end

BHUBANESWAR: Visits to a number of villages in different districts of Odisha where electricity has just come showed that most of the villagers are clueless about who is bringing electricity to their villages.

While a number of villagers expressed happiness over electrification of their villages either through grid connectivity or through off grid (renewable sources of energy), most of them had failed to identify under which scheme their village was electrified. Was it the Central government led by Prime Minister Narendra



Modi or the Odisha government under Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik?

"I do not know who brought electricity to our village. The people who worked in our village to install the solar mini-grid never told us under which scheme the whole exercise was

done and under whose guidance. But we are happy at least the electrification work has been completed," said Rita Chinda, a villager of Kholibithar in Nuapada district.

Debasis Mohanty, a resident of Mathili hamlet in Malkangiri district, said, "It must be Naveen Babu. If it is happening in Odisha it must be through the Chief Minister. Prime Minister must be doing works in New Delhi. But only the state government can reach out to us."

Not only the villagers, many village heads and sarpanches also fail to identify under which

scheme the rural electrification work was done. Jaishingh Chinda, Kholibithar head of Nuapada, expressed inability to find the same. However, he knows everything else about rural electrification drive in his village in details, starting from the time when the village wrote to the administration requesting electricity.

Similarly, Suparno Singh, Sarpanch, Laxmipashi gram panchayat in Baripada, talked about all villages under her panchayat being electrified but failed to identify the scheme under which the rural electrification work was done.

DSPL-36



ଶ୍ରମର ଜୟଗାନ, ଶ୍ରମିକଙ୍କୁ ପ୍ରଶାମ

ଆନ୍ତର୍ଜାତିକ ଶ୍ରମ ଦିବସ

୧ ମଇ ୨୦୧୮

ରାଜ୍ୟସ୍ତରୀୟ ସମାରୋହରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ କରିବେ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ମାନ୍ୟବର ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ

ଶ୍ରୀଯୁକ୍ତ ନବୀନ ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକ



- ପ୍ରବାସୀ ଶ୍ରମିକମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ କଟାବାଜି (ବାଇଗାଜି), ବାଲୁଗାଁ (ଖୋର୍ଦ୍ଧା) ଓ ପଦ୍ମପୁର (ବରଗଡ଼)ଠାରେ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠିତ ପ୍ରବାସୀ ଶ୍ରମିକ ସହାୟତା ଓ ସାଧନ କେନ୍ଦ୍ର - 'ଶ୍ରମିକ ସାହାଯ୍ୟ'ର ଲୋକାର୍ପଣ
- ବ୍ୟାପକ ପ୍ରଚାର ଓ ପ୍ରସାର ନିମିତ୍ତ ଏକ ଗୋଷ୍ଠୀ ରେଡ଼ିଓ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ - 'ଶୁଣ ଶ୍ରମିକ'ର ଶୁଭାରମ୍ଭ
- ଶିଶୁ ଓ ବିଶୋର ଶ୍ରମ ନିଷେଧ ଓ ନିରନ୍ତର ନିଗତେ ଧର୍ମ ବିନିଆ ସଚେତନତା ଅଭିଯାନର ଶୁଭାରମ୍ଭ
- କୋଠାବାଜି ଓ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ ଶ୍ରମିକମାନଙ୍କ ନିମିତ୍ତ 'ଲୋକସେବା ଅଧିକାର' ପୋର୍ଟାଲ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ସହାୟତା ମୋଡ୍ୟୁଲ (Benefit Module)ର ଉଦ୍ଘୋଷଣ

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SHORT TAKES

Cong workers join BJD

Bhubaneswar: Hundreds of Congress activists, including two councillors from Banki NAC of Cuttack district formally joined the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Monday. The Congress workers joined the party in the presence of BJD President and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at Naveen Niwas here. "I am glad that many Congress workers, including councillors have joined the BJD from the Banki constituency," Naveen said.

Woman dies in mishap

Bhubaneswar: A young woman died while two others sustained severe injuries in an accident on the flyover near Acharya Vihar Monday evening. The deceased was identified as K Sunita Reddy, a daily wageer of Salia Sahi area. According to sources, the trio was going on a bike towards Nayapalli Monday when a speeding TATA Ace vehicle hit them near Acharya Vihar.

WASSUP TODAY

- BHUBANESWAR**
- OJW national plenary inauguration and Labour Day, Kalinga Hospital premises, 10am
- Labour Day, Nagabhusan Bhawan, Ashok Nagar, 10.30am
- Labour Day by Labour and ESI department, Soochana Bhawan, 11am
- Labour Day by Utkal Journalists' Association and Bhubaneswar Journalists' Association, Sambadika Bhawan, Unit-3, Kharavela Nagar, 11am
- State-level art exhibition by Odisha Lalit Kala Akademi, Buddha Art Gallery, Niladri Vihar, 11am

Programmes/announcements for wassup today may be sent to downtown@orissapost.com for record, it must also carry the sender's mobile number for our verification, but not for publication.

LEGAL AWARENESS



Students enact a play during a district-level legal literacy festival organised by the district legal services authority at Ravenshaw Collegiate School in Cuttack Monday

GST COUNCIL LAW PANELS TO MEET FROM MAY 10 TO 12

State GST collection misses target

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 30: A joint meeting of Law Committee and Law Review Committee of the GST Council is scheduled to be held here in the second week of May. The meeting will start at 10 am May 10 at a local hotel and continue till May 12, official sources said Monday. About 15 members of Law Committee and 12 members of Law Review Committee are likely to participate in the meeting. Officials from both the Union government and the state government will be present at the meet where the State GST Commissioner Saswat Mishra will represent Odisha. According to sources, after the meeting, the panels will suggest necessary amendments in the Act to the GST Council. Meanwhile, Finance Minister Sashi Bhusan Behera informed the

State Assembly Monday that the GST revenue for the year 2017-18 (from July 2017 to March 2018) was projected at Rs 10,768.32 crore while the state collected Rs 6,625.91 crore. He added that another Rs 1,832.74 crore was also collected under the Acts subsumed in GST. In total, the state government collected Rs 8,458.65 crore, around Rs 2,000 crore less than the estimates, the minister said. "As per the norms, the

Centre has to compensate the states with an annual revenue growth rate of 14 per cent. So, the Centre is supposed to pay Rs 2,309.67 crore as GST compensation up to March 2018," he added. Till February this year, the Centre has released Rs 2,019 crore and another Rs 290.67 crore is yet to be released. As the compensation is being paid on a bi-monthly basis, the rest of the compensation amount may be provided in this May, Behera stated.

ODISHA TOPS THE LIST OF STATES WITH HIGH DEATH RATE IN ROAD MISHAPS

Call for stern laws to curb road accidents

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 30: All the guests at an event organised Monday to mark the conclusion of the 29th National Road Safety Week have expressed deep concern over the high incidence of road accident deaths in the state. The event was organised by the Commerce and Transport Department at Soochana Bhawan here at AG Square. According to statistics, Odisha records around 4,000 deaths annually. That is, on an average, 13 deaths a day on state roads. The death toll is proportionally higher than in Uttar Pradesh. The Commerce and Transport Minister, Nrusingha Charan Sahoo, who was the chief guest at the event, stressed the need for enacting stringent laws to curb the high incidence of road accidents. He called for speed governing mechanisms in all the vehicles, including two wheelers



and light motor vehicles. Seeking a pledge to bring awareness among people, the minister said special lessons on traffic awareness that are being currently taught in schools should also be included in college syllabus. The minister wanted all district authorities in the state to engage an interceptor and a mobile ambulance on the roads for quick response during the time of mishaps. G Srinivasan, Principal Secretary of Commerce and Transport department, said its engineers have identified 286 accident-prone 'black spots' on vari-

ous roads of the state. The government has been taking necessary steps to rectify the engineering defects at these places. Speaking at the event, Agriculture Production Commissioner Gagan Dhal said the government has come up with the Good Samaritan police scheme this year to encourage people help the road accident victims and bring them to the nearest hospital for treatment during the golden hours – the first few hours post the accident. Among the suggestions made by guests is special signage at points where village roads connect with state highways and National Highways to minimise road accidents. Bhubaneswar MP Prasanna Patsani urged the youths not to use mobile phones while driving as it has been found to be a major cause of road mishaps in the recent past. He also urged them to wear helmets.

State to bring 25L farmers under PMFBY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 30: In a bid to protect the farmers from natural calamities and ensure their credit eligibility for the next season, the state government has targeted to provide insurance coverage to crops of around 25 lakh farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY). This target was fixed at the meeting of State Level Coordination Committee on

Crop Insurance (SLCCCI) held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary AP Padhi here Monday. The government has set a target to cover kharif crop of 25 lakh including 5 lakh non-loanee farmers under the scheme. Kharif crops including paddy, groundnut, cotton, turmeric, ginger, red gram (Arhar) and maize will be covered under the scheme, sources said. Insurance coverage will also be provided to crops like mustard, potato,

black gram, green gram, sugarcane, onion and sunflower during the upcoming Rabi season, they said. Gram panchayats (GP) would be the unit areas of insurance for paddy while for other crops, each block will a unit during this season. Accordingly, entire state has been converted into six clusters. About 18.54 lakh farmers were insured under the scheme during Kharif-2017 while another 64,126 were covered during last rabi season.

NARAYAN MURDER CASE

'Cops drop key suspect's name from charge sheet'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, April 30: The police have allegedly dropped the name of the prime accused from the charge sheet in the sensational Narayan Das murder case at Sarakora village in Niali police limits. The police recently filed the preliminary charge sheet in the case in which they deleted the name of the prime accused and tampered with the names of the witnesses because of political pressure, alleged Reena Das, widow of the deceased. Reena tried to immolate herself in front of the director general of police's (DGP) office here Monday stating that the deletion of name of the prime accused and tampering of witnesses would deprive her of justice. According to sources, Reena April 23 had submitted a plea in the DGP's office stating that she would immolate herself in front of the DGP's office. Accordingly, the policemen had kept buckets of water and, blankets and deployed personnel to prevent her from taking the step.

As soon as the widow reached the DGP office, she was taken inside where additional DG Satyajit Mohanty held discussion with her in the presence of SP (rural) Madhab Chandra Sahu and Niali police station inspector-in-charge. Mohanty directed the SP (rural) to re-record the statement of Reena under Section 161. She would also present the names of the witnesses in the case Wednesday. The statement will be recorded in the office of the SP. Mohanty directed the SP (rural) to take all necessary arrangements for recording the statement. Notably, Narayan and his brother were on their way back home from market on the night of March 4, 2017 when miscreants from Kunjiapatna had hacked him to death. While one of the accused has surrendered in court, others are yet to be arrested. "They are roaming freely in the village. While the name of the prime accused was mentioned in the complaint, his name was dropped from the charge sheet due to political pressure," the widow of the deceased alleged.

'Death' likely for Salipur rape accused

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, April 30: The Crime Branch Monday classified the rape and murder of six-year-old girl in Salipur as red-flag category and said the investigation will be conducted according to the proposed amendment to the POCOA Act. The case will be probed under Sections 376 (A) (B) of the ordinance. The Centre recently approved the ordinance which will allow rigorous imprisonment up to 20 years or death penalty to those convicted of raping children up to 12 years of age. Sources said the CB will appoint a special prosecutor for speedy trial of the case and conviction of the accused. The SP (rural) and investigating officer of the case will keep coordination to ensure that the hearing of the case be conducted regularly and verdict pronounced at the earliest. Besides, the CB will make arrangements for laboratory test of DNA and fingerprints. "This is the maiden case in the state being registered under the new ordinance," said ADG (crime) Santosh Kumar Upadhyay. Briefing the media, Upadhyay said, "We have taken the case seriously. If the accused is convicted according to the new law, it will be an example for others."

OPPN STAGES PROTEST

BHUBANESWAR: Expressing anguish over the rape and death of minor girl of Salipur, Opposition Congress and BJP Monday staged protest here condemning the incident. Members of Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) led by its president Niranjan Patnaik took out a candlelight rally from the party office at Master Canteen to IG Park praying for peaceful journey of the soul of the victim. Earlier in the day, BJP activists staged a demonstration at Ram Mandir Square and burnt the effigy of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik demanding his resignation and justice for the rape victim's family. They also slammed the government for failing to protect the women in state. "The state government has failed to take appropriate measures to curb rising incidents of

crime and atrocities against women, particularly involving innocent minor girls," said state women wing president of BJP Pravatipari. She said the party will hold candlelight protest in all district headquarters, Tuesday. In a similar development, delegations of ruling BJD and Opposition Congress & BJP visited the village of the victim's girl and met her family members. While the BJD delegation was led by Law Minister Pratap Jena, women wing presidents of state Congress and BJP Bijayalaxmi Sahu and Pravatipari led the rallies respectively. The team held discussions with six-year-old girl's family members at Jagannathpur village under Salipur block in Cuttack district and assured all possible support. They demanded strict action against the accused.

Meanwhile, DGP Rajendra Prasad Sharma has directed SP (rural) Madhab Chandra Sahu to file the preliminary charge sheet of the case in court within 15 days. Notably, the minor girl was raped by Mohammad Mustaq (25)

who tried to strangle her at Jagannathpur in Salipur police limits April 21. After struggling for survival at SCB Medical College and Hospital for nine days, she succumbed Sunday afternoon.

State's rental housing scheme becomes a model

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 30: The state government's rental housing programme in urban areas for construction workers has become a model for the entire country, said chairman of Odisha Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board Subash Singh here Monday. The scheme is being implemented in 10 towns of the state – Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Berhampur, Sambalpur, Rourkela, Jharsuguda, Angul, Dhenkanal, Paradip and Jajpur Road. While housing units that could accommodate 400 workers would be set up in the capital city, the other four corporation towns would have rental housing for 200 workers. Similarly, the government would set up such buildings to accommodate 100 labourers in each of the five industrial towns, the chairman said. So far, 22.34 lakh organised labourers have been registered under the board. The registration of construction workers and deposits of annual contribution by the beneficiaries has been extended to panchayat level through Common Service Centres (CSCs), Singh said.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT
By virtue of an affidavit before the Notary, Jagatsinghpur, I Khulena Swain Dob. 21.06.1965 W/o Late Akhai Charan Swain resident of At-Nalanga, PO-Bodal, PS- Nuagaon, Dist-Jagatsinghpur, Odisha, Pin-754113, declare that in my SBI Life Insurance Policy bearing Policy No-1N051970708, my name has been recorded as "Nirupama Swain" which is my nick name in place of my good name Khulena Swain. Khulena Swain and Nirupama Swain is one and the same person. I am swearing in this affidavit in order to produce before the concerned authority of SBI Life Insurance for change of my name as Khulena Swain instead of Nirupama Swain. In future for any legal purpose I will produce all my documents as Khulena Swain. I shall be known as Khulena Swain for all purposes.

AFFIDAVIT
By virtue of an affidavit, I Pranab Kishore Barik, At/ PO: Gopalpur, PS: Chandabali, District: Bhadrak, declare that, after marriage my wife's name has been changed from Sandhya Rani Jena to Sandhya Rani Barik. Hence, the both are same and one person and shall be known as Sandhya Rani Jena for all purposes.

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LORD'S WORKSHOP
POST NEWS NETWORK
Puri, April 30: Rath Yard, a designated spot on Grand Road (Badadanda) for construction of chariots ahead of annual car festival, has become a school for grooming young boys hailing from carpenters' clan. Many boys between five and 16 hailing from families of artisans engaged in carpentry are acquiring skills in construction of chariots under the direct supervision of their elders and grandparents. The school vacations have virtually given the boys a golden chance to learn basics of carpentry at Rath Yard. Jagannath Mahapatra, 16, son of Rupakara (sculptor) servitor Rajendra Mahapatra, has acquired expertise in carving the god figures in wood, in addition to etching animals and birds. Jagannath, a Class IX student of Bishwambar Vidyapeeth, has also mastered painting and clay idol making. He had started learning carpentry at Rath Yard at the age of five. "I enjoy working at Rath Yard. I am keen on becoming a thorough artisan like my Dad," claims Jagannath. Carpenter Debraj

Young carpenters hone skills here

on chariot pillars. "Prakash and I are classmates. We enjoy carving figures out of wood. Devotees and visitors who come to Rath Yard often take our photos," said Subham, a Class VIII student at Bishwambar Vidyapeeth. Prakash claimed their rigorous work schedules at Rath Yard have not hampered their studies. "We engage ourselves in chariot-making at daytime and attend tuitions in the evening. Working at Rath Yard is more rewarding than playing with friends," he said. Omm Prakash, 5, son of carpenter Panchanan, is works



Children trying their hands in chariot making at Rath Yard

Mahapatra's son Subham, 14, and servitor Lingaraj's son Prakash, 14, have engaged themselves in car making at Rath Yard. The duo has been assigned to sculpt figures of lions

hard at grasping basics of paintings and etching wood. "I brought Omm to Rath Yard when he was three. He has developed special interest in carpentry," says Panchanan. Suryaprakash, five-year-old son of Kanhu Mahapatra, is a first-timer at Rath Yard and has already started carving figures on wood under the tutelage of his father. "We are traditional carpenters of Srirampur. We have to train our young kids in the basics of chariot making. You can't attain excellence in carpentry unless you learn at an early age," claims carpenter Ganesh Mahapatra.

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

Rapist grandfather gets 11-year RI

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 30: The Additional Sessions court Monday evening awarded 11-year rigorous imprisonment to an elderly man who was convicted of sexually abusing his 11-year old granddaughter at her residence in Bharatpur under Khandagiri police limits December 9, 2015.

The convict was identified as Bharat Sahoo of Kendupalli village under Baidyeeswar police limits in Cuttack district. Sources said a few days before the occurrence of the rape Bharat had come to stay at his niece's house for unknown reasons.

Adulterated oil seized

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, April 30: Acting on a tip-off, Badambadi police here Monday raided an edible oil godown in Khannagar's Nuasahi and seized adulterated oil-filled containers. Police arrested the godown owner Chittaranjan Rout, a resident of the same area, while another man involved in the trade managed to escape.

According to reports, around 60 oil-filled containers of 15 litres each were seized along with 315 empty containers of branded companies, logos and packaging machine from the godown.

Investigating Officer Rashmiranjan Mohapatra said, "A preliminary investigation reveals that Rout has been running the illegal trade for the past three years. He used to procure raw materials from Madhupatna area and later sold the adulterated food items at various parts of the city and its outskirts."

40 bio-toilets for Rotary club

Bhubaneswar: Rotarian Ajay Agarwal, district governor of Rotary district, unveiled the Rotary club of New Horizon, the only all ladies club in the district. Speaking on the occasion, Agarwal complimented the club for receiving a global grant of USD36,000. The project aims at installing 40 bio-toilets for ladies in 20 urban slums of Bhubaneswar.

CM vows to act.

The six-year-old girl was allegedly raped and strangled by a person April 21. She had gone to market in the evening but did not return.

The minor was later found in an unconscious state at a school verandah and was immediately rushed to Salipur Community Health Centre (CHC) and later shifted to SCB Hospital as her condition deteriorated. She was on ventilator support and was being treated by a team of 13 doctors. However, the girl breathed her last Sunday. Police arrested the accused the following day.

Four sites in...

It also added, "Further visibility would be given to the Monument Mitras in lieu of the advanced amenities provided. They would also be given extra provision to work on cross subsidization model to augment their financial resources."

Queries made to the state Tourism Department and state unit of the ASI remained unanswered at the time of writing the story.

GOVT HAS FAILED TO ENSURE INCLUSIVE GROWTH: OPPN

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 30: With finance minister Pradip Kumar Amat placing the appropriation bill in the Assembly Monday for its passing, the Opposition Congress and BJP attacked the BJD government and accused it of failure to ensure inclusive growth in Odisha despite being in power for 18 years.

"The government has failed to utilise the whole fund earmarked for various purposes in the previous years' budgets," he said.

Bharat Ratna chorus for Madhu babu

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 30: Members cutting across party line Tuesday demanded 'Bharata Ratna' be conferred posthumously on Utkal Gaurav Madhusudan Das.

The members also demanded preservation of memory of Saint Bhima Bhoi and install his statue. Government deputy chief whip raised this issue during zero hour, while Leader of Opposition Narasingha Mishra also urged the state government to take steps in this regard.

Mishra also wrote a letter to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik saying, "Odisha government through you may recommend to Centre for conferring 'Bharata Ratna' in the memory of Madhu babu and introduce a train as 'Utkal Gaurav Express' from Bhubaneswar to New Delhi."

"At the same time the government may also take steps to declare his birthplace Satyabhamapur, 20 km from

"In spite of the strong economic policies being adopted during the UPA government at the Centre and in spite of the heavy flow of money to the state, we don't find inclusive growth in the state," Mishra said, adding, "This government might have won awards for administration but it has failed to ensure basic rights of the people over the past one and a half decades."

Mishra said water scarcity, mainly during the summer, was yet to be addressed satisfactorily. While several villages were facing drinking water problem, the government failed to provide this facility even in Anganwadi centres where children sat together, despite the high court extending the deadline to achieve the target.

"The education and health sectors are in equally deplorable sit-



IN THE HOUSE

uations," Mishra said, adding that in Bolangir, only 134 out of the 2,122 primary schools have one room for each class. Likewise, only 23 primary schools have one teacher for one class. In health sector, almost half of the posts of doctors and specialists are lying vacant, he said.

On law and order, the LoP said, in spite of the rise in number of

rape incidents in recent times, and despite the poll violence that took place in the Bijepur by-election campaigning, the government kept claiming that the law and order situation in the state was under control. Mishra also highlighted 'shortcomings' of the state government in the fields of agriculture and energy. He slammed the government for its 'failure' in collecting revenue from industries and from firms in mineral bearing areas.

Stating that the state government is 'pro-corporate, pro-industrialist, anti-farmer and anti-people', Mishra said while big firms belonging to ruling party MPs were 'exempted from paying electricity duty of Rs 300 to Rs 400 crore, farmers were not al-

lowed even a one-year period to pay off their dues.'

"While the government feels proud in announcing a big-size budget, which has now gone up to Rs 1.20 lakh crore, its contribution to it is only Rs 38,000 crore. Had it focused on collection of revenue from the industry, mining and other sectors we could have appointed thousands of regular teachers in schools and a larger number of doctors in rural areas. There is no inclusive growth, and only corporate firms are getting benefits from this budget," Mishra alleged.

BJP leader Basant Panda accused the government of failing to provide security to women. In specific, he raised the cases of rape in Salepur and other areas. He also slammed the government for 'failing to provide adequate

input subsidy and MSP to farmers', and came down heavily on the 'deteriorating health and education infrastructure' and the large-scale vacancies in these sectors.

BJD members strongly defended the government, stating that it had been able to place such a 'people-oriented' budget regardless of the central government's 'negligence'.

BJD MLA Samir Das said Odisha was ahead of many states ruled by the BJP and the Congress. "While the state has received global accolades in disaster management, we are on top when it came to procurement of paddy from farmers. Our Mamata scheme has also set an example in the country," he said, adding that the present budget of the state government would ensure more growth and development.

Punjilal executed crime unassisted

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, April 30: In a recent development in the sensational Patnagarh parcel bomb explosion the mastermind Punjilal Meher Monday revealed to have executed the crime single-handedly, sources in the state Crime Branch (CB) said.

Punjilal, who is on a six-day remand, was interrogated by ADG Santosh Kumar Upadhyay, IG Arun Kumar Bothra, additional SP Anil Kumar Das and other top officials of the CB in the fifth consecutive day. He will be shifted to Patnagarh Tuesday where further investigations and quizzing will continue.

On the other hand a CB team Monday has left for Raipur in Chhattisgarh Tuesday where further investigations and quizzing will continue. Punjilal to the courier agency from Raipur railway station. Besides, the team will also examine the CCTV footage installed on the routes taken by Punjilal while commuting in Raipur city. It is learnt that the CB is now focused on collecting more phys-

PARCEL BOMB CASE



ical and electronic evidences against the accused and the autorickshaw driver is considered as the sole witness of Punjilal's visit to Raipur, which could prove to be a major breakthrough for CB.

After gaining adequate knowledge from YouTube and other sources from internet, Punjilal commissioned the parcel bomb making unit at his Meherpada residence. After testing the bomb successfully in a nearby forest the accused parceled the bomb to Sanjukta's house on the fourth day of her son's wedding February 23.

"We have gathered ample evidence against Punjilal and it is learnt that he has masterminded, planned, and executed the crime alone. The seized items will be

sent to various forensic labs soon," said ADG Upadhyay. He added that as the remand period will end Tuesday the CB will again apply for an extension.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER GANJAM [R&B] DIVISION NO.II, BERHAMPUR. INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) [e-Procurement] TENDER CALL NOTICE. Bid Identification No. SC (R&B)-GM-II-02/2018-19 No.3247 Dated: 21.04.2018.

ORISSA HYDRO POWER CORPORATION LTD. EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MURAN DAM DIVISION. UPPER INDRAVATI HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT. AT/PO-KHATIGUDA, DIST. NABARANGPUR, ODISHA, PIN - 764085. Tel. No. 06858 224351, E-mail - eemuramddivision@gmail.com. Dated: 28.04.2018.

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FARMERS WOES

Farmers coming out of a meeting with District Collector after apprising him of blighted paddy saplings and seeking action against the firm for supplying spurious seeds in Bargarh Monday

PEOPLE'S DONATIONS

Trust board members of Tarini temple in Ghatagaon of Keonjhar district counting currency notes and jewellery collected from the temple hundi Monday



SHORT TAKES

Man kills wife over extramarital affair

Chandikhole: A woman died while her brother-in-law, with whom she allegedly had an illicit relationship, was injured after they were hacked by the former's husband at Ubuka village under Bari police limits in Jajpur district Monday. The injured was admitted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack. According to sources, Bharati (35), wife of Akshay Kumar Mallick, was allegedly having an extramarital affair with her brother-in-law Arun. Akshay was detained by police while a probe was on.

Metrology official's properties raided

Rourkela: Vigilance sleuths Monday conducted raids on the properties of Bidyadhar Biswal, assistant controller of legal metrology, Rourkela, on the charge of amassing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income. Acting on a complaint, a team of 25 sleuths conducted simultaneous raids at five places including his ancestral house in Balugaon in Khurda district, his office, his house at Pokhariput in Bhubaneswar and a relative's house at Patrapada in Bhubaneswar and detected assets worth crores of rupees. The raids were continuing when this report was filed.

Farmer electrocuted

Khandapara: A farmer was electrocuted after he came in contact with an 11kv electric wire at Adaspur village under Ulatpur police limits in Nayagarh district Monday. He was identified as Artha Das (52). Based on a complaint by the deceased's son Ajay Das, police seized the body and sent it for post-mortem. A case of unnatural death was registered and a probe was launched. Sources said the incident occurred while Das had gone to work in his farm. Meanwhile, he came in contact with the electric wire that had snapped and fallen on the ground, leading to his death on the spot.

Woman commits suicide

Athgarh: A woman committed suicide by consuming poison over a family feud at Badabhuindala village under Athgarh police limits in Cuttack district late Sunday night. She was identified as Rashmita Behera (28), wife of Sanjay Behera. While no exact reason of the woman's step was known, rumours did the rounds that it was the fallout of a family feud. However, the deceased's husband refuted the allegations and claimed that there was no feud in the family. While everyone was asleep after dinner, Rashmita took the extreme step. Family members rushed her to Athgarh sub-divisional hospital where she succumbed while undergoing treatment Monday morning.

17-year-old raped

Kendrapara: A 17-year-old girl of Manjulapalli under Talachua marine police station was raped Sunday night by a married man, Santu Jena (22), of Tikayatnagar, said IIC Sitakantha Kanungo. According to police, Santu was married to a cousin of the victim. Sunday night, when the victim's parents were away from home, Santu forcibly took her on his bike to Tikayatnagar and raped her on the way. Locals rescued the girl while Santu fled the scene. The victim's father Monday lodged an FIR at Talachua marine police station. Police registered a case and detained Santu. The accused will be medically examined Tuesday, the IIC said.

HM molests Class VIII girl in Kandhamal

Daringbadi, April 30: Tension ran high at a Government High School here in Kandhamal district after a Class VIII girl was allegedly molested by the school headmaster Monday. The matter came to the fore after the victim's father lodged a written complaint with Daringbadi police. Based on the complaint, police registered a case and a probe is on, Daringbadi IIC Tusharkant Mahapatra said. According to the complainant, the girl got admission in Class VI back in 2016. She resides in the school hostel and now studies in Class VIII. On the pretext of work, the HM allegedly called the girl to his quarters and made her do his household chores April 22. Taking advantage of this, the HM then molested the girl. In a bid to save her life, the girl ran out of the hostel and left for bus-stand to take a bus to her village. Since then the girl has been in a mental shock, her father alleged. He demanded a probe and action against the HM. The incident sparked tension in the area.

Dowry case: Girl ends life minutes before marriage

POST NEWS NETWORK

Patnagarh, April 30: In a shocking incident, a girl committed suicide by consuming poison just a few minutes before her marriage Monday. She was identified as Rita Putel (22) of Kumbharkhun village under Belpada police limits in Bolangir district.

While no exact reason of the girl's extreme step was known, the girl's father alleged her daughter took the step due to pressure for dowry. In the last minute, the groom had called the girl's father and demanded a motorbike. This had left the girl heart-broken who consumed pesticides kept in her house.

Family members rushed her to Patnagarh sub-divisional hospital where she succumbed during her treatment. According to sources, Gokul Putel's daughter Rita Putel's marriage was fixed

with Jitendra Putel, son of Tularam Putel of Bharuapali village under Belpada police limits. All the guests had arrived and all the preparations had been done.

Minutes before the groom would arrive in the village, Rita's father got a phone call from the groom, demanding a motorbike. After having spent all the money on decorations, arrangements and buying other dowry items, the girl's father expressed inability to meet his demands. However, the groom remained adamant and warned to return back.

Hearing the entire incident from her father, Rita was left heart-broken and took the extreme step. The incident spread outrage among locals who demanded immediate arrest of the groom.

Police registered a case of unnatural death and sent the body for post-mortem.

'Workers' interest still not a priority

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, April 30: Even as workers play a significant role in the process of nation building, most of them lead a life of deprivation as neither the state government nor the Centre really shows any concern for them, a report said.

The scenario is much the same in organised and unorganised sectors of mineral-rich Keonjhar district with workers rendering jobless in massive scale due to layoff exercise adopted by the local industrial units. The companies, instead of creating more opportunities for the workers, are replacing them with machines.

According to reports, nearly two lakh daily labourers who were dependent on industries directly and indirectly, have lost their livelihood over last couple of years due to closure of mines and industrial units in Keonjhar district.

While the administration doesn't have details on the number of jobless workers, demonstrations and protests at the units have become a regular affair.

Most of the industrial workers are left with little option as they had earlier given away their lands and



A file photo of workers protesting at an OMC plant in Keonjhar district

lost the forests to the projects after lured by the companies.

The situation is likely to worsen in coming days, apprehended the analysts.

Even as infra projects like roads and bridges are going on in full pace in the district, the authorities prefer to engage the outside workers ignoring the interests of the local workers, it is alleged.

On the other hand, people en-

gaged in MGNREGS projects often don't get their wages for years which forces them to work as bonded labourers in other states.

The workers are deprived of minimum wages and the facilities provided by the government. However, their issues remain unreported due to a lackadaisical attitude of the agencies like labour department, provident fund department and district adminis-

tration. The poor workers also remain tight-lipped due to pressure from higher authorities and fear of losing jobs.

It was also alleged that the employers manage to twist the rules, designed to protect the interest of workers, in their favour.

For instance, there are no differentiations between skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers in many industrial units and the workers get exploited in them. The workers are also deprived of many government facilities as they are engaged through consultancy firms.

In such cases, the employers make them overwork for paltry wages since the workers are not registered with the labour department, said the experts and are of the view that protection of workers' interest should be a priority of the government.

Quacks' lockets still 'saviour' for many

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, April 30: A large number of people living in inaccessible areas under Banshapal block still depend on lockets prescribed by quacks to address their health issues, a report said.

Proper health care service is still a dream in many regions of Banshapal block as they are surrounded by hills and forest from all sides. Even as people get exploited in the hands of quacks or traditional healers in the absence of allopathic doctors and many die due to wrong treatment, they still trust the lockets given by the quacks.

In many cases people get cured from some minor ailments due to body's immune system but they attribute it to the charisma of the quacks, locally known as Disari.

"My grand-daughter was suffering from severe fever. We took her to a Disari who performed some rituals and asked us to put a locket in kid's neck. She got cured after wearing it," said Parvati Juang, a tribal resident of Colony Sahi in Talapanasansa village under Sadar block. Many tribal



Juang kids are seen with lockets

children of Juang community can be seen wearing lockets around their necks and waists to battle deadly diseases. The child and infant mortality rate in such region has been on the rise due to superstitions like this, it was learnt.

Though the Kanjipani government hospital is just eight km from the village, the tribals don't get the required health care facilities due to shortage of doctors and other staff, it was alleged.

Besides, it is a daunting task to cross the ghat roads and hilly terrain to reach the hospital. So, it is better to consult the quacks and get some lockets to cure the children, one of the villagers pointed out.

Kanchudi river turns dumping yard; cultivation badly hit

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, April 30: Rampant encroachment and lack of concern for natural resources have turned Kanchudi, a river irrigating thousands of acres, a dumping yard, a report said.

Kanchudi, after flowing through Padmapur and Sugo panchayats of

Basudevpur block and several other regions of undivided Balasore district, has joined Mantei river again in Padmapur panchayat.

Over a thousand acres in both Balasore and Bhadrak districts get irrigated by this river. In rainy season, the flow of floodwater is regulated by a sluice gate near Melak Sahi of Padmapur panchayat to

help farmers. However, the river can now be seen encroached upon by many people at several places. Similarly, a stretch of the river near Padmapur bridge has become a dumping yard as people keep putting trashes into the river.

This apart, eatery and hotel owners and other traders of the market conveniently dump the waste in the river bed.

This has not only led to siltation, the water source is also getting polluted by it. Besides, blockade of water at many places keeps farm animals thirsty in summer season due to shortage of large-sized water bodies.

When contacted over the issue, local Sarpanch Snehaprabha Biswal said measures would be taken to bury the litter instead of dumping them in the river.

Dustbins would be placed in the market places and awareness would be created in this regard, said samiti member Banaj Kumar Mohapatra.



A stretch of the river near Padmapur market turns dumping yard

Widow seeks euthanasia for kin

POST NEWS NETWORK

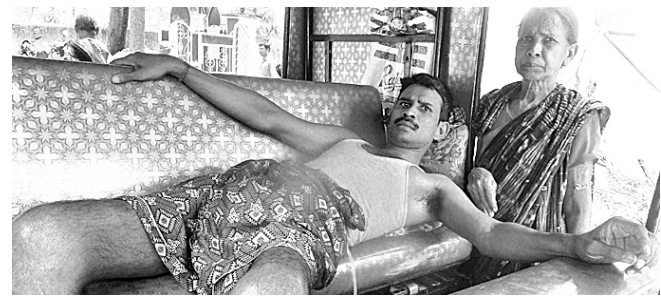
Bargarh, April 30: Fed up with the apathy of the administration, a widow of Bardol village here in this district sought euthanasia for herself and her ailing son Monday.

Failing to avail treatment for her bed-ridden son even after running from pillar to post, the widow, Prabhati Barik, wife of late Sourji Barik, approached District Collector Indramani Tripathy and submitted a written memorandum. In the absence of the DM, the widow submitted the memorandum in the DM's office.

Prabhati has a daughter, Tara (40) and son Muna (35). With no agricultural land of their own, the family ekes out a living by working as daily labourers.

After much struggle, the widow had managed to get her daughter married. But the irony is the problem did not end there as her son-in-law passed away just a few years after the marriage. Since then, Tara lives with the family.

Adding to their woes, her son Muna, the only breadwinner in



Prabhati Barik with her bed-ridden son

the family, was disabled after he fell down from a tree. With no support from the administration, the widow sold her land and mortgaged all her jewellery to admit Muna in hospitals.

However, there was no improvement in his health condition even after admitting him to Bargarh district headquarters hospital and Burla-based VSS Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR).

Since then, Muna is bed-ridden. Due to financial constraints, the widow is failing to get proper treatment for Muna. She has been running from pillar to post to seek

help from the administration, however, no one pays heed to her plight. Despite repeated pleas, no one cares to listen to her pleas.

"My son was the only bread earner. While the plight of my daughter did not end, the condition of my son is now worsening. I have approached the DM several times, but no one is ready to listen to me," said the widow as she submitted the memorandum.

Locals sympathised with the condition of Prabhati and demanded the administration to provide help as soon as possible. Meanwhile, the collector could not be reached for his comments.

ELDERLY COUPLE TOILING TO FEND FOR ORPHAN KID

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nuagaon, April 30: At a time when they need care and support, an octogenarian couple here has been struggling to take care of their orphan grandson as no help was forthcoming from the administration.

First their son died after he was bitten by a snake while sleeping in his house verandah. Before, the heart-broken couple could come to terms with their son's death, their daughter-in-law passed away due to stress after her husband's death, leaving behind the kid to

the care of the elderly couple.

With much care and love from the couple, the baby grew up to a seven-year-old. However, the couple is a worried lot as they fear they might die anytime soon due to their old age.

"Who will take care of our grandson, what will happen to him, where he will live after their death, what will happen to his future?" are the questions haunting Birasen Jani and his wife Henguli Jani of Singhpur village under Nuagaon block in Nayagarh district.

The couple's family comprised their only son Laxmidhar Jani



The couple with their grand child

DAUNTING TASK

DEPRIVED OF PROPER TREATMENT, COUPLE'S DAUGHTER-IN-LAW HEERA ALSO PASSED AWAY, LEAVING BEHIND THE BABY WITH THE TWO

DCPO PRITIKANT PANDA SAID THE ADMINISTRATION WILL REHABILITATE THE BOY IN AN ASHRAM SCHOOL AND TAKE CARE OF HIS STUDIES

and their daughter-in-law Heera Jani. Tragedy struck the family in the form of Laxmidhar's death when the baby was only one-year-old. Left with no bread earner, Heera was affected by ailments after the death of her husband. Later, deprived of proper treatment, Heera also passed away, leaving behind the baby with the elderly couple.

Caring for the boy has been the couple's main concern now. While elderly people of their age are in need of care and support, here is a reverse scenario. Left with no sources of income, the couple

makes leaf platelets for a living. They avail Rs 600 as old-age pension and monthly quota of 15kg ration.

However, this hardly lasts them for 15 days. In most occasions, they survive with whatever locals provided them out of sympathy. Locals urged the administration to take notice of the plight of the elderly couple and extend a helping hand.

When contacted, the district child protection officer, Pritikant Panda, said the administration will rehabilitate the boy in an Ashram school and take care of his studies.

Sevashram girl's rape: Three more teachers suspended

Dhenkanal, April 30: Three assistant teachers including two women teachers of a Sevashram School at Sarakhia here were suspended Monday on the charge of conniving to cover up the rape of a class-VI girl and subsequently taking the victim to a private nursing home outside the district for delivery. The suspended teachers were identified as assistant teachers Pushpalata Kanar and Rashmirekha Mishra and Bikram Aditya Sahu. Sahu had been earlier arrested by police for the offence along with headmaster Shankarshan Behera.

Rama Chandra Mishra has been appointed as the new headmaster of the school after Bhera was arrested, district welfare officer Manas Mishra said. A married youth named Chandan Purty alias Baya, raped the girl during her visit to her village during Durga Puja festival. The girl became pregnant out of the relationship. Behera and other teachers instead of informing her family members and higher-ups took the girl for delivery to a private nursing home in Panikolli of Jajpur district. The matter came to fore after the victim's family members lodged a complaint at the Kankadahada police station April 25. Police arrested Purty and later arrested headmaster and the assistant teacher. The victim also lodged a case with the district welfare officer Manas Mishra against the headmaster accusing him of sexually abusing her, raping her and forcibly taking her outside for abortion.



Students perform at a programme to mark Buddha Jayanti at Sovaniya Sikshyashram in Udayagiri near Chandikhole in Jajpur district Monday. OP PHOTO

BUDDHA JAYANTI

45-YR-OLD HELD FOR RAPING MINOR NIECE

Kendrapara, April 30: Cases of sexual abuse of minor girls, mostly by relatives or neighbours, have risen sharply in Kendrapara district. In a latest case, a four-year-old girl was allegedly raped by her uncle.

Rajkanika police arrested the 45-year-old accused, Ranjan Nayak, a resident of Barunadiha village. Though the crime took place April 24, it came to light after the victim's father lodged a complaint Sunday. IIC Sandhyarani Behura said, as per the complaint, Ranjan lured the four-year-old girl by offering her chocolates. He took her to a nearby bamboo bush, some 200 metres away from the victim's house, and raped her. The girl complained about this after experiencing severe pain.

When the victim's father confronted Ranjan, the latter threatened him with serious consequences if he approached the police. The father refused to be cowed down by threats and went to the police.

Acting on the FIR, the Rajkanika police registered a case. Monday, the police arrested the accused and sent him for a medical ex-

NO LET-UP

LAST WEEK, AN FIR WAS LODGED AT MARSHAGHAI POLICE STATION AFTER A FOUR-YEAR-OLD GIRL WAS RAPED BY A JUVENILE

A 35-YEAR-OLD MARRIED MAN ATTEMPTED TO RAPE A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD TRIBAL GIRL WHO WAS BEGGING AT A MARKET

amination to Rajkanika CHC. The victim was examined Sunday. The accused was produced in a court and was remanded to jail custody after his bail plea was rejected by the court, the IIC said.

Last week, an FIR was lodged at the Marshaghai police station after a four-year-old girl was raped April 22 near Paika riverbed by a juvenile from Tikhiri village. A 35-year-old married man attempted to rape a seven-year-old tribal girl Sunday morning. In an inebriated state, he courted the girl while she was begging at the Tinimuhani market complex. Police have arrested the accused in all the three cases.

Ayurvedic healthcare hit by doc shortage

Jhumpura, April 30: Healthcare facilities are reportedly unavailable to people in remote pockets of Keonjhar district, compelling them to seek sorcery and other unscientific methods of treatment. A case in point is an Ayurvedic hospital in tribal-dominated Silisuan under Kandarapasi panchayat that has been locked for the last two years.

The healthcare institution assumes importance for poor tribal people of the region, but it has been paralysed in the absence of doctors. The condition of several other Ayurvedic hospitals in the district is no different. The system has virtually collapsed for doctors' shortage. The Silisuan Ayurvedic hospital was set up two years ago with an aim of providing healthcare services to the poor.



The Ayurvedic dispensary at Silisuan in Keonjhar district. OP PHOTO

Some locals like Prabhuchandra Nayak, Dasarathi Nayak, Bhaskar Nayak, Pura Nayak, Niranjan Nayak, Nirupama Nayak, Kamalini Nayak and Ratnakar Majhi had time and again drawn the attention of the health authorities, but no step was taken as yet to sort out the issue.

According to a report, there are 48 Ayurvedic hospitals in various rural pockets of the district, but only 21

Ayurvedic doctors have been appointed while several posts are lying vacant. District Ayurvedic medical officer Dr Basant Nayak admitted that many Ayurvedic hospitals including Silisuan do not have doctors at all.

"The district Collector and the director of Ayurveda (Bhubaneswar) will be intimated about the doctors' shortage issue," he added.

Man hacks father to death in Angul

Chhendipada: A man was killed by his son at Kukurpeta village under Chhendipada police limits in Angul district Monday. The deceased was identified as Kailash Naik (55), a resident of a Dalit hamlet in the village. The accused Jeetendra Naik (27) was arrested. Kailash was rushed to the Chhendipada community health centre where he succumbed to his injuries. Police sent the body for post-mortem and seized an axe used in the killing. A case was registered in this connection and further investigations were on. The incident occurred after Jeetendra asked his father to get him married and demanded money from him to meet the expenses. Kailash asked his son to make arrangements for the marriage from his own earnings. This led to an altercation between the two which turned violent and Jeetendra hacked his father with an axe.

Antique idols discovered

Sambalpur, April 30: Some antique statues of historical importance were discovered while doing the renovation-related digging of an old water tank (pond) at Adhapada village in Jharsuguda district. The pond was located close to the Pashchimeswar Shiva temple there. The exact ages of the statues are to be ascertained, but they seem to be centuries-old, experts said. Ten statues were unearthed from the site so far and more were expected to be found if the excavation works go further deep. A statue of Lord Shiva and another of his associate Brushav were out of the 10 unearthed statues. A hint is that there existed at least one Shiva temple in the distant



The recovered idols.

The exact ages of the statues are to be ascertained, but they seem to be centuries-old

heap of soil now lay near the excavated site. Some statues and other sculptures are partly visible in their buried conditions.

A team from the Sambalpur chapter of INTACH visited the site Sunday as per an invitation from local resource persons. The team from Sambalpur included chapter convener Prof Tarini Prasad Panda, historian Dipak Panda, Gopinath Mishra and BP Mishra. The team opined that the excavation works must be continued as they might shed new light on the unwritten history of the region.

Sexual assaults on minors up

Huge funds spent on awareness drive, but scenario turning worse

Bhadrak, April 30: While the crime graph is steadily on the rise in this district, those of sexual assaults on minor girls have increased manifold. This is happening despite lakhs of rupees having been spent on spreading awareness on child protection at school and college levels. Reports said 45 such cases were recorded in 2013. The figure went up to 51 the next year. It touched 76 in 2015. The next year, the number was logged at 92. It rose to 152 last year. Till date this year, 50 such cases were reported. Most of the accused in these cases are juveniles.

In some cases, minors are sexually exploited by those in and around their families themselves, but generally this is happening outside of homes. Kidnapping cases have also gone up. There are



complaints that the woman and child desks set up in all police stations are not functioning properly. Posts of women officers in many police stations are lying vacant. So, surprisingly, male officers are handling the woman and child desks in certain stations.

In cases of rape of minors, victims are taken to police stations where there is the woman and child desk, to record their statements. More often than not, such stations are at faraway places.

There, if women police officers are not available, the plight of the victims is worse. Subrat Das, probationary officer of the child protection unit, said there was the need for massive awareness and formation of anti-harassment cells at the panchayat, police station and school levels. People in rural pockets are unaware of the POCSO (protection of children from sexual offences) Act. Over 400 sexual assault cases are pending in special courts.

CRY FOR JUSTICE



Landless people of three wards (14, 18 and 19) in Dhenkanal municipality gather outside the collectorate after submitting a memorandum demanding land pattas and houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Monday. OP PHOTO

Woman's body found in temple well

Chhendipada, April 30: A woman's body was recovered from a well on a temple premises at Ostapasi Square in Santarabandh under Chhendipada police limits in Angul district Monday. The deceased was identified as Padmini Pradhan (40) wife of Khirod Pradhan of nearby Kendupasi.

Locals spotted the body floating in the 30-ft deep well on the Maa Mahisha Mardini (Banadurga) temple premises and informed the fire personnel and the police. They recovered the body and sent it for post-mortem. A case was registered and investigations were on.

Police said Padmini was missing from home for the last four days following which her husband had filed an FIR in police station.

Some claimed that the woman committed suicide, while others believed she might have fell into the well while drawing water. Padmini's mother-in-law has filed a complaint of murder in the local police station.

Samlei temple reopens after repairs, devotees visit in hordes

SANCTUM SANCTORUM REMAINED CLOSED FOR 19 DAYS FOR MAINTENANCE WORK AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW DRAINAGE SYSTEM

Sambalpur, April 30: The popular shrine of regional deity Maa Samlei opened Monday marking Baishakh Purnima after a rare closure lasting 19 days. The period saw necessary repairs being conducted at its sanctum sanctorum and installation of a new drainage system.

A 'homa yajna' was held early in the morning for purification of the garbha gruha (sanctum sanctorum) for fear that impurities might have been caused there while the temple went through the repair works.

The devotees thronged the shrine in large numbers as they were allowed to do worship to their presiding deity after a gap of 19 days. The deity had been moved away and kept for worship at a different location inside the temple for these 19 days. Another idol of Maa Samlei used to be worshiped there. It symbolised the prime deity, as the original idol remained embedded inside the garbha gruha.

The managing trustee of the Samlei Trust Board Sanjay Babu said a purification of the garbha gruha was conducted by washing the space with Gangajal alongside performance of other required rituals Sunday night. The idol of prime deity Maa Samlei was got readied for public view (darshan) with a new get-up and it was adorned with a fresh set of ornaments and clothing. It had been left without much care for the last 19 days.

Worship inside the garbha gruha had been totally suspended from April 11 to 29. The restoration works were overdue. The entire floor of the garbha gruha and some portion of the walls were riddled with rat holes that made the entire base of the structure porous and weak. This weakened the centuries-old walls of the historic temple. A col-



Devotees offer diyas at the temple, Monday. OP PHOTO

lapse had looked imminent. Devotees note that it was by the grace of Maa Samlei that it could remain intact so far. Managing trustees thanked the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), whose officials visited the temple on an earlier occasion and identified the threats to the temple's grand structure. The entire repair works were conducted as per the advice and suggestions of experts from ASI. It was done under the direct supervision of its conservation engineer Prasanna Sahu.

More than one quintal of mixture including polymer, sealing agents and other chemical besides 30 quintals (60 bags) of cement were required to fill the cavities left behind by rodents. The mixture was injected by the help of pneumatic pressure machines that did deeper penetration to seal and strengthen the weakened

portion of the structure. A new drainage system was installed there. Sanjay Babu said all sorts of precautions would be taken henceforth to safeguard the temple that has remained as the centre of faith and trust of millions of devotees, the Goddess Samlei being the prime deity of the region. Thousands of earthen lamps besides innumerable packs of incense sticks used to be lighted by devotees as part of rituals and worship every day. The heat thus emitted used to inflict major damage to the structure. In fact, the temple trust had provided a huge bronze-lamp-like structure and racks, where lamps and incense sticks could have been offered by the devotees. But some devotees insisted on offering these too inside the garbha gruha. Not anymore. Henceforth, no one will be allowed to do such things; so as to avoid causing any damage to the structure.



India of the ages is not dead nor has she spoken her last creative word; she lives and has still something to do for herself and the human peoples.



THE MOTHER

POWERFUL VILLAGES

India, it now transpires, is fully electrified; this with a simple caveat – that power has reached all the 5,97,464 census villages, but not all the families. That inclusiveness is still a far cry and the data being dished out is completely unfounded and untrue. It is also a sad commentary that even this falsified data that India achieved this “feat” some 70 years after Independence whereas nations much poorer in natural and human resources had achieved this in far shorter periods. World Bank figures last year had stated the obvious: in a world where one-fifth of the population still had no access to electricity, leading the pack of worst-performing nations were India and Nigeria. So much for the bombasts about Good Governance here – an ideal that has no relation to what is happening on the ground.

Even when the government came up with this present ridiculous claim, what is also obvious is that a village is deemed as being electrified if at least 10 per cent of its households as also public places have access to electricity. Even this goes to show that, as a poll promise, it has not been met by the Modi government. The overall scenario in the country is far from satisfactory.

At the same time, it is to be noted that due to bungling in coal block allocations, improper planning and inefficient operations of government owned coal companies, most thermal power plants across the country are doddering or are already shut down.

Most states, other than seven stragglers, are by now power surplus – as also the whole country. The problem is not in production. Even if the thermal plants are suffering, the total installed capacity of energy production is estimated to be around three lac thirty thousand megawatt. On the other side, peak hour demand today is only about one lac sixty thousand megawatt. These reality based estimated figures pertain to end 2017.

This implies that India should not have any power shortage for a long time to come. However, the energy sector in this nation has always been dealt in a haphazard manner. Transmission and distribution losses have always kept this business in the red. Private players either come up with captive power plants for their own use or for selling any extra production. Except government, no private player is interested in investing in transmission systems. That is simply because in India, operators have got used to dumping all the nitty gritty work on government (read tax payers’ money) while they themselves are more bothered with just their own profits.

Sufficient power could create the right climate for a major push to industrialisation, but such good tidings are a distant dream. For example, the rates at which private entities sell power are turning out unbearable. Government on the other side offers subsidies in power to the agriculture sector; and some claim the result could be seen in major jumps in food grain production. A good monsoon, however, still remains the only savior for the Indian farmer. This might again be because, while water may be available, yet it most likely is at a distance or at a lower level which compels the farmer to use pumps to irrigate her fields. Since power availability is non-existent or erratic throughout this country except a few urban centers, dependence on monsoon is very heavy. The higher yields can also be explained as being the fruits of good monsoons and not subsidised energy or any other corporate/government interventions.

Corrupt practices in government are also a problem. Unless the palms of officials are greased, they would keep citing hundreds of reasons why an ordinary householder cannot get connection or why a farmer cannot get subsidised power.

Manipur’s Leisang village in Senapati district has earned a name for being the last census village in the country to have been connected with the national power grid. Good, but is there anyone who has bothered to ask all state governments and also the common people if every village has been electrified? Guess ‘big data’ is all this country goes by now, not taking into account ground realities. This desire to live in a self created dream world has landed us in multiple problem points. The claim that 100% electrification has been achieved in all census villages across the country sounds similar to the claim that complete districts have become Open Defecation Free (ODF) whereas nearly 90% newly built toilets do not have water supply.

POST-POLL POKER IN K’TAKA

FOCUS POLITICS

When the Karnataka election results are announced May 15, and the Congress, the

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Deve Gowda’s Janata Dal-Secular (JD-S) find themselves in an almighty scrum bargaining for power; a certain mysterious lady will be watching the proceedings from her suite in the country’s most luxurious, seven-star Leela hotel on Bangalore’s old airport road.

The hijab clad, 45-year-old, Nowhera Shaik, president of the All India Mahila (Women’s) Empowerment Party (MEP), is fielding candidates for all the 224 Assembly seats. It is a mistake to regard MEP as a woman-only party. “A woman has a brother, father and son,” she says. Moreover, there is no taboo on men seeking MEP tickets.

Her hijab is a far cry from a docile acceptance of male oppression. It is an assertion of feminine independence. She is CEO of the Hyderabad-based Heera Group of companies, dealing with a wide range of commodities across the globe – building material, gold and diamonds. The last mentioned happens to be something of an obsession with her. Heera, name of her company, means diamond. Her election symbol is the diamond. Who knows, her name Nowhera may be a contortion of Nav Heera, which means “novel diamond”.

In the Sherlock Holmes classic, mystery deepens when the dog “does not” bark. In Shaik’s case the deadly silence of politicians and the media at the high voltage election debut is as intriguing.

There are all sorts of ironies involved. The latest Congress policy towards Muslims is based on the appraisal that the BJP’s shrill allegation, that the party appeases Muslims, has begun to affect the majority community. The Hindu increasingly sees the Congress as a “Muslim Party”. How should a party, which is greedy for Hindu as well as Muslim votes, cope with the predicament?

It was to meet this situation that the new “cloak and dagger” policy towards Muslims was enunciated. The party will distance itself from Muslims to prevent a haemorrhage of Hindu votes. But by hint and gesture the Muslim voter will be per-



If the Congress loses the Karnataka election, it will be difficult for the party to escape the label the Opposition is ready to paste on its forehead: P2, a party confined to Punjab and Puducherry

sued that this “distancing” is only a tactic in the Muslim interest. The Muslim must not leap into the Congress lap in full public view, but, with expert slyness, sneak towards the Congress polling agent.

The game acquires a touch of situation comedy when an audacious, hijab-wearing lady, with wealth beyond measure, a credible image of a philanthropist, jumps into the electoral fray. The Congress cannot throw up its hands and scream, “Help, help, she is nibbling away at Muslim pockets in a close election where even a few hundred votes matter.”

Nor can the BJP be ecstatic: “Welcome dear Begum Sahiba; go, damage the Congress.”

Unobtrusively, she just may end up marginally harming the Congress. If each one of her 224 candidates is pillowed with cash, the law of averages may return two, three or five winners. This may give her a hand to play in post-poll poker. Her ambitions for 2019 leave one gasping. If the Congress loses the Karnataka election, it will be difficult for the party to escape the label the Opposition is in gleeful readiness to paste on the Congress forehead: P2, a party confined to Punjab and Puducherry.

While nobody is conceding outright victory to the Congress, punters are willing to give it the largest single party status and, therefore, hope for coming state elections.

A representative group of eight senior journalists and political activists (including two having deep links with Communists and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh – RSS) pondered over the election scene in my Bangalore drawing room. There was no great difference of opinion on the way the cookie was expected to crumble May 15. The Congress, BJP and JD-S were expected to poll 95 to 100, 85 to 95 and 35 to 40 seats, respectively. A hung House will enable the JD-S to play a leading role in the post-poll poker.

Let us pick up the narrative in 2010 when Siddaramaiah, then in the Opposition, chastised the infamous Reddy Brothers (more popularly known in Karnataka as the Bellary mining mafia) on the floor of the state Assembly.

The Reddys promptly dared him to repeat his charges in Bellary where, they threatened, he “would be finished”. Siddaramaiah took up the challenge. He undertook a 200-mile padyatra to Bellary. The voter, desperately searching for something he can respect, spotted a touch of heroism in Siddaramaiah.

There are now three principal caste groups (hundreds of smaller ones) in the contest:

Siddaramaiah with his diligently consolidated Kuruba caste; Deve Gowda, something of a Vokkaliga stalwart and BS Yedurappa, the tallest Lingayat, who had almost been ruled out by the BJP because of a jail term

for massive corruption. His powerful caste Lingayat has trumped all negative considerations.

Siddaramaiah is not a classical Congressman. Rather, his background should be a cause for concern for the Congress: There is in his DNA a trace of Lohia Socialist. This is what kept him in the JD-S for 35 years. But his parting with Deve Gowda was so bitter that theirs is now a blood feud. Deve Gowda would jump in front of a train rather than allow Siddaramaiah a second term in Bengaluru.

Yedurappa poses the Lingayat challenge. This has propelled Siddaramaiah towards an audacious gamble. An old demand by a section of Lingayats seeking a status outside the Hindu structure has been dusted up by him. Yes, he says, Lingayats will be outside the Hindu fold. This is far-reaching, tearing into Veer Shaivaite-Lingayat divide.

Trust a Lohiaite to have played this hand. There are echoes of VP Singh’s implementation of the Mandal Commission report. VP Singh himself was not a beneficiary of his machinations. But the post-Mandal tumult brought to the fore Mayawati, Mulayam Singh, Lalu Prasad, Rath yatra to Ayodhya and so much mayhem. Let’s see how Siddaramaiah’s gamble plays itself out.

(The writer is a senior commentator on political and diplomatic affairs.)



Saeed Naqvi

SIDDARAMAIAH IS NOT A CLASSICAL CONGRESSMAN. RATHER, HIS BACKGROUND SHOULD BE A CAUSE FOR CONCERN FOR THE CONGRESS

SPECTRUM TECHNOLOGY

A crisis playbook for big tech

The predictions were wrong: the global economy didn’t collapse after the 2008 financial crisis. Buoyed by taxpayer-financed bailouts, banks recovered and business at most institutions stabilised. But if there is one lingering casualty of that era, it is the erosion of public trust in the financial sector. Ten years after the crisis began, Main Street still has little faith in Wall Street.

A similar crisis of confidence plagues the technology industry today. As executives at Facebook and Cambridge Analytica rationalise their companies’ use and abuse of personal data, trust in technology firms is approaching a tipping point. “Big Tech” can still salvage its reputation, but it’s most powerful companies will need to change fundamentally how they operate. And to do that, they must avoid the mistakes that nearly crippled the financial sector a decade ago.

Five key lessons from the financial crisis should guide decision-making in the tech sector today. First, consumer illiteracy can be costly. Shortly before the housing bubble burst, many investors realized they had no understanding of the products they were buying; some didn’t even

know they were buying anything. Financial journalism contributed to this atmosphere of ignorance by focusing only on the potential gains, and ignoring the risks.

People engage with technology in similar ways. Companies, governments, and businesses happily plug their entire operations into platforms they cannot control. Doubt, if it does arise, is usually subdued, because the technology is too convenient to abandon. But, just like perilous financial products, the only way to mitigate the risks of new technologies is to be fully educated about what could go wrong.

The second lesson is that hidden costs add up. Before the financial crisis, many customers were sold products with undisclosed fees and financial add-ons that became massive liabilities. Today, more investors recognise that higher returns imply higher risk, but in the technology business, hidden costs continue to entrap unsuspecting consumers. Some of these costs are social – like being pressured by advertisers to buy products. And others are more tangible, like giving away personal data in exchange for access to a service.

Third, inequitable pay and in-

centive structures are bad for business. Much has been written about the extraordinary bonuses paid to investment bankers during the height of the financial crisis. But the CEOs of Silicon Valley are no Robin Hoods, either. Tech entrepreneurs might tell their investors they want to change the world, but many are intoxicated by the idea that the world will be better when they sell their business to the highest bidder.

Fourth, businesses that are male-dominated take more unnecessary risks. When the history of the financial crisis was being written, many argued that greater gender diversity would have mitigated the damage. In 2010, two years after the collapse of Lehman Brothers, Christine Lagarde, then-France’s finance minister, quipped that the crisis would have been less painful if “Lehman Sisters” had been managing the store. The same logic applies to the tech sector today.

Finally, as we learned a decade ago, the global economy is deeply interconnected; no bank was too big to fail or to be rescued. This is true for the largest technology companies as well. The collapse of Amazon or Google – however invulnerable they may seem

– would have devastating ripple effects. While many argue that it would be unwise to regulate technology firms with a view to concerns over censorship and access to knowledge, these companies, like their financial-sector counterparts, have grown too big to be left to their own devices.

In the decade since the financial crisis erupted, structural changes have helped stabilise the banking and financial-services industry. Regulations have increased transparency and improved consumer awareness. But the old dynamics, power structures, and bloated pay scales have largely survived. As a result, the sector’s reputation remains in tatters.

For the technology industry to avoid a similar fate, its leaders must increase consumers’ literacy about the products they offer – and the potential dangers they hold. CEOs must support regulation, increase workplace diversity, and make compensation and incentive structures more equitable. Above all, tech leaders should avoid the mistakes made by other industries navigating crisis. And no industry offers a more relevant case study than the one that almost took down the global economy. © Project Syndicate

WISDOM CORNER

Health is the greatest gift, contentment the greatest wealth, faithfulness the best relationship. **BUDDHA**

Let your life lightly dance on the edges of Time like dew on the tip of a leaf. **RABINDRANATH TAGORE**

If I have seen further than others, it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants. **ISAAC NEWTON**

WORDSWORTH

Chillwave

Unless one is immersed in the pop-music scene, genres can come and go before you’ve noticed them. This one appeared in the summer of 2009 and within three months was being described as past its peak, though references to its demise have proved premature. It has also been derided as one of the daffier genre coinages, and that’s in a scene that has grunge, goat metal, psychobilly, gabba, shoegazing, grebo and grindcore. Other names that have been applied to it are lo-fi (although that’s a generic term dating from the 1980s and didn’t catch on), glo-fi and hypnagogic pop. As so often with derivative musical forms, it’s difficult to define chillwave. One writer has called it “mellow, cooled-out, laid-back beach music”. Another tried “lo-fi but pop; dance-influenced but bedroom-based; summery but melancholic.”

Domotics

Domotics is the application of “intelligent” technology to make a home more comfortable and convenient. You may be familiar with the idea under the name household automation, which is much more common; domotics tends to be preferred by robotics and computing specialists and also to be more often used in Europe. Another term sometimes encountered is smart house, used in a European initiative from 2004. Among the many applications that fall under the heading of domotics are sensors that automatically adjust lighting levels to meet the personal preferences of family members. Other sensors could water your plants according to need or vary the ventilation to make best use of outdoor climate conditions. With broadband communications now widely available, in the event of a fire or break-in your house could call the emergency services and explain in detail what was wrong? Some experts have described clever fridges that could read the wireless tags on food, spot when items are getting low and automatically reorder them. “Intelligent” washing machines could decide for themselves how much cleaning your garments needed. People have been dreaming about the automatic house for decades – it was satirised back in the 1950s by Jacques Tati in Mon Oncle.

LOL

CANNIBAL’S TEAMBUILDING

A cannibal is invited to a teambuilding week in the mountains. The instructions say he can also bring one friend. But when he arrives, he brings ten



people. The organiser is shocked: “Come on Alan, what the heck, the invitation said you can only bring one person!” “Yeah, but it also said bring your own food, didn’t it?”

Alexandra Borchardt

FIVE KEY LESSONS FROM THE FINANCIAL CRISIS SHOULD GUIDE DECISION-MAKING IN THE TECH SECTOR TODAY

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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Anandi Ben should resign

Sir, A video-clipping going viral on media about Madhya Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel openly talking politically for votes require her to gracefully resign to maintain dignity of the constitutional post. Otherwise propriety demands that President of India may act unbiased by sacking Anandiben Patel for her breaking important norm of political neutrality required to be maintained by a Governor. It is not proper to misuse dignified post of Governor for political waste. Posts of Governors must be only for politically neutral persons like retired judges and bureaucrats who might not have ever affiliated with any political party. There have been many cases earlier when politicians appointed as Governors have misused Raj Bhavans like party-headquarters, dancing to tunes of political masters at the Centre and ignoring even physical claim of deserving aspirants for posts of Chief Ministers claiming majority support of members of Legislative Assemblies. According to me, any such posting ought to have at least gap of two years with the previous assignment for checking any possibility of his/her bias in favour of government to get post-retirement assignments.

Subhash Chandra Agarwal, EMAIL

Bring BCCI under RTI

Sir, The richest sporting body in the world – the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) suffered from lack of transparency and accountability till not long ago. The Lodha committee changed all that by its salary and far-reaching recommendations to improve the functioning of the board. The BCCI is an autonomous body; but whether or not it fell into the “public authority” or “state” category with substantial “public functions” was unclear and this prevented the government from bringing it under the ambit of the Right to Information Act (RTI). Another issue was regarding the financial autonomy of the BCCI, because nil governmental funding acted as a deterrent for the RTI regulating the board. The government had asked the Law Commission to clear the air. The commission has recommended the BCCI be brought under the purview of the RTI. The commission has opined the BCCI is indeed a public authority as it performs “state-like” functions. Moreover, it receives public funding as also the government’s “substantial financing” largesse in the form of income tax and custom concessions, and procuring land at subsidised rates and, therefore, fit to be brought under the RTI. The BCCI selects the Indian cricket team to represent the “nation” and not the “board”.

Ganapathi Bhat, EMAIL

national



The government will knock on the doors of the judiciary to ensure reservation in promotions for scheduled castes and tribes in government jobs
RAM VILAS PASWAN | UNION MINISTER

74 TIGERS DIED IN MP

At least 74 tigers have died in Madhya Pradesh in the last two and a half years, a retired forest officer said, expressing concern over the decreasing number of the big cat



of the day quote

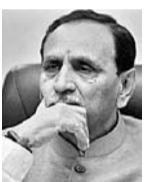
All is not well between BJP and PDP is something I have been hearing for the last three years. No coalition is easy, we are in coalition and working together to try to address the issues of the state. There will be hiccups but our party and our leaders are competent to handle those issues
RAM MADHAV | BJP LEADER



A record 131 candidates from the minority communities, including 51 Muslims, have been selected in the civil services examination 2017
MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI | UNION MINISTER



Google is a source of information. Narad Muni can be compared to Google, because he had information about various happenings in different corners of the world
VIJAY RUPANI | GUJARAT CM



SHORT TAKES

Gujarat Speaker faces flak

Ahmedabad: Gujarat Assembly Speaker Rajendra Trivedi has described Dalit icon B R Ambedkar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi as "Brahmins", claiming that any learned person could be called so. Dalit leader and Gujarat MLA Jignesh Mevani and the Opposition Congress have slammed Trivedi for his remarks. "I have no hesitation in saying that Ambedkar was also a Brahmin because his surname, a Brahmin surname, was given to him by his teacher, who was a Brahmin. "There is nothing wrong in calling a learned person a Brahmin and in that context, I would say that even (Prime Minister) Modiji (an OBC) is a Brahmin," Trivedi had said, addressing the "Mega Brahmin Business Summit" at Gandhinagar Sunday.

Former IAF chief passes away

Hyderabad: Former Chief of the Indian Air Force, Air Chief Marshal Idris Hassan Latif, passed away at a private hospital here Monday. He was 94. Latif, who was the chief of the IAF from September 1978 to August 1981, was admitted to the hospital on April 25 with aspiration pneumonia, sources said. He was critically ill and underwent treatment in the Intensive Care Unit of the hospital, where he passed away at 4.30 pm, they said. Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharam took to Twitter to condole the demise.

ED summons Nalini Chidambaram

New Delhi: In fresh trouble for the family of former finance minister P Chidambaram, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned his wife Nalini in connection with its money laundering probe into the Saradha ponzi scam. Officials said Nalini has been summoned at the Kolkata office of the central probe agency May 7. The agency wants to record her statement under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) with regard to a specific link of her in this case, they said.

Three civilians killed in militant firing

Srinagar: Suspected Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militants Monday shot dead three civilians in the Old Town of Baramulla district in Jammu and Kashmir Monday, police said. The militants opened fire at the trio around 8.30 pm from a very close range in Iqbal Market at the Old Town, leaving them dead on the spot, the police said.

Woman gangraped

Muzaffarnagar (UP): A 20-year-old woman was allegedly gang-raped by two youths at her residence in front of her minor brother in neighbouring Shamli district, police said Monday. Two youths, identified as Umer Khan and Amanullah Sunday barged into the woman's house and gang-raped her after confining her minor brother, they said.

Rahul, Maya slam BJP over recruits marked SC/ST

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Lucknow, April 30: The incident of police aspirants in BJP-ruled Madhya Pradesh having caste categories written on their bare chests sparked condemnation Monday from the chiefs of the Congress and the BSP who alleged this reflected the "casteist attitude" of the saffron party.

The Sharad Pawar-led NCP also asked the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) to probe the incident, calling it "shameful".

While Congress President Rahul Gandhi accused the BJP government of "knifing" the nation's heart with its "casteist attitude", BSP chief Mayawati alleged that the "criminal act" is the new and fresh example of BJP governments' "new found love" for Dalits for their political gains.

An inquiry has been ordered by police after photographs in various newspapers showed aspirants with "SC" (Scheduled Caste), "ST" (Scheduled Tribe) and "G" (General) marked with sketch pens on their chests as they queued up for their medical examination in Dhar district Sunday, triggering a controversy.

Dhar Superintendent of Police Virendra Singh Sunday said he had ordered an inquiry by a deputy SP rank officer. Singh had said those conducting the medical ex-



amination process had told police that the markings were made to tell apart candidates belonging to different categories as the physical requirements for each of these categories were different. "However, they should have used other ways to differentiate. This is a serious matter," he said.

Taking to Twitter, Rahul put out a picture of two youths with the words 'SC' and 'ST' written on their chests respectively.

Slamming the BJP over the issue, Rahul tweeted, "BJP government's casteist attitude has knifed the heart of the country. By writing SC/ST on the chest of youths in Madhya Pradesh, they have attacked the country's Constitution.



"This is BJP/RSS thought. This same thought sometimes ties a vessel around the neck of Dalits, or a broom on their bodies, and stops them from entering a temple. We will defeat this thought," he tweeted in Hindi.

Rahul, however, did not specify if he was referring to the BJP-led government at the Centre or the BJP government in Madhya Pradesh. Elections to the Madhya Pradesh Assembly are due later this year.

Lashing out at the BJP, BSP chief Mayawati claimed the incident was just a fresh example of the saffron party's new found love for Dalits. Mayawati also questioned the "silence" of top leaders

including the prime minister on the issue.

"This is the new and fresh example of BJP governments' new found love for Dalits for their political gains," Mayawati said in a statement released in Lucknow.

The BSP chief, in her statement, asked why top BJP leaders had not condemned the incident. "Does it suit the BJP and company, and the prime minister himself, to remain silent, (and) not to condemn such a casteist incident," she asked.

Mayawati demanded that the officials responsible for the incident be punished while the Centre needed to issue strict orders to check recurrence of such incidents anywhere in the country. Calling the Dhar incident a "criminal act", Mayawati said it was because of the casteist and spiteful attitude towards the Dalits, tribals and backwards that they were forced to convert as the Una case in Gujarat had shown.

The BJP needs to realise that besides self-respect, Dalits are also vigilant towards their interests and will never fall into the trap of anyone's allegations, she said.

Those conducting the medical examination process had told police that the markings were made to differentiate candidates belonging to different categories as the physical requirements for each of these categories were different.

Sena targets PM over China visit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 30: The Shiv Sena Monday criticized Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his just-concluded China visit, claiming it was a "casual" tour during which he avoided taking up crucial bilateral issues with President Xi Jinping in view of the next year's general elections.

The Uddhav Thackeray-led party claimed that Modi was trying to resolve pending issues with Beijing through "Panchsheel", five principles of peaceful coexistence propounded by former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru of whom he had been critical. The Sena sought to know what the RSS, the ideological mentor of Modi's party the BJP, had to say about this stance.

It said Modi had 'chai pe charcha' with the Chinese president during which he avoided discussing controversial issues in view of the general elections due next year. Issues related to Doklam, border incursions and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), among others, were not taken up with the Chinese side, it said in an editorial in the party mouthpiece 'Saamana'.



"Pandit Nehru's friendship with China had backfired. Modi has never lost an opportunity to criticise Nehru. But it seems the current prime minister is trying to solve the issues with China through Nehru's Panchsheel," the Sena claimed.

"Modi is backing Panchsheel but the thoughts behind it belonged to Nehru. Like Nehru, Modi is also convinced about 'no to war, yes to peace' (yudha nako, buddha hawa) approach (to resolve pending issues)," it maintained.

The Sena said the Ministry of External Affairs had maintained that Modi's two-day visit to China last week was without any agenda. "It means the country's prime minister has got no work and hence, he casually toured China," the Marathi daily claimed.

Sushil fires fresh salvo at Lalu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, April 30: In a fresh offensive against Lalu Prasad, Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Modi Monday accused the RJD leader and his family of buying a posh property from Tata group through shell companies at a throw-away price and of extending undue favours to the conglomerate.

Reacting to the allegations, the RJD accused Modi of indulging in "below the belt politics". The BJP leader, who has been continuously accusing Lalu Prasad and his family of financial irregularities, launched his fresh attack on a day when the RJD supreme, serving a jail term in fodder scam cases, left AIIMS on a wheelchair after being discharged by the hospital in the national capital, even as his party termed the move a "conspiracy to murder him".

The Rashtriya Janata Dal pres-



ident had written to the AIIMS director, asking that his treatment be continued at the hospital till he recovered. In Bihar's capital, Sushil Modi asserted that both Lalu Prasad and Rabri Devi during their tenures as chief ministers had extended favours to the Tatas and in return the industry house too extended favours to the RJD chief and his family.

No immediate comments were available from Tata group. Asked why did not he get the matter probed as the NDA government is in power at Centre as well as in the

state, Modi said it would be better for Lalu Prasad's family, the owner of the property, to speak about it.

Besides, the Income Tax Department should ask Tata company why it sold the property to a fake company, he said. Referring to a sale deed, Modi said the Income Tax department had in February attached a 7105 sq ft two-storeyed house at 5, Riding Road in Patna, located close to the airport and registered in the name of 'Fairglow Holding Pvt Ltd'.

The BJP leader alleged that this is the sixth shell company through which Prasad's family has acquired benami properties and motus operandi in this case was the same as the others - that they bought the property through a sick company, which had no turnover nor any business, employee and negligible investment before finally becoming directors of the company.

HOLY PROCESSION



Women carry urns as they take part in the Manda festival in Ranchi, Monday

PTI PHOTO

Asthma on rise in India

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, April 30: One among every ten persons affected by asthma globally is an Indian, with the country having 20 million such patients and the number is on the rise, an expert said here Monday.

Stating that the medical infrastructure and awareness about asthma had significantly gone up in the country, the doctor said more awareness programmes and focus on providing less expensive medication was necessary to fight the "chronic inflammatory disease" that can become fatal if not treated properly.

"Around 20 million people in India suffer from asthma. It is roughly 10 per cent of the global number of asthmatic patients. So certainly a greater sense of awareness, preventive measures and proper detection and treatment is necessary," said Subhra Mitra, Head of the Department of Pulmonology in Calcutta



National Medical College here.

"Asthma is hereditary. The genetic factors interact with environmental factors such as pollution to trigger asthma. Also viral infections and obesity acts as a trigger for asthma among the teenagers," he said on the eve of World Asthma Day.

The doctor said while the number of asthmatic patients in India is quiet high, the attacks are not as frequent as in Australia and certain European countries where asthma has a higher rate due to certain genetic reasons. Talking about the available ways to treat the disease, Mitra stressed on the importance of going for a therapeutic remedy.

TDP plays PM videos at public meeting

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Tirupati, April 30: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, at a massive public meeting here Monday evening, played videos of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to "expose" what he called his betrayal to the state on granting special category status. The meeting, attended by thousands of people, was organised at Sri Venkateswara University Grounds, the same location from where then Prime Ministerial candidate Modi had addressed a gathering four years ago. In the video clippings, Modi is heard praising M. Venkaiah Naidu, who was translating his speech into Telugu, for extracting the promise of special status from then UPA government. He then told the gathering that after coming to power, he will fulfill the promise. Naidu also played video clipping of Modi's speech at another election meeting, where he assured the people that he will build new state capital on such a scale that Delhi will look small before it.

400 cops will be killed, warns former journo

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Gadchiroli (Maharashtra), April 30: Security forces in Maharashtra went in a tizzy Monday following apprehensions expressed on Facebook that "400 cops will be killed for shooting 40 Maoists" in the biggest anti-Maoist security operation here last week that left 40 ultras, many of them women, dead.

The post has been made by Pune-based journalist-turned-social worker, Raosaheb Dokhe, who has raised questions on the Maoists gunned down in two separate gun battles with police in deep jungles of the district on April 22 and 23.

Contacted for reactions, an official of Gadchiroli police said that they have taken "serious note of the posts" and passed it onto the IT Cell for further investigations. "We shall find out the antecedents of the person who has issued these open challenges to the police and government in such objectionable

posts... and take appropriate action," the official, who declined to be identified, said.

In his post, Dokhe asks: "Were they all Maoists? How many policemen were killed? It means they were not real Maoists." "40 Comrades have been killed by the government in the Fake Encounter (staged gunfight). This will be definitely avenged - Blood for Blood - 400 cops for 40 (Maoists) killed," said the post put up on Sunday evening.

It also challenged the government of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis and said: "Wait for some time - Your future is not good." Before signing off with a "Lal Salam". A day earlier on April 28, Dokhe had urged: "Let us kill all those police, who killed our comrades brutally."

Contacted for his comments, the 51-year-old Dokhe said he is an "unarmed person" and his post was merely reflecting an ideology in the wake of what has happened in Gadchiroli.

K'taka polls: Cash, jewellery seizure three times more

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 30: As Karnataka gears up for assembly polls, the value of cash and jewellery seizure by the Income Tax Department there has gone up three times to about Rs 25 crore in the state as compared to the last elections, the Election Commission (EC) said Monday.

The EC said it has also been found that the "bulk of cash seized during operations in the present assembly elections has been meant for distribution." During the last assembly polls in 2013, the tax department had seized Rs 4.97 crore of cash and jewellery worth Rs 3.41 crore during the "entire" campaign period, the EC said.

"Total cash seizures (as part of the ongoing poll campaign) as on April 30 is Rs 19.69 crore and unexplained jewellery of Rs 4.81 crore has been made by the investigation wing of the Income Tax Department in Karnataka since the start of the assembly election related surveillance," the poll body said in a statement here. There is still over a week more of campaigning left for the May 12 single-phase polls in the state.

"The probe wing of the ITD has been doing intensive surveillance and monitoring activities in the state. For the first time, teams with statutory powers and sufficient resources in terms of manpower, vehicles among others have been posted in each district of the state," the EC said. It added that the tax sleuths searched a candidate, on April 28-29, who is contesting the polls on a party ticket and he and his family have declared an income of Rs 18 crore post the raids.

Sikkim's Chamling becomes longest-serving CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gangtok, April 30: Sikkim's Pawan Chamling has set a new record in the country by becoming the longest serving chief minister of a state, a title that Jyoti Basu, the former CPI(M) patriarch of West Bengal, had held so far.

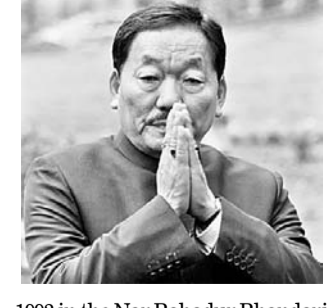
The founding president of the ruling Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) completed 23 years, four months and 17 days of uninterrupted service in office yesterday,

exceeding Basu's tenure.

The 68-year-old was sworn in as the chief minister of Sikkim for the first time on December 12, 1994.

Born on September 22, 1950, at Yangang, South Sikkim, to Asha Rani Chamling and Lt. Aash Bahadur, Pawan Chamling dropped out of school after matriculation. He started his political career at the age of 32.

Pawan Chamling served as the Minister for Industries, Information and Public Relations from 1989 to



1992 in the Nar Bahadur Bhandari cabinet. After a series of political

upeavals in Sikkim, he formed the SDF in 1993.

Addressing a press conference Sunday at Mintokgang, the official residence of the chief minister, Pawan Chamling said, "I am at the disposal of the people of my state. If they want me to take rest, I am okay with it and if they want me to serve Sikkim, I will continue. I do not have my own agenda." People in huge numbers turned up at his residence Sunday to cheer for him. "I am grateful to everyone

who reposed faith in me in every phase of my life," he said.

The CM also paid his homage to Jyoti Basu on this occasion and said he was fortunate to have surpassed the former West Bengal chief minister's record.

Basu, the five-term West Bengal CM, had been in power from June 21, 1977 to November 6, 2000. He handed over the baton to Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee in 2000, citing health reasons. Basu passed away in 2010 at the age of 95.



Shabana Azmi | Today my Abbaji steps into his 100th b'day, a complete musician, a loving father. From me and my guru brothers sashtang salaam to him



Salman Khan | Catch me soon on @sonyTv with #DusKaDum



Nimrat Kaur | Happy happy birthday @nikkhiladvani !! May your incredible heart be blessed with love, adventures and the best of life ahead !! Have a beautiful year



STORIES TOP

BERNARDO BERTOLUCCI SLAMS SCOTT

Bari: Italian director Bernardo Bertolucci says director Ridley Scott should be ashamed about replacing actor Kevin Spacey from All the Money in the World. During the world premiere of his restored film Last Tango in Paris at Bari International Film Festival, Bertolucci criticised Scott's decision last year to replace Spacey with actor Christopher Plummer. The decision came after Spacey was accused of sexual assault by more than a dozen men. Bertolucci said when he learned Scott had agreed to erase all of Spacey's scenes in the film, his first reaction was to message Scott's frequent editor Pietro Scalia "to tell Scott that he should be ashamed", reports hollywoodreporter.com.

CHARLIE REMINDS SANCHEZ OF DICAPRIO

Los Angeles: Director Sergio G Sanchez says actor Charlie Heaton reminds him of late actor River Phoenix and Oscar-winning actor Leonardo DiCaprio. The director feels Heaton will go a long way. "Charlie will never stop working. He will be a star. He has incredible strength. And there's a weird thing - he reminds you of different actors," Sanchez said in a statement. "Sometimes on camera, he looks like River Phoenix and sometimes it is Leonardo DiCaprio," he added. Sanchez worked with Heaton on Marrowbone.

RYAN CELEBRATES INFINITY WAR SUCCESS

Los Angeles: Actor Ryan Reynolds, who plays Deadpool in the superhero franchise, congratulated the team of Avengers: Infinity War for the success by showing a rejection letter from Tony Stark (Iron Man). In the wake of Avengers: Infinity War getting a good opening at the box office, Reynolds took to Twitter Sunday to share a funny note of congratulations in which he posted a photograph with a fake rejection letter, reports foxnews.com. "From a guy who never knows when to quit, I'm glad you guys never did. Congrats Avengers," Reynolds wrote.

KATY PERRY, ORLANDO 'MISSED EACH OTHER'

Los Angeles: Singer Katy Perry and actor Orlando Bloom are dating "exclusively again." "Orlando and Katy are great. They are dating exclusively again and things seem more serious," a source told people.com just a day after the pair met Pope Francis in Vatican City and explored some of Rome's famed sights. "They are both excited about it and don't want to hide, but at the same time they are trying to keep privacy as well," the source added. As for Bloom, the insider said he "seems very happy", adding, "It's obvious that they both missed each other after their split. Their relationship seems stronger now."

OBAMA, OPRAH ATTEND TOM HANKS' PARTY

Los Angeles: Veteran actor Tom Hanks and his wife Rita Wilson's 30th wedding anniversary party was attended by not only A-list celebrities like Oprah Winfrey, but also by former US president Barack Obama. Some of the other stars who attended the couple's party at their home in Pacific Palisades house included Kate Hudson, Martin Short, Isla Fisher, Kurt Russell, Goldie Hawn, Jimmy Kimmel and Conan O'Brien, reports online.com.



RAKHI OPENS UP ABOUT CASTING COUCH

Mumbai: Never one to shy away from calling a spade a shovel, Rakhi Sawant now has a rather startling opinion on the ongoing debate on casting couch and sexual harassment of strugglers in the film industry. Rakhi admits to being a victim. "When I was a struggler, yes I did face the casting couch. But it wasn't as if every producer or director I approached was guilty. As in every walk of life, there is sexual corruption in the film industry also. As far as I was concerned, this was just in the beginning. But I had talent and I didn't have to give in. I learnt to say no. And I used my talent as an artiste to make my way through life. I suggest all strugglers to have patience and not surrender to the temptation of

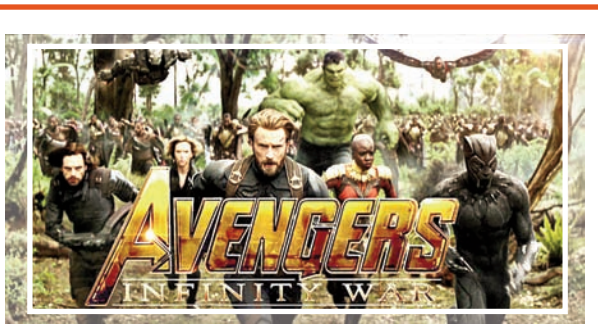
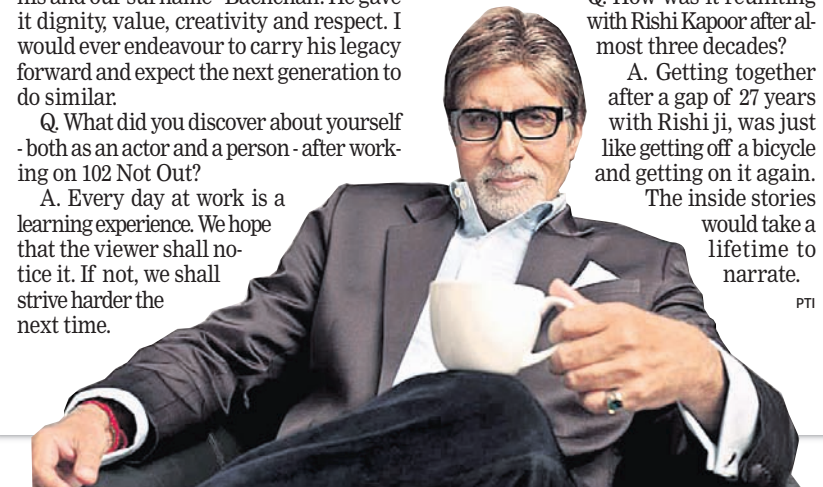
shortcuts," she said. Rakhi completely supports Saroj Khan in the opinion that there is no coercion involved when sexual favours are exchanged. "Nobody rapes anyone in this film industry. It's all consensual and voluntary. In this, I fully support Sarojji. At least she has spoken her mind and let the world know the truth. People in film industry don't speak out the truth about the casting couch although it is happening right here in front of their eyes. They feel they are making their way up why should they bother with what's happening around them? I really admire Sarojji for letting the world know the reality that they have to face every day. Sarojji has seen what goes here. I totally agree with her." The shocker from Rakhi is the revelation on how rampant sexual favours are in the film industry. "Young girls are willing to make any compromise to get going in their career. Aaj kal to ladkiyan kehti hain, Kuch bhi kar lo, mujhe kaam de do. Iss mein producer ki kya galti hai? (Girls, these days, are ready to do anything to get work. Why to blame producers for this?) Sarojji is not wrong. A lot of girls come in the film

industry to become heroines but become something else... you understand what I am saying? Call it destiny or what you will." Rakhi's advice to young aspirants? "Have faith in your talent. Have patience. Don't give in to shortcuts. I've seen so many girls throw themselves at producers. This is not good. I don't want to take any names. Lekin aisa hota hai (But this happens). It shouldn't be so. Salman Khan and Priyanka Chopra are superstars because of their hard work and not for any other reason. The ones who take the shortcut end up on a different track altogether. Don't do this to yourself. And don't blame producers for taking what you have to offer." Rakhi wants to stress that it's not just girls who are casualties of sexual compromise, but boys too are equally prone to compromise in the entertainment and fashion industry. "I keep telling the strugglers not to give in. Lekin kya karengi, Mumbai hai hi itni expensive city (But what to do, Mumbai, as a city, is very expensive). I don't want to denigrate the film industry. But because Sarojji has raised her voice I am supporting her."

My work ethic is not to break records: Big B

New Delhi: Megastar Amitabh Bachchan, who plays a 102-year-old man in his latest film 102 Not Out, says he strives to better himself with each film rather than focus on goal posts. The 75-year-old said, is not to break records. Excerpts from an interview with the versatile actor on his upcoming film, which releases this Friday, his understanding of the generation gap and the legacy of writing in his family: Q. You have been a famous son to a famous father, legendary poet and vice versa. How would you describe your relationship with your father and son Abhishek? A. My father, made his 'nom de plume' his and our surname - Bachchan. He gave it dignity, value, creativity and respect. I would ever endeavour to carry his legacy forward and expect the next generation to do similar. Q. What did you discover about yourself - both as an actor and a person - after working on 102 Not Out? A. Every day at work is a learning experience. We hope that the viewer shall notice it. If not, we shall strive harder the next time.

Q. How would you say generation gap between the newer generations is changing today in the digital age? A. Each decade, or at times less, shall bring a new generation into the world. They come with their own ideas, outlooks and understandings of life. Growth depends on this. I welcome it and make an effort to be in tune with them. Social media is a help, as is my own effort on the blog and other such platforms. Q. How was it reuniting with Rishi Kapoor after almost three decades? A. Getting together after a gap of 27 years with Rishi ji, was just like getting off a bicycle and getting on it again. The inside stories would take a lifetime to narrate.



'Avengers: Infinity...' mints ₹120.09 cr in opening weekend

Mumbai: Marvel Studio's biggest superhero film Avengers: Infinity War has become 2018's highest Hollywood earner in India till date with its gross box office collections of ₹120.09 crore. The film, which brings together the largest gathering of superheroes to battle it out against supervillain Thanos, also had the biggest day one opening ever for a Hollywood movie in the country. "The opening weekend numbers are a testament to Avengers: Infinity War creating a cinematic milestone. The success goes to show the ever increasing fan base and the pop culture phenomena that Marvel as a brand enjoys in India," Bikram Duggal Head of Studio Entertainment, Disney India, said in a statement. The net box office collections of the film, which released in India April 27, is ₹94.03 crore. Directed by Joe and Anthony Russo, the movie collected ₹40.13 (gross) on day one, ₹39.1 on day two and ₹41.67 crore Sunday. Avengers: Infinity War stars Robert Downey Jr, Chris Evans, Mark Ruffalo, Scarlett Johansson, Chris Hemsworth, Anthony Mackie, Paul Bettany, Elizabeth Olsen, Chadwick Boseman, Sebastian Stan, Don Cheadle, Chris Pratt, Dave Bautista, Zoe Saldana, Pom Klementieff, Benedict Cumberbatch, Benedict Wong, Tom Holland, among others.

CINE BITS

Vicky Kaushal waiting to meet Gulzar

Mumbai: Film actor Vicky Kaushal, who features in Meghna Gulzar's Raazi, has been missing a chance to meet the director's celebrated father and writer Gulzar, who also penned songs for the film. Vicky said, "Gulzar saab came on the first day of the shoot where unfortunately I was not present. And after that, we got busy shooting and he did not appear on the set. I kept telling Meghna how I wish I could meet him. I thought of meeting him in one of the song sessions, but then I had to go to Amritsar just after finishing my Raazi schedule."



Aahana to spend B'day visiting Rumi's roots

Mumbai: Actress Aahana Kumra wants to celebrate her birthday on Tuesday by visiting 13th-century poet Rumi's hometown in Istanbul. Being a lover of poetry, Aahana has been taking a lot of interest in the renowned poet's writings. Aahana said in a statement, "Travelling in the past few years by myself has made me realise that I'm in the best company possible because when you travel solo you realise a lot of things about yourself that you otherwise don't understand. On my birthday, I chose a place from where Rumi comes from because there is a cosmic connection that I have found," she added.

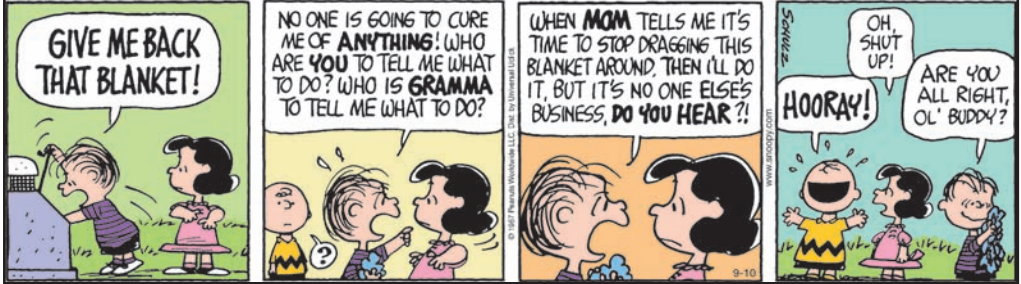


I don't need to work hard on stage: Mika

Mumbai: Livewire performer and singer Mika Singh, who has tracks like Bas ek king, Mauja hi mauja, Ibn-e-batuta and Aaj ki party to his credit, says he knows how to make people dance and so it makes his stage acts a cakewalk. "I know how to make people dance. To make them dance, I don't have to sing my hit numbers, I just have to say 1-2-3-4 and start... I'm so lucky that I don't need to work hard on stage. Mera khada hona hi kafi hai (It is enough for me to just stand on the stage)," Mika tweeted Monday. He also shared a video from his performance at the Summersault Festival in Pune.



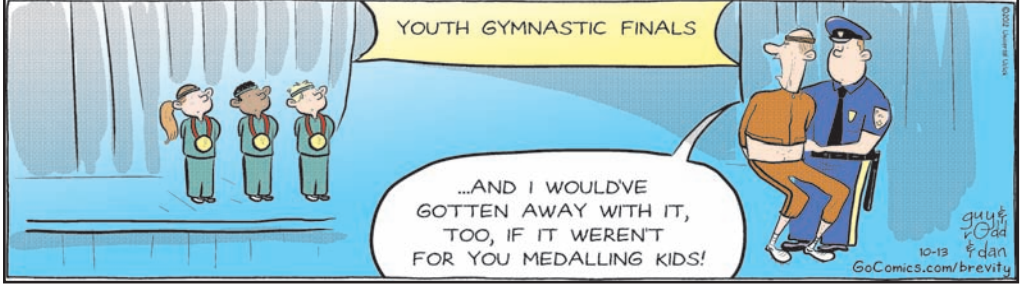
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

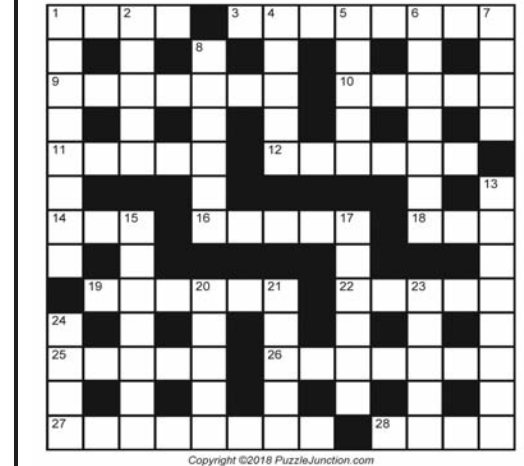


BREVITY



FUN POST

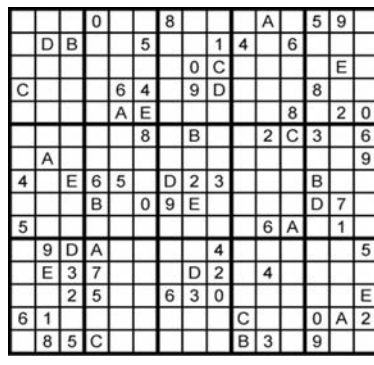
CROSSWORD



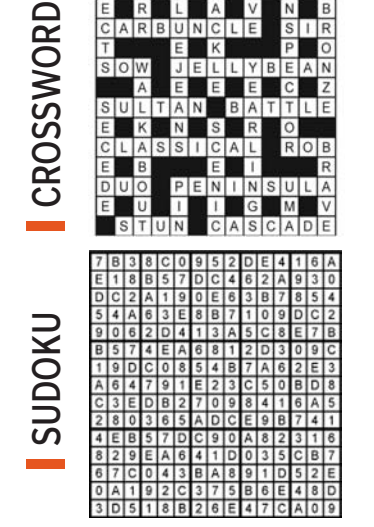
- Across**
- 1 Aquatic plant
 - 3 Topic of conversation with your banker
 - 9 Not clear
 - 10 Perfect
 - 11 Skirt
 - 12 Sound quality
 - 14 Shaver
 - 16 Fat cat
 - 18 Lab eggs
 - 19 Ego
 - 22 Small canoe
 - 25 Cake topper
 - 26 Twister
 - 27 First light
 - 28 Patella's place
 - Down**
 - 1 Like all babies
 - 2 Oomph
 - 4 All thumbs
 - 5 Words to live
 - 6 Farewell, in London
 - 7 Seafood selection
 - 8 Millstone
 - 13 Gumption
 - 15 Kismet
 - 17 Napoleon locale
 - 20 Humidior item
 - 21 Uncredited actor
 - 23 Pine
 - 24 Temperate weather forecast

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, each row, column and box must contain the numbers 0 to 9 and the letters A to E.



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



India should secure her development as early as possible while remaining responsible on the climate front and not allow development to slow down while pursuing climate-related actions

ANIL KAKODKAR | FORMER ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

RAILWAY FIRM TO HOLD 'CHAI PE CHARCHA' WITH BULLET TRAIN PAPS

The National High Speed Rail Corporation, which is building a bullet train corridor between Mumbai and Ahmedabad, will hold what the company called "chai pe charcha" with project-affected persons to solve issues



of the day quote

It is extremely shameful that during police recruitment in the BJP-ruled Madhya Pradesh, the candidates were marked as SC, OBC, ST on their chest

SUPRIYA SULE | NCP MP



The Lingayat issue is not going to affect us. This will backfire on Congress

BS YEDDYURAPPA | KARNATAKA BJP CHIEF



India has never had a history or tradition of attacking others' ideology or country. We have also never tried to create a distinction between religions

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER



SHORT TAKES

Parl panel to visit borders next month

New Delhi: The Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs, headed by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor and including Rahul Gandhi, will visit border areas in Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh next month to take stock of the situation following the Doklam crisis with China, sources said. The panel has been looking into various aspects of the India-China military standoff at Doklam and has been briefed several times on the issue by the former and current Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale.

Doctor gets bail in rape case

New Delhi: A doctor, accused of raping another doctor on a false promise of marriage, has been granted bail by a Delhi court, which said both were major and highly educated and were expected to have understood the consequence of their relationship. Special judge O P Saini granted relief to the accused on a personal bond of ₹50,000 with a surety of like amount, noting that it was a "symmetrical" relationship between them and the accused was not in any "advantageous position."

SIT to probe into source of rancid meat

Kolkata: The West Bengal government has constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to examine the allegations of processed meat being sourced from dumping grounds, a senior official said Monday. Last week, the government had seized 20 tonnes of rotten meat, suspected to be of dead animals and sourced from dumping grounds, meant to be supplied to eateries and departmental stores in the state as well as neighbouring Jharkhand, Odisha and Bihar. So far, 10 people, including a leader of a political outfit, have been arrested in connection with the case. The state enforcement branch has also started to investigate into the matter simultaneously.

Crime Branch grills Digambar Kamat

Panaji: The Goa police's Special Investigation Team (SIT) Monday quizzed Congress MLA and former Chief Minister Digambar Kamat in connection with an alleged multi-crore mining scam. Kamat appeared before the SIT Monday morning and an investigating officer questioned him for almost an hour for his alleged involvement in the ₹35,000 crore illegal mining scam.

Mother-son killed as minaret collapses

Balrampur (UP): A mother-son duo was killed and two others injured here when minaret of a mosque fell on an adjacent house during the thunderstorm which struck the town, police said Monday. The incident took place Sunday night when Mehrunissa (28) and her son Munir (3) were sleeping in their house in Dulhindeh village, they said. The two others, who were injured during the incident, were rescued by the locals and rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment, police said.

Farmers to stop supplies from June 1-10: Kisan Mahasangh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 30: The Rashtriya Kisan Mahasangh, an umbrella body of 110 farmers' organisations, Monday said it would not supply farm products such as vegetables, grains and milk to cities across the country for 10 days from June 1 in protest against what it called the anti-farmer policies of the Central government.

A nation-wide Bharat banch would be held June 10 till 2 pm, the group's leaders, including former BJP minister Yashwant Sinha, told the media here.

"Farmers would stop sending from villages to cities produce such as crops, vegetables and milk from June 1 to June 10 all over the country. On June 6 they would observe a non-cooperation day," Sinha said. They also claimed that though

the government had promised a minimum support price (MSP) that was to be 50 per cent higher than the cost of production, farmers were yet to receive the higher prices.

The farmers' organisations demanded that the MSP be increased to the cost of production plus 50 per cent and a complete loan waiver from the government.

"We have been demanding that MSP be 1.5 times the entire cost of

production including the cost of land. Though the government had declared it in their last budget there is no specifications and it is not going to help us," said Shiv Kumar Kakka, a farmer leader from Madhya Pradesh.

The organisations said by cost of production, they meant C2 and not A2+FL. A2 includes expenses, in cash and kind, incurred on seeds, fertilisers, chemicals, labour, fuel and

irrigation, while A2+FL covers actual costs plus value of unpaid family labour: C2 denotes A2+FL, along with costs for rentals and interest forgone on owned land and fixed capital assets respectively.

While congratulating the farmers' long march in Maharashtra led by Left parties last month, Sinha lambasted the government for making "false promises".

The promises and slogans of

Prime Minister Narendra Modi were all a farce and the government was doing nothing to help farmers, he said.

"I can say that the Modi government has done nothing for them, not even fulfilled the promises written in the BJP manifesto. Whatever he (Modi) is promising is all a farce," Sinha said. The farmers also urged traders' organisations to support their June 10 Bharat bandh.

INDIA, RUSSIA LIKELY TO INK S-400 TRIUMF DEAL SOON

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 30: India is likely to seal a nearly ₹40,000 crore deal to procure S-400 Triumf air defence missile systems from Russia before top leaders of the two countries hold an annual summit around October, official sources said.



Negotiations for the deal are nearing completion and differences over price and other peripheral issues were almost bridged, they said.

Sources informed that both Russia and India were eyeing inking of the contract before summit talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin which may take place either in September or October in India.

They said India was confident of finalising the mega deal with Moscow notwithstanding provisions of a US law that seeks to punish Russia for its alleged meddling in the American presidential

election in 2016.

Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA), which came into effect in January this year, mandates the Donald Trump administration to punish entities engaging in significant transaction with the defence or intelligence establishment of Russia.

US Defence Secretary Jim Mattis last week appealed to the Congress to urgently provide India the national security waiver, saying imposing sanctions under CAATSA for the S-400 air defence missile deal would only hit the US.

China was the first foreign buyer to seal a government-to-government deal with Russia in 2014 to procure the lethal missile system and Moscow has already started delivery of unknown number of the S-400 missile systems to China.

Negotiators from India have been in talks with their Russian counterparts for over one and half years for the purchase of at least five systems of S-400 which are capable of firing three types of missiles.

ANDHRA BOY TOPS JEE-MAINS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 30: Vijaywada's Bhogi Suraj Krishna has topped the Joint Entrance Examination-Mains for admission to engineering colleges across the country, as the Central Board of Secondary Education announced the results of the test Monday.

A total of 10.74 lakh candidates appeared for the exam, with 2.3 lakh qualifying for the JEE-Advanced which is an entrance test for admission to IITs and Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad.

The second rank was bagged by Hemant Kumar Chodipilli from Andhra Pradesh, while the third rank was secured by Rajasthan's Parth Laturia. A total of 1,80,331 boys cleared the exam, with 50,683 girls qualifying for the next stage.

"The JEE question papers are prepared in original by over 100 item writers. These item writers are subject experts. They prepare over 1,500 items over a period of two months during the year of the exam. All these questions are prepared by the item writers in original and they are handwritten," a senior board official said.

NSG commandos to be deployed in J&K

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 30: Black Cat commandos of the elite counter-terror force NSG are set to be deployed soon in Jammu and Kashmir to help security forces in dealing with encounters and hostage-like situations, officials said Monday.

The Ministry of Home Affairs is examining a proposal to deploy a contingent of the National Security Guard (NSG) commandos in the Kashmir Valley so that they can join the Indian Army, the CRPF and the state police when a high-risk militancy related incident takes place.

"We are planning to deploy the NSG in Kashmir. They are trained to deal with terrorists and hostage-like situations. We are mulling over it," an official informed requesting anonymity.

Director General of Police, Jammu and Kashmir, SP Vaid had also said recently that he has been working on the proposal. "Hope I will be successful," he had said.

This is not for the first time that the NSG commandos, popularly known as 'Black Cat', would be deployed in Jammu and Kashmir. The commandos of the elite force have been deployed in the Valley in the past too.

Their special skills of carrying out house intervention and hostage rescue can act as "clincher" during a terror siege, the official said.

Home Minister Rajnath Singh, during a recent NSG event in Telangana, had said the government is planning as to how the force's role could be "enlarged" vis-a-vis the new security challenges faced by the country, as these commandos can play a "big role" in operations such as those where terrorists take a human as shield and enter civilian premises.

The move to deploy NSG commandos in Kashmir comes in the wake of increasing incidents of encounters where security forces have lost many soldiers during high-risk house intervention operations in densely populated localities.

Retest of economics paper will not delay results: CBSE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 30: An official of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has said that the re-test of the Class 12 Economics paper, held April 25, nearly a month after it was leaked, will not delay declaration of results.

"The results will be declared on time as the evaluation is in advanced stage despite re-exam of economics paper. We have rigorously followed up with schools to send more evaluators than the required number," a senior Board official said.

There were also reports of the CBSE's Class 10 mathematics paper being leaked, but the board decided against its re-test, saying

class 10 was just an "internal segment" of school education system.

The reports of leak of the CBSE papers had caused disappointment among students across the country last month. In Delhi, students held protests accusing the CBSE of negligence and demanded immediate action against the guilty.

According to Delhi Police, the class 12 economics paper was leaked 23 March - three days before the scheduled date of the examination.

Investigators made arrests in several parts of the country in connection with the case, including in Jharkhand and Himachal Pradesh.

They claimed to have arrested the main conspirators behind the leak from Una in Himachal Pradesh.

The three people were staffers of a school in the town.

The leak was exposed after an envelop containing four images of the hand-written economics paper was delivered to the CBSE headquarters in Delhi on the evening of the scheduled day of the examination - 26 March.

Following reports of the leak, April 2 CBSE tried a "leak-proof" system of "encrypted" question papers, which delayed the exam as a few centres in Delhi were unable to follow the printing of encrypted papers, e-mailed to them, at the school itself.

The HRD ministry then set up a committee to examine the process by which the CBSE conducts examinations.

Armies of India, Malaysia start first-ever bilateral exercise

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi: The troops of the Indian and Malaysian armies Monday kickstarted 'Exercise Harimau Shakti 2018' in Kuala Lumpur, a statement by the Indian Army said. This is the first-ever joint Army exercise between the armies of India and Malaysia. The first phase of the two-week long exercise began with the formal handing over of the Regimental Flag to the Malaysian Army, signifying merging of the two contingents under one commander. First day of the exercise also saw briefings to the joint contingent on Malaysian country brief, exercise settings and security aspects. The day ended with a friendly volleyball match, which the visitors could finally win after a stiff competition. "Both armies stand to hone their tactical and technical skills in counter-insurgency and counter-terrorist operations under the UN mandate. Due emphasis will be laid on increasing interoperability between forces which is crucial for success of any joint operation," the statement said. Lt Col Irwan Ibrahim, commanding officer of the 1st Royal Ranger Regiment of Malaysian Army, welcomed the Indian contingent and wished the Indian and Malaysian troops for a successful and mutually beneficial joint exercise.

"There is no unity. No one wants to raise public issues. Each one has alliance with one of the political parties," he says. In 1942, as the "Quit India" movement was taking shape, Esuru residents had refused to pay land revenue as a natural calamity

Lalu cries foul as AIIMS discharges him

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 30: The AIIMS Monday discharged RJD supreme leader Lalu Prasad, saying his condition has improved significantly, even as the former Bihar chief minister alleged a "political conspiracy" behind his discharge.

The Rashtriya Janata Dal president also wrote to the institute's director, asking him to continue his treatment at the facility till he recovers fully.

Supporters of Lalu created ruckus in the hospital premises protesting the AIIMS' decision, with his party alleging that there is a conspiracy to "murder" their



leader by "forcing him out" of the premier hospital even though he continues to suffer from various ailments. The supporters broke a glass door, abused the security guards and administration officials, hospital sources alleged.

Congress president Rahul Gandhi met Lalu at AIIMS Monday and

enquired about his health.

The RJD chief, who has been serving a jail term in connection with the fodder scam, was admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) here March 29 for specialised treatment.

The AIIMS, in an official statement today, said, "Lalu Prasad was referred from Ranchi Medical College to AIIMS for management of his acute medical condition. He has improved significantly and as per advise of the medical board constituted for his treatment, he is being referred back to Ranchi Medical College for management of his chronic issues. He is currently stable and is fit to travel."

Ceasework ends in Calcutta High Court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, April 30: The lawyers' strike at the Calcutta High Court ended Monday after 70 days of cease-work, the longest in the history of the state's highest judiciary.

Three lawyers' associations had called for the cease-work February 19, demanding immediate filling up of the vacant posts of judges at the high court to expedite the disposal of pending cases.

The corridors of the court were abuzz Monday morning as hundreds of lawyers and litigants attended the hearings after the prolonged agitation that had affected the justice delivery system in West Bengal. A total of 2,23,921 cases were pending before the court at the end of March this year, according to official data.

The Bar Association, which commands the affiliation of most of the lawyers practising in the high court, called off the cease-work Saturday, a day after the Centre cleared the appointment of four judges and the chief justice to the court. Justice Jyotirmoy Bhattacharya will take oath as the Chief Justice Tuesday, the office of the Registrar General said.

The High Court was headed by acting Chief Justices for over three years, with the exception of three months in between, Bar Association president Uttam Majumdar said.

First village that declared 'freedom' sans development

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Esuru (KTK), April 30: "All parties give money. Whoever gives more, we will vote for them," says Prabhu S, a 48-year-old farmer from Esuru, expressing frustration over the lack of development in this tiny village which was the first in India to declare itself free from the British rule in 1942.

Not only Prabhu, many other villagers in Esuru, that falls under state BJP president BS Yeddyurappa's Shikaripura constituency in Shivamogga district, are upset with political parties. They say party leaders normally

visit the place only to seek votes during elections but later don't even show their faces.

The villagers take pride in narrating stories of the courage displayed by their forefathers against the British, but Shivakumar, 53, a farmer who grows jowar and paddy in two acres of land, says, "All that is past legacy. Now there is no fighting spirit among villagers."

"There is no unity. No one wants to raise public issues. Each one has alliance with one of the political parties," he says. In 1942, as the "Quit India" movement was taking shape, Esuru residents had refused to pay land revenue as a natural calamity



had caused a drop in agriculture yield. They had strongly resisted the intimidatory tactics adopted by the British and fought pitched battles with the police.

The villagers had barred the British officials from entering Esuru and hoisted the Tricolour from the top of Veerabhadreshwara Temple September 29, 1942, and declared

the village "free" of British rule.

The British had rushed police force to reclaim the village. Several freedom fighters from the villagers were martyred.

Suvarnamma, 90, the first wife of late RS Shantaveerappa who was one of those who fought against the British, says, "The whole village used to listen to my husband then, but now there is no mass leader who can take everyone together."

Now, villagers are divided and they vote for whichever party appeases them, she says, adding that however, "our family has been loyal to the Congress and will vote for Chief Minister Siddaramaiah."

Echoing similar views, 100-year-old freedom fighter Hucharayappa recalled the struggle against British and voiced concern over the "faded" electoral system.

Most villagers in Esuru are engaged in farming. For the last three years they are suffering due to deficient rainfall and a lack of irrigation facilities despite demanding that they be provided water from Tungabhadra river or from the nearby Anjanpura dam.

To add to their woes, the farmers are not getting the minimum support price (MSP) for jowar and paddy and the power supply is provided only for seven hours a day.



President Trump can take the Nobel prize. All we need to take is peace

MOON JAE-IN | SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT

LED STREET LIGHTS MAY UP CANCER RISK: STUDY

The blue light emitted by street lights including LEDs, and commercial outdoor lighting such as advertising, may significantly increase the risk of breast and prostate cancer, a study has warned



of the day quote

With respect to the two-state solution, the parties will ultimately make the decision. We are certainly open to a two-party solution as a likely outcome



MIKE POMPEO | US SECRETARY OF STATE

Self-reliance in the 'New Pakistan' will remain on top of our agenda. We will collect Rs 8,000 billion through strong institutional reforms every year. After coming to power the PTI will massively cut taxes on electricity, gas and petrol and fight corruption



IMRAN KHAN | PAKISTAN TEHRREEK-INSAF CHIEF

President Trump is more accessible than most modern presidents and frequently takes questions from the press



SARAH HUCKABEE SANDERS | WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

SHORT TAKES

Malaysia jails one under fake news law

Kuala Lumpur: A Danish man was jailed for a week in Malaysia Monday after pleading guilty to breaking a law against "fake news", the first person to be punished under the controversial legislation. The law, passed in early April, makes the deliberate dissemination of false information punishable by up to six years in jail and a hefty fine. It has sparked outrage from rights groups who believe it is aimed at cracking down on dissent. Salah Salem Sulaiman, a 46-year-old of Yemeni descent, admitted making and posting on YouTube a video accusing emergency services of responding slowly after a Palestinian Hamas member was gunned down in Kuala Lumpur.

Syria strikes kill 26 fighters

Beirut: Missile strikes overnight in central Syria killed at least 26 pro-regime fighters, most of them Iranians, a monitor said Monday. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the missiles struck a military base in the province of Hama late Sunday, in an assault it said bore the hallmarks of an Israeli operation. "At least 26 fighters were killed, including four Syrians," the monitor said, adding that the main target of the missile strike was the base of the regime's 47th Brigade.

5,250 displaced in Myanmar in April

Naypyidaw: At least 5,250 people have been displaced in Myanmar in April due to the ongoing clashes between the military and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Monday. The displaced people were seeking shelter in the homes of family members and friends, religious centres or schools and public buildings, Efe news reported.

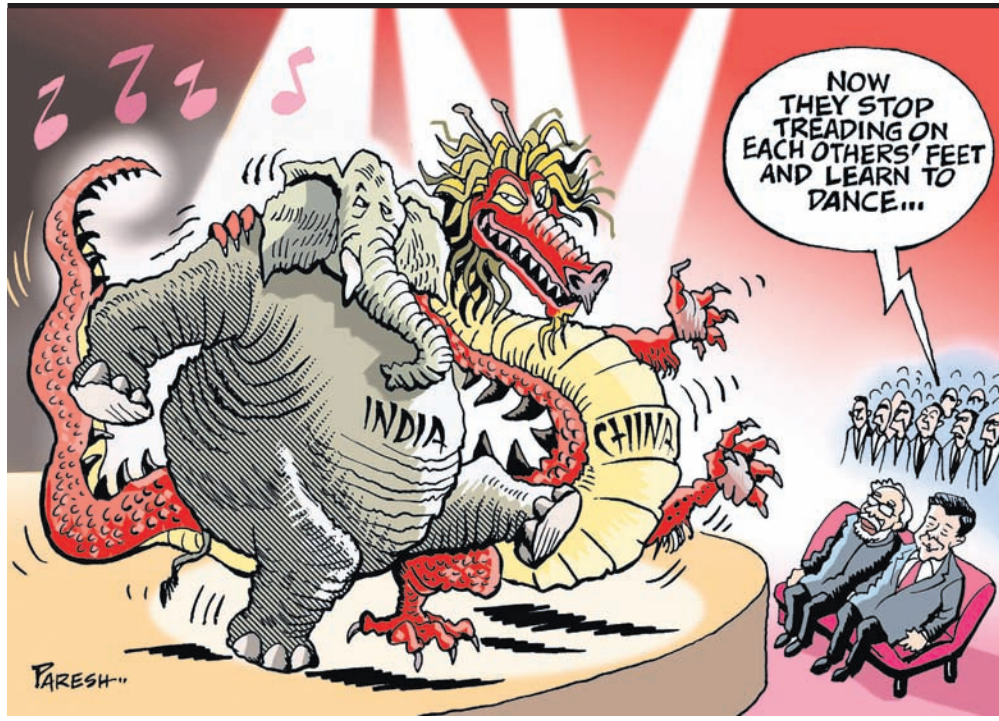
Thousands rally for Internet freedom

Moscow: At least several thousand people are rallying in Moscow to protest against recent restrictions on internet freedom in Russia. Protesters flocked to a central street Monday, which is a public holiday in Russia, to rally against authorities' move to block parts of the internet in Russia. Russian authorities this month began to block popular messaging app Telegram over its refusal to hand over encryption keys.

Four skiers dead

Geneva: Four skiers were confirmed dead Monday and five others were in critical condition after being forced to spend the night exposed to the elements in the Swiss Alps, police said. Bad weather in the Pigne d'Arolla area of the Swiss Alps Sunday caught a group of 14 skiers by surprise, police in Valais canton said in a statement. The manager of a rest-stop in the remote mountain region sent out a call for help at dawn Monday, triggering a major relief operation that involved seven helicopters, police said. "Four people lost their lives, five others are in a critical state," the statement said.

CARTOON CORNER



WINDRUSH SCANDAL

Indian migrants may be caught up

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, April 30: Indians who migrated to the UK as Commonwealth citizens before 1971 are estimated as the second-largest nationality after Jamaicans, the group caught up in the ongoing Windrush scandal that has shaken up the UK government in recent weeks.

The scandal resulted in Home Secretary Amber Rudd being forced to resign early Monday morning after weeks of trying to curtail the crisis.

The issue centres around thousands of UK-based Jamaicans facing forced deportations due to lack of documentary evidence that they had the right to live and work in Britain because they arrived pre-1973, when stricter new visa norms came into force for all Commonwealth nationals migrating to the UK.

No specific cases of Indians from that era facing unfair deportations have emerged so far but as many as 13,000 Indian nationals

are estimated to fall within that criteria of migrants, according to the UK's Migration Observatory based at University of Oxford.

"The Windrush generation refers to citizens of former British colonies who arrived before 1973, when the rights of such Commonwealth citizens to live and work in Britain were substantially curtailed. While a large proportion of them were of Jamaican/Caribbean descent, they also included Indians and other South Asians," said Rob McNeil, Deputy Director of the Migration Observatory.

"There is a possibility that some of them may be affected by similar issues being faced by some Jamaican migrants," he said, noting that the analysis is based on very approximate figures. The observatory estimates that approximately 57,000 people born in Commonwealth countries who have lived in the UK since 1970 or earlier are not documented as UK nationals.

CHINA'S FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT N KOREA THIS WEEK

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Beijing, April 30: China's foreign minister will visit North Korea this week, his office said Monday, becoming the highest ranking Chinese official to travel there in years as Beijing moves to further improve ties with Pyongyang days after a landmark inter-Korean summit.

The Chinese foreign ministry said in a brief statement that Wang Yi will visit North Korea Wednesday and Thursday at the invitation of his North Korean counterpart, Ri Yong Ho. The two met in Beijing in early April, days after talks between President Xi Jinping and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in the Chinese capital - the first meeting between the leaders since Kim inherited power from his father Kim Jong Il in 2011. Wang will be the first Chinese foreign minister to visit the North since 2007, a lapse that highlights the rough patch that relations between the Cold War-era allies has gone through in recent years. Former premier Wen Jiabao visited Pyongyang in 2009. China has backed a series of United Nations sanctions against Pyongyang over its nuclear weapons programme.

Hasina urges India, others to help resolve Rohingya crisis

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Dhaka, April 30: Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Monday urged India, China, Russia and Japan to provide major support to its efforts to resolve the Rohingya crisis.

"We expect India, China, Russia and Japan to play major roles in resolving the crisis," Hasina said in a meeting with the UN Security Council delegation led by its current President Gustavo Meza-Cuadra. She called on the international community to put pressure on Myanmar over the Rohingya issue and spoke of meeting representatives of India, China, Thailand, Laos and other countries neighbouring Myanmar on the crisis, *bdnews24.com* reported. Myanmar should move forward



SHEIKH HASINA | BANGLADESHI PRIME MINISTER

with the repatriation of the refugees according to its agreements with Bangladesh, said Hasina. Over 1.15 million registered Rohingyas have been residing in the southeastern part of Bangladesh, known as the Cox's Bazar region, after they fled Myanmar's Rakhine to escape a military crackdown on their villages in August. The Rohingya refugees alleged

that the Myanmar military engaged in killings, rape and the burning of their villages. The UN described the military's actions as "ethnic cleansing". Myanmar, facing international pressure, came to an agreement with Bangladesh on repatriation in December. However, the repatriation process is yet to begin.

The UNSC delegation came to Bangladesh to inspect the Rohingya refugee camps and hear the refugee accounts. The US representative to the Security Council, Kelly Currie, said Hasina had set "new humanitarian standards for the international community by giving refuge to the Rohingyas". Chinese and Russian representatives to the Security Council said their countries would expand their support in resolving the crisis.

NINE JOURNALISTS AMONG 41 KILLED IN KABUL BLASTS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kabul/Kandahar, April 30: At least 30 people, including nine journalists, were killed as two suicide bombers blew themselves up in quick succession in the Afghan capital Monday. Hours later, another suicide bomber struck in Kandahar province killing 11 madrassa students.

The Islamic State militant group claimed responsibility for the Kabul bombings where French news agency AFP's chief photographer Shah Marai was among the journalists killed.

There was no claim of responsibility for the bloodbath in Kandahar, a former stronghold of the Taliban. In a separate incident, 29-year-old BBC reporter Ahmad Shah was shot dead by unknown gunmen in Khost province. A militant on a motorbike carried out the first explosion at 8 a.m. in Kabul's Shashdarak area in Police District 9 which houses the offices of Afghanistan's intelligence service, Defence Ministry, NATO and many embassies, prompting journalists to rush to the scene. Another bombing occurred about 20 minutes



Police help Afghan journalists, victims of a second blast in Kabul, Afghanistan, April 30

later when an attacker, posing as a cameraman, detonated explosives as journalists gathered at the site of the first blast. The Islamic State claimed the twin blasts through its news agency Amaq and said the intelligence services headquarters was the target. AFP said the death of its "treasured colleague" Shah Marai, who had written of the dangers of reporting in the Afghan capital, was "a devastating blow". The other media fatalities were Mahram Durani and Abadullah Hananzai, of Radio Free Europe (RFE), Tolo News cameraman Yar Mohammad Tokhi,

Afghanistan's ITV reporter Ghazi Rasooli as well as cameraman Nowroz Ali Rajabi, Mashal TV's Ali Saleemi and Saleem Talash. Sabawon Kakar, a critically wounded RFE cameraman, died in a hospital. "This is the deadliest day for Afghan media in the past 15 years," the head of Tolo News TV, Lotfullah Najafzada, told the BBC. Forty nine people were injured and taken to hospitals, the Interior Ministry said in a statement. Hours later, 11 students of a madrassa were killed and 17 people, including five Romanian soldiers, were injured in a suicide attack aimed at a NATO convoy in Kandahar province. The suicide bomber detonated a vehicle full of explosives in Haji Abdullah Khan village of Daman district at about 11 a.m., killing the children at a nearby madrassa. According to officials, the target were the Romanian troops patrolling the area. Afghan President Ashraf Ghani condemned the Kabul blasts. "Attacks targeting innocent civilians, worshippers inside the mosques, national and democratic processes, reporters and freedom of speech all are war crimes."

QUICK READS

Sajid Javid named UK Home Secretary

London: British Prime Minister Theresa May Monday named Sajid Javid, the son of a Pakistani bus driver, the new Home Secretary following Amber Rudd's resignation. Javid,



whose family came to the UK in the 1960s, is currently Communities, Local Government and Housing Secretary, reports the BBC. He is also the first member of an ethnic minority to hold the position. The 48-year-old former investment banker and MP for Bromsgrove had also served as the Business and Culture Secretaries. "The Queen has been pleased to approve the appointment of the Sajid Javid MP as Secretary of State for the Home Department," the *Downing Street* said.

Brazilian surfer sets world record

Santa Monica: A monster wave off Portugal has produced a world record for a Brazilian surfer. The World Surf League says Rodrigo Koxa has ridden the biggest wave ever surfed. The world record, attempted November 8 last year, was confirmed at the Big Wave Awards in Santa Monica, California over the weekend by the World Surf League. That overtook the previous record of 78 feet set by American Garrett McNamara in 2011. The group says it awards "the surfer who, by any means available, catches the biggest wave of the year ... not only did Koxa win this year's honor, but he now holds the Guinness World Record for the biggest wave surfed." Koxa described the award as "a dream come true."

Tree planted by Trump, Macron vanishes

Washington: French President Emmanuel Macron celebrated the special relationship between the United States and France during his state visit to Washington last week by planting a tree with President Donald Trump on the grounds of the White House. Now the oak sapling is gone - at least temporarily. White House photographers noticed the tree was gone days after it had been planted. Mystery ensued. In fact, the tree, from Belleau Wood in France where almost 2,000 American soldiers died in a World War One battle, had been dug up not long after it was planted. It was put in quarantine, according to US and French officials. The problem: Parasites on the tree could spread to others on the White House property. "It was actually a special favor from Trump to France to be able to plant the tree the day of the president's visit," an official from Macron's office said. "Since then, it has returned to quarantine and will soon be replanted in the White House gardens," the official said.

Trump suggests Korean truce village for Kim summit

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Washington, April 30: US President Donald Trump suggested Monday that his summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un be held in the truce village that straddles the border separating the two Koreas.

Trump has previously listed the number of locations under consideration for the historic summit - which would be the first between a sitting US president and a leader of North Korea - but this is his first public comment on a potential site. "Numerous countries are being considered for the MEETING, but would Peace House/Freedom House, on the Border of North & South Korea, be a more Representative, Important and Lasting site than a third party country? Just asking!" Trump tweeted. The Peace House in



Panmunjom, the truce village in the Demilitarized Zone that separates the two Koreas, was where Kim and South Korean President Moon Jae-in met Friday for a historic summit. Kim, the first North Korean leader to set foot in the South since the 1953 armistice that halted the Korean War, walked with Moon to the Peace House on the southern side of the border for their meeting. Preparations for a Trump-Kim summit have gathered momentum since the summit, which saw North and South Korea promise to pursue the complete denuclearisation of the peninsula and a permanent peace.

India asks Nepal to probe blast

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, April 30: India has asked Nepal to investigate the bomb blast at the office of a hydroelectricity project developed with the Indian assistance in the eastern part of the Himalayan nation. The compound wall of the 900 MW Arun III Hydroelectric Power Plant's office in Tumlingtar area, nearly 500-km from here, was damaged in the explosion, weeks before its inauguration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Indian embassy here has discussed the matter with the Nepal Foreign Affairs Ministry, an official at the embassy has said. Nepal's Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali yesterday said they had asked the Home Ministry to investigate the matter. The explosion caused minor damage to the office.

Twitter sold users' data to CA researcher, says report

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

London, April 30: After the massive Facebook data scandal, a report in The Sunday Telegraph claimed that micro-blogging platform Twitter had also sold users' data to a Cambridge Analytica (CA) researcher who collected the data of 87 million Facebook users without their knowledge - a charge that Twitter denied Monday.

According to the report, Twitter sold public data access "for one day" in 2015 to Aleksandr Kogan, then a psychology researcher with University of Cambridge, and his company Global Science Research (GSR). "GSR paid for one day of access in 2015, Twitter said, and

scooped up a 'random sample' of public tweets covering a period between December 2014 and April 2015. Twitter added that it 'did not find any access' to private information," the report noted.

In a statement, Twitter said that based on the recent reports, they conducted their own internal review and did not find any access to private data about people who use Twitter. "Unlike many other services, Twitter is public by its nature. People come to Twitter to speak publicly, and public Tweets are viewable and searchable by anyone," a Twitter spokesperson said in a statement.

"In 2015, GSR did have one-time API access to a random sample of

public Tweets from a five-month period from December 2014 to April 2015," he added. The API access was for one day to pull a random sample from five months of "public" Tweets. According to sources, this is an important distinction from the way CA used other platforms like Facebook to improperly share users' data, including that of its CEO Mark Zuckerberg.

According to *The Sunday Telegraph* report, Kogan said the Twitter data had only been used to create "brand reports" and "survey extender tools" and that he had not violated Twitter's policies. However, "the most immediate concern is that GSR could theoretically have correlated Facebook



and Twitter data. Still, this shows just how comprehensive the data collection was," technology portal Engadget reported. The quiz app "thisisyourdigitallife" developed by Kogan and his firm GSR, collected data from millions of Facebook users without their consent in 2014-2015 which was later shared with the British political

consultancy firm Cambridge Analytica. The leaked data was said to be inappropriately used by Cambridge Analytica in activities connected with US President Donald Trump's election campaign in 2016. Twitter said it had banned GSR and Cambridge Analytica from buying data or running adverts on the website and that no private data had been accessed. "Twitter has also made the policy decision to off-board advertising from all accounts owned and operated by Cambridge Analytica."

"This decision is based on our determination that Cambridge Analytica operates using a business model that inherently conflicts with acceptable Twitter Ads

business practices," *The Telegraph* reported, citing a Twitter spokesperson. In a first interview after the Facebook data scandal broke out, Kogan told *CBS News* earlier this month that he was not sure whether he ever read Facebook's developers' policy. "The idea that we stole the data, I think, is technically incorrect. I mean, they created these great tools for developers to collect the data." "And they made it very easy. I mean, this was not a hack. This was, 'Here's the door. It's open. We're giving away the groceries. Please collect them,'" Kogan told the TV show host. Kogan said he believes his assumptions were misguided and that what he did in 2014 "was not right and was not wise".



We need to completely revamp the system of energy taxation. There is no reason why we tax energy the way we do, which is why petroleum and diesel bear a huge cost, kerosene is subsidised and coal bears a minor cost

MONTEK SINGH AHLUWALIA | ECONOMIST

LOW AWARENESS OF RERA AMONG HOME BUYERS

There is lack of awareness about the new real estate law RERA among prospective home buyers and as high as 74 per cent of them do not know how to check whether builders' project are registered with the authority, according to a survey conducted by realty portal Magicbricks



of the day quote

As a key emerging market, India remains core to Finabl's growth priorities. We anticipate India, US and China as markets that will be future growth engines for the group

BR SHETTY | INDUSTRIALIST



No one should be allowed to commercially launch service unless their systems are clearly only and only in India. Data Localisation is critical for the security of India's payment systems

KIRAN VASIREDDY | PAYTM COO



The engineering exports, which account for over 25 per cent of the country's total merchandise exports, grew to \$76.23 billion in FY17 on the back of robust performance of the sector

RAVI SEHGAL | IEPIC INDIA CHAIRMAN



India 2nd fastest growing nation in passenger traffic

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, April 30: India has been projected to be the second fastest growing country in the world for passenger traffic by the Airports Council International (ACI) in its traffic forecasts between 2017-40.

rate, followed by India at 7.5 per cent and Iran at 7.3 per cent. China has been placed at the 8th position with 5.9 per cent growth rate. In its forecasts, the AIC said by 2022, passenger traffic in emerging economies like India would surpass advanced economies. By 2040, international passenger traffic would attain parity with domestic traffic, meaning more and more number of people would travel off shore with heightened economic ac-



activities, it said. By 2022, passenger traffic in emerging economies would touch

5.4 billion, slightly ahead of advanced economies at 5.3 billion. The Asia-Pacific region would continue to show a healthy growth rate and between 2017-40, the passenger traffic growth rate would be 38.8 per cent, the fastest in the world. The growth in Europe would be 26 per cent and 8.4 per cent in North America, indicating that Asia-Pacific region would shape the future of the global aviation industry.

Describing the Middle East as the 'aviation bridge', the AIC said the strong growth in the region was because of its strategic location and liberalised market. This had enabled the region to be developed into an international hub, connecting long haul flights from east and west, north and south. Earlier, in its report, AIC had said that India was poised to be one of the largest aviation markets in the world in the years to come and it

placed the Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi among the top twenty busiest airports in the world, putting it at 16th position. Kolkata, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Chennai were also ranked among the fastest growing airports in the world with an year-over-year growth of 26.9 per cent, 19.6 per cent, 12.9 per cent and 10.5 per cent, respectively during 2017, the ACI said.

NTP: COS MAY HAVE TO SET UP SERVERS LOCALLY BY 2022

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, April 30: The government, under new National Telecom Policy, may come up with provisions on data sovereignty and ask all companies hosting data of Indians to set-up servers in the

overseas. "The NTP is being framed with vision to give access of all services to people at click of a button. For most of the things like education, government services and even health people should not need to visit physically. There will be lot of data generated for all this. Hence, NTP is likely to propose setting up of all servers hosting data of Indian citizens and entities to be kept in local servers by 2022," the source said. At present most of the internet companies, mainly social media and email firms, use servers located abroad for transmitting and routing communications of Indian citizens even if the message has been sent to a person within the national boundary. There have been allegations of misuse of servers located abroad for surveillance by countries and companies where they are located. "Draft (NTP) will have provision around data sovereignty and stringent framework for data protection in the telecom networks. All ministries are working on their digital programme. Telecom has to be a key enabler of all these processes and data security is extremely important to support transformation to digital infrastructure," the source said.

DATA SOVEREIGNTY
There have been allegations of misuse of servers located abroad for surveillance by countries and companies where they are located

- The government may ask telecom service providers to ensure that messages, emails etc of Indian citizens are kept within boundaries of the country unless addressed to people staying overseas
- At present most of the internet companies, mainly social media and email firms, use servers located abroad for transmitting and routing communications of Indian citizens

country by 2022, according to official sources aware of the development. Under the provision of NTP 2018, the draft of which is scheduled to be released May 1, the government may ask telecom service providers to ensure that messages, emails etc of Indian citizens are kept within boundaries of the country unless addressed to people staying overseas

Markets up for 3rd day; Sensex hits 35k-mark

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Mumbai, April 30: Rising for a third straight day, the benchmark Sensex recaptured the 35,000-mark by surging about 191 points to end at a near three-month high of 35,160 as participants showed optimism in view of the ongoing corporate earnings season.



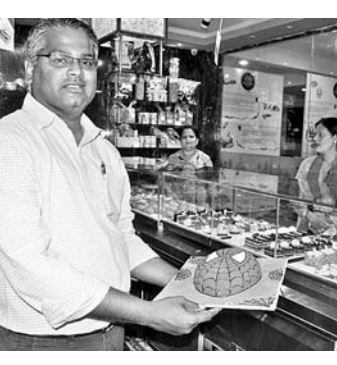
Similarly, the Nifty closed the 10,700-mark again riding a slew of positive factors, including RBI liberalising ECB policy. The sentiment got a boost after the RBI Friday further liberalised External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) policy by including more sectors in the window, in a bid to facilitate easy access to overseas funds for India Inc, brokers said. Besides, positive leads from other Asian bourses following last week's historic North-South Korea summit, fuelling optimism, too had an impact on bourses here.

The main indices - Sensex and Nifty - remained well above their key levels of 35,000 and 10,700 levels points, respectively throughout the session as investors were optimistic about upcoming results from more companies. Domestic financial institutions continued to hold ground and retail investors built up more bets amid a firming Asian trend, said marketmen. Domestic institutional investors (DIIs) picked up shares worth a net ₹633.71 crore Friday. Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) exited, pulling out shares amounting to ₹759.21 crore on a net basis, showed provisional data. Markets will remain shut Tuesday on account of Maharashtra Day.

A higher opening in European markets too added to positivity. The gains were led by financial and technology stocks as investors widened their exposure ahead of key corporate results. The January-March quarterly results posted by companies so far are largely in line with market expectations. Driven by realty, capital goods, IT and banking stocks, the Sensex reclaimed the 35,000-mark at the outset to hit a high of 35,213.30 before ending at 35,160.36, up 190.66 points - or 0.55 per cent. This is its highest closing since February 1 when it read 35,906.66. The gauge had climbed 468.43 points in the previous two days. For the 50-share NSE Nifty, the close came in at 10,739.35, higher by 47.05 points, or 0.44 per cent, after shuttling between 10,759 and 10,704.60.

Fudisha opens '99 Bakers Street'

POST NEWS NETWORK
Bhubaneswar, April 30: Fudisha Private Ltd Monday entered the bakery segment by opening '99 Bakers Street' at Nayapalli here. "We are targeting to make Fudisha a ₹100-crore company in the next two to three years by opening new stores as well as by expanding the footprints of our existing stores. With the opening of '99 Bakers Street' we forayed into the bakery segment and all our products are prepared at our kitchen in Mancheswar," Bibek Panigrahy, MD, Fudisha, said. The new store will offer cakes starting from the range of ₹450 to ₹20,000 and further, depending upon the nature of the order, he said. The bakery products



Bibek Panigrahy with a 3D cake during the opening of '99 Bakers Street' at Nayapalli Monday.

erates a dhaba, a hotel-cum-restaurant, a vegetarian hotel and a fast food restaurant. The company, which plans to open one more dhaba by next month in Khandagiri, is scheduled to start four more bakery stores in the temple city in the next five months. "We are planning to open four stores in different localities and mostly in four different corners of the city," he said. As for its long-term target, the company plans to open more Dhabas near highways. "Currently we have more than 500 employees and we are hopeful to provide employment to 1,200 to 1,500 in next two to three years," the official added.

Sainsbury's, Asda agree merger

AGENCIES
London, April 30: Britain's second and third biggest supermarket chains Sainsbury's and Walmart-owned rival Asda have agreed to merge, the pair said Monday, creating a retail king that would leapfrog current leader Tesco. The deal comes as the UK retail sector faces squeezed profit margins due to fierce competition from German-owned discounters Aldi and Lidl - as well as major online players like US titan Amazon. "Sainsbury's and Walmart Inc. are pleased to announce that they have agreed terms in relation to a proposed combination of Sainsbury's and Asda Group Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Walmart, to create an enlarged business," they said in a statement after confirming advanced talks over the weekend. The transaction values Asda at USD 10 billion. Walmart will own 42 per cent of the combined business and also receive 2.97 billion in cash, the statement said. However, it still remains subject to approval from Britain's Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) regulator, amid concerns over the impact on consumer choice and jobs. The combined business would have a network of 2,800 Sainsbury's, Asda and Argos stores. No store closures are planned and both brand names will continue to operate side by side. "The retail sector is going through significant and rapid change, as customer shopping habits continue to evolve," Sainsbury's added. "This has led to increased competition across grocery, general merchandise and clothing, as customers seek ever greater value, choice and convenience," it said.

SHORT TAKES

'No excise duty cut on petrol now'

New Delhi: The government is not considering cutting excise duty on petrol and diesel yet as rates have not touched levels that could trigger such an action, said economic affairs secretary Subhash Chandra Garg. State oil firms have not revised petrol and diesel price for almost a week now. This after petrol price hit a 55-month high of ₹74.63 a litre and diesel rates climbed to a record high of ₹65.93. In an interview, Garg said oil prices can impact the government's fiscal maths if they result in a spike in rates of domestic cooking gas (LPG) - the only commodity that is subsidised now. "Otherwise there is no direct subsidy any longer," he said.

Sebi bans 28 entities for fraudulent trade

New Delhi: Markets regulator Sebi has barred 28 entities from the capital markets for sending out unauthenticated SMSes in bulk with misleading 'buy' recommendations to pump up trading volumes in the shares of Kalpa Commercial. The order comes after Sebi received complaints from intermediaries alleging that some unknown entities are sending guaranteed return SMSes, thereby misguiding the investors with unauthenticated SMSes. Following this, Sebi conducted a preliminary probe into the share trading of Kalpa Commercial Ltd (KCL) during October 10-18, 2017, specifically in relation to bulk Short Message Services (SMSes) circulated with questionable recommendations with respect to trading in the firm's shares.

Tata Motors' plant hit by agitation

Mumbai: Production at Tata Motors' Pantnagar manufacturing facility was partially hit Monday after a section of workers resorted to agitation following the death of one of their colleagues in a cardiac arrest Saturday. The plant in Uttarakhand produces the sub one-tonne mini-truck Tata Ace. Confirming the partial loss of production, Tata Motors said the company is extending necessary support to the family as per its policy and the management is looking into the issue to resolve it amicably. A section of temporary and casual workers assembled at the plant when it opened Monday, demanding monetary compensation and a job to one of the members of the deceased worker's family, leading to the disruption in production.

SC verdict on rural bank pension hailed

New Delhi: A total of 86,000 employees from 56 regional rural banks will get pension on par with nationalised commercial banks following a recent Supreme Court judgment, Saroj Kumar Pradhan, general secretary, All India Gramin Bank Workers Organisation, said. The court ordered the implementation of the scheme within three months. OGB Karmachari Sangh general secretary Priyabrata Das and OGB Adhikari Sangh general secretary Rajanikanta Mohapatra have hailed the verdict, an official release said.

HDFC Q4 net rises 29% at ₹3,961 cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 30: Mortgage lender HDFC Monday reported 28.63 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at ₹3,961.17 crore for the quarter ended March 31, 2018. The company had registered a net profit of ₹3,079.33 crore in the January-March quarter of the previous financial year (2016-17).

Honda to launch new Amaze in May



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 30: Honda Cars is scheduled to launch its second generation Amaze by the middle of next month in the country. "We are hopeful to launch our second generation of Amaze by the mid of next month. The upcoming model is developed by re-considering and studying the value

of a sedan for an Indian customer. As, a sedan represents a high status symbol and is a vehicle that offers a comfortable ride, it helped our development team rechristened the model to offer a high quality feeling and an ambience of luxurious interior," Rajesh Goel, senior VP and director, marketing and sales at Honda Cars India Ltd (HCL), said. He also said the second gener-

ation Amaze was developed by Honda R&D Asia Pacific Co Ltd, which focuses on research and development for automobile across Asia and Oceania region. He said India is an important and strategic market for the company. "We are committed to develop the best vehicle in this segment to meet the needs of Indian consumers... so we conduct extensive market surveys on various aspects including driving behaviour, needs and lifestyles," Goel added. The car will be available with petrol and diesel engine options. The petrol is a 1.2-litre four-cylinder unit that puts out 90PS of power and 110 Nm of torque, while the diesel version is a 1.5-litre four-cylinder engine that puts out 100 PS of power and 200 Nm of torque. Honda has also offered CVT (automatic) transmissions with both the petrol and diesel engine options - the latter being a first in the segment.

Govt identifies four RRBs for IPOs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 30: The government has identified four Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) for listing on stock exchanges in line with the Union Budget 2018-19. Guidelines for the listing are almost ready, and entail details like quantum of stake dilution, instrument to be floated and category of possible investors in the public issue, sources said. They further said the four RRBs are eligible to come out with initial public offerings (IPOs) and they may hit the capital markets this year. "It is proposed to allow strong RRBs to raise capital from the market to enable them increase their credit to rural economy," finance minister Arun Jaitley had said in his Budget speech earlier this year.

Maruti Suzuki bets big on CNG, hybrid cars

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 30: Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) plans to go full throttle to develop various kinds of alternate technologies, including CNG powered cars and hybrid vehicles, and not just electric vehicles, a top company official said. The carmaker, which already has a market share of 50 per cent in the domestic passenger vehicle segment, is keen to partner government or oil companies in order to push for CNG powered vehicles in the country. "We are going to try and push this acceleration in use of CNG, hybrid and other alternate technologies. We are going to push all

technologies, and not limit ourselves to one technology," MSI chairman RC Bhargava said. He said the company wants to help reduce oil import and air pollution and that its view is similar to that of the government. "We want to have clean cars in the country, we want to reduce oil import and we want to reduce pollution. Our objective is same as that of the government. For doing that we do not want to put all our hopes on battery cost reduction. We want to look at other alternate technologies as well," Bhargava said. Without waiting for the cost of electric vehicles to come down, MSI wants to go out for alternatives like CNG in the country.



"The government has already put the use of CNG for transportation at higher priority than its use for power generation... We would like to use CNG for cars as far as possible. CNG is best suited for small cars," Bhargava said. He said if small cars were to be

electrified it would require substantial reduction in battery cost which means technology of some sort has to come for the rescue. He added that Indian market is different from any other market in the world, with 75 per cent of its cars costing less than ₹5 lakh. "There is no market in the world where there is such dominance of small cars. The implication for electric cars is that, at today's battery costs, price of the vehicle goes up by ₹6-7 lakh. Now, on ₹5 lakh cars YoY, add another ₹6-7 lakh; do you think anybody would buy? Affordability becomes a huge problem," Bhargava said. He further added, "While certainly we need to push electric

cars, but we should not forget CNG, hybrids, ethanol and methanol. Our view is to keep all options open, put all these options in front of customer and then let him/her decide what is best suited for his/her requirements," Bhargava said. All such vehicles, run on alternative fuels and technologies, help in reducing oil imports and air pollution. So it doesn't matter if it is achieved by electric vehicle or CNG car, he added. Bhargava said the company would even try to work out a joint programme with oil companies for CNG push in the country. "Oil companies and we can coordinate our actions," he added.

MUSICAL STORY

Well-known singer Adyasha Das is also a promising young writer. Her latest album *Padma Patare Jibana*, a tribute to her mother Pratibha Ray, is perhaps the first musical autobiography



With mother Pratibha Ray

Adyasha Das is a versatile singer and writer, well known not only in Odisha, but across the country and even abroad. An accredited playback singer with Doordarshan and All India Radio (AIR), Adyasha is well known for her melodious renditions, and her repertoire includes geet, ghazal, bhajan and sugam sangeet, apart from Champu, Chanda and Geeta Govinda. She has performed extensively in Odisha and other states of India, besides the USA, Europe, Africa, and Myanmar. Winner of several awards, to date Adyasha has more than 15 albums



With family to her credit and has sung compositions of eminent musicians.

Daughter of Padmashri Pratibha Ray, Adyasha is also a promising young writer. A poet and short story writer in Odia and English, her works have been widely translated into various Indian and foreign languages, including Hindi, Bengali and German. Adyasha's forte is her insightful

and colourful portrayals of life. Her stories and poems on a variety of themes are suffused with sensitivity – they are reflective and sensuous at the same time.

Recalling her childhood days, Adyasha says, "I was just four years old when my parents noticed my interest in music. Consequently, my mother decided that I should train in music and sent me to my first music teacher, Kamal Dayal. Now, I have a Masters in music. At my first performance, I rendered the classical song 'Malli mala shyamaku debi'."

Adyasha has lent her voice to the popular song 'Akhin nahin kana nain baji gale dosa nahin' in the Odia film *Aparichita*.

Besides, music and literature, Adyasha has also authored papers on human resource management, organizational behaviour, tourism and travel, and cross-cultural management which have been published in reputed journals. She completed her post-graduation from the Delhi School of Management,

Bhubaneswar, and has a PhD in Business Administration from Sambalpur University. Currently working as professor at the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management (IITTM) Bhubaneswar, Adyasha has participated in numerous national and international conferences. Married to Lalit Das, IPS, in 1994, Adyasha



With pandit Raghunath Panigrahi

took time off from her singing career for a while. "Following my return to Odisha, my mother persuaded me to resume my singing career. My in-laws too were fond of music. My husband is a great inspiration and with his support I started my music production company 'Raga', whose first album *Bhuli Huena* was well-received. I love all genres of songs, but prefer singing semi-classical," says Adyasha.

Adyasha has participated in the prestigious Indo-German writer-in-residence programme AKSHAR organised by the Sahitya Akademi, the Goethe Institute and the Literaturhaeuser.net. She is a recipient of the Junior Fellowship in English literature from the Ministry of Culture. She has been an active participant in various music and poetry workshops and has recited poems and given music performances at Literaturhaus Frankfurt am Main, The House of World Cultures, Literaturhaus Berlin, Leipzig literaturhaus, Indische Nachtim Mousonturm, Frankfurt, UtoKulm, Zurich, Frankfurt Book Fair, and Odisha Society of Americas Convention, Seattle. Her latest album *Padma Patare Jibana*

is a tribute to her mother. "The album comprises eight songs written by my mother which are reflections of her life experience. My mother has also read excerpts from her autobiography to introduce each song. Talking of the album, my mother said, 'This is the best gift from a daughter.' For me, that was the best gift from her."

Describing the album as the first musical autobiography, Adyasha says, "It celebrates the unique bond between a mother and daughter, who are also writers and singers. Within the boundaries of my home, I found my role model in my mother; she is my hero of all times. The musical autobiography was released in Canada and USA simultaneously with its release in Odisha." The singer has also published a lyric book of her mother, *Ajana E Nai*.

"A song for the Chausathi Yoginis, Hirapur, the ancient tantric seat of worship, is my latest musical venture. The first ever song depicting the rare qualities of all Chausathi yoginis, it is a unique contribution to the preservation of our cultural legacy. At a time when modernity is creating an identity crisis among the people, this song comes as a reminder of our rich cultural heritage and seeks to strengthen our cultural and historical identity," says Adyasha.

"My only daughter Ishani is also a good singer. She has sung along with me in several albums. I also seek to provide a platform for those who want to build a career in music. My music production company 'Raga' is always an open platform for them," adds Adyasha.



Women on the empowerment path



SOYONG, OP

Self-help groups (SHG) have become the vehicle of change for poor and marginalised village women. A SHG is a village-based financial intermediary committee usually comprising 10 to 20 local women and men. However, a mixed group is generally not preferred and so, in most villages, women run the SHGs. Orissa POST asked some women about the help they are getting through SHG.

Kumidini Pradhan of Narsinghpur said, "Women in the villages face problems related to poverty, illiteracy, lack of skills, and healthcare. These are problems that cannot be tackled individually but can be better solved through group efforts. An SHG brings together the poor and marginalised people to solve such problems. SHGs are a great source of help for village women."

Anurupa Das of Bhubaneswar said, "The main aim of SHG is to empower the women of the state, especially homemakers. Social empowerment of women will come only from their economic empowerment, therefore helping women to have employment and an income of their own is being accorded the highest priority. It has also been recognised that women will thus be better-placed to

combat some of the negative aspects in society. Policymakers have realised that in view of the rise in natural calamities in the state over the past few years, it is necessary to equip the community with some coping mechanisms that will help them to recover faster. In this con-

text, the SHGs can play a pivotal role by maintaining grain banks, calamity funds, and knowledge of activities that can be immediately taken up to sustain the family."

SHGs cover all aspects of self-employment of the rural poor like organising them in SHGs, capacity building, selection and planning of activities, infrastructure build-up, technology and marketing support



SHG meeting at a village

Anjali Behera of Jagatsinghpur said, "SHGs collect the people's savings and deposit them in banks. In return, they receive easy access to loans with a small rate of interest to start their micro enterprises. Thousands of poor women in the state are building their lives, families and society through SHGs."

"Conceived as a holistic programme, SHGs cover all aspects of self-employment of the rural poor like organising them in SHGs, capacity building, selection and planning of activities, infrastructure build-up, technology and marketing support," she added.

Archana Nayak of Kendrapara said, "There is a special focus on the formation of exclusive women SHGs. About 50 per cent of the groups formed in blocks should be exclusively for women. SHGs are normally formed by CBOs, animators, networks of community-based coordinators, or teams of dedicated functionaries. Although SHGs are a great source of monetary help for needy women, sometimes some members of the group can play mischief for which other members suffer. When there is financial misappropriation, it creates a lot of problems. The government should lay out proper guidelines for SHGs regarding monetary matters."

Ways to protect LIPS IN SUMMER



aging their health and appearance.

Sudden changes in temperature makes lips dry: The sudden and drastic change in temperature is quite detrimental to the health of our lips. For this reason, carrying a lip balm that nourishes and soothes our lips is extremely essential.

- Hema Sharma Datta, Shikhee Agrawal, Head Training, The Body Shop, Geetika Mittal Gupta, Founder and Medical Director at ISAAC (International Skin & Anti Aging Centre), Sham Kumar, Education Manager at Kiehl's India, give tips to protect the lips.
- A lip balm enriched with the essence of oranges is the best bet for you to protect your lips from the sun, owing to its natural photo protection and skin conditioning properties.
- We have a habit of licking our lips when they feel dry, instead use a hydrating lip balm, switch to lip balms enriched with bees wax. Use SPF protected lip balms to reduce the harm.

Lip care is very important in summer. So, keep your lip balm handy to protect them, say experts. Hema Sharma Datta, Head- Skin Care and Cleansing, R&D, The Himalaya Drug Company, tells why it is important to protect lips in summer:

Lips lack natural protective oil: Our skin contains sebaceous glands that secrete the natural oil called sebum which keeps our skin moisturised. However, our lips do not contain these glands and, therefore, it is essential for us to keep them protected and hydrated through the day. Therefore, using a lip balm that is enriched with natural ingredients in this weather is a must.

Harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays of the sun affect the lips: UV rays are extremely harmful for our skin, and our lips are no exception. Since they have fewer melanocytes in them, they are more prone to sun damage caused by UV exposure. It impacts the production of collagen in our lips in the long run thus dam-

- You can use butter stick as well. Butter stick lip treatment is hydrating. It will make lips feel and look softer, smoother and moisturised.
- Eat plenty of green vegetables and fruits as fruits rich in vitamin help in increasing the water intake too.
- Lips do turn black in the summer heat. So you can mix saffron and curd and apply daily 2-3 times to maintain the natural lip colour.
- Maintain a regular night lip regime. For this you can take half a teaspoon of glycerin, castor oil and lemon juice. Apply this mixture on to your lips and leave overnight.
- Drinking up to 12 glasses of water keeps your body and lips hydrated and help stimulate the blood circulation of the skin.



Putting to rest all speculation over the frosty relationship between Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba and manager Jose Mourinho, the France international said there are no problems between the two and added that he is very happy at the English football giants. "I'm here and very happy," Pogba said

GAYLE TAKES BREAK

After setting the cricket pitch afire with battling pyrotechnics in the IPL, swashbuckling West Indian Chris Gayle is cooling down, literally. Enjoying a holiday with his family in Kerala, he preferred a wet pitch to test his talents - fishing in the Kerala backwaters



SHORT TAKES

Former AIFF official Lakshmanan no more

Kannur: Former president of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and ex-member of the appeals committee of FIFA, PP Lakshmanan passed away here early Monday. He was 83 and leaves behind his wife, four daughters and a son, family sources said. Lakshmanan, who had been ailing for some time, was hospitalised a week ago. He was the first Indian to be chosen as the member of FIFA's appeal committee. Lakshmanan had also served as Kerala Football Association president. Condoling lakshmanan's passing away, Kerala chief minister, Pinarayi Vijayan, said he had received international acclaim for his organisational skills and had devoted his entire life for football.

Asian Games may have 7 joint Korean teams

Seoul: Seven South Korean sports associations are considering forming joint teams with North Korea for this year's Asian Games in Indonesia, an official told AFP Monday, but reports said football will not be joining them. At their groundbreaking summit Friday, the latest step in a rapidly moving diplomatic sequence, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and the South's president Moon Jae-in agreed to show solidarity by jointly participating in international sports events such as the 2018 Asian Games. The phrasing left open whether it was a reference to unified teams, or marching together at opening ceremonies, as they have done at several past Olympics, including this year's Winter Games in Pyeongchang in the South.

Ranking improves

New Delhi: Making a huge jump, India's Prajnesh Gunneswaran Monday leapfrogged 84 places to a career-best singles rank of 176, following his maiden title triumph on the ATP Challenger circuit. The Sunday's win in Anning in China gave the left-hander 125 points, pushing him inside top-200 for the first time in his career. Yuki Bhambhani leads India's chart at number 85, a loss of two places, and is followed by Ramkumar Ramanathan (120, -5). The next best Indians are Sumit Nagal (225, -6), Arjun Kadhe (397, +1) and Sasi Kumar Mukund, who jumped 98 places to 418. In the doubles, Rohan Bopanna lost a spot to be 23 while Divij Sharan also lost two places to be placed 43. Also sliding down was Leander Paes, who is now ranked 50 (-2).

Contract extended

Panjim: FC Goa has announced that Indian Super League (ISL) top scorer Ferran 'Coro' Corominas has extended his stay with the football club till the next edition of the tournament. The Spanish striker was in sensational form throughout the ISL, netting a record breaking 18 goals through the campaign, including back to back hat-tricks against Bengaluru FC and Kerala Blasters FC. "I am happy to sign for this club and continue my stay in Goa. It was a memorable experience for me to play here and I look forward to helping my team go all the way in the next season," Coro stated after extending his contract.

Mainz script win

Berlin: German football club Mainz upset Leipzig after winning 3-0 on home soil while Borussia Dortmund shared the spoils with Werder Bremen following a 1-1 draw at the close of the 32nd round in Bundesliga. Relegation threatened Mainz reaped crucial points to avoid relegation after goals from Pablo De Blasis, Alexandru Maxim and Ridle Baku edged Leipzig, who lost their second game in a row Sunday. Dortmund remain on the 3rd place of the standings whereas Bremen continue on 12th position.

ARGENTINE SCORES HAT-TRICK AS CATALAN GIANTS CLAIM 25TH LA LIGA CROWN

MAGICAL MESSI SEALS BARCA TITLE



MOMENT TO CHERISH: Barcelona players pose for a photograph after winning their 25th La Liga title at Riazor Stadium, Sunday



Lionel Messi wheels away in celebration after scoring against Deportivo La Coruna

32

Goals scored by Messi so far this season in La Liga, becoming the first player to score 30 goals or more in seven different seasons in the league

REUTERS

Barcelona, April 30: Lionel Messi scored a brilliant hat-trick as Barcelona clinched a 25th La Liga title Sunday after winning 4-2 at Deportivo La Coruna despite throwing away a two-goal lead in a thrilling game which also confirmed Deportivo's relegation.

Atletico Madrid tightened their grip on second place by winning 1-0 at Alaves with a penalty from Kevin Gameiro, while Valencia's quest to seal Champions League qualification must wait after they were held to a goalless draw at home to Eibar.

Barcelona only needed a draw to seal the title and they made a perfect start when record signing Philippe Coutinho scored with a stylish chip before Messi doubled the lead by volleying home a cross by Luis Suarez.

Deportivo deservedly pulled one back through Lucas Perez five minutes before half time and Emre Colak restored parity in the 68th minute.

Clarence Seedorf's side needed victory to survive in the top flight for another week and they came close to finding a third goal and becoming the first team to beat Barca in the league this season.

But the runaway leaders kept counter-attacking and it was top scorer Messi who restored their lead, striking from close range in the 82nd minute after being teed up by Suarez.

Messi claimed his 32nd league goal

When you have been chasing the title for so long you feel a lot of happiness at winning it at last but as well as that we feel satisfied

ERNESTO VALVERDE

of the season with the help of another pass from the Uruguayan to round off the victory and give Barca a seventh La Liga title in 10 years.

Ernesto Valverde's unbeaten side have 86 points after 34 games, second-placed Atletico have 75 from 35 and third-placed Real Madrid 71 from 35.

While Deportivo's players and supporters mourned their return to Spain's second tier for the first time since 2014, Barcelona's squad formed a human chain and danced around the centre circle.

"This double tastes glorious," said midfielder Sergio Busquets. "Winning seven league titles out of the last ten is outrageous and just look at how we did it this year, with four games remaining. We have had an almost perfect Liga campaign."

Earlier, Atletico earned a first away league win for over two months by snatching a 1-0 victory at Alaves thanks to a late penalty converted by Gameiro after Fernando Torres had spurned an earlier spot-kick. Atletico forward Angel Correa was sent off in stoppage-time after two bookings.

Messi terms Barca 'FAR SUPERIOR'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Barcelona, April 30: Lionel Messi revelled in Barcelona's seventh La Liga title in 10 seasons, saying his team were 'far superior' to their domestic rivals during their double-winning campaign.

The Argentinian star scored a brilliant 30th La Liga hat-trick as Barca survived a scare to beat Deportivo La Coruna 4-2, wrapping up the club's 25th league title with four matches to spare and keeping their hopes of an unbeaten season alive.

"We have been far superior to our rivals, we haven't lost a match during the whole season," Messi told Barcelona's in-house television channel.

"It's a very special Liga in that sense, because we haven't lost a single match. We've had some tough times and we've overcome everything without losing, which is unbelievable," Messi added.

Regaining the top-flight

It's a shame for us and the club, but Iniesta deserved to go like that. This double is more than deserved for him, for all he has given to this club

LIONEL MESSI

crowd from Real Madrid also secured Barcelona their third double in four years after thrashing Sevilla 5-0 in last weekend's Copa del Rey final.

The only blemish on their season was a stunning Champions League quarterfinal loss to Roma when they blew a 4-1 first-leg lead to be dumped out at the Stadio Olimpico.

"We lost just one in the Cup and disappointingly another in the Champions League," added Messi. "That was an unexpected result in view of our shape. But we take a lot of merit to win a title as difficult as this without losing a game."



MAN TO WATCH OUT FOR: Cristiano Ronaldo in action during Real Madrid's training session at the Valdebebas ground in Madrid, Monday

CL SEMIFINAL SECOND LEG

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Madrid, April 30: Zinedine Zidane may have won two consecutive Champions League titles but he refuses to admit a third would brand this his very own era at Real Madrid.

Real stand on the brink of a trio of finals ahead of their second leg against Bayern Munich in the last four Tuesday, when they will carry a 2-1 lead, and two away goals, to the Santiago Bernabeu.

It makes them favourites to go through and, for many, heavy favourites to win the tournament after already beating Paris Saint-

Real test for Bayern

Germain and Juventus in the knock-out stages.

For Zidane, a third European crown as coach is now in sight, which would put him level with Carlo Ancelotti and Bob Paisley in the pantheon of successful managers.

Only the three triumphs of Paisley, however, came at one club, Liverpool, and over a single era, in 1977, 1978 and 1981. Ancelotti's treble stretched across 11 years, with two clubs, Real and AC Milan.

"We cannot talk about this," Zidane said Friday. "Coaches like this were given a lot of time, they did a lot of things. I am

comfortable, we have done well, it is two and a half years that have been good but the rest, 'Zidane's Real Madrid', let's wait a bit."

Even Alex Ferguson, Jose Mourinho and Pep Guardiola have lifted Europe's biggest prize only twice, all with more years in management under their belts.

But Zidane's merits as a coach and tactician continue to be downplayed, at least in part because the Frenchman owns arguably the most talented squad in the world and, in Cristiano Ronaldo, the Champions League's greatest ever player.

AIBA claims to be WADA-compliant

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lausanne, April 30: The International Boxing Association (AIBA) Monday claimed that it has become WADA-compliant since adopting a revamped anti-doping programme, which was cited as an area of concern by the IOC when it threatened to expel the sport from the 2020 Olympics.

"Following the review of the AIBA's Corrective Action Report (CAR), the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) concluded that all non-conformities based on the CAR have been addressed appropriately by AIBA," AIBA said in a statement.

AIBA has been ordered to revamp its doping programme, its judging and refereeing system and the governance structure by the International Olympic Committee to save boxing from expulsion from the 2020 Games.

After outsourcing the management of

its anti-doping programme, the AIBA is likely to join the Independent Testing Authority by June this year.

"Being in compliance with the World Anti-Doping marks a big achievement for AIBA and shows its commitment to move our organisation forward. We believe this is just the first step and we will continue our talks with WADA as we work together in the fight for clean sport," AIBA executive director Tom Virgetts said.

AIBA said it is currently making strong efforts to ensure a secure and functional anti-doping system is in place during the World Championships next year.

With its new partners, the Global Association of International Sports Federations' (GAISF) and Doping-Free Sport Unit (DFSU), AIBA is currently establishing a new anti-doping educational programme dedicated to ensuring that all AIBA member federations and athletes understand the applicable rules.

Emotional Iniesta hails team effort

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Barcelona, April 30: Barcelona icon Andres Iniesta said his team were worthy winners of a 25th La Liga title as the veteran skipper prepares to leave the Spanish giants.

The 33-year-old revealed Friday that he will leave Barcelona at the end of the season, bringing the curtain down on a phenomenally successful career at the club he has served since he was 12.

Sunday, he came off the bench for a brief cameo appearance as Barcelona defeated Deportivo La Coruna 4-2 at a Riazor stadium which stood to honour him.

"This feels good. The championship is a competition that lasts all year; it is about consistency and the team deserved this title,"

said Iniesta. "It has been a great season with the Copa del Rey and now La Liga."

On the ovation he received from Deportivo fans when he made his 87th-minute entry, he said was overwhelmed, especially as the home side had been relegated as a result of the defeat.

"These are indescribable emotions. On a personal level, as a sportsman, there are no words when you receive such affection in such a difficult situation for the fans. I am eternally grateful for all the messages received from the heart."

In all my career, I tried to be a good sportsman, a good person, being respectful. I have been fortunate to experience unique situations. I am very grateful," he concluded.



THANK YOU ALL: Andres Iniesta receives applause from the fans at Riazor Stadium after their triumph, Sunday

Neeraj sets sights on breaking India's track-and-field duck

REUTERS

Mumbai, April 30: Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra knows what an Olympic track-and-field medal would be worth for Indian athletics and the gold he landed at the recent Commonwealth Games has given him confidence ahead of the Tokyo Games in two years' time.

While the International Olympic Committee credits India with Norman Pritchard's hurdles silver medals in 1900, before it gained independence from Britain, the world's second most populous nation considers itself never to have won an athletics medal at an Olympics.

There was rare track-and-field success for India this month at the

Carrara Stadium at Gold Coast when the 20-year-old Chopra won the javelin at the Commonwealth Games.

The former world junior champion became only the third man to win gold for India in Commonwealth Games athletics after sprinter Milkha Singh in 1958 and discus thrower Vikas Gowda in 2014.

"It was my first Commonwealth Games and I started thinking about how hard I had worked to get to that moment," Chopra said in an interview, reminiscing the moment when his yellow metal was confirmed.

"The happiest thought for me was that I had made history by winning the first javelin gold."

Track and field success at the Olympics has largely eluded India and the country's two most famous track stars - Milkha Singh and PT Usha missed podium places by the narrowest of margins.

Singh missed a bronze in the 400m at the 1960 Rome Olympics after a photo finish left him fourth, while Usha suffered the same heart-break 24 years later when she was placed fourth after a photo finish in the 400m hurdles final in Los Angeles.

Chopra, who put in his season's best effort of 86.47 metres in the final at Gold Coast, said his triumph will motivate the junior athletes in India and make them believe "Yes, we can".

"We have athletics medal in every



TOUGH CHALLENGE: Neeraj Chopra in action in the recently concluded Commonwealth Games at Gold Coast

event... be it Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, World Championships," said Chopra, who is part of diversified conglomerate JSW Group's Sports Excellence Programme.

"So the main aim is to win an Olympic medal. I can't even imagine what that would mean to track-and-field in the country. People keep telling me that the person who wins an Olympic medal will probably become the God of athletics."

"Athletes like Milkha Singh and PT Usha came fourth in Olympics but everyone knows them. So if coming fourth in Olympics means so much I don't know what a medal can do."

Chopra hails from the Northern

Indian state of Haryana, known more for producing wrestlers and kabaddi players. He could not remember why he took up a javelin instead of picking up either of the body-contact sport.

He is aware of the steep competition that awaits him if he is to win a medal in Tokyo in 2020. He will participate in the Doha Diamond League and a few others before the Asian Games later in the year.

"Focus and training is going to be most important. I have to give up everything and just concentrate on my training. To achieve something so huge, I would need to do something different. I have to throw 90 plus metres consistently at different tournaments," he signed off.

TODAY'S MATCH
RCB vs MI
Time: 8pm
Teletext: Star Sports channels



SHORT TAKES

Azarenka back in Europe after US custody battle

Paris: Former World No.1 Victoria Azarenka is returning to compete in Europe after a custody battle over her son prevented her from leaving the United States. The 28-year-old Belarus star confirmed she would be lining up at the Madrid Open from May 5 in a post on Twitter Monday. The 2012 and 2013 Australian Open winner has only played in two tournaments since July 2017 after a judge in California ruled that her son should not leave the state until custody was resolved.

Pak kabaddi team draft Indian origin players

Islamabad: The Pakistan Kabaddi team drafted five Canadian nationals of Indian origin at the World Kabaddi Cup in Australia after many Pakistani players failed to get visa. Only five Pakistani players and a coach were granted Australian visa. More than half the side was refused visa due to incomplete paperwork. But instead of pulling out of the tour, the Pakistan Kabaddi Federation still sent the team to Australia. The team then drafted five Indian origin players into their squad, two of whom -- Amar Singh and Teja had represented India in the past.

Karolina pulls out

Prague: There will be no home court showdown for Karolina Pliskova with her twin sister Kristyna after the former World No.1 pulled out of the WTA Prague Open, Monday with injury. "I'm very disappointed and sad that I won't be able to play," said Karolina Pliskova, complaining of a groin injury. Now ranked at six in the world, Pliskova put the injury down to fatigue after seven games in the last nine days, including a tournament-winning run in Stuttgart and two Fed Cup semifinal games for the Czech Republic.

Career-best finish

San Francisco: Young Indian golfer Aditi Ashok registered her career-best finish on the LPGA with a superb Tied-7 finish at the MEDIHEAL Championship after shooting a three-under 69 in the final round. Aditi, whose previous best finish was T-8 at the Marathon Classic in 2017, finished at 7-under 281 as Lydia Ko ended a 22-month winless drought. It was also Aditi's third Top-20 finish this season, following T-19 finish at Hugel-JTBC the previous week and the T-14 at Kia Classic in March. The fine finish also pushed Aditi up to 44th on the LPGA Rankings and she is now 79th in Rolex world rankings.

Stindl ruled out

Berlin: Borussia Monchengladbach's German attacking midfielder Lars Stindl will miss the football World Cup after suffering a high-grade injury in his left ankle, according to his club. Stindl twisted his ankle and had to be replaced by Michael Cuisance in the 35th minute in Saturday's 1-1 draw with Schalke in a Bundesliga clash. According to the club's statement, a MRI scan revealed that the 29-year-old midfielder sustained a severe capsular and ligament injury with also an injury to the syndesmosis in his left ankle joint. Hence, the German international will undergo a surgery in the coming days.

Salah hits out EFA

London: Liverpool's star striker Mohamed Salah has hit out at the Egyptian Football Association (EFA) over the unauthorised use of his image, saying he feels insulted less than two months before the World Cup in Russia. "Sorry but this is a major insult. I was hoping the handling of the dispute would be classier than this," Salah tweeted. Salah, who plays for Egypt and is expected to sizzle for the African giants at the World Cup this summer, is furious that his image features prominently on the outside of the national team's plane, which was provided by official sponsor WE. AGENCIES

PANT, SHANKAR EFFORTS GO IN VAIN AS CSK WIN BY 13 RUNS

WATSON, MSD DECIMATE DELHI

AGENCIES

Pune, April 30: Shane Watson (78, 40b, 7x4, 4x6) and MS Dhoni (51 n o, 22b, 2x4, 5x6) hit brutal half centuries to help Chennai Super Kings (CSK) beat Delhi Daredevils (DD) by 13 runs in an IPL-XI encounter here Monday.

Chasing a target of 212 Delhi had a bad start. But Rishabh Pant (79, 45b, 7x4, 4x6) and Vijay Shankar (54 n o, 31b, 1x4, 5x6) accelerated towards the end with attacking half centuries, but it was too little too late for the visitors. IPL debutant KM Asif (2/43) was the pick of the bowlers for CSK.

Earlier Watson and Dhoni powered CSK to 211 for four: Watson was back to his brutal best after three low scores and shared a 102-run opening stand off 66 balls with Faf du Plessis (33, 33b, 3x4, 1x6) after surviving a close lbw call early on. Dhoni showed his devastating touch in the last five overs which produced 74 runs.

Delhi opted to field on a good batting wicket and CSK pounced on the opportunity. Watson was unstoppable after Trent Boult (0/48) almost had him trapped in front of the stumps with a pacy inswinger at the start of the match. The visiting team took the DRS but the third umpire did not have conclusive evidence to overrule the not out call of the on-field umpire.



BRUTAL KNOCK: Shane Watson lofts over the covers against Delhi Daredevils at Pune, Monday

Brief scores

CSK 211/4
(Shane Watson 78, M S Dhoni 51 n o, Ambati Rayudu 41; Amit Mishra 1/30)
bt DD 198/5
(Rishabh Pant 79, Vijay Shankar 54 n o; KM Asif 2/43)
by 13 runs.

It was also a bit surprising that the tournament's leading run scorer Ambati Rayudu (41, 24b, 5x4, 1x6) did not open the innings with Watson. However, the Watson-Du Plessis duo produced the desired result for CSK who raced to 100 in just 10.2 overs.

After the departure of the former Australian all-rounder, the dangerous combo of Rayudu and Dhoni got together in the 14th over. The captain got into the act with successive sixes off Boult, one over mid-wicket and other one from a bottom-handed jab over long on. The third one was a whip off Avesh Khan over square, almost going out of the ground.

Rayudu too made sure the big hits coming as he hit five fours and a six in his cameo. His fourth wicket stand of 79 with Dhoni came off just 36 balls. The Delhi bowlers were all over the place especially the experienced Boult and Plunkett who leaked 100 runs in seven overs.

FIXTURES ANNOUNCED

CA still in dark over Oz-India D/N Test

SCHEDULE TESTS
Dec 6-10: **Adelaide**
Dec 14-18: **Perth**
Dec 26-30: **Melbourne**
Jan 3-7: **Sydney**

T20Is
Nov 21: **Brisbane**
Nov 23: **Melbourne**
Nov 25: **Sydney**

ODIs
Jan 12: **Sydney**
Jan 15: **Adelaide**
Jan 18: **Melbourne**

REUTERS

Melbourne, April 30: Cricket Australia (CA) confirmed Monday that Adelaide Oval will be the venue for the series-opening Test against India, but has yet to strike an agreement with the Indian board (BCCI) on staging the match under lights.

CA said it was continuing discussions with the BCCI with a view to playing their first day-night Test in Adelaide from December 6-10. "It is our preference that we play India in a day-night Test match in Adelaide, but we are still working through this detail and hope to have an answer on this in the coming weeks," CA CEO James Sutherland said in a media release.

Australia has hosted New Zealand, South Africa and England in day-night Tests at Adelaide

Oval, winning all three of the pink ball matches. India have never played a floodlit match. Australia and India play their second Test at the new Perth Stadium in Burswood, across the Swan river from the city's traditional Test venue, the WACA.

India's tour will kick off with a three-match Twenty20 international series in November after Australia start the home summer with four limited overs matches against South Africa. The hosts will also play India in three ODIs in January.

The schedule, which will see Test cricket played in February for the first time in over 20 years, has been structured to avoid clashing with the domestic 'Big Bash' T20 competition, which has proved a bigger drawcard for local fans than some Test matches in recent seasons.

Hamilton accuses Vettel of breaking safety rules

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Baku, April 30: Lewis Hamilton reopened old wounds Monday when the Mercedes driver accused title rival Sebastian Vettel of breaking the rules during Sunday's Azerbaijan Grand Prix.

Hamilton repeated his complaint made during Sunday's race when he accused the German Ferrari driver of slowing and accelerating, almost stopping and then re-starting, while they followed the Safety Car.

"The rules are that when the safety car goes, you're not allowed to start and stop, start and stop," he said. "You're not allowed to gas and then brake. You're not allowed to fake the guy behind."

"Because, naturally, if there was not that rule, that's what you'd do - because, eventually, you'd catch them

sleeping. You're not allowed to do that. "Every re-start I've done... I've abided by that... In Australia, Sebastian accelerated and then braked and I nearly went up the back end of him and here he did it like maybe four times."

Hamilton's unexpected victory, his first in seven outings and the 63rd of his career, lifted him to the top of the championship for the first time this season, but left him seeking clarification on the rules from official race director Charlie Whiting.

It also revived memories of the pair's infamous clash last year when, in a fit of road rage after accusing Hamilton of "brake-testing" him behind a safety car, Vettel drove his Ferrari at Hamilton's Mercedes, banging wheels deliberately.

Hamilton added that the stewards' decision following Sunday's race had set a precedent that permitted erratic driving behind the safety car in future.

Struggling MI, RCB aim for survival

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, April 30: Struggling sides Mumbai Indians (MI) and Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) will have a fight for survival when they lock horns in an IPL-XI match here, Tuesday.

Having beaten Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in their adopted home ground in Pune, MI will go out with their tails up with confidence to take on a strong batting line-up of RCB, which has the likes of Virat Kohli and Brendon McCullum.

On the other hand, the heart-breaking back-to-back defeats at the hands of CSK and Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in their backyard would have devastated the team's confidence, but RCB will have to play out of their skins to stay in the competition.

It has been an almost identical journey for both teams so far: Mumbai and Dinesh Karthik



GOOD LUCK MATE: MI skipper Rohit Sharma (L) shakes hand with RCB captain Virat Kohli during the toss in their IPL-XI game at Mumbai

led KKR have managed just two wins in seven matches each, but the visitors are ahead at sixth place due to better net run-rate. Whichever team that loses

Standings

Team	Pos	M	W	L	Pts	NRR
MI	6th	7	2	5	4	+0.033
RCB	7th	7	2	5	4	-0.447

they had won by 46 runs at the Wankhede Stadium.

Barring Suryakumar Yadav, who has 274 runs under his belt in seven matches as an opener, most of the Mumbai batsmen have been inconsistent. Rohit Sharma-led Mumbai also have been struggling with the ball as they have failed to prosper as a unit. Young Mayank Markande has been a revelation for them and has bagged 10 wickets from seven games with his leg-spin.

On the other hand, RCB are struggling at seventh position after two wins and five defeats. RCB would be praying for the return of AB de Villiers, who did not play the last game due to fever.

Rising Student reign supreme



MOMENT OF JOY: RSC players receive the winners' trophy and cheque from sports minister Chandra Sarathi Behera at Cuttack, Monday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, April 30: Star-studded Rising Student Club (RSC) emerged champions of the Mulberry Cuttack Premier League cricket tournament after beating Solar Cricket Club (SCC) by four wickets in the final at the Nimpur Club ground here Monday.

Put into field SCC were skittled out for a paltry 76 in 19.4 overs. Baring Sateyaajet Sabat (15) and Pradipta Dash (11) no other batsman could reach double figures against

some penetrative bowling by Orissa Ranji bowler Suryakant Pradhan (3/7) and Debapriya Patnaik (3/13). Biplab Samantray (2/20) scalped two wickets while Alok Sahu (1/11) and Subham Nayak (1/9) picked up one wicket each.

In reply chasing a victory target of 77 RSC also faced a batting debacle, but they scrambled home in 15.3 overs for the loss of six wickets. Pratik Tripathy (12), Arbind Singh (12) and Sujit Lenka (16) made useful contributions with the bat to ensure their team's

victory. Tapash Das (2/17) and Malay Jena (2/9) bowled well for SCC. Anand Sahoo (1/24) also picked up one wicket.

Suryakant was adjudged man of the match for his brilliant bowling while Pratik Tripathy bagged the man of the match award. Prakash Panda took home the best bowler prize.

Sports minister Chandra Sarathi Behera joined as the chief guest and distributed the prizes. RSC received a cash prize of Rs 40,000 along with the champions trophy. SCC took home a cash award of Rs 25,000 along with the runners-up trophy.

Brief scores: SCC 76 (Sateyaajet Sabat 15; Suryakant Pradhan 3/7, Debapriya Patnaik 3/13) lost to RSC 79/6 (Sujit Lenka 16; Tapash Das 2/17, Malay Jena 2/9) by four wickets.

Summer camp

Ravenshaw Morning Club will organise a summer camp for U-15 football players at the Ravenshaw University Ground, starting May 1. Eminent footballers like MN Singh, Manas Samal, Gopabandhu Sahoo and Narendra Sahoo will impart training to the players.

INAUGURAL TEST

Afghans getting ready for tough India challenge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 30: Working on the rigorous requirements of five-day cricket will be the biggest challenge for his team over the next six weeks, feels Afghanistan coach Phil Simmons ahead of the country's inaugural Test in Bangalore from June 14.

After joining Afghanistan in January, Simmons has achieved goal number one by guiding the fast-rising side to their second

The boys will realise this very soon that playing India makes it all the more challenging

PHIL SIMMONS

World Cup qualification. Now as the Asghar Stanikzai-led team gets down to prepare at their base in Greater Noida and second home ground at Dehradun for the historic match against India, Simmons has a tough task of ensuring a competitive performance against the top-ranked Test team.

"These boys have played four-day cricket with the associate nations and have done well. But Test matches are going to be a different ball game. The boys will realise this very soon and playing India makes it all the more challenging," Simmons said.

Afghanistan won the four-day ICC Inter-Continental for the second time in December. "So it is not like they have no idea about the longer format of the game. Test matches are all about patience, both in batting and bowling, and let me tell you it is a big adjustment. And that is what we need work on majorly over the next six weeks," said Simmons.

CAPTAIN'S MUSINGS

Bhupathi feels revamp will rob Davis Cup of its charm



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 30: A three billion dollar deal is too big to ignore as authorities target revamp of the Davis Cup but doing away with the home and away format is not 'ideal' since it is the DNA of the competition, says India's captain Mahesh Bhupathi.

The International Tennis Federation (ITF) will put to test a proposal to create a season-ending World Cup of Tennis, featuring 18 nations. The matches will be played over a week at a single venue in the traditional week of Davis Cup final in November, abolishing the home and away format for ties in the elite World Group.

The idea, approved by the ITF board of directors, will be put to vote in August in Orlando and needs two-thirds majority to become a reality. The revamp idea has

come after the ITF struck a deal with investment group Kosmos, founded and run by Spanish international and FC Barcelona footballer Gerard Pique. It is expected to pump in USD three billion into the tournament in a 25-year period.

It's being speculated that sponsors and corporate lobbies are putting pressure on the ITF to get more top players to participate in Davis Cup. There are instances when top players, in the wake of an already crammed schedule, have skipped ties.

Bhupathi said, Davis Cup was still relevant. "Davis Cup is special and all the top players have committed to it as some point. Like every sport, tennis needs to be driven by innovation and revenue and if there is a three billion dollar opportunity there is no way it can be ignored regardless of the sentiment," Bhupathi said.

Jayaram, Sourabh eye good show at NZ Open

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Auckland, April 30: After recovering from their respective injuries, Indian shuttlers Ajay Jayaram and Sourabh Verma will look to regain touch and form when they compete at the USD 150,000 New Zealand Super 300 tournament starting here Tuesday. Jayaram, who returned to action at the China Masters early this month after recovering from a hamstring injury that took nearly eight months to heal, opens his campaign against fourth seed Hsu Jen Hao from Chinese Taipei. "It's been very long recovery process for me. I played in China but it didn't



Ajay Jayaram (L) and Sourabh Verma

go well. But my leg seemed fine. Last two weeks training has gone better. So, hopefully these two tournaments would turn out better for me," Jayaram, who was World No.15 in July last year, said "I am trying not to expect too much

and just enjoy the game. I've been in this situation before and know that it's important to give yourself time to get back to form."

Sourabh, who had suffered an ankle injury after Swiss Open, will make a comeback at the event taking on

Australia's Abhinav Manota in the opening round.

"After Swiss open, I got injured while training in India. It was an ankle injury. I had to miss Orleans and Finland (events) last month. But now I'm fit again to play. So let's see how it goes," he said.

Singapore Open champion B Sai Praneeth, who had lost to Olympic champion Chen Long in the second round of Asia Championship last week, will face Israel's Misha Zilberman, while former national champion Sameer Verma will square up against Indonesian Sony Dwi Kuncoro in another men's singles match.