



JLo GLAD

Jennifer Lopez says she is glad her boyfriend Alex Rodriguez sees her as a great role model

GLITTERATI P10



CHINA DEFENDS MISSILE DEPLOYMENT

China defends deployment of anti-ship cruise missiles in disputed South China Sea citing "indisputable sovereignty"

INTERNATIONAL P12



REDS IN FINAL

Liverpool enter the Champions League final after riding their luck to contain a fired-up AS Roma

SPORTS P15

SHORT TAKES

Rape accused makes suicide bid in jail toilet

Nischintakoli: The accused in the rape and murder of a six-year-old at a village under Salipur police limits in Cuttack district allegedly attempted suicide inside the jail toilet by trying to hang himself with his towel, police said Thursday. The accused Mohamed Mustaq (25) attempted to end his life but was rescued by an alert warder of the Salipur sub-jail. "Based on the report of the sub-jail superintendent we have registered another case under section 309 of IPC against the accused. **More P7**

'Supply gap' triggers tuber price rise: Patro

Bhubaneswar: With potato prices escalating in the state, Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Surya Narayan Patro blamed the high price of tuber in the neighbouring states as the key reason behind the crisis in Odisha. "Production in Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have been hit and prices have gone up in the state due to the demand and supply gap," Patro said, adding, "Odisha is heavily dependent on these two states as the requirement of potato in the state is around 12 lakh tonne while production is only around 3.5 lakh tonne per annum." **P3**

18 scribes killed in India in 5 yrs: UNESCO

New Delhi: The number of journalists killed all over the world has seen a sharp rise in five years, with 530 such deaths - 18 of them in India - being reported from 2012 to 2016-end, a UNESCO report released Thursday said. The 'World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development Global Report 2017/2018' said the number of killings was 67.72 per cent higher than the 316 recorded during the previous five-year period - from 2007 to 2011-end. **P9**

SC bins Centre's plea to stay SC/ST verdict

New Delhi: The SC Thursday rejected the Centre's demand for a stay on its verdict on the SC/ST Act and said it favoured "100 per cent" the protection of the rights of these communities. The top court also disagreed with the Centre's contention that its March 20 verdict had led to loss of lives in the violence that had broken out later in several states. **P9**

MARKET WATCH		
INDEX		VARIATION
SENSEX	35103.14	↓ 73.28
NIFTY	10679.65	↓ 38.40
DOLLAR	66.42	↑ ₹0.01
EURO	79.71	↑ ₹0.11
GOLD	₹31,061	↑ ₹36
SILVER	₹39,052	↑ ₹243

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	35.7°C	34.5°C
TEMP MIN	22.6°C	21.4°C
Humidity	95%	75%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Partially cloudy sky	

Bomikhal bridge railing caves in again; 1 dead

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 3: One worker died while another sustained severe injuries after a huge iron railing collapsed at Bomikhal here Thursday night.

The labourers were trapped under the railing of the under-construction flyover in Bomikhal where September 10, 2017 a person was killed when a slab of the bridge had caved in.

Locals present at the spot dashed to the site after hearing loud screams of the trapped workers. The deceased was identified as Ajaya Bhumij, a non-Odia labourer. A fire rescue team reached the spot to rescue the labourers.



Fire personnel rescue an injured from the mishap site, Thursday

PANDA IN EYE OF STORM

Ananda Kumar Nayak, a daily wage earner, has sustained injuries and was undergoing treatment at Capital Hospital but was subsequently removed to AMRI. According to eye-witnesses, the iron railing collapsed and the work-

ers installing another railing underneath were trapped. Also, Khurda Collector Nirmal Chandra Mishra visited the hospital to take stock of the situation and assured of a high-level inquiry.

Ajaya, impaled with an iron rod, eventually succumbed to injuries at Capital Hospital. Locals and political activists

blocked the adjoining road and pressed for stopping the construction work immediately. Deputy commissioner of police, Anup Sahu was spotted trying to placate the angry mob.

The mishap took place a few metres away from the spot where the tragic incident had occurred in September last year.

A slab of the bridge had fallen on the victim while he was returning with his daughter from the latter's dance class.

The construction company, Panda Infra, was eventually black-listed by the state government. However, construction work started after the court allowed the contractor to complete the project.

CROP LOSS Farmer attempts suicide in Bargarh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, May 3: A 50-year-old farmer attempted suicide by consuming poison before the district collectorate here Thursday morning. He was identified as Akhura Mallick of Kanabar village under Barpali police limits.

Mallick was participating in a protest outside the district collectorate demanding compensation for crop loss in thunderstorm. The incident took place a day after two farmers committed suicide in grief over major crop loss in Bargarh district Wednesday.

Locals rescued and rushed him to the district headquarters hospital on a motorbike as none of the political leaders or district officials having their four-wheelers parked near the collectorate office offered their vehicles to carry him to the hospital.

Later, he was shifted to VSS Institute of Medical Sciences and Research in Burla after primary treatment. His condition remains critical. The incident has sparked shockwaves in the state. Political leaders only made a beeline to see him only after he was admitted to the hospital.

Continued on P5

3 PERISH IN NOR'WESTER IN STATE

While two persons died when trees fell on them in Balasore and Bargarh districts, another died when a wall collapsed in Mayurbhanj district during the squall Wednesday night

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 3: As many as three persons were killed and several others injured in the unseasonal downpour that lashed most parts of the state Wednesday and Thursday morning, deputy Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Pravat Ranjan Mohapatra said Thursday.

"Two persons were killed after branches of trees fell on them in Balasore and Bargarh districts, while another death was recorded following a wall collapse in Mayurbhanj."

The unseasonal rains wrought large-scale damage in six districts of the state, with Bargarh being the worst-affected in terms of massive damage to standing crops.

"Apart from Bargarh, the six districts that suffered huge damage to crops and houses due to the nor'wester are Jajpur, Dhenkanal, Balasore, Sonepur and Mayurbhanj," Mohapatra pointed out, adding that the collectors of these districts have been directed to furnish detailed reports on the damage.

Of the six districts, Bargarh has been the worst-affected with massive damage to standing crops in Bhatli, Atabira, Bheden, Barpali



AFTERMATH: Uprooted trees block roads in Bargarh district

TRAIL OF DESTRUCTION

Apart from Bargarh, the six districts that suffered huge damage to crops and houses due to the nor'wester are Jajpur, Dhenkanal, Balasore, Sonepur and Mayurbhanj

456 people have died in lightning strikes in the financial year 2017-18

The state government would provide ₹4 lakh ex-gratia to families of the deceased



Uprooted trees led to power outages in UP

In UP, the high-intensity dust storm left 64 people dead and 47 injured. In Rajasthan, 33 were killed, taking the combined death toll to 97. About 100 people were injured in the state, officials said. In UP, Agra district was the worst hit, accounting for 36 deaths and injuries to 35 others, officials said. Besides Agra, the other affected UP districts were Bijnor, Bareilly, Saharanpur, Pilibhit, Firozabad, Chitrakoot, Muzaffarnagar, Rae Bareilly and Unnao. In Rajasthan, Dholpur district was the worst affected with 17 killed. **Continued on P5**

and Bijapur blocks, he said.

Mohapatra said the state government has decided to provide compensation to the tune of ₹5.31 lakh towards damage to houses in Mayurbhanj district. As many as 456 people have died

in lightning strikes between January 1 and March 31 this year. The state government would provide ₹4 lakh ex-gratia to families of the deceased. At least four persons sustained critical injuries after branches of trees fell on them

Dust storm claims 100 in UP, Rajasthan

Lucknow/Jaipur: A severe dust storm followed by thundershowers hit parts of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan overnight, killing nearly 100 people and leaving a trail of destruction. Houses collapsed and trees and poles were uprooted in the storm that also led to power outages. In Uttar Pradesh, the high-intensity dust storm left 64 people dead and 47 injured. In Rajasthan, 33 were killed, taking the combined death toll to 97. About 100 people were injured in the state, officials said. In UP, Agra district was the worst hit, accounting for 36 deaths and injuries to 35 others, officials said. Besides Agra, the other affected UP districts were Bijnor, Bareilly, Saharanpur, Pilibhit, Firozabad, Chitrakoot, Muzaffarnagar, Rae Bareilly and Unnao. In Rajasthan, Dholpur district was the worst affected with 17 killed. **Continued on P5**

Naveen dashes off letters in Odia

MINISTERS ASKED TO SUBMIT PERFORMANCE REPORT AHEAD OF REVIEW MEETING MAY 8

BISWA BHUSAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, May 3: With the passing of the Odia Official Language (Amendment) Bill, 2018, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik set an example for others by writing letters to all ministers in Odia. Naveen has recently written letters to all ministers in Odia asking them to get ready for a performance review meeting scheduled to start May 8.

Naveen's fourth year in his fourth innings as CM will complete May 21. The ministers have been instructed to prepare yearly report cards in the form of as-



Scanned copy of Naveen's letter

essment reports of their respective departments.

Reminding the ministers about the promises made by his party in

the election manifesto in 2014 for the overall development of the people, Naveen said: "Due to our continuous proactive effort taken since 2000 and the farsighted election manifesto, we have been able to win the confidence of the people."

At the meeting of the Council of Ministers held May 21, 2014, it was in-principle decided to execute the promises made in the election manifesto on priority basis, he said, adding: "By doing this, we have created an example for other states and other political parties."

In a letter to Cabinet Minister Prafulla Mallik, the CM said: "I had issued instructions to all de-

partments to immediately execute the proposals made in the election manifesto. After 2014, you have also reviewed the progress made on execution of the proposals at your level every year and informed me."

Meanwhile, by implementing a lot of important poll promises, the government has been able to say "we believe in work not in words", Naveen said, adding he would review the performance made on the execution of the Biju Express Way and four laning of all major roads in the KBK region during the meeting to be held in presence of the minister and the concerned secretary.

Scandal-hit Cambridge Analytica to shut down

AGENCIES

London, May 3: Cambridge Analytica, the UK-based political consulting firm at the heart of the massive data breach of Facebook users worldwide, announced it is shutting down.

The company denies any wrongdoing, but says that the negative media coverage has left it with no clients and mounting legal fees which has forced it to resort to closure.

"Despite Cambridge Analytica's unwavering confidence that its employees have acted ethically and lawfully, the siege of media coverage has driven away virtually all of the company's customers and suppliers," the company said in a statement.

"As a result, it has been determined that it is no longer viable to continue operating the business, which left Cambridge Analytica with no realistic alternative to placing the company into administration," it added.

The firm was accused of improperly obtaining personal information on behalf of political clients. According to Facebook, data on up to 87 million of its users was harvested by an app and then passed on to the political consultancy.

The social network said its own probe into the matter would continue. "This doesn't change our commitment and determination to understand exactly what hap-

India, UK to carry on probe despite closure

New Delhi: The Indian government will continue with its enquiry into the Cambridge Analytica data leak issue, irrespective of the British firm announcing closure of business, senior IT Ministry officials said Thursday. The Indian government too has shut-off notices to both Facebook and Cambridge Analytica, confronting them with questions on data breach issue. The last date for the two companies to respond is May 10. Indian officials familiar with the questioning and notices sent in the data leak matter said the ongoing probe will continue as the liability of the company existed prior to the closure announcement. British officials too said that their investigation into the data breach scandal involving Cambridge Analytica will not be impacted with the shutdown of the political consulting firm.

pened and make sure it doesn't happen again," a Cambridge Analytica spokesperson said. The company said its parent company, SCL Elections, would also commence bankruptcy proceedings. This could impact its Indian operations as well. The chair of a UK Parliament committee investigating the firm's activities also raised concerns about CA and SCL Elections' move to shut down.

Many recipients skip award event



New Delhi: Some among the 60 National Film Awards recipients Thursday skipped the ceremony this evening because President Ram Nath Kovind presented only 11 awards, a departure from established tradition. The artists from across the country wrote a letter addressed to the Directorate of Film Festival, Office of the President of India and the Information and Broadcasting Ministry to express their disappointment. They said they were "disheartened" on being informed at the last minute that the president will present only 11 awards. The rest will receive it from Information and Broadcasting Minister Smriti Irani. "It feels like a breach of trust when an institution/ceremony that abides by extreme protocol fails to inform us of such a vital aspect of the ceremony with a prior notice. It seems unfortunate," read the letter.

Republicans seek Nobel for Trump

Washington: A group of House Republicans is seeking the Nobel Peace Prize for President Donald Trump because of his work to ease nuclear tensions with North Korea. Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un are working out the details of a historic summit that could take place by the end of May or early June. Yet an agreement by which the North would give up its nuclear weapons and allow for the world to confirm it still seems far off. The United States has reached aid-for-disarmament deals with North Korea before, but they've ultimately failed. Recent comments from the leaders of the two Koreas have raised hopes. Trump's supporters on Capitol Hill are pushing the idea that he deserves a Nobel, and Trump clearly enjoyed it when supporters at a Michigan rally began chanting "Nobel" as he talked about North Korea.



Vendors fill tea cans from toilet

Secunderabad: A fine of ₹1 lakh has been imposed on a vending contractor by the Indian Railways after a video showing some vendors purportedly filling tea and coffee cans from inside a train toilet surfaced. The video of the incident that took place in December 2017 in the Charminar Express, at Secunderabad (Telangana) station, shows some vendors coming out of a train toilet with the cans, suggesting that the water was mixed in the cans inside the toilet. The vendors in question, who were unauthorised hawkers, were engaged by platform catering stalls. One of the vendors revealed that they were only transferring the leftover beverage in the toilet to sell in their respective platform stalls. Meanwhile, the Commercial Department of the South Central Railways termed it a "wrong practice".





SILVER JUBILEE

Members of Niladri Vihar Yuba and Sanskritika Sangha celebrating the organisation's silver jubilee in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

MAGAZINE UNVEILED

Dignitaries unveil the magazine Sarthak Saraswata at a function organised by Kulamani Nathsharma Memorial Trust at Mangala Mandap, Unit-8 in Bhubaneswar, Thursday



FORTUNE FORECAST



ARIES
Your work and family will vie with each other for your attention. Merry-making will seem a good idea in the evening. Your desire for name and fame will meet with success shortly, maybe even today! Ganesha showers his blessings on you.

TAURUS
You may spend a majority of your time on your health and well-being today. Business lunch may see some pending negotiations reaching a successful outcome. Research work will progress better than expected, says Ganesha.

GEMINI
A day of conflicting emotions awaits you. Your personal and professional life will both be important. Hence you will experience anxious moments as you try to balance the demands made by both. However, the good news is you will succeed in your attempts and will do justice to all your duties, says Ganesha.

CANCER
An awareness of optimism and idealism will mark your activities this day. You may benefit by traversing from one terrain to another. You will be liberal and generous with ideas; your internal beauty will blossom.

LEO
You will exercise your will today and will be in the mood to soar like a free bird today. You will not be in the mood to listen to anyone. Work related travel will be beneficial. Guard against ego clashes in personal relationships, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
Contemplating on past successes will help you gather the resources for achieving more of it in the near future. New contacts will help you make considerable headway on the road to success. Ganesha says your amiable nature will help you in getting along easily with people.

LIBRA
Ganesha says that you need to be more careful in your work field as your enemies or your competitors will try to pull you down today. You will have to be very careful in making business agreements or negotiations regarding give and take in the business. You will see your beloved grow distant from you today.

SCORPIO
Long pending task of getting your home renovated may begin today. There are a couple of object de art that have caught your eyes and you wish to decorate your home with those artefacts. You may even plan a small celebration to share your home's new look! A great day indeed.

SAGITTARIUS
You seem to be on a self-appreciation mode today. Grooming, makeover and attracting attention in on your cards today, you make extra efforts to get that glamorous look for your self. And as Ganesha says, it will surely not go unnoticed as you bag a lot of compliments for it. One of the fortunate days in store for you!

CAPRICORN
You regret spending hefty amount of money on branded items and luxuries, but you'll see a ray of hope today, feels Ganesha. Your bank account is strengthened by some heavy cash flow, and needless to say, it will give you a great relief. Now, you'll understand the value of money and curb on your urge to spend lavishly. Your work place will make you feel more comfortable.

AQUARIUS
Today is your day! Your performance will speak for itself and everyone at work, including bosses, will appreciate your efforts, says Ganesha. Work will not seem burdensome any more, in fact you will enjoy your job like never before. You may wish to contact some old friends and be in touch with them once again.

PISCES
A good day for those looking for romantic liaisons, says Ganesha. You will seek the company of your sweetheart to fight feelings of solitude and boredom today. Those who are single ought to strike gold, considering how Lady Luck will be grinning at the efforts you make to win over your love.

HELLO ARSI MAKES ODISHA PROUD

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: Acclaimed Odia Movie *Hello Arsi*, directed by Late Saambit Mohanty, was presented the Best Odia Film award at the 65th National film Award function in New Delhi, Thursday. The protagonist of the film, actor Prakruti Mishra also won the Special Mention Actress Award for her performance.

The movie also bagged the award for Best Dialogue for the script by its late director Saambit.

Actor Prakruti received the coveted award from Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Smriti Irani at Vigyan Bhawan. In a significant change this year, most of the National Film Awards were presented Irani as the President Ram Nath Kovind only presented awards in 11 categories. As a result, many winners decided to skip the award ceremony.

Talking to *Orissa POST*, Prakruti Mishra said she has no objection whatsoever regarding the change in format of the award presentation ceremony, saying the award for *Hello Arsi* itself is a matter of pride for her. "It does not make any difference for me because the award for the movie itself is a matter of pride for me. Appreciation of the movie by all juries and the audience is a great achievement for the whole team," she said.

"It would have been a great honour for me to receive the award from the President of India. But it is equally important for me to receive the award from Smriti Irani. I hope the matter

65TH NATIONAL FILM AWARDS



Prakruti Mishra receiving Special Mention Award from I&B Minister Smriti Irani and Minister of State Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore

will be solved very soon," she added.

Producer Ajaya Routray, lead actress Prakruti Mishra and director late Saambit Mohanty's wife Ritu Patanaik were present at the Vigyan Bhawan to receive the awards in three different categories for 'Hello Arsi' - Best Odia Film, Best Dialogue and a Special Mention for Prakruti Mishra. According to Ajaya, the awards are indeed a great moment not only for them, but also for entire

The government must provide us cinema halls to screen the film. If we get our money back only then can we focus on making more good films

AJAYA ROUTRAY | PRODUCER

AWARDEES FROM ODISHA SPEAK

Receiving an award from the President is a special feeling for artistes. I understand the feeling of artistes because they went to the function with the expectation of getting the award from the President.

HIMANSHU KHATUA | DIRECTOR

I think the importance of an award does not depend on the person who gives. Awards are given as recognition for the hard work done by the recipient. Even if the President does not give the award, it will still be national awards.

SABYASACHI MOHAPATRA | DIRECTOR

Odisha. "Disgusted over 'copy-paste' movies in Odisha, we had decided to make a different, but good film. We decided to make *Hello Arsi* and had to struggle a lot, as we were not ready to compromise with quality."

"The government must provide us cinema halls to screen the film. If we get our money back only then can we focus on making more good films", he added.



PLAY IN PROGRESS



Artistes from theater group Sutra Dhaara, Khurda, enact a scene of the play *Bhuaa* at Bhanja Kala Mandap during an event organised by Natyadhara in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

Workshop on radio in city

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: A 15-day workshop on radio, organised by a philanthropic organisation Outreach, was inaugurated here at Buddha Mandir, Thursday. About 40 participants from across the state are taking part in third edition of the workshop. Former director of All India Radio, Cuttack, Shantanu Rath inaugurated the event.

Talking to *Orissa POST*, Subrat Pati, convener of the programme, said, "Various radio stations, including community radio, are coming up and they are looking for candidates. Such workshops will nurture the participants and help them get employment. The participants are given radio sets to know more about the device."

Participants will get to learn about radio script-writing, live show presentation, pronunciation and modulation, outstation broadcast, radio news reporting and reading, listeners' interaction, dubbing and voice acting and also public service broadcasting during the workshop. In addition, they will be imparted training on body language and personality development.

"About 30 faculty and experts will be training the participants at the workshop. Radio jockeys, senior



broadcasters and many experts will be teaching the tricks of the trade to these enthusiasts. We are taking the participants to four radio stations for practical training and there will be voice testing for the aspiring news anchors. We have already trained about 80 candidates during previous two editions, said Subrat.

On the other hand, participants also expressed their eagerness to learn more about radio and radio broadcasting. "Apart from learning the different aspects of radio broadcasting, I believe that the training will help to develop my personality. I always desired to know about broadcasting in radio and this is a great opportunity for me, said

Sasmita Das, a student and classical dancer.

Another participant from Baripada, Kapilash Kumar Behera said, "I want to make a career in radio broadcasting and I am excited to learn so much about the profession. I intend to do anchoring in radio and I hope to hone my skills during the workshop."

A student of BJB Autonomous College Sasmita is excited as she has got a platform to express herself and improve her skill through this workshop. She aims to become a radio jockey. "This is a platform wherein I can express myself properly. I want to work as RJ in radio as I love to interact with the people," she added.

Delhi youth in city with a mission to encourage blood donation

DIPCHAND BIHARI, OP

Bhubaneswar: Kiran Verma, a Delhi-based youth, is currently on a mission in the capital city. He is walking on foot across the country to create awareness on the importance of blood donation.

Kiran, who aims to walk 15,000 kilometers across the country, reached Bhubaneswar Thursday. Without wasting his time, soon after his arrival here, he started encouraging people to donate blood to the needy in their localities.

Thirty-three-year-old Kiran started his journey from Lal Chowk in Srinagar January 26 this year and has already covered nearly 8,000 kilometers on foot. He reached the capital city starting his journey from Bhopal.

Talking to *Orissa POST*, Verma shared the story behind his mission. He said, "It

was in August 2017 when I received a random call from an area called Rampur in Uttar Pradesh asking me to donate blood to a needy. A few days after I gave my blood to the patient, his father called me time and again for more blood. Unfortunately, my phone was unreachable and the patient passed away for want of blood."

"On that day, I decided to launch a campaign to make people aware about the significance of blood donation. I named this walk Change with one. I want to bring a change in the society so that people are always ready to help one another," Verma added.

So far, Verma has traversed 19 states and Union Territories and is set to embark on his mission in others states. He has donated blood more than 40 times since the age of 18. His countrywide walk is sched-



uled to end in Delhi June 14 this year on the occasion of World Blood Donor Day

Kiran has traversed 19 states and UTs and he is set to embark on his mission in other states. He has donated blood more than 40 times since the age of 18. His walk is scheduled to end in Delhi June 14 this year on the occasion of World Blood Donor Day

Talking about his mission, Verma said, "I try to encourage 10 people in every kilometer I walk and I will aim to share the noble idea of blood donation among 1.5 lakh people during my journey covering 15,000 km. I also share my views and the

aim of my mission with the media and educational institutions in places I visit to ensure that that the message reaches maximum people."

Verma had a lucrative job as a marketing executive in Noida. However, he quit his job for his mission - promoting blood donation and saving lives.

He has also launched an app called *Simply Blood* to provide blood to needy free of cost. Speaking about the app, he said, "If anyone needs blood they can request through this app and the registered persons located close to the needing will be available for blood donation. About 40,000 people from 182 countries have registered on the app with the pledge to donate blood whenever needed."

He runs the app with his personal funds and claimed that they have saved over 2,000 people in two years.

downtown



PROTEST RALLY

Activists of Nari Sasaktikaran Manch take out a rally in Puri, Thursday, to protest the recent incidents of sexual assaults on women in the country

POLLUTION WOES

Garbage dumped on Mahanadi riverbank in Cuttack Thursday in violation of the National Green Tribunal order



State blames Bengal, UP as its potato mission fails

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 3: With potato prices escalating in the state, Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare (FSCW) Minister Surya Narayan Patro blamed the high-price of tuber in neighbouring states for the crisis in the state.

"Production in Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal has hit and prices have gone up in the state due to the demand and supply gap," Patro said, adding, "State is heavily dependent on these two states as the requirement of potato in the state is around 12 lakh tonne while production is only around 3.5 lakh tonne per annum."

"We are studying the situation. Of the total potato produced in the country, 70 per cent comes from these two states only and when we enquired from other states like Gujarat and Maharashtra the current price has remained same there," the minister said. The food minister also said that the government has convened an emergency meeting to discuss the situation and has also instructed officials at field level to crack down on hoarders.

According to the FSCW department officials, the current price of potato at retail markets of major places in the state has remained ₹17 to ₹18, while ground reports suggest that it has already reached around ₹20 in certain parts. Last year, the average price of potato in the state during the



Potato was sold at ₹20 per kilogram at Unit-IV market in Bhubaneswar, Thursday.

(IN)ACTION REPLAY

RQUIREMENT OF POTATO IN THE STATE IS AROUND 12 LAKH TONNE WHILE PRODUCTION IS AROUND 3.5 LAKH TONNE PER ANNUM

THE GOVERNMENT HAS CONVENED AN EMERGENCY MEETING TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION AND HAS ALSO INSTRUCTED OFFICIALS AT FIELD LEVEL TO CRACK DOWN ON HOARDERS

THOUGH STATE GOVERNMENT HAD LAUNCHED THE POTATO MISSION IN DECEMBER 2014, TILL DATE THE OUTPUT FIGURE HASN'T CROSSED 3.5 LAKH TONNE

same period was around ₹10.

Traders' Association in Cuttack has also blamed the price rise in neighbouring state as the main reason for the crisis.

To boost potato production and make Odisha self-reliant, the state government had launched the Potato Mission in December 2014 and set a production target of 10 lakh metric tonnes by 2017-18. Though the state had expected a production of 4 lakh metric tonnes by 2015-16, the production went down by 30 percent that fiscal and till date the out-

put figure hasn't crossed 3.5 lakh tonne.

When contacted, farmers said poor offer price, lack of storage facility and lack of market linkage are the main reasons preventing farmers from cultivating the tuber. Distress sale due to meagre purchase is also another reason that is discouraging farmers to go for potato production, they said.

Thus, the state government's all efforts to encourage potato production appear to have failed.

Odisha bags 'Best State in Skill Development' award

STATE CLINCHES THE AWARD FOR SECOND TIME IN A ROW

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 3: After successful implementation of 'Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana' and training a record 96,000 youths, the state government has bagged the prestigious Prime Minister's Award, second time in a row, for being the 'Best State in Skill Development'. The award will be presented at an event in New Delhi May 5.

This apart, the creation of a sustainable income source for 70,000 youths and an achievement by the state agency, the Odisha Rural Development and Marketing Society (ORMAS), covering one-fifth of the national skilling target, have been cited as major gains.

Expressing his happiness, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in a Facebook post wrote, "We are proud that Odisha has successfully trained and ensured employment for a record 96,000 rural youths under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya



REPRESENTATIONAL PIC

Yojana. Our Odisha Rural Development and Marketing Society with its out-of-the-box initiatives for 'Quality with Quantity' accounts for one-fifth of the national target." (sic)

Noting that his government has set a target of skilling around one lakh youth in the next two years, the chief minister said many reputed national and multinational companies preferred skilled youths from Odisha. "More heartening is the fact that other states are studying the Odisha model to replicate it for skilling their youths," he added.

Reform in pension disbursement

Bhubaneswar: The Department of Social Securities and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) has now planned to allow using banking correspondents for disbursement of pensions at panchayat levels. The department has allowed a private bank to disburse the pensions on a pilot mode in 12 gram panchayats of Rayagada districts in different blocks like Chandrapur, Kashipur, Muniguda and Padampur. Earlier, the pensions were disbursed at panchayat levels through state representatives.

Bike-lifting gang busted

Bhubaneswar: The Commissionerate police arrested a gang of bike lifters including the mastermind and seized 20 motorcycles from its possession here Thursday. While the search for more such stolen vehicles was going on, police expects the booty toll to be more than 50. The mastermind of the gang was identified as Dipu Sahoo alias Dipu of Sukavihar area in Raghunathnagar under the Khandagiri police limits. Dipu's gang mostly operated in areas under Khandagiri, Airfield and Tamando police station limits. According to police sources, Dipu possessed the duplicate master keys to unlock the vehicles.

INAPPROPRIATE FRISKING OF GIRLS

CCTVs to keep tabs on copying in exams

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, May 3: Shri Jagannath Sanskrit University authorities here have decided to install CCTV cameras at all their examination centres following allegations of inappropriate frisking of girls.

The decision was taken after a group of girl students of BN Sanskrit (degree) College at Tukuna in Keonjhar district which is affiliated to the varsity, brought allegations of misbehaviour against a member of the Syndicate of the varsity. They complained that a male Syndicate member frisked them inappropriately on the pretext of checking during the second year Shastri (degree) examination.

A three-member team from the BN College comprising principal Indira Subhadarshini and lecturers Gopinath Panda and Manoranjan Padhi Wednesday appeared before a probe committee constituted by the varsity and delivered their statements.

On the other hand, rumours are doing the rounds that the varsity authorities have put pressure on the college to cover up the incident as it was not an isolated case of misconduct by a professor of the varsity. The varsity authorities had earlier covered up a similar incident in which a girl student had accused a professor of misbehaviour, it was alleged.

Sources said college principal and two lecturers appeared before the probe panel between 1pm and 3pm and separately produced their statements detailing the whole incident. The accused Syndicate member had earlier submitted a written statement before the probe panel in this regard.

When asked, the college principal said, "On the basis of the complaints made by the girl students, we have submitted a copy of their complaints each to varsity vice-chancellor and the Higher Education department. We appeared before the probe committee and presented our statements following a prior notice." Two lecturers of the college, however, refused to comment.

When contacted, vice-chancellor Radhamadhab Das rubbished the allegations of any pressure from the varsity. He said, "A committee comprising PG chairman Harihar Hota and controller of examinations Madhusudan Mishra has been formed to probe the matter".

The college principal and two lecturers presented their statements. To prevent recurrence of such incident, he added that they have decided to install CCTV cameras in all their examination centres from the next academic year. The issue will be further discussed in the next Syndicate meeting.

DSPL-37

BE AWARE, PREVENT HEATSTROKE

THINGS TO DO

- Take protective measures while going outside
- Drink plenty of water
- Take steps to Keep your body cool
- Cover the asbestos / tin roofs with paddy straw
- In emergency call 108 for medical assistance

THINGS TO AVOID

- Avoid going outside during peak hours.(11am - 3 pm)
- Avoid doing any work near fire in peak hours
- Don't take Alcohol or tobacco.
- Avoid doing hard labour during peak hours
- Don't apply ice on heatstroke patient

Free treatment for heatstroke cases are available in all Govt. Health Institution.

facebook.com/HFWOdish http://www.health.odisha.gov.in @HFWOdisha

Heath & Family Welfare Department, Odisha

State approves four water supply projects

Bhubaneswar: The state government Thursday approved four drinking water supply projects worth Rs 193.66 crore for three districts. The projects will be executed by Housing and Urban Development department while the funds will be sanctioned from Odisha Mineral Bearing Area Development Corporation (OMBADC). According to official sources, two projects will be implemented in Jharsuguda municipality with an investment of Rs 133.66 crore while one each will be executed in Koraput (Rs 35 crore) and Rairangpur of Sundargarh district (Rs 25 crore). The government, so far, has sanctioned 248 drinking water projects from OMBADC fund, of which 41 were completed while 140 projects were under execution. Tendering process is on for remaining projects, they said.

WASSUP TODAY

BHUBANESWAR

- Concluding day of 37th State-level art exhibition by Odisha Lalitkala Akademi, Buddha Art gallery, Niladri Vihar, 11am
- Workshop by Arya Samaj, Buddha Temple, Unit-9, 11am

CUTTACK

- 18th state-level workshop on Health, Sri Aurobindo Institute of Integral Health and Research, Ranihaat, 8am
- Protest by Cuttack District 'Utkal Sammelani', in front of collectorate, 10.30am
- 13th Mahanadi Festival, Netaji Ground, Potapokhari, Nuabazaar, 6.30pm
- Launch event of 'Chandrasekhar' a poetry written by Poet Rajendra Kumar Pradhan, Sriramchandra Bhawan, 6.30pm

PURI

- All India Teachers' Meet, Municipality Office, 10am
- 7th All India Meet of School Teachers' Federation of India, Puri Town Hall, 10am
- 'Samudra Alati' near Swargadwar, 6pm
- Traditional Culture Mahotsav, Chandanachakada, Narendra Pond, 6pm

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



AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR (HINDI - 3D)
BHUBANESWAR INOX
09:00 AM 03:20 PM
MAHARAJA HALL
08:30 AM 11:20 AM
02:10 PM 05:00 PM
07:50 PM 10:40 PM
KESHARI
12:00 PM 03:00 PM
06:00 PM 09:00 PM
OMERTA - HINGLISH
BHUBANESWAR INOX
11:25 AM 08:20 PM
102 NOT OUT - HINDI
BHUBANESWAR INOX
09:10 AM 01:35 PM
03:50 PM 06:05 PM
10:30 PM
OMERTA
CUTTACK
SANGAM PLEX
12:15 PM 04:30 PM
AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR (HINDI - 3D)
CUTTACK
GRAND CINEMA HALL
09:15 AM 03:05 PM
09:20 PM
AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR (ENGLISH- 3D)
CUTTACK
GRAND CINEMA HALL
12:05 PM 06:20 PM

HEALTHCARE BOOST



Health and Family Welfare Minister Pratap Jena inaugurates a building of an urban primary health centre at Pokhariput in Bhubaneswar Thursday; (inset) the newly-constructed building

Govt to open 9 UPHCs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 3: The state government will open seven Urban Primary Health Centres (UPHCs) and two more Urban Community Health Centres (CHC) in the Capital city. Health officials informed the media during the inauguration ceremony of three new UPHCs here. Health Minister Pratap Jena inaugurated these health centres at Pokhariput (Ward No-62), Baramunda (Ward No-50) and Chandrasekharpur Housing Board Colony (Ward No-8) in the presence of local MP, MLAs, two ministers of Housing and Urban development and Tourism department. These centres are equipped with Out Patient Department (OPD), observation room, pathology, medicine dis-

tribution centre and conference hall among other facilities. These will operate from 8 am to 11 am and between 5 pm and 8 pm. Doctors and Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANMs) will be available during the service hours while facilities for free drug distribution will also be created. Besides, vaccination will be given on every Wednesday. Currently, there are 21 UPHCs and four CHCs in the city. Officials said at present 85 UPHCs exist at 27 urban areas in the state while six urban community health centres have been made functional. According to sources, the state government in collaboration with the National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) is setting up these health establishments.

No need for CBI probe into Kunduli case: Govt

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, May 3: The Orissa High Court Thursday directed the state government to submit its reply before May 10 to a petition filed by former MP Aira Kharavela Swain pertaining to the alleged gangrape and subsequent suicide of Kunduli victim. A division bench of Chief Justice Vineet Saran and Justice B R Sarangi gave the directive while hearing separate petitions filed by the victim's brother, the former MP and advocate Goutam Siddhiqi. Submitting its reply in connection with the petition filed by the victim's brother, the state government informed the HC that there is no need for a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the alleged gang rape and subsequent suicide of the victim as a special investigation team (SIT) of the Crime Branch has already been investigating the case. "At a time when the report of the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) in Kolkata has discarded the rape theory, the question of involvement of any security personnel in the alleged incident is baseless," the state government's reply said. This apart, at a time when the state government-ordered judicial probe is on into the incident, plea for a CBI probe is redundant, the state government said and requested the HC to reject the plea seeking a CBI probe. While posting the next hearing for

HEARING IN HC

Expressing doubt over CB's SIT probe, the mother and brother of the Kunduli victim had moved HC seeking a directive for a CBI probe and appropriate compensation

May 15, the bench fixed July 3 for hearing four petitions out of the seven which have been filed with the HC in connection with the incident. The HC hearing began in line with the Supreme Court directive, sources said. In his petition, Swain had informed the HC that the minor girl, who was reportedly gang raped October 10, 2017, had committed suicide January 22 this year after losing her confidence in the investigation of the state police. Hence, a CBI probe into the incident would help deliver justice to the victim. The state police had been handling such a sensitive issue casually. And the state government has also failed to deliver justice to the victim's family, Swain's petition said. Notably, expressing doubt over the CB's SIT probe, the mother and brother of the Kunduli victim had moved HC seeking a directive for a CBI probe and appropriate compensation.

First visually impaired OAS officer joins work

POST NEWS NETWORK



Sanyasi Kumar Behera

Bhubaneswar, May 3: The first visually impaired OAS officer, Sanyasi Kumar Behera, has joined as a district social security officer under the state government. He has been inducted to Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) department at Unit VI Capital Hospital campus here Thursday. Behera said he would dedicate himself to the cause of the most marginalised persons with disabilities. His main focus would be on the requirements of the visually-impaired in the mainstream of the society, under two new government schemes focusing on senior citizens. What he has achieved was the outcome of his long legal battle. He campaigned tirelessly in the past for induction of visually impaired persons in the administrative service sector. The 43-year-old Sanyasi cleared the Odisha Civil Services (OCS) exams this year, securing an all-Odisha rank of 220, and stood first among the differently-abled candidates. Sanyasi hails from a poor family in Kishoreprasad under Ganiya block in Nayagarh district, completed his matriculation from the Bhima Bhoi School for the Blind here and had his graduation from the Aligappa University in Tamil Nadu. He also completed an office management course.

Illegal mining at Tangeni hillock riles villagers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khurda, May 3: Illegal stone quarrying at Tangeni hillock near Kaipadara is posing a grave threat to environment and locals. According to sources, some influential people have been quarrying stone from Tangeni hillock, spread over 900 acres under Khurda tehsil for last several months even though the district administration has not leased out the mines to anyone. It is learnt that the mining mafia usually use dynamites to blast the rocks which causes environmental pollution in Kaipadara and other nearby villages, alleged the locals. According to the villagers, the mining mafia has deployed at least 100 armed youths at the hillock to frighten the vil-



A deep pit dug illegally to mine stone at Tangeni hillock

lagers who often protest the illegal stone quarrying. "The armed youths, who are under the payroll of the mafia, used to guard the hillock round-the-clock," said a villager. Sources alleged the local police, district administration officials and a few police officials are hands in glove with people involved in the illegal quarrying. The villagers claimed that at

least six persons have lost their lives due to disputes over quarrying activities at the hillock in the last few years. "The hired goons of the mining mafia threaten the locals with bombs, firearms and sharp weapons whenever there is any protest against the illegal quarrying. The mining mafia has attacked Guna Jena, a villager, just a few days ago," said a resident of Kaipadara.

The villagers have also claimed that the state government has been losing huge revenue due to the illegal quarrying at the hillock. "Huge quantities of stone are being transported to several places in the district through trucks and tractors. Police and tehsil officials are reluctant to take action against the people involved in the illegal quarrying," said a social activist. A group of villagers from Kaipadara has lodged complaints with the district Collector and superintendent of police urging them to take action against the mining mafia within a week. "We cannot tolerate illegal quarrying near Kaipadara. We will be forced to take the law into our hands if the administration fails to take action against the mining mafia," said a villager.

CALL FOR CHANGE



A consultation meet by the Centre for Advocacy and Research to discuss the difficulties faced by differently-abled persons in slum area underway at hotel The Presidency in Bhubaneswar Thursday

CLASSIFIED

REAL ESTATE

SALE

Ready to move 3BHK flats at Shuvam Royale (near Khandagiri, Ghatikia) Shyamsundar Enclave (at Kapilaprasad) M/s. Shuvam Construction (P) Ltd. Contact : 9437482693, 9437022693. Ggarabari plot Rs. 700/- boundary, Bank finance at Sunderpada, Bhubaneswar. 7978632259. 1500 sqft. gharabari boundary plot Infocity-2 200' roadside. Direct owner: 9439923942.

PACKERS & MOVERS

Shivam logistic packers movers. Household/ car relocation countrywide. 9777044177, 9338461133.

HEALTH CARE

Ashribad Spa is reputed ayurvedic clinic provided all type herbal body massage by well trained ladies therapist. Contact: 9040050502. Ayurvedic full body massage back pain, joint pain smart expert therapist. 9114697517.

Rejuvenate and ayurvedic full body massage by smart therapist. 9114402304. Bangkok spa special offer 50% off on all 1hrs any full body massage. 9861688844, 8018739084.

Newly opening ayurvedic body massage smart therapist, Shree Herbal. 7750020754. Feel complete refreshment be cool in hot Summer. Appointment: 9776598888.

Newly opening ayurvedic body massage in jointpains, smart therapist. 9776383819.

Rejuvenate refresh with trusted brand therapy massage. Appointment call: 9337973945.

Fully refreshed/ relaxed body massage by expert therapist, Shastrinagar. 7377984773.

LOST

I, Anand Kumar Sahoo lost my CBSE Class-X Certificate on 15.12.2017 at Bhubaneswar. My Roll No.- 6108709 and my year of passing 2014. If anyone find kindly contact- 271/B, Babuji Nagar. 9861230448.

30 tonne coal laden truck seized

POST NEWS NETWORK

Choudwar, May 3: Two persons were arrested near Karanji area here Thursday on charges of illegal transportation of coal. Chabindra Kumar Nayak (43), a resident of Majhipatna in Badamba police limits, and Tuna Patnaik (32), the truck driver who is a resident of Baluagada Rahagul in Khuntuni police limits, have been arrested for illegally transporting 30 tonne coal from



The seized truck and car

Deogaon area in Dhenkanal district. "A case (125/18) has been

registered and the duo was produced in a court. Apart from the truck (OR-04-H-7288) laden with

coal, we have also seized a car (OR-04-H-3171) which was escorting the truck to its destination. However, the duo in the car managed to flee the spot," Choudwar inspector in-charge (IC) Jitendra Kumar Sethy said. The police were tipped off about the consignment following which a team, led by assistant sub-inspectors (ASIs) Ashok Kumar Hansdah and Radhakanta Sethy, intercepted the truck and made the arrests.

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, Babuji 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-977682449, Sushree fashion- Jagnara-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.

Continued from P1

Dust storm kills 100...

Two of those killed in Dholpur were from Agra in Uttar Pradesh. "A few people are undergoing primary treatment while others were discharged. One critical patient from Dholpur was referred to Jaipur," Hemant Kumar Gera, Secretary, Disaster Management and Relief, said. A detailed report of the disaster is awaited even as relief and rescue teams have been pressed into service to clear debris and restore power supply, Rajasthan he said. Gera said contingency funds have been released to the respective district administration. He said ₹4 lakh will be given to family members of deceased, ₹2 lakh to persons sustaining 60 per cent injuries and ₹60,000 to people with 40 to 50 per cent injuries.

Expressing sorrow at the loss of lives due to dust storms in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today directed officials to coordinate with states to ensure speedy relief and rehabilitation of those affected.

"Saddened by the loss of lives due to dust storms in various parts of India. Condolences to the bereaved families. May the injured recover soon," the Prime Minister's Office tweeted quoting Modi.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje expressed grief over the calamity and said authorities concerned in the districts have been directed to ensure all possible help to victims. "Condolence for families who lost their loved ones," she said on Twitter. Taking note of the havoc caused by the dust storm in UP, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed officers concerned to personally monitor relief operations and provide all necessary medical facilities to the affected.

He also said that no laxity will be tolerated in providing succour to the needy.

Another dust storm may hit UP and Rajasthan: IMD official

Another dust storm may hit parts of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan in the next 48 hours due to cyclonic circulation formation in the region, a MeT official said today.

The warning came even as the two north Indian states were reeling under the impact of a severe overnight dust storm that killed nearly 100 people and left a trail of destruction.

"There is a high probability that winds will intensify in the next 48 hours in Rajasthan, which may lead to another dust storm. It will affect areas of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan border, especially Karauli and Dholpur," Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) scientist Himanshu Sharma told PTI here.

Satellite images have shown wind pressure developing in parts of Rajasthan, which may lead to high intensity winds and dust storm. The meteorological department has warned that a dust storm, rainfall or thunderstorm may occur at some areas in Bikaner, Alwar, Bharatpur, Dholpur, Karauli, Jhunjhunu, Swai Madhopur, Sikar, Sriganganagar and Jaipur districts. Sharma said the department had issued warnings in the last couple of days about a dust storm in Rajasthan.

In Uttar Pradesh, the high-intensity dust storm left 64 people dead and 47 injured. In Rajasthan, 33 were killed, taking the combined death toll to 97. About 100 people were injured in the state, officials said.

MAHANADI FEST



Artistes perform a folk dance to mark the 13th Mahanadi Festival in Cuttack, Thursday

OP PHOTO

Khurda DHH docs seek bribe for treatment

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khurda, May 3: The state government has launched several schemes to avail healthcare to common people, but many patients are being denied treatment at the district headquarters hospital (DHH) here due to their inability to pay bribe to doctors and health staff.

Taking advantage of poor healthcare at the DHH, the middlemen of many private clinics persuade the patients to opt for paid treatment.

People from across Khurda district and from some border areas of Puri, Nayagarh and Cuttack districts usually depend upon the Khurda DHH for healthcare services.

However, doctors and health staff at the DHH often demand bribe from the patients overtly or covertly to treat them. It is learnt that many doctors of the DHH are attending patients at private clinics after signing the attendance registers of the government-run hospital.

HEALTHCARE IN DISARRAY



Many doctors of the DHH are attending patients at private clinics after signing the attendance registers of the government-run hospital.

Taking advantage of poor healthcare at the DHH, middlemen of many private clinics persuade the patients to opt for paid treatment.

Doctors and health staff at the DHH often demand bribe from the patients overtly or covertly to treat them.

Patients are being forced to bribe the doctors at the DHH or visit some private clinics to avail the healthcare. A well-oiled racket

is active at the DHH to divert patients to private nursing homes," said a source familiar close to the hospital.

A few social activists and locals have alleged that several pa-

tients have died in the DHH due to medical negligence. "Doctors at the DHH did not attend my ailing wife after we refused to pay bribe. My wife died while being shifted to a hospital in Bhubaneswar," said Abinash Pradhan of Banpur.

Echoing the same sentiment, social activist Bibhuti Das said two newborn babies from Podadiha village died at the DHH due to medical negligence. "A probe has confirmed medical negligence for the babies' death. But, the Health department is yet to take action against the errant doctor," he rued.

Bolgarh resident Madhab Swain alleged that doctors at the DHH usually devote more time to medicine representatives than to patients.

"The district administration and Health department officials are aware of the precarious situation at the Khurda DHH but they have no time to look into all these issues," said a social activist.

Govt for 100 per cent utilisation of fly ash

State was able to utilise 81% fly ash generated in 2017-18

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 3: Expressing concern over generation of huge amount of fly ash from various industries, the state government has asked the fly ash generating companies to ensure 100 per cent utilisation of the ash in 2018-19.

The state has achieved 81 per cent utilisation of the fly ash generated during the year 2017-18. To achieve 100 per cent target, Chief Secretary A P Padhi Thursday asked the companies to prepare the actual ground level plan for accomplishing 100 per cent utilisation of the generated ash during the year 2018-19.

Companies were asked to prioritise the matter for preventing any environmental hazard. The chief secretary instructed the law enforcement agencies and departments to deal with the violations stringently in interest of the safety and health of the people.

Development Commissioner R Balakrishnan said 100 per cent utilisation of the dangerous fly ash is obligatory on part of the companies. Apart from traditional ways of utilisation, the companies must identify new avenues for utilisation of greater amount of the ash.

Further, the companies were directed to display fly ash stock in their websites. They were directed to provide transport free fly ash for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and other durable asset creation projects of the government within 300 km of distance from their companies.

Replying to a media query after the meeting, Member Secretary



The companies were asked to prepare the actual ground level plan for accomplishing 100 per cent utilisation of the ash generated during the year 2018-19.

The companies were directed to display fly ash stock in their websites

In 2016-17, around 32 million tonne of ash was generated by different thermal power companies against which around 68 per cent was utilised

of State Pollution Control Board Debiddata Biswal said. "We are regularly monitoring 40 thermal power plants of more than 10MW capacity. Fly ash utilisation in the state is at an increasing rate."

In the year 2016-17, around 32 million tonne of ash was generated by different thermal power companies against which around 68 per cent was utilised. This was higher than the national utilisation average of 63 per cent. In the year 2017-18, the utilisation has gone up to around 81 per cent against almost the same amount of generation (32 million tonne), he said.

Modi's Lingaraj temple pic 'most popular'

Bhubaneswar: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's photograph clicked at the 11th century Lingaraj Temple here in 2017 has emerged as the "most popular photo" shared by a leader for the year, according to PIB. "Prayed at the Lingaraj temple in Bhubaneswar. The magnificence of the temple and temple complex leaves a lasting impression on the mind," the PM had written while posting the photo on social media. He had visited the temple during BJP's two-day national executive meet here in April last year.

SADAR SDPO TO PROBE NIALI MURDER CASE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, May 3: Expressing concern over the alleged deletion of the prime accused's name from the charge-sheet filed in Niali's sensational Narayan Das murder case, director general of police (DGP) RP Sharma ordered a fresh probe into the case here Thursday.

According to sources, the case which was earlier being investigated by Niali police has now been handed over to Sadar Police Station SDPO JK Dalai. Reena Das, widow of the deceased and, her daughter met the new investigating officer and urged him for an impartial probe of the case.

It is worth mentioning here that Reena had brought allegations against the Niali police that the investigating officer had dropped the name of the prime accused from the preliminary charge-sheet and also tampered with the names of the witnesses because of political pressure.

Reena had submitted a plea to the DGP's office stating that she would immolate herself in front of the DGP's office unless they conduct a fair probe. Notably, Narayan and his brother were hacked to death by miscreants from Kunjapatna on the night of March 4, 2017.

ECO-FRIENDLY NH IN PURI

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, May 3: Puri Municipality has proposed the Central Road Research Institute (CRR) and the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) to use the solid waste generated from Puri, for construction of a national highway from Sterling Chowk to Mangalahaat.

Puri Municipality executive engineer in a letter to CRR and NHAI has asked to start this project on a pilot basis. As per reports, around 100 metric tonne of solid waste generated from Puri is being dumped in Baliapanda waste management project.

IDCO ODISHA INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION... NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH e-Procurement

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, BARGARH (R&B) DIVISION, BARGARH... e-Procurement Notice

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RWS&S DIVISION, PURI - 752002 NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RWS&S DIVISION, PURI - 752002 NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, G.P.H. DIVISION NO. 1, NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR INVITATION OF BIDS

FARMING STRATEGY

A meeting of the agriculture strategy committee is in progress at the collectorate in Angul.

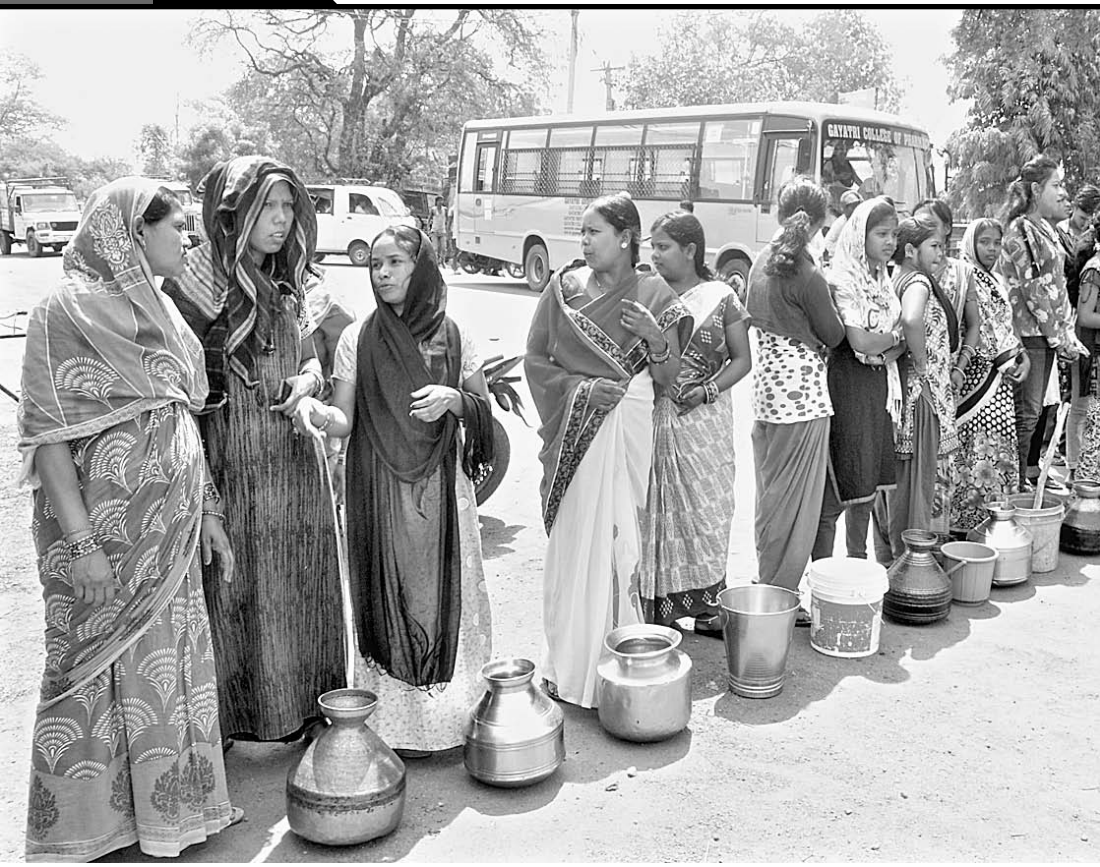


AGAINST LAND GRAB

Tribals from Khallikote affiliated to Ganjam Zilla Adivasi Manch stage protests in Berhampur against illegal occupation of their land by non-tribal people.



WATER WOES



Upset over drinking water crisis, women stage a road blockade in Sambalpur, Thursday.

OP PHOTO

Court asks police to register case against Baijayant

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

Kendrapara, May 3: Kendrapara SDJM Nihar Ranjan Sahu Thursday ordered the Town police IIC to register a case against Kendrapara MP Baijayant Panda, who has been expelled from the BJD, on the allegation of filing a false affidavit during 2014 Lok Sabha elections.

The court took cognizance of the case while adjudicating a petition filed by Dillip Kumar Das of Udaynagar and issued the direction to police to probe the case under Section 156(3) of CrPc and submit a report to the court by July 25. The petitioner said Panda had deliberately concealed the fact in his affidavit filed under Form-26 during 2014 Parliamentary elections that he is vice-chairman of IMFA and draws salary from the said company. He prayed the court to take cognizance of the offence under Section-125 (A) of the Representation of the People Act and several sections of IPC and order for investigation of the case.

Rape victim's suicide: Accused held from AP

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nabarangpur, May 3: Umerkote police arrested a man from Andhra Pradesh Wednesday night in connection with the suicide of a minor girl after an intimate video featuring her went viral.

The man had shot the video of his intimate moments with the girl and then posted it on the social media, leading to her suicide.

The accused was Jagannath Gouda from a village under Jhargana block in this district. "He had taken shelter in Andhra Pradesh. Acting on a tip-off, a police team reached the spot and arrested him," said Umerkote sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) Hemant Kumar Padhi.

Gouda was in a relationship with the girl for the last few years. He had physical relationship with the girl many times and recorded their intimate moments with a mobile phone.

When the girl's parents came

Man arrested for sharing 36 clips of newly-wed tribal woman

Jeyore: Police Thursday arrested a man accused of sharing 36 video clips featuring intimate moments of a tribal woman of this town on social media just 10 days after her marriage. He is Ramkrushna Reddy, 38, of Aska in Ganjam district. A married man, Reddy was working in a private firm in Borigumma. The girl had married a man of Jeyore April 20. But Reddy, who was in a relationship with the girl in the past, sent the 36 videos to her husband. The husband lodged a complaint with Jeyore police in this regard. He also refused to stay with his newly-married wife due to her past affair. Meanwhile, Sadar police registered a case under several sections of IPC. The accused would be produced in a court Friday, IIC KC Sethy said. Earlier, the incident had put the girl and her family into shame. They picketed at the local police station demanding immediate arrest of the accused.

to know about the affair, they objected to it and arranged her marriage with another youth. Gouda insisted on marrying her. When he found this was not possible, he forwarded the videos to the prospective bridegroom. The clip gradually went viral. Since then, the girl and her family members were under tremendous stress.

Man taking selfie falls off waterfall cliff, hurt

Pottangi: A 24-year-old man was seriously injured after he fell off a waterfall cliff while posing for a selfie. The incident took place at Ratibali Waterfall in Galigobdar area under Pottangi block in Koraput district Thursday. The youth was Subrat Nag from a neighbouring state. Subrat along with his friends had been to the waterfall to enjoy the holidays. He took a risk at the slippery stream path of the waterfall, lost grip and fell 500 metres down the cliff. He was critically injured and rushed to the Pottangi community health centre. "His friends rescued him, else he would have died on the spot," the locals said. After preliminary treatment, he was shifted to the Koraput district headquarters hospital. His condition was stated to be critical.

3 held for IPL betting

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhanjanagar, May 3: Police Thursday arrested three more youths at a village under Belaguntha police limits in Ganjam district for their involvement in IPL betting racket.

The officials got the success close on the heels of arrest of six others in Sambalpur district on similar ground a few days back.

The police seized ₹3,000 and three mobile phones from their possession. The accused were identified as Pradip Swain of Belaguntha, Seemanchal Swain of Bhanjanagar and Ranjan of Burapali under Tarsingh police limits.

Several others involved in the crime managed to escape after sensing the raid, admitted an official of the raiding party. A case has been registered and police have launched a manhunt to nab the absconders, it was learnt. On the other hand, the police have kept a vigil on the prime suspects in the case, officials said.

According to reports, the accused were running the racket inside an isolated building near Belguntha block office. Acting on a tip-off, outpost officer Sabyasachi Malla along with a police team conducted a surprise raid and arrested the accused.

HM held for graft

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sonepur, May 3: Vigilance officials Thursday caught headmaster of Dubula UP School in Tarabha block in Subarnapur district Madhusudan Mishra red-handed while he was accepting a bribe of ₹7,000.

The money was accepted by him from the school management committee (SMC) president Krushna Chandra Chhatra to pass the mid-day meal (MDM) bill.

As per a pre-planned strike, Vigilance officials recovered the chemical-laced currency notes given as bribe from him.

Vigilance sources said Krushna Chandra was managing the MDM scheme of the school. He had an outstanding due of ₹50,000 towards serving meals at the school for the months of July, August and September, 2017.

There was a long delay in the clearance of the bills. When he approached the headmaster, the latter sought a bribe of ₹20,000 to get the bill passed. However, the deal was settled at ₹7,000.

Krushna Chandra then sought the help of the Vigilance. The raiding team comprised Balangir DSP (Vigilance) Parameshwar Kisan, Bargarh DSP (Vigilance) Birendra Kumar Nayak, and inspectors Subash Chandra Mishra and Sadananda Pani.

BEAR THAT KILLED YOUTH CAGED

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nabarangpur, May 3: Forest officials in the wee hours of Thursday managed to cage a bear that mauled a youth to death Wednesday.

The animal was tranquilised twice late Wednesday night but it vanished in the dark. It was spotted in a farmland in an unconscious state at about 3 am. The bear has been kept under observation at Patramunda nursery. The animal will be released in the forest if its health condition improves, divisional forest officer (DFO) Ranjit Kumar Mallick said.

The youth's attempt to click photos of the bear resulted in his death. Prabhu Bhatra, a native of Daleiguda village under Papadahandi block, was mauled by the animal at Kujaguda Padabasa reserve forest under Kodinga police limits.

Bhatra was returning from



The bear after it was captured by the forest officials.

OP PHOTO

Karchamala with some passengers on board a Mahindra Bolero when he noticed the bear near a pond in the forests near Kujaguda. He got alighted from the vehicle and tried to click some photos of the animal.

The animal, in a jiffy, pounced on him. He grappled with the bear for over half an hour and

then jumped into the pond screaming for help. The animal refused to leave him and stood on guard near the pond.

Bhatra lay there, writhing in pain and blood dripping from his body for over three hours before breathing his last.

Forest officials with a tranquiliser team and police rushed

Prabhu Bhatra, a native of Daleiguda village under Papadahandi block, was mauled to death by the animal at Kujaguda Padabasa reserve forest while he was trying to click the animal's pictures

to the spot. They tranquilised the animal but it hid itself somewhere and then made good its escape from the scene. The forest officials and police recovered the body of Bhatra from the pond.

The kin of the deceased have been given a preliminary assistance of ₹40,000. Later, compensation, as per the government rule, would be given after receipt of the post-mortem report and other documents, the DFO said.

Close shave for fishermen as boat capsizes in Chilika



POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, May 3: Four fishermen had a close shave after their fishing boat capsized in the middle of Chilika lake Wednesday night.

The four, who were feared drowned after the mishap, were rescued Thursday morning.

According to sources, the fishermen of Kaudikhunti village under Kanab block in Puri district had gone fishing in the deep waters of Chilika Wednesday. Their boat began to sink after Nor'wester rains started lashing the region late in the night. Since then, there was no clue about the fishermen. Locals

feared them drowned.

A fire brigade team with the help of locals rushed to the spot and launched a rescue operation. After a frantic search throughout the night, the officials managed to trace all the four Thursday. "Rain accompanied with strong winds suddenly started lashing at around 11 pm. The wind grew strong and it became impossible to control the boat. The boat developed problems and we got off the boat to save our lives," said one of the fishermen, who was rescued.

Meanwhile, four persons were injured in another boat mishap in the No. 7 island of Chilika lake.

5 arrested for instigating villagers against mining

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Koraput, May 3: Five persons, including a college principal, have been arrested for allegedly instigating villagers against bauxite mining at Kodingamali hill in Koraput district, police said.

The principal used to hold regular meetings with the villagers and instigate them to launch an agitation against mining operations at Kodingamali hill in Laxmipur block of the district, a police official said.

The principal was identified as Biju Muduli of Laxmipur Degree College, the police official said.

Mining at Kodingamali came to a halt April 13 after some villagers torched a tipper of the company engaged in mining activities and the police arrested Champi panchayat samiti member Balabhadra Muduli in this connection.

Opposing the arrest of Muduli, some villagers had stopped mining

and launched a stir demanding establishment of a bauxite refinery, hospital, safe drinking water facility, electrification of the villages with street lights and massive plantation in the area.

The villagers put up road blockades in the mining area at Jholaguda since April 13 and efforts were on to persuade them to lift the blockade to facilitate resumption of mining work. Tapan Rath, sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) of Laxmipur, said.

"On several occasions, we tried to pacify the agitating villagers and urged them to lift the blockade but to no avail. It was found that the five persons, who were arrested Tuesday, were behind the agitation as they used to instigate the agitating villagers by holding regular meetings," the SDPO said.

According to officials, the Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) has obtained the mining lease on around 428 hectare of Kodingamali hill and had started preliminary

The principal used to hold regular meetings with the villagers and instigate them to launch an agitation against mining at Kodingamali hill in Laxmipur block

work. Meanwhile, a large number of residents of at least 20 villages in Laxmipur block who are supporting the mining operation, last week submitted a memorandum to the district administration demanding resumption of mining at the earliest.

The villagers said as hundreds of families used to eke out a living from mining activities, they had lost their livelihood after mining work stopped in the area.

3 inter-state looters held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Parlakhemundi, May 3: Sadar police managed to arrest three inter-state looters from Andhra Pradesh and seized 19 mobile phones, a laptop, a motorcycle and ₹9,000 from their possession, SDPO Thakur Prasad Patra told media persons Thursday at the local police station.

The accused were identified as S Suram (23) of Gulumeta, S Rabi (20) of Dusanmunda and S Sulman of Ambharupali village.

According to police, the miscreants had looted the mobile phones from the shop of Seemanchal Sahu March 17, 2018 night. Similarly, the gang also had looted mobile phones and cash from the shop of M. Laxman Murmu and had involvement in many such cases in the area a few days back. Based on the complaints lodged by the shop owners, police registered a case and formed a special team to arrest the looters. Acting on a tip-off, police arrested the three from Hiramandalam under Srikakulam district.

Outfit convenes meet to launch 'Save Mahanadi' drive

There would be a fortnight-long sit-in demonstration at each block headquarter from August 15 to 30, followed by mass public demonstrations at each district headquarter for the entire period of September and October

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, May 3: Mahanadi Suraksha Samiti (MSS) has convened a regional level meeting Friday evening at Chandra Shekhar Behera Zilla School to discuss the problems the lifeline of Odisha is facing.

MSS is a regional outfit that is concerned with the deplorable condition of River Mahanadi. Among its aims is to preserve the Grand River. It has invited leaders of all political parties, concerned senior engineers and social activists of ten districts to the Friday meet.

Briefing media persons at Sambalpur Public Library Thursday, MSS convener Bhagabat Nanda said that the "onus is on us ... who love Mahanadi, to find a workable solution and save the lifeline of the state as it is now in a very precarious condition." He said the MSS is gearing up

in a big way to make the movement broad-based by involving people from all the ten districts, who are deeply attached to the river. The movement may run till December to find a tangible solution to save Mahanadi.

MSS co-convener Arabind Mohapatra said the concern is how to protect it from decaying further besides bringing it back to its old glory. He called for unity, giving up the blame game, as nothing could be achieved from nasty politics and squabbling. He sought people's participation in the mass movement in the greater interest of Odisha.

Detailing the agenda of the proposed people's movement in the next eight months, spokesperson Bhakta Prasad Nanda said it would begin at the grassroots level starting from the district headquarters to the block and district level. He stated that the movement would start on May 18 with the garlanding of the statue of great freedom fighter Veer Surendra Sai here. Then it would branch out to all district headquarters, where committed volunteers would be trained on how to keep up the tempo till December.

Elaborating the plan of action,

he said there would be a fortnight-long sitting demonstration at each block headquarter from August 15 to 30, followed by mass public demonstrations at each district headquarters for the entire period of September and October. Public meetings would be organized at each district headquarters in November.

The campaign would be concluded in December with a grand rally at Sambalpur and a memorandum would be submitted to the Chief Minister through the Revenue Divisional Commissioner, Sambalpur.

SHORT TAKES

Attack on couple: Six arrested

Bhadrak: Police arrested six persons on the charge of assaulting a couple on a court premises in Basudevpur area of Bhadrak district. Golapi Moharana and her husband Shyamsundar Moharana, residents of Khirakona under Simulia police limits, had filed a complaint Wednesday at the police station in this regard. Shyamsundar has a land dispute with his brother. Two cases in this regard have been pending. The couple had come to Basudevpur court Wednesday when Bishnumohan Moharana, his wife Basanti, and their associates attacked Shyamsundar and his wife. ASI Sujata Khamri said two cases were registered and six persons were arrested.

Home guard dies of heatstroke

Balasore: A home guard working at Balasore Town police station allegedly died of sunstroke Wednesday. The deceased was identified as Brajanath Das. After his night duty Tuesday, he was on his way home at Sunahat Wednesday. He had a severe headache and pain in the chest. His family members rushed him to the district headquarters hospital. After preliminary treatment, his condition had improved, but he died minutes after again experiencing pain in the chest. Doctors said Brajanath died due to sunstroke. His body was sent for post-mortem.

Man gets lifer for killing minor girl

Balasore: A person was found guilty of killing a minor girl he loved, and was sentenced to life term by a court here Thursday. Special judge Ajanta Sadangi pronounced the verdict against the convict Pradip Kumar Acharya (24), a resident of Rasalpur Chaulachhata. The convict was also fined ₹35,000. He used to love Suman Kulu (17), the daughter of Pitrusah Kulu from Lathikata in Sundargarh. Pradip had taken the girl to the banks of river Lembu on the promise of marriage December 9, 2014, but killed her and hanged her body from a tree.

RWSS investigates SBM irregularities

Bhadrak: Even as large-scale irregularities were allegedly committed in toilet construction under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) in Bhadrak, over ₹50 lakh was misappropriated in Daisingh panchayat alone. The amount of irregularities is reportedly mounting as the Vigilance officials investigate deeper into the case. Officials from the panchayat level to the district level are reportedly involved in the irregularities. The Collector had ordered a probe into the irregularities March 19. However, 43 days after the order, the RWSS has woken up and started an investigation in Daisingh panchayat. A three-member team found that funds have been misappropriated for three toilets by photographing a single one. In many cases, toilets have not been completed. Many beneficiaries said that motivators and contractors are responsible for botching the work. A report will be submitted to the Collector soon, the team said.

Cattle rescued

Bhadrak: A group of villagers claimed to have rescued 150 cows and bullocks from a cattle-laden truck at Bishnupur on National Highway-16 here Thursday morning. The villagers suspected that the cattle were being transported illegally. A four-wheeler on escort was also intercepted and attacked by the crowd. Bhadrak rural police rushed to the spot and seized the vehicles. The cattle were being trafficked to West Bengal, it was learnt. A police investigation was on.

Poachers attack forest personnel during raid

Nilagiri, May 3: Five forest officials were injured as a large group of armed poachers attacked them Thursday morning. This, after the numerically weak team tried to confront the gang in the Kuldihya sanctuary here in Balasore district.

The condition of one of the five was stated to be critical. He was rushed to the district headquarters hospital.

According to sources, around 80 men had been to the sanctuary for poaching wild animals. Acting on a tip-off, the five personnel reached the spot for a raid oblivious of the fact that they were much less in number than the poachers. In no time, the poachers overpowered the five officials and beat them up. Then, the gang escaped into the woods.

"When our officials reached the spot, the miscreants attacked them. Five officials have been injured. While one of them had fractured his wrist, another has received head injuries," said Balasore divisional forest officer (DFO) Biswaraj Panda.

The attack has come as a major embarrassment to the forest department. "To prevent recurrence of such incidents, at least one squad of armed police force should be deployed along with the forest staff. We will arrest the poachers. I have spoken to Balasore SP for a team of armed police," Panda said.

PUNJILAL TO DO A REPLAY OF HIS CRIME

The SIT of Crime Branch wants to ascertain if the statements made by Punjilal during the interrogation were correct

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir/Patnagarh, May 3: Punjilal Meher, the prime accused in the sensational Patnagarh parcel bomb tragedy, would be taken to different places for reconstruction of the crime scenes.

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Crime Branch wants to ascertain if the statements made by Punjilal during the interrogation were correct.

First, the accused would go to the Jyoti Vikash Junior College at Bhainsa, where he will demonstrate as to how he prepared himself before leaving for Raipur February 15.



The SIT team visited Bolangir Thursday and questioned some firecracker vendors in this connection

He had left the college after taking his classes that day and had carried the parcel bomb on his motorcycle to Kantabanji railway station.

There he boarded a train without a ticket and left for Raipur to dispatch the bomb. He has been asked to do a replay of the entire event by the SIT team. The team

accompanying Punjilal will leave for Raipur Thursday night.

Then he would head for Kantabanji and later Raipur as the CB sleuths will follow him. He would revisit all the three courier offices in Raipur. The entire process would be videographed.

Another team of the Crime Branch is carrying out investigations in Raipur to ascertain the role of a cycle-rickshaw puller and an auto-rickshaw driver, whose help the accused took for travel on his way to book the parcel. Crime Branch SIT head Anil Kumar Das said Thursday that vital evidence was provided by the accused during the first phase of the remand.

The SIT team visited Bolangir Thursday and questioned some firecracker vendors in this connection. Punjilal during interrogation had said that he had procured firecrackers from various shops in Bolangir in 2017 Deepawali for making a 2-kg bomb.

He collected the explosives from the firecrackers and made a bomb of 2-kg as per methods prescribed in Youtube videos.

The SIT team, to verify his claim, met some firecracker vendors at Brahmaipada and showed them a photograph of Punjilal asking them to identify it. The SIT team also asked some related questions to the vendors.

Meanwhile, the interrogation of Punjilal at Patnagarh Kendu Leaf DFO's bungalow was seriously affected following a thunderstorm lashed the area Wednesday. He was taken on five days remand Wednesday. The SIT members conducted a health check-up of Punjilal at Patnagarh hospital Thursday before taking him back to the bungalow for interrogation.

MESMERISING ACT



Artistes enacting a scene from a play 'Bagha Neigala Daudiasa' at the 9th annual function of Charlie Chaplin Cultural Club in Dhenkanal.

Minor rape, murder accused attempts suicide

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nischintakoili, May 3: The accused in the rape and murder of a six-year-old girl at a village under Salipur police limits in Cuttack district allegedly attempted suicide inside the jail toilet by trying to hang himself with his towel, police said Thursday.

Mohammed Mustaq (25) attempted to end his life Wednesday and was rescued by an alert warder of the Salipur sub-jail, the police said.

"Based on the report of the sub-jail superintendent we have registered another case under Section 309 (attempt to commit suicide) of IPC against the accused, who has already been booked under Section 376(2)(i)(m) (rape of minor) and the POCSO Act for raping a six-year-old April 21," said Salipur IIC Debendra



IGP Soumendra Kumar Priyadarshi conducting an inquiry.

Kumar Mallick.

Jail superintendent Rumibala Dei said the man failed to take the extreme step as he could not find a suitable point to tie the end of his towel after putting the noose around his neck. He is now being counselled and is under strict vigil.

Meanwhile, Soumendra Kumar

Accused Mohammed Mustaq (25) tried to hang himself with his towel and was rescued by an alert warder of the Salipur sub-jail

Priyadarshi, inspector general of police, visited the crime spot Thursday. A forensic team accompanied him during his visit to the school in the village where the accused committed the crime. Priyadarshi also interacted with villagers and enquired about the incident. Cuttack rural SP Madhav Chandra Sahu, Salipur SDPO Pradyumna Kumar Jena and Salipur IIC Debendra Kumar Mallick accompanied him during the visit.

Police have stepped up investigation into the case and Cuttack (rural) police sources said the chargesheet is likely to be filed within a week. The state government Thursday appointed a special public prosecutor to conduct this case on a priority basis.

The trial in the case will be the first in the state after the Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance got the Presidential assent April 22, the day after the girl was raped.

The girl suffered multiple injuries and was rescued in a critical state from the school premises under Nischintakoili block. She soon slipped into a vegetative state and died April 29.

The criminal law on rape had been comprehensively amended since the 2012 Nirbhaya rape case and provision of death penalty was introduced in cases where the victim either died or was left in a vegetative state after being raped.

District admin comes to aid of euthanasia seeker

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, May 3: A woman of Bardol village near here who had pleaded for euthanasia for her family after failing to get financial assistance for the treatment of her bedridden son, finally received help from the district administration Thursday.

Prabhathi Barik made every attempt to get financial assistance for the treatment of her only son Muna but was left frustrated as efforts yielded no results. She wrote to the District Collector April 30, pleading for mass euthanasia on behalf of her family.

Collector Indramani Tripathy sanctioned ₹20,000 from the District Red Cross Fund Thursday. The money in the form of a cheque was provided to Prabhathi by Prafulla Kumar Behera of the District Red Cross at its office.

Behera also advised Prabhathi to admit her son to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack and promised to bear all expenses for his treatment, it was learnt.

Muna, who is unmarried, sustained critical injuries after falling off a tree. He was admitted to the Bargarh district headquarters hospital and later to VSS Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR) in Burla but failed to recover. He became immobile after the mishap and was



Prabhathi receiving cheque from a district official

confined to bed after becoming paralytic from waist till toe. Prabhathi sold off and mortgaged all her land including her homestead land to get her son treated, but to no avail. Doctors said he could be cured if provided advanced treatment.

However, Prabhathi could not proceed ahead due to lack of money and pleaded for euthanasia with the district administration April 30.

The administration, taking note of her plight from the reports published in Orissa Post and Dharitri May 1, granted the financial help.

Cops 'silence' Bullet riders

Just to show off, the offenders replace the original silencer fitted by the motorbike company with a noisy one that makes a thudding sound

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, May 3: Town police in Kalahandi district know how to silence noisy bikers. It seemed so when they penalised as many as 13 proud owners of Royal Enfield Bullets on the charge of causing unnecessary sound and panic among pedestrians and drivers alike.

Throttling their bikes to make loud noise has become a fashion among some youths, most of whom purchase the bikes only to show off. This not only poses risk for other riders on the road, but scares elderly people, children and other pedestrians. Sometimes, this might prove fatal to the faint-hearted.

Just to show off, the offenders replace the original silencer fitted by the motorbike company with a noisy one that makes a thudding sound. Most of the time, other riders lose their balance because of the boom-boom of the bikes, resulting in accidents.



The motorcycles seized by the police.

So, the Town police conducted a surprise raid and detained 13 bike owners in the town.

They were fined and later released after a warning by the police. Following repeated pleas from elderly persons, Kalahandi SP Madkar Sandeep Sampat directed the Town police to detain the bik-

ers and release them after a warning.

Acting on the SP's order, IIC Satyanarayan Pradhan along with a police team conducted raids and seized the motorbikes. "We have released them after warnings. Action will be taken, if they repeat it again," the IIC said.

EXCISE PERSONNEL DID NOT CONDUCT ANY INQUIRY AND RENEWED THE LICENCE OF THE IMFL VENDOR WHO WAS ALREADY DEAD

'GHOST' GETS LIQUOR SHOP RENEWAL LICENCE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, May 3: The excise department has done the most unimaginable - it issued a licence to someone who died a few months back.

One Sabita Priyambada Priyadarshini Dash, opened a licensed IMFL shop 'Gudu Bar and Restaurant' near Gopa Chowk on NH-5(A) some time ago. Later, she allegedly gave a power of attorney to her brother, Pratap Chandra Dash, to run the establishment. Sabita died of heart attack eight months ago.

Her brother who had the power of attorney allegedly did not inform the excise department about his sister's death and renewed the shop licence April 1 in the name

of deceased Sabita.

As per guidelines, to get the licence renewed, the applicant has to file an application by affixing an original photo with his/her signature. Besides, he/she has to submit the documents relating to solvency certificate, sales tax clearances, income tax clearance, PAN, original affidavit executed before executive magistrate, the original bank draft/banker cheque number and date.

As per guidelines, the licence would be taken in person by the applicant from the excise office. The excise personnel have to conduct an inquiry and scrutinise all submitted documents before issuing the licence. In this case, the excise personnel did not conduct any inquiry and provided licence



The IMFL shop near Gopa Chowk on NH-5(A).

to the licence holder who was already dead. This could not have happened without an unholy nexus between excise staff and Sabita's

brother, the holder of the power of attorney.

According to Samarendra Kumar Samal, assistant commissioner of commercial tax and GST officer of Kendrapara, only two persons, who were works contractors, have taken sales tax clearance from the office. No such sales tax clearance had been given this year to Sabita Priyambada Priyadarshini Dash, he added.

Rahas Behari Patra, excise superintendent of Kendrapara, said renewal of IMFL licence for 'Gudu Bar and Restaurant' was made April 1 in the name of Sabita Priyambada Priyadarshini Dash. Later, he came to know that the licensee had died. As a result, as per the direction of Collector, he (Patra) recently directed his subordinates

to seal the shop after conducting an inquiry. The liquor shop was sealed Saturday night.

"It has been established that the licensee is dead, but Pratap Chandra Dash did not submit the death certificate; so the excise department renewed the licence," Patra said in an evasive manner.

District Collector Reghu G said he has asked the excise superintendent to submit a detailed report. A criminal case would be registered against the person who filed the application along with documents and a false affidavit.

Finance and excise minister Shashi Bhusan Behera, during his visit to Kendrapara Tuesday, said an inquiry would be ordered and action initiated against the guilty.

Life is life - whether in a cat or dog or man. There is no difference there between a cat and a man. The idea of difference is a human conception for man's own advantage.



THE MOTHER

Victims of WSHGs

The ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) government had launched Mission Shakti, a flagship programme aimed at holistic empowerment of women of the state in March 2001. Under this scheme, the government encouraged formation of women self-help groups (WSHG), mostly from rural and economic weaker sections. It picked up dynamic officers to ensure fast expansion and effective implementation of the programme. It saw a fast-paced growth over the years and, as of now, there are over 6 lakh women SHGs functioning across the state. These WSHGs have given engagement, fully or partially, to a whopping 70 lakh women spread across the state. Their numbers constitute over 15 per cent of the state's total population, while they comprise 35 per cent of the total women's population in the state. These figures by themselves are quite impressive and the state government deserves kudos on this score.

The government went about the scheme with a campaign mode and aimed to bring more and more women under the scheme. Crores of rupees are canalised to these bodies. Funds are given to these WSHGs at very nominal rates. The government runs this programme by taking loans from open markets. The funds are pumped to them through district and central cooperative banks. The government last year opened a separate directorate for 'Mission Shakti' under the Women and Child Development Department and simultaneously rechristened the programme as Women & Child Development and Mission Shakti departments. Funds are made available to these WSHGs under various heads like micro credit under which ₹5000 is given to each WSHG, seed money, drudgery reduction, revitalising programmes, loans and so on.

An amount ₹3,364 crore was disbursed to these WSHGs between 2013-14 and 2017-18. While the size of the loan was just ₹386 crore in 2013-14, it went up to ₹1098 crore in 2017-18 - a growth of over 150 per cent in four years. Besides giving them direct funding, these SHGs are roped in by the government to run several government programmes like procurement, supplying satuu to Anganwadis, among others. Although there are WSHGs in every district, Ganjam, Mayurbhanj and Sudargarh have a lion's share of them.

However, the problem is the government does not care to see if the funds it releases are used for the purpose they are meant for. Most WSHGs are found engaging in usurious activities. They get easy money from the government at nominal rates and use this money for illegal lending. While funds are given in credit to members of the same WSHG, many a time it is seen that money is extended to people outside the WSHGs. Huge interest is collected sometimes at a premium of 40-50 per cent. If it is given to people from within the group, the rate of interest comes down to 36 per cent or near about.

A woman in Balasore district committed self-immolation as she was tortured by the WSHG following her failure to repay the loan or serve it with interest. The woman took a loan at an exorbitantly high interest rate which she failed to repay. On her default, she was subjected to untold sufferings forcing her to commit suicide. A woman in Kankadahad block of Dhenkanal district Wednesday was dragged from her home to the meeting place by a WSHG as she failed to pay an installment. Despite her pleading that she could not make the payment as her husband was ill for sometime could not cut ice with the co-members. She could not bear the humiliation and jumped to a well. She was saved as there was timely intervention. Such mindless use of force to extract money from people at usurious rates is not only illegal, but infringes on people's human rights. This is high time the government looked at this issue seriously. Promotion of WSHGs is okay, but allowing them to indulge in illegal activities is not only criminal but self-eroding.



Santosh Kumar Mohapatra

THE INDIAN ECONOMY NEEDS A CERTAIN PROPORTION OF CURRENCY DEPENDING UPON THE GROWTH IN NOMINAL AND REAL GDP

Recently, the country slipped into an acute currency crisis, with many states witnessing unprecedented cash crunch as reflected in empty automatic teller machines (ATMs) and rushes in banks. This impelled nearly 100 major groups and several prominent experts to make scathing attacks on the NDA government for wrecking banks and the economy due to the impact of demonetisation and the subsequent cash crunch.

Several reasons are cited behind the present crisis such as there is no recalibrating of ATMs to hold the new bank notes, increase in cash withdrawals to evade excess charges levied on the fifth withdrawal, panic about security of deposits in banks strangled by massive bad loans and decimation of trust due to Financial Resolution and Deposits Insurance (FRDI) Bill, which has a "bail-in" clause permitting deposits to be turned to equity to deal with massive bad debts. Government attributed the crisis to possible hoarding of ₹2,000 notes and an unusual spike in cash demand. This may be due to election related demands, festival and agrarian expenses.

But the real reason is deliberately reducing the supply of cash. Announcing demonetisation of ₹500 and ₹1000 notes November 8, 2016, the government had claimed that the move aimed at curbing black money, eliminating counterfeit currency and thwarting funding of illicit activities, including terrorism. Later, another objective of cashless economy (later changed to less cash economy) had been added.

But neither the government was able to unearth black money nor able to curb corruption. Corruption increased after demonetisation as manifested in Global Corruption Perception Index for 2017 where India has been ranked 81st out of 180 countries, down by 2 slots from previous year. According to data compiled by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, 209 cases of big financial frauds were referred to the SFIO in 2017-18 (till March 1, 2018) as against 111 cases in 2016-17.

Instead of curbing, demonetisation also led to highest fake cur-



Corruption increased after demonetisation as manifested in Global Corruption Perception Index for 2017 where India has been ranked 81st out of 180 countries

rency, suspicious transactions. According to the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), counterfeit currency transactions in the banking and other economic channels has increased from 4.10 lakh in 2015-16 to over 7.33 lakh in 2016-17. Similarly, 2017 witnessed 293 terrorism-related deaths in J&K, 53 per cent more than the 191 recorded during the second year of its term. Communal incidents across the country also rose to 822 last year from 703 in 2016.

Arguments made that demonetisation has led to financialisation of saving. But that happened in the year of demonetisation. But now the trend has reversed. During the year ended March 2018, bank deposits grew by a measly 6.7 per cent compared to 15.3 per cent in 2016-17. During the same period, bank credit grew 10.3 per cent compared to 8.2 per cent in the comparable period the previous year.

What was most perplexing for government was that the objective of increasing digitisation and less cash economy flopped too. Monthly ATM withdrawal, both in terms of volume and value are back to demonetisation level since July 2017 and remained around these levels since then. The number of ATM withdrawals for February 2018 was 718.97 million with total value amounting to ₹2,47,809 crore as

against the number of ATM withdrawals of 802.69 million with total value amounting ₹255,081 crore in October 2016.

While the Point-of-Sale (PoS) terminals have doubled from 1.5 million in October 2016 to over 3 million in February 2018 due to demonetisation, PoS monthly transaction, both in volume and value is roughly the same as the pre-demonetisation period. Barring the spike in December 2016 due to demonetisation, PoS transactions have remained stagnant in the 14 months since then. A large chunk of point of sale (PoS) terminals set up after demonetisation is inactive.

By contrast, cash in circulation reached ₹18,425 lakh crore as April 6, 2018, which was higher than the demonetisation periods (i.e., ₹17,564 lakh crore as October 17, 2016). Hence, attempt was made by RBI to reduce cash supply in economy may be at the behest of government so as to prove that objective of less cash economy has been achieved. It was done out of sheer frustration when none of the stated objectives of demonetisation was materialised. As per reply to a RTI query, while printing of ₹500 notes was stopped in November 2017, printing of ₹200, ₹100 and ₹20 notes was stopped April 1 this year. No demand was made by the RBI to print ₹2,000 currency notes. This led

to cash crunch. The Indian economy needs a certain proportion of currency depending upon the growth in nominal and real GDP. Between 2008-09 and 2015-16, the ratio of currency in circulation (CIC) to GDP was between 11.5 per cent and 12 per cent, which reduced to 8.7 per cent immediately after demonetisation. This CIC/GDP ratio has reached about 10.7 per cent as of now, which directly suggests that we have less than required cash in the economy.

Contrary to RBI's assertions that there is no cash shortage in the system, SBI Research dropped a bombshell saying the shortfall in currency is partly due to shortfall in annual cash supply. The need of increasing cash supply is also linked with Income velocity of money (i.e., nominal GDP/money supply). The number of times one unit of currency is spent over a given period of time is known as velocity of money or income velocity of money. It implies how fast a currency notes changes hands or average number of transaction a single currency note facilitates. If the velocity is low, more currencies will be needed to sustain the economy. The ₹2000 note slows the velocity of money.

(The author is an Odisha-based financial columnist.)

WISDOM CORNER

People's identities as Indians, as Asians, or as members of the human race, seemed to give way - quite suddenly - to sectarian identification with Hindu, Muslim, or Sikh communities. **AMARTYA SEN**

If we dispense with some of our self-made boundaries, India can really take its place in the world as an economic power. It hasn't happened because we, sadly, don't look at ourselves as Indians but as Punjabis or Parsis, unlike the Americans. Don't make such boundaries. **RATAN TATA**

Many Indians and Israelis seem set to elect, with untroubled consciences, those who speak the language of torturers and terrorists. More disturbingly, these corrupted democracies may increasingly prove the norm rather than the exception. **PANKAJ MISHRA**

WORDSWORTH

Areologist

This word is the equivalent for Mars of a geologist. The word is formed from the prefix areo-, derived from the name of the Greek god of war, Ares, plus the suffix -ologist. It is a term very much of the moment, following the much-publicised claim earlier this year that primordial fossils have survived in an Antarctic meteorite that originated in the Red Planet, and because large amounts of investigative hardware are to be thrown at Mars in the next ten years (or, in the case of a recent unfortunate Russian rocket, not). So it is surprising to discover that the related term areology is first attested by the Oxford English Dictionary in 1881, even before H G Wells had entertained an earlier generation with descriptions of ravaging Martians.

Amperkine

The hottest research topic in biotechnology is that of smart drugs, which will enhance memory and concentration, either to counter the effects of ageing or to give younger people a competitive advantage. (These drugs are also called cognitive enhancers or nootropics, from the Greek no-os, "mind" and tropos, "a turning"). Though many such drugs already on the market work through a placebo effect, a new class called amperkines show promise of a genuine pharmacological effect. They work by enhancing the action of a neurotransmitter chemical in the brain called AMPA (which is short for alpha-amino-3-hydroxy-5-methyl-4-isoxazole-propionic acid) which handles virtually all routine transmissions of electrical impulses across synapses. The word is formed from the abbreviation AMPA, plus the Greek word kinein, "to move".

Allohistory

Other names for this idea are counter factualism, virtual history, and uchronia, though the most common term is alternative history (alternate history in the US). It's a "what if" approach, which works out what might have happened if some nodal event in history had not occurred or had turned out differently - what if Napoleon had won at Waterloo, for example. It has long been a staple plot type for science fiction, from Ward Moore's Bring the Jubilee, through Philip K Dick's The Man in the High Castle and Keith Robert's Pavane, to Orson Scott Card's Pastwatch and Kim Stanley Robinson's recent The Years of Rice and Salt.

LOL

HARD NUTS

A nice old lady on a bus offers the driver some peanuts. He's happy to take some. He asks her after a while why she isn't having any herself. "Oh, young man," she says, "they're



too hard on my poor teeth, I couldn't." "Why did you buy them at all then?" wonders the driver. "You see, I just love the chocolate they're covered in!"

SPECTRUM CULTURE

Culture revolution sweeping India

Saket Suman

THE ARTISTS, WRITERS, MUSICIANS AND DANCERS ARE THE REAL FORCE BEHIND THIS CREATIVE BOOM IN THE COUNTRY

There has been, in recent times, a great churning in what can be called India's "cultural space". Public institutions, hitherto custodians of all things "cultural", have been eclipsed by the rise of new-age festivals and events. Indeed, the involvement of the state in promoting culture is fast diminishing, with private event management companies stepping in to organise cultural events - at home and abroad - on a scale never known before.

Notwithstanding these changing trends, the future looks bright and full of optimism for India's creative industry. This is evident from the increasing interest in cultural events like the Jaipur Literature Festival (JLF) or the Kochi Biennale. At the same time, the art and publishing sectors are also seeing an unprecedented rise in revenues. International auctions featuring contemporary Indian art have seen record-breaking sales in recent years and Indian writers have bagged international contracts, often at rates much higher than their Western counterparts.

New art galleries have opened in cities, multinational publishers are thirsty for Indian stories, translations

are gaining their rightful attention, literature festivals have mushroomed across states and, for those inclined, there is something interesting - exhibitions, talks, culinary events - happening almost every week. Compare this to a handful of institutions like the state-run Akademis or the NCPA in Mumbai that bore the entire burden of organising cultural events till about two decades ago, and a striking contrast emerges.

There is another contrast too. While institutions like the National Gallery of Modern Art struggle to attract audiences (apart from school students) even with their minimal entry fee, almost every art or cultural event these days - both paid and free - run house-full. How is it that the private sector in the creative industry manages to attract crowds for events that usually go unattended at public institutions?

The artists, writers, musicians and dancers are the real force behind this creative boom in the country but what degree of difference has really been added in the recent years?

Kudos to Indian Army

Sir: The Army is relentlessly marching ahead in its offensive against dreaded terrorists in the Kashmir valley. As many as 170 militants including "top commanders" were liquidated by the Indian Army in 2017 alone in Kashmir. Bashir Lashkari and Lashkar-e-Taiba's Abu Dujana were prized scalps for the army. The latest to fall to the army bullets is Sameer Ahmed Bhat or Sameer Tiger, who was a known terror recruiter for the banned Hizb-ul-Mujahideen in the region. The killing of Bhat, active since 2016, is a shot in the arm for the Army because he was involved in murders, firing and kidnappings. Many local terror-supporters' attempts to disrupt the encounter is another irrefutable evidence to show how the terrorists have thrived on local support. Undaunted by the stone pelting spree of the locals, the strong Indian army dealt firmly with the terror sympathisers by dispersing them without much ado. Now, barring a few odd "commanders", most of the militants of LeT and JeM have been taken care of. Co-ordination between the police and Army has helped. The strong governmental will and giving Army a free hand to act on trouble-mongers has had a positive effect. Obviously, spruced-up vigil on the borders would keep a tab on the militants trying to gain an entry into India.

Ganapathi Bhat, EMAIL

Verbal Bloopers

Sir: Journalists are being attacked across India without meaningful provocation while performing their regular duties. This is a highly condemnable action and the guilty should be arrested and booked by the law of the land. It is also quite unfortunate and unacceptable that there has not been any major protest by the citizens regarding such an alarming trend across the nation targeting journalists and possibly each. Every political party in India is directly or indirectly behind such wrath expressed against helpless journalist victims. In some instances journalists have been murdered for their honest services in keeping the public aware of the social prejudices, political and administrative corruptions as well as serious challenges faced by the nation in specific areas. But the other question is why the journalists' world has been so silent regarding such incidents across the nation. Of course, crime of a handful should not be imposed on vast majority of dedicated and sincere journalists working to serve the nation to the best of their ability. It is also true that that special trust and empathy between media and citizens has also been breached by some journalists and media houses. It is a time for serious and honest introspection.

K Ravi, BHUBANESWAR

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, opinions and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

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national



Today the Congress government in Karnataka and its chief minister, who is playing the most corrupt innings, are making the worst effort to divide the society. Their divisive politics supports terrorism
YOGI ADITYANATH | UP CM

SUSHMA TO VISIT MYANMAR

In keeping with India's continuing engagements with Myanmar after it got a democratic government in 2016, external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj will visit the eastern neighbour May 10-11, it was announced Thursday



of the day quote

Awarding of fake B.Ed degrees has become a huge racket in Bihar. A large number of colleges exist, most of them enjoying patronage of politicians. There is hardly a politician of note who is not associated with one of such institutions, which admit students for the course without having the requisite authorisation. These institutions run their business without my permission



SATYA PAL MALIK | BIHAR GOVERNOR

People of Assam are protesting against the Centre's move to handover historical monuments to private entities for maintenance due to communication gap and lack of understanding



RANJEET KUMAR DAS | BJP'S ASSAM UNIT PRESIDENT

If the (central) government felt it (Jinnah's photo) should be removed (from the AMU), the HRD ministry could have done so. The BJP rules in the state (Uttar Pradesh) as well as at the Centre



NAWAB MALIK | NCP SPOKESMAN

SHORT TAKES

Kingpin of meat racket arrested

Kolkata: The kingpin of the meat racket involved in procuring dead animals from dumping grounds and processing their flesh before supplying to markets was arrested from Garia in South 24 Parganas district by the SIT, the police said Thursday. Biswanath Garai (52), a resident of Sonarpur in South 24 Parganas district, was arrested from near the Garia railway station by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) Wednesday evening, SP, Diamond Harbour police district, Koteswara Rao said. So far 11 persons have been arrested, including a leader of a political outfit, in connection with the case.

Two arrested for Latvian's rape-murder

Thiruvananthapuram: Two men were Thursday arrested on charges of raping and murdering a Latvian tourist who went missing from Kovalam last month, Kerala Police chief Loknath Behra said. Accused Umesh and Udayan were relatives and working as unregistered tourist guides, the officer told the media. Behra cautioned the media against reporting the woman's name since she was a rape victim. "This is an unfortunate brutal crime and should not happen to any person. An innocent woman, for no fault of hers, lost her life... The police investigation team will be rewarded for their good work," Behra said. Inspector General of Police Manoj Abraham, who led the probe, said the accused will be presented in a court here Friday.

Woman, son robbed, thrown out of train

Chandauli: A 30-year-old woman and her five-year-old son were seriously injured when they were thrown out of a train by miscreants who also robbed them of their valuables near Mughalsarai's Vyasnagar railway crossing, the police said Thursday. The woman, identified as Mamata, was travelling from Asansol to Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh with her son Ajay on Kolkata-Lucknow Summer Special train late Wednesday night, they said.

Eco-friendly plates soon in premium trains

New Delhi: Passengers on premium trains will soon be served meals on eco-friendly disposable plates, instead of the polymer ones, as part of the railways' drive to go green. The scheme was recently started on a trial basis on the Sealdah Rajdhani, where passengers were being served in plates made of 'bagasse', the fibrous remains left behind after extracting sugarcane juice. "This will be biodegradable plates that can be disposed of safely. While on one hand we go green, we are also ensuring that passengers get fresh plates every time. There is no added issue of cleaning and washing the plates or complaints over dirty plates," a senior official said.

45 youths join militancy, security agencies taken by surprise

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, May 3: At least 45 youths from the Kashmir Valley including an MBA and a PhD scholar have joined militancy this year till mid-April, according to officials, as the unusual surge in numbers take the security establishment by surprise.

According to the top brass of the security establishment in the border state, Shopian and Kulgam in south Kashmir have emerged as a major hub by respectively accounting for 12 and 9 of the 45 youths.

The other areas of south Kashmir which have witnessed youths taking to militancy are Anantnag (seven), Pulwama (four) and Awantipura (three). Moreover, unconfirmed reports, which were in the process of verification, suggest that three more from Pulwama had joined militant groups, officials said today.

Similarly, in north Kashmir, one youth from Handwara, two from Kupwara, one each from Bandipora and Sopore and one from Srinagar have disappeared in the recent past and are suspected to have joined militant organisations, they said.

This includes Junaid Ashraf Sehrai, 26, an MBA degree holder from Kashmir University, and son of Mohammed Ashraf Sehrai, who took over as chairman of Tehreek-e-Hurriyat from Syed Ali Shah Geelani. Tehreek-e-Hurriyat is a pro-Pakistan amalgam of separatist groups.

The list also includes a 26-year-old PhD scholar Mannan Bashir Wani hailing from Kupwara, officials said. Wani was studying in the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU).

According to officials, every



funeral of a local militant spawns at least two additions to the ranks of militant groups. The Valley has witnessed killing of at least 55 militants including 27

locals this year.

"It has become a bottom less pit. We engage, counter, eliminate or make them surrender and the very next day, social media gives us proof of birth of another militant. This vicious cycle needs to be broken," said a senior army official who is engaged in anti-militancy operations.

Ruling party politicians from south Kashmir have reportedly abandoned their ancestral homes and housed themselves in well-fortified accommodations in Srinagar or Jammu. Efforts to seek their comments on the situation in their constituencies did not yield any result as they were reluctant to be drawn into any debate related to militancy.

Security agencies believe that in April there has been a conspicuous rise in the number of locals joining various militant groups after 13 local terrorists were killed in encounters with security forces in Shopian and Anantnag. Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has been quite vocal about PDP-BJP government's alleged failure in checking the rising trend of youths joining militancy.

After praising Gowda, Modi attacks JD-S

AGENCIES

Bangalore, May 3: Days after praising former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda that set off speculation of a possible coming together of the BJP and the Janata Dal-Secular in Karnataka, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the JD-S would finish a distant third in the Assembly polls and wondered why people should waste votes on that party.

Addressing a meeting, the Prime Minister also hit out at the Congress, accusing it of spreading rumours of a hung Assembly.

"The JD-S cannot form its own government and it cannot even remove the Congress from power. Why should any sensible voter vote for it?" he asked.

Modi said the JD-S had done a crime by joining hands with extremists and communal forces and by doing so it has tried to play with the future of Karnataka.

At a BJP rally in Udupi on Tuesday, the Prime Minister had showered praise on Deve Gowda, the JD-S patriarch and an influential Vokkaliga leader.

"I heard that the Congress President criticized the respected Deve Gowdaji at an election rally 15-20 days ago. Is that your culture?" Modi said, seemingly directing the question at Rahul Gandhi. Such arrogance. You are starting your political life and Deve Gowdaji is one of the greatest leaders of our country," Modi said. That set off speculation that the BJP and JD-S could come together post-poll in case of a hung

'Rahul Gandhi never disrespected Gowda'

Bangalore: Congress president Rahul Gandhi has not shown any disrespect towards JD(S) supreme H D Deve Gowda as claimed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the party said. Hitting back, the Congress said it was Modi who "disrespected" his two predecessors - Manmohan Singh and Gowda - and sought an apology from him for it. "There was no disrespect ever towards Deve Gowda by Rahul Gandhi... it is not the Congress' culture to insult," Deputy Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Anand Sharma said here Wednesday. Accusing the prime minister of assaulting the dignity of his office with his expressions and language, the Congress leader said the PM had said things during his campaign speeches that were not true.

verdict, which many poll surveys had predicted.

Attacking the Congress, Modi said: "Be it 2104 Lok Sabha polls or any other elections to the state assemblies, whenever Congress is sure of its defeat, it starts spreading rumours like nobody is going to get majority or there will be a hung Assembly. They start spreading a lie. When the Congress starts spreading such lies, it means the BJP is winning," he said.

He said that all the political pundits or survey agencies were of the clear opinion that the JD-S will finish at a distant number three. Modi said the enthusiasm of people in Karnataka towards the BJP was a clear indication that they would dethrone the Congress.

SC junks plea to stay verdict on SC/ST law

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 3: The Supreme Court Thursday rejected the Centre's demand for a stay on its verdict on the SC/ST Act and said it favoured "100 per cent" the protection of the rights of these communities and punishing those guilty of atrocities against them.

The top court also strongly disapproved with the Centre's contention that its March 20 verdict had led to loss of lives in the violence that had broken out later in several states.

The Centre told the top court that its March 20 verdict, laying guidelines putting certain safe-

guards on the immediate arrest of a person for offences, countermanded the law enacted by the legislature and should thus be stayed and the case referred to a larger bench.

However, a bench of Justices Adarsh Goel and U U Lalit refused to stay the verdict and said various aspects and earlier judgements of the top court were considered before arriving at this conclusion. "It's not that the judgement says there shall be no registration of crime. It's not that accused shall not be arrested. The safeguards were for the purpose that a person should not be readily arrested or an innocent pun-

ished because there was no provision of anticipatory bail under the SC/ST Act," the bench said.

The top court said under the Scheduled Castes and Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, theoretically a person cannot get anticipatory bail, but soon after his arrest, he can get regular bail even in offences where the punishment is just six months.

"The anticipatory bail provision was not there in laws like TADA and MCOCA, where the offences were supposed to be of greater magnitude. If there is a grave offence, this judgement will not come in the way of arrest," the bench said. It clarified that the court has not

asked for non-registration of an FIR for the offences under the SC/ST Act, but sought verification before registration of FIR, so that innocents do not get penalised.

However, Attorney General K Venugopal, appearing for Centre, said after the March 20 verdict, there has been loss of lives in several parts of country and that the order contradicts the existing provisions of SC/ST Act. "There are separation of powers which is part of the basic structure of the Constitution and the court can only lay down guidelines for disposal of a case but cannot lay guidelines in general in the nature of law, for the whole country," he said.

FRIENDLY POSE



A tourist poses as three monkeys climb on her during a hot day at Gaitha temple in Jaipur, Thursday

Congress extends support to CPI(M)

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, May 3: The Congress has decided to extend support to CPI(M) candidate for the May 28 bypoll to Maheshatala Assembly seat in West Bengal, sparking speculation that the two parties might be coming closer to each other.

The two parties had forged an coalition in Bengal for the 2016 assembly elections, but parted ways after the CPI(M) central committee said the alliance was "not in consonance with the party line adopted in 2015".

Senior Congress leader and Leader of opposition Abdul Mannan Thursday said his party is unlikely to contest the Maheshatala by-election. "In 2016, too, when the two parties had forged an alliance for the assembly polls, the Congress did not field any candidate for Maheshatala. We want to remain in alliance with the CPI(M) and fight against the BJP and the TMC. We will extend our support to CPI(M)-led Left Front for the bypoll," Mannan said.

The Left Front, led by the CPI(M), Wednesday announced the name of Prabhat Chowdhury as its candidate for the Maheshatala bypoll. The seat fell vacant following the death of sitting TMC MLA Kasturi Das.

Maha cops seek help to trace Maoists

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai/Gadchiroli, May 3: The Maharashtra Police Thursday appealed to people to help track down Maoists hiding in urban areas in return for a whopping total reward of Rs 1.66 crore. For the first time, advertisements were placed in the English media too.

Besides looking for the top functionaries of the outlawed Communist Party of India-Maoist, police are also trying to flush out some 190 heavily armed Maoist cadres and sympathizers still lurking in the forests of Gadchiroli and surrounding districts, said a top official.

Police in Gadchiroli have issued full-page advertisements in leading English media naming five most wanted Maoists who may be spotted in towns or



clothes, uniforms and shoes, logistics support including procuring weapons. However, they could be in disguise and hence difficult for people in urban centres to recognize them as they go about their business," Deshmukh said.

The ads with photographs of the most wanted Maoists include four men and a woman. "Last year, based on various inputs and Maoist literature we recovered, there were an estimated 230 armed but underground rebels in Gadchiroli district alone. Of these, at least 40 were eliminated on April 22-23. So, we believe another around 190 cadres may be still active but in hiding in more than a dozen groups," Deshmukh said.

However, they have many supporters among commoners over-ground whose numbers are difficult to estimate, he added.

cities, away from the dense jungles of the district. "This is the first time we have issued such an appeal in the English media to create larger awareness among the people," Gadchiroli Superintendent of Police Abhinav Deshmukh said.

He said the Maoists comprise the top rung leadership "who are active and at ease, both in the jungles and the concrete jungles (cities)". "They not only fight in the jungles but travel frequently to big cities for finances, food and medical stocks,

KASAULI MURDER ACCUSED NABBED

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kasauli (Himachal Pradesh), May 3: Even as illegal constructions in hotels and resorts in Himachal Pradesh's Kasauli area continued to be razed Thursday, a hotelier accused of fatally shooting a woman officer two days ago was arrested from Uttar Pradesh, officials said.

On May 1, Assistant Town Planner Shaila Bala Sharma was shot dead by Narayani Guest House owner Vijay Singh during the Supreme Court-ordered demolition drive.

In a joint operation, a state police team, which was coordinating with Delhi Police, arrested him from Mathura town, Superintendent of Police Mohit Chawla told reporters here. Police officials said the accused,

who was not using his mobile phone since the murder, had shaved off his moustache and tansored his head to conceal his identity. He is being brought to Kasauli.

Expressing anguish over the delay in the arrest of the accused, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur earlier said in New Delhi: "I am in regular touch with top police officials. As per my information, he's likely to be arrested today (Thursday) or tomorrow (Friday)."

Police officials said Vijay Singh shot dead the official when she insisted on executing the apex court order to demolish illegal constructions at his guest house.

After the crime, Vijay Singh, a Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board employee who was on leave for three weeks, disappeared into a nearby forest.

Rise in number of scribes killed globally: UNESCO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 3: The number of journalists killed all over the world has seen a sharp rise in five years, with 530 such deaths - 18 of them in India - being reported from 2012 to 2016-end, a UNESCO report released Thursday said.

The report on 'World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development Global Report 2017/2018' said the number of killings was 67.72 per cent higher than the 316 recorded during the previous five-year period—from 2007 to 2011-end.

Syria, with 86, recorded the highest number of killings, followed by Iraq (46), Mexico (37), Somalia (36), Pakistan (30), Brazil (29), the Philippines and Yemen (21 each), Afghanistan (20), Honduras (19), India (18), Libya (17) and Guatemala (14).

Ten journalists were killed in Bangladesh, 10 in Ukraine, eight in France and six each in Paraguay and Turkey. "The year 2012 proved to be the deadliest year on record, with 124 journalists killed," said the report, released on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day.

Although the number of jour-

nalists killed every year has seen a slight decline since 2012, the figures are still alarmingly high, the report said.

"With a number of Member States that have experienced periods of violent conflict, the Arab region remains the most dangerous for journalists, with 191 journalists killed between 2012 and 2016, including a significant peak of 50 deaths in 2012," it said.

Despite registering a decline in the following years, the overall the region represents 36 per cent of all cases. Latin America and the Caribbean saw an increase in the number of journalists killed during the period, with 125 killings overall and a peak of 28 in 2016.

"This trend can be largely attributed to organised crime, drug trafficking and corruption," the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization report said.

After a steep decline prior to 2014, the killings sharply rose across Asia and the Pacific region, with a total of 107 killings, and a high of 27 in 2016.

Comparatively, Africa, with 73 deaths, has seen a distinct decline in the killings of journalists over the last five years, down from 26 in 2012 to seven in 2016. "Killings throughout Central and Eastern Europe have fluctuated over the past five years, presenting no clear trend but remaining relatively low," the report said. As many as 17 journalists were killed in the region.

A generally low-risk region for lethal violence against journalists, Western Europe and North America (17 killings) have seen uncharacteristically high killings in the past three years largely due to violent extremism, it added.

Girl raped by eight ends life

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, May 3: A 17-year-old girl was allegedly abducted and subsequently raped by eight men in Haryana's Mewat, following which she committed suicide, the police said Thursday.

The girl was found lying unconscious after she was gang-raped in a secluded area in Nuh district after being abducted from her house on Monday, according to a complaint filed by the girl's father with the police.

The teenager was alone in the house when the accused came on two motorcycles and a car and abducted her; it said. After committing the crime, the accused fled the spot, a police officer of Rojka Meo police station said over phone today.

Following the incident, the girl allegedly committed suicide in her house on Tuesday by hanging herself. Her father told the police that the 17-year-old had identified the accused, who had stalked her in the past as well. "We have registered a case of abduction, gang-rape and abetment to suicide against the accused, and are conducting raids to nab them," said Rojka Meo SHO Jai Bhagwan.

glitterati



TWEET SPOT >>



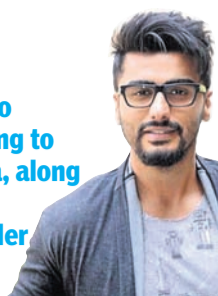
Huma Qureshi | Working those abs with the #AbDolly @vilayathusain #core #strength #stability #form #abs #work #prep



Kareena Kapoor Khan | Watch the video to Kareena Kapoor's #Tarefan from #VeereDiWedding



Arjun Kapoor | I'm happy to announce that I'll be coming to Phoenix Market City, Kuria, along with the heroes who have successfully bent the gender in some way or the other.



STORIES TOP

EMILIA FINDS STRONG CHARACTERS EXCITING

Los Angeles: Actress Emilia Clarke says it is exciting to play a strong female character in *Solo: A Star Wars Story*. The actress, famous for essaying Daenerys Targaryen in *Game of Thrones*, will be seen as Qi'ra in the film. "It is really exciting. As someone who has taken on characters that already exist, which can be really daunting and scary, it's been really fun to slip a new character in here that is integral to a character that we all know so well," Clarke said. "I did a lot of research and I kind of geeked up on a lot of stuff because I wanted to get it right."

ARIANA GRANDE TO OPEN BILLBOARD MUSIC AWARDS

Las Vegas: Singer Ariana Grande will open the 2018 Billboard Music Awards. Grande shared the news during her gig on "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon", reports *billboard.com*. She joins the star-studded schedule with previously announced performances from Camila Cabello, Dua Lipa and Shawn Mendes. The award ceremony, hosted by Kelly Clarkson, will be held here May 20. The gala will air in India on Vh1 May 21. Kendrick Lamar and Ed Sheeran lead the pack with nominations in multiple categories including top male artist. Lamar and Sheeran have 15 nominations, each.

CAS ANVAR JOINS DIANE IN THE OPERATIVE

Los Angeles: Actor Cas Anvar is all set to star opposite Diane Kruger in *The Operative*. The espionage thriller will be helmed by Yuval Adler, who has also penned the script of the film, according to *The Hollywood Reporter*. Kruger, 41, will portray the role of an FBI agent who is recruited by Israel's Mossad service to go undercover in Tehran. The story, adapted from the Israeli book "The English Teacher", follows Kruger and Anvar's characters who get caught up in a tangled web of deception and end up spiraling their relationship into a complicated situation that nearly ruins their lives.

THE HANDMAID'S TALE GETS THIRD SEASON

Los Angeles: Hulu's critically-acclaimed series *The Handmaid's Tale* has been renewed for a third season. The streaming service made the announcement at the 2018 Digital Content NewFronts event in New York City, just a week after the show's second season reports said. The decision to renew the Elisabeth Moss-starrer comes as no surprise as the series, which became the first for Hulu to win the best drama at the Emmys. The series, based on Margaret Atwood's bestselling novel of the same name, has won over 30 awards to date. The novel follows the story of life in the dystopia of Gilead, a totalitarian society in what was formerly part of the United States of America.

ZOE DEFENDS JAMES

Los Angeles: Actress Zoe Saldana feels filmmaker James Cameron was misunderstood for his thoughts on the superhero genre and says people should read the full article before jumping to a judgment. In an interview, Cameron said he believes the world has had enough of superhero films and people will soon get *Avengers fatigue*. Asked if she has any comment on Cameron's comment about Marvel fatigue, Saldana said "no". "My advice for people is to read full articles and not just believe a soundbite."



JLO GLAD TO BE A ROLE MODEL

Los Angeles: Singer-actress Jennifer Lopez says she is glad her boyfriend Alex Rodriguez sees her as a great role model for his daughters. The 48-year-old star spoke about being a great role model for her children at an event in Saban Media Center in North Hollywood, California, reports *etonline.com*.

Lopez has twins Emme and Max with her former husband Marc Anthony. And Rodriguez has daughters Natasha and Ella. "For me, he is so lovely and he is so supportive and encouraging of everything that I do," Lopez said. "I'm glad that he sees me that way, that I would be a good role model to his girls. You know, I'm just trying to be a good mom to mine and the best I can be for all four of them," she added.

When asked, what's her plan for Mother's Day? "You know it depends every year. The kids just always plan a little something. It's always very sweet and I try to always see my mom and take her out for a minute. Nothing too crazy."

Harshvardhan thrilled



Mumbai: Actor Harshvardhan Kapoor, who will next be seen in Vikramaditya Motwane-directed *Bhavesj Joshi*, says it is a dream come true to play a superhero on screen. "It is a dream come true for any young actor to play a superhero or vigilante. To be in the suit and wear a mask was a dream come true. I wanted to do this film since 2012 and it was an amazing experience working on this," Harshvardhan said.

Harshvardhan had auditioned for the film in 2012 when he was 22. However, things did not materialise then and he made his debut with *Mirzya*. The 27-year-old actor says he was lucky to do the Motwane-helmed superhero film. "Second time the script changed. There was quite a bit of martial arts training but the focus was more on getting my character and performance right."

Harshvardhan is still saddened by the outcome of his 2016 debut film, which did not work at the box office. "With *Mirzya*, we knew we were going to do something new and different and whenever you try and do something different you do not always succeed. The personal success of the film for me was to be working with Rakesh Omprakash Mehta, whom I have idolised," he said.

BIG B QUESTIONS TWITTER

Mumbai: Megastar Amitabh Bachchan, one of the most widely followed Indian celebrities on Twitter, has questioned the micro-blogging platform's management about how they manage to keep the number of followers constant.

"Dear Twitter Management, it's quite amazing how you manage to keep numbers of followers constant and not moving at all despite maximum activity??? Well done! I mean how do you keep the scoreboard from not moving despite every ball being hit for a 6!" tweeted Amitabh, 75. His "well done!" comment was accompanied by clap emojis.

Big B's official and verified Twitter handle @SrBachchan has 34.3 million followers. Earlier this year, the veteran actor had threatened to quit Twitter, accusing the micro-blogging website of reducing his followers. That time, the fan following of Big B quickly dropped from 33 million to 32.9 million. It led a team of officials from Twitter to meet him. IANS



CINE BITS

Tanvi likes to play different characters

Mumbai: Actress Tanvi Dogra says she likes to play different characters on-screen. In the current track of the show *Jiji Maa*, Falguni (Tanvi) is asked to leave the house. She comes back to the house disguised as a Haryana character -- Lajwanti Dhaiya aka Lazzar. "The new look is completely different from the one as Falguni. I love experimenting with roles and for a change this character doesn't take much time to get ready. Instead of sarees and jewellery, her look is simple and 'desi'. It was fun to prepare for the character of Lazzar," Tanvi said in a statement.



Was fun working with Bebo, Sonam: Farah

Mumbai: Choreographer-filmmaker Farah Khan had fun working with Kareena Kapoor Khan and Sonam Kapoor on a song for the upcoming film *Veere Di Wedding*. She says she loved the gender swap concept of the song. *Veere Di Wedding* also features Swara Bhasker and Shikha Tilsania. Farah worked with them on *Tarefan*, which released Wednesday. "This is the second music video that I'm doing after 'Bluffmaster's' 'Ek main aur tu hain' and I really think we have taken this one to the next level," Farah said.

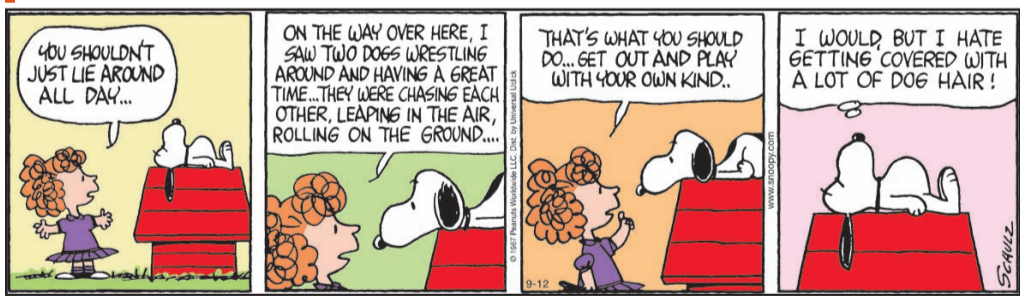


Don't like anything that comes easily: Rajkummar

Mumbai: Rajkummar Rao says he loves roles that test his limits as there is no fun in doing something that comes "easily and naturally" to him. The actor is known for critically-acclaimed and scene-stealing outings in films such *Shahid*, *Queen*, *Aligarh*, *Trapped*, *Bareilly Ki Barfi* and *Newton*. "...I do not like something that comes easily and naturally to me. I like pushing myself as an actor. I like to play roles that challenge me and I can do something different. There has to be an extra edge to it. I enjoy that," Rao said. Playing dreaded terrorist Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh in frequent collaborator Hansal Mehta's *Omerta* was one such role that challenged him the most.



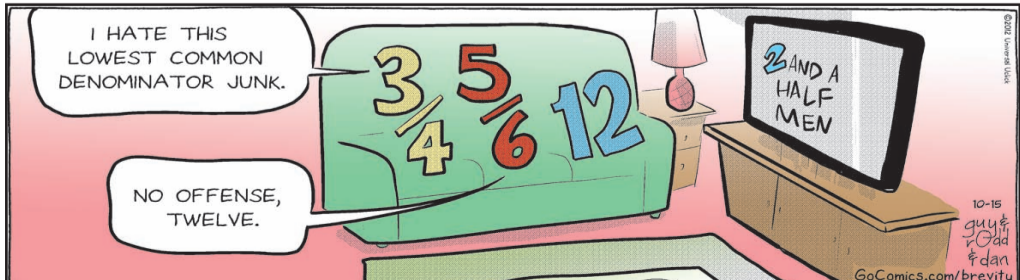
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

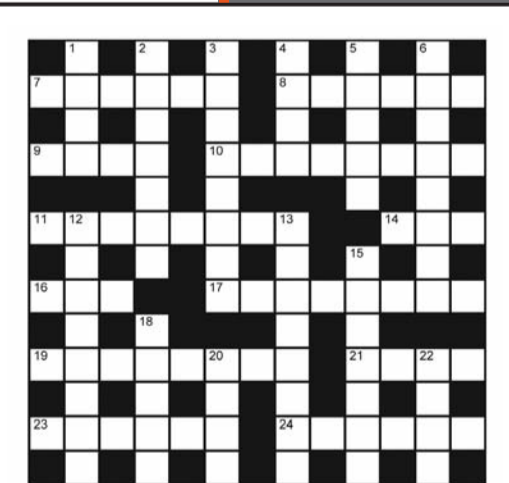


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



Across
 7 Heavenly (5,3)
 8 Latin dance (3-3)
 9 Datum
 10 Anthill scrounger
 11 Liver infection symptom
 14 Frigid
 16 Query
 17 Single great stone

Down
 1 Slave girl of opera
 2 Cold weather wear
 3 Showy flower
 4 Stigma
 5 Purple shade
 6 Map find
 12 Complete
 13 Father of modern physics
 15 Trite remarks
 18 Reprimand
 20 Perfume additive
 22 Surprise attack

SUDOKU

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

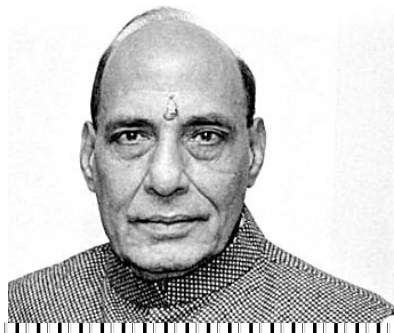
8	2				E A 4		6	5	7	1
	A									C 0
	E		3			4		9		
4	1	0		B		8		2	6	
	6	D			C	A	7		4	
							6		5	
1				E		4 A 7 C		8	2	3
	4		8	5	0		1	A		0
	5	9	2		D					0
				D		7				E 1
7		C			3		B		D	9
	D		A		8	B 0 7				2
			6	3			D			
E 8	9	2			5	6			0	
	0			6	7		9			

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD
 C O C K E R S P A N I E L
 A R Y K N N I
 B U Y E R I C A D O T
 T B M O E
 N Y A L A P I L S N E R
 C N L Y Y E A R
 R I D D L E M O U S E R
 U R R I S T I Y
 T D O L I S E T I A R I
 S M B R I G
 E V E S A U D I T O E
 R D U F C E E R N
 S T A T E O F T H E A I R T

SUDOKU
 0 4 6 5 0 3 0 2 8 8 1 7 9 A
 A 0 E 9 6 B 1 3 5 2 7 4 D C 8
 1 9 8 4 7 A C 6 8 5 0 3 2 E 0
 7 8 3 2 E 0 0 9 4 A C 0 5 B 1
 5 2 D C 8 T 1 A 8 7 E 0 9 4 6 3
 3 A 9 0 8 2 7 0 8 0 1 4 5
 2 1 5 7 4 6 0 3 0 9 8 3 A 0
 8 7 0 3 1 4 4 3 0 8 A 5 C 2 7
 8 0 4 A 9 0 6 5 0 1 B 2 E 3 6
 6 E C 8 5 2 A 1 3 4 7 B 0 9
 6 C A E 0 4 3 0 B 7 1 8 9 5 2
 8 8 7 D 3 5 3 4 A C 2 0 6 1 E
 D E 1 6 2 9 0 0 C 4 5 A 3 7 B
 0 5 2 9 C 7 9 1 E 6 3 0 A 8 4
 4 3 8 1 A 5 1 2 6 E B 0 D C

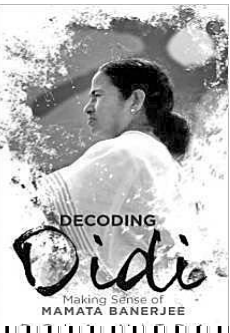
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



There is no time-line or deadline for signing the Naga peace accord. But the aspiration is to reach in a solution as early as possible
RAJNATH SINGH | UNION HOME MINISTER

BOOK TO DECODE BENGAL'S 'DIDI'

Mamata Banerjee's political career reached its peak when she defied all odds to become West Bengal's first woman Chief Minister, bringing an end to the 34-year-long Left regime in the state. Banerjee's eventful life and political career is the subject of a new book "Decoding Didi." Penned by journalist Dola Mitra, the book explores the various facets of the Chief Minister



of the day quote

I refuse to be a mute witness to the reduction of such a great religion (Hinduism) to its lowest common denominator by ignorant and illiterate people who think of themselves as self-appointed protectors of Hinduism



I am happy that DMRC, from the very beginning, has built up this team work, and this team spirit is the root of the success of the Delhi Metro



Today on #WorldPressFreedomDay, let us reaffirm our commitment towards steadfastly supporting a free press. It is the multiplicity of ideas and human expression that makes us more vibrant as a society



PAVAN VARMA | JD(U) LEADER
PRANAB MUKHERJEE | FORMER PRESIDENT
NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

HC withdraws Choksi's interim relief

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Thursday withdrew the interim protection from coercive action, including arrest, granted to Gitanjali Gems promoter Mehul Choksi in connection with an FIR lodged in 2016 by the owner of one of its retail franchisees. The order by Justice Mukta Gupta came after the police told the court that Choksi was not cooperating with the investigation as he was not available at any of the addresses given on his behalf earlier.

Accelerate efforts to end rabies: WHO

New Delhi: The World Health Organization Thursday asked India and other South East Asian countries to accelerate efforts to end rabies, a disease which claims 26,000 lives in eight out of the 11 nations in the region every year. The WHO said that rabies causes 59,000 agonising and painful deaths globally every year, translating to one person every nine minutes, mostly children and the poor. The WHO's South-East Asia Region comprises Bangladesh, Bhutan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor-Leste.

'Internet a challenge to IPR protection'

Kolkata: The Internet poses a big challenge to the protection of intellectual property rights (IPR), as it allows people to copy and make money by hosting the contents on different sites, a US expert said. Christine Haight Farley, an American expert on IPR and Copyright Law, said efforts were underway to harmonise the difference in standards in intellectual property rights protection across various countries. Farley said that such free usage should be protected for which IPR plays an important role. The expert said that IPR laws differ in countries but those who are signatory to the TRIPS agreement, are needed to maintain minimum standards.

Father kills daughter to implicate brother

Muzaffarnagar (UP): A man has been arrested for allegedly killing his three-year-old daughter at Nagla village here in order to implicate his brother in the case, the police said Thursday. Shamim, his wife Khushnaseeb and their friend Zahir Abbas were arrested in connection with the incident police said. Shamim in connivance with the other two accused took his daughter to a forest area last night and slit her throat. The accused committed the crime as he wanted to implicate his brother in the murder case, police said.

Eerie silence descends on AMU campus, heavy police deployment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Aligarh (UP), May 3: An eerie silence Thursday descended over the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), campus even as hundreds of student protesters gathered at the Baab-e-Syed gate, the scene of Wednesday's violent incident in which around 20 students were injured in police action.

Violence broke out at the AMU Wednesday after the right-wing protestors barged into the varsity demanding removal of the portrait of Muhammad Ali Jinnah displayed on the campus. Following the incident, police-

men in large numbers and a RAF contingent were deployed near the Baab-e-Syed gate to maintain law and order.

While the rest of the injured students were discharged after first aid, three of those with serious injuries are admitted at the Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College hospital. According to a hospital official, all the three students are out of danger and recovering.

The AMU students Thursday sat on an indefinite dharna demanding action against the pro-traitors. The AMU Students' Union (AMUSU) alleged that violence on the campus was a "deliberate

and pre-planned attempt" to attack former vice president Hamid Ansari, who was at that time barely 100 metres away at the university guest house, from where the violence erupted.

"Our protest will continue indefinitely till the police takes action against those who were actually targeting the former vice president who had come to the AMU where he was to be granted a life membership of the Students' Union," AMUSU said in a statement issued here.

President, AMUSU, Mashkoor Ahmad Usmani, who was also injured in yesterday's lathicharge by

"Jinnah was neither a student nor a teacher of Aligarh. It's a shame that his portrait is there. The administration and students should voluntarily remove it from there and those who were protesting against this portrait should now protest against the temples made to honour Godse"

JAVED AKHTAR | LYRICIST-SCREENWRITER



the police, said the students would approach the National Human Rights Commission "with the help of all secular organizations of the country" if all doors to justice are closed by the state government.

A spokesman of the varsity strongly condemned Wednesday's "trespassing" of the university boundary by Hindu Yuva Vahini (HYV) activists who were raising "highly objectionable and inflammatory slogans".

"We hope that the state government will take strong action against the Hindu Yuva Vahini youths who deliberately tried to disturb peace on the university

campus," he said. The AMU Teachers' Association (AMUTA) held an emergency meeting last night and passed a resolution stating that Wednesday's action by the HYV was a "deliberate criminal conspiracy" in which the police instead of punishing the aggressors, indulged in "brutal action" against the students, who had later collected at the gate to protest the failure of the police to prevent the outsiders from entering the campus.

It has demanded that an FIR should be lodged against those who "masterminded the entire operation".

SC TAKES NOTE OF NON-FRAMING OF SCHEME BY CENTRE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 3: The Supreme Court Thursday took strong note of the Centre not yet framing the Cauvery management scheme to implement its verdict on river water sharing between four southern states, even as Tamil Nadu attacked the union government for its "partisan" attitude saying this was the "end of cooperative federalism."

A bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra asked the Centre to file an affidavit by May 8 giving details of steps taken to frame the scheme, which was ordered for smooth release of water from Karnataka to Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Puducherry "Mr Venugopal (Attorney General), the scheme has to be finalised by the Centre and it should have been finalised by now. The states have no role in it," the bench, also comprising Justices AM Khanwilkar and DY Chandrachud, said. Attorney General KK Venugopal said the hearing on setting up of the scheme, under which Cauvery Management Board (CMB) has been constituted, be deferred by ten days till the Karnataka polls are over as the Prime Minister and his cabinet colleagues are busy in campaigning.

Venugopal also said the draft scheme, which has to be approved by the Union Cabinet, could not be put for approval due to the ongoing campaign. He also referred to the recent communication of the Karnataka Chief Minister that the Water Resources Ministers of all the four states be made mem-



bers of the CMB, has created an issue which also needed to be resolved.

The submission irked senior advocate Shekhar Naphade, appearing for Tamil Nadu, who said "this is the end of cooperative federalism and the rule of law in the country. This is the partisan attitude of the union of India to favour Karnataka."

"I am saying this with full sense of responsibility that the Centre is playing politics and is more worried about its poll prospects in Karnataka than following the apex court order," Naphade said, adding that the judgement had said that the scheme had to be framed within four weeks and this was nothing but "dilly dallying".

Besides the summer temperature, "the temperature over Cauvery water is rising in Tamil Nadu," he said, adding that the government was "clueless" as to what to say to people as no scheme has been framed even after two months of the judgement.

The apex court, meanwhile, warned Karnataka government and asked it to establish its bonafide by releasing water and said it may take suo motu cognisance of contempt and seek the presence of state's Chief Secretary before it.

Delhi airport: Gold bars worth ₹3cr found abandoned in toilet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi: Nine gold bars worth ₹3 crore were found abandoned in a toilet inside the Delhi airport, a CISF official said Thursday. The gold bars, each weighing about 1 kg, were recovered by the CISF late Wednesday night from a bathroom in the terminal-3 of the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport. The cache, worth about 3 crore, have been handed over to the customs authorities, a Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) spokesperson said. He said the personnel on-duty at the airport were alerted by someone about the presence of a laptop bag kept in a toilet after which they opened the bag and recovered the nine gold bars from it.

WHO air pollution report: How south Indian cities sit pretty?

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, May 3: No south Indian city figured in the just-released global air pollution report of the World Health Organisation (WHO). The WHO report said 14 of world's 15 most polluted cities were in India which includes Delhi, Kanpur and Varanasi.

Asked what helped in tackling pollution, a pollution control official in Tamil Nadu said efforts aimed at improvisation were prioritised always and such measures bore fruit.

An "action plan" is being readied now to tackle air pollution better, he said. Measures being planned to tackle air pollution better include putting in place advanced gadgets in industrial premises to enable real time monitoring, he said. Such monitoring will help more in checking emissions which

lead to air pollution.

To a question on some real time air pollution (PM 2.5) data for Chennai pointing to pollution comparable to cities like Varanasi (PM 2.5/ 151/WHO data), he said it was "dynamic, and keeps changing all the time." Such "so-called high pollution levels," were confined only to some individual pockets reflecting isolated factors and does not reflect the true scenario in the entire city, he said. "Tackling pollution is a continuous process involving multiple government agencies and the people too," he said.

Municipal bodies, transport corporations were among the agencies being roped in to better tackle pollution. Pollution levels in major cities of Tamil Nadu like Chennai were within the permissible range in respect of parameters including the PM 2.5 or PM 10, the official said adding "it is much better when

CBI books journalist for giving false info

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 3: The CBI Thursday arrested senior journalist Upendra Rai for dubious transactions in his accounts to the tune of over ₹100 crore during 2017-2018 and also using false information to obtain access to sensitive areas through Aerodrome Entry Pass (AEP) for all airports across the country.

Rai, who was taken into custody here and was being questioned, is accused of committing the offence in connivance with the officials of aviation company Air One Aviation Pvt Ltd and some public servants of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) filed an FIR

Tuesday naming Upendra Rai, Air One Aviation Pvt Ltd, its Chief Security Officer Prasun Roy, some unidentified public servants of BCAS and others.

The agency Thursday also searched eight places in Delhi, Noida, Lucknow and Mumbai in connection with the case.

Rai, owner of Printlines Media Group and formerly employed with Tehelka, Roy, some public servants and other private persons were questioned by the CBI at its headquarters here, a CBI official said. The CBI has found that in 2017, Rai's bank accounts show credit of ₹79 crore with several transactions of over ₹1 lakh each, while in the same period, the accounts reflect debit amount of ₹78.51 crore.

Rai, the CBI said, has purchased a fleet of cars out of the ill-gotten money. "It is also learnt that he has received ₹16 crore in one year from shell companies for bribing or fixing case in Income Tax and that he has received about ₹6.5 crore from Sahara India in one year."

The CBI said that two persons - Rahul Sharma, a resident of Palam in west Delhi, and Sanjay Snehi, a resident of Laxmi Nagar in east Delhi - assist Rai to park the ill-gotten money.

A resident of Greater Kailash in south Delhi, Rai is also accused of conspiring with Roy and others with an intent to obtain AEPs on false information for gaining access to the restricted areas of airports in India. The CBI FIR said that Rai managed to get the first AEP in January

2017 showing himself as a permanent employee of Air One to gain access at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport. He renewed the pass in April 2017 before its expiry after 90 days. In June 2017, he applied for permanent AEP and managed to get it with its validity upto December 2018, it said.

"Air One sponsored Upendra Rai's name as its employee whenever he applied for the AEPs and forwarded his applications to the BCAS, which in-turn forwarded these applications to the Delhi International Airport Ltd without verifying his genuineness."

Rai also managed to get all India airport AEP with the help of Roy by falsely showing himself as Director Quality Control of Air One, said the FIR.

QUICK READS

Kerala's 16th century wooden palace now gets a website

Thiruvananthapuram: The magnificent 16th century Padmanabhapuram palace, an erstwhile seat of the Travancore royals, is now just a click away, thanks to a new website on the heritage structure launched by the Kerala government. The sprawling wooden palace complex is a rare repository of ornate murals, floral carvings, stone and copper plate inscriptions, armoury, coins and paintings of the period. Though it is situated at Thuckalay in Kanyakumari district of neighbouring Tamil Nadu, the six-acre palace complex was retained under the custodianship of the Kerala Department of Archaeology as per the state reorganisation settlement in 1956. The department officials said the objective of the website was to help history buffs and students get a clear picture of the invaluable monument.

Six friends make it to top 20 of JEE-Main 2018

Kota (Rajasthan): In times where academic rivalry often mars friendship, six friends studying at a coaching centre here have proven the critics wrong as they made it to the top 20 in the JEE-Main examination, the results for which were announced recently. Parth Laturia (AIR-3), Bhaskar Gupta (AIR-7), Navneel Singhal (AIR-11), Lay Jain (AIR-13), Karan Agarwalla (AIR-16) and Yash Gupta (AIR-19) met for the first time at the coaching institute two years ago. The boys, hailing from different parts of the country, were surprised to find out that all of them were prompt in their replies in class and also secured similar marks. What continued was a saga of friendship and support. Bhaskar, known as the 'math wizkid' among his peers, said the group always motivated each other.

NOVEL PROTEST



Several Bodo groups are holding a five-day national highway blockade in a protest against the state government's alleged failure to hold dialogue on the Bodoland issue, in Kokrajher Wednesday.



compared with other cities like New Delhi."

For instance, last year in Chennai, the PM 2.5 value ranged between 27 and 54 while the maximum permissible limit was 60. Similar was the case in respect of other major cities like Coimbatore, he noted. Declining to accept the "within the permissible range,"

data of the State pollution control board, noted environmentalist Nityanand Jayaraman alleged that "Tamil Nadu is filled with industrial toxic hotspots."

Such spots include Tuticorin, Mettur, Manali, Ennore and Cuddalore, he alleged. These regions are dotted with industries related to copper, fertiliser, plastic,

chemicals besides thermal power plants. He demanded a complete 'overhaul' of TN Pollution Control Board to see tangible results to address pollution issues in the "real sense of the word."

In Karnataka, Pollution Control Board chairman Lakshman said improved infrastructure, high awareness level and emphasis on mass transport system contributed significantly in containing air pollution in the state, especially Bengaluru. He said one of the reasons for southern cities not figuring in the list was due to the highly humid South Indian environment.

Initiatives like Bus Day, Less Traffic Day, construction of flyovers, pothole filling, road widening, shifting of bus stops to the outskirts too contributed well, Lakshman said.

Environmentalist Leo Saldanha batted for more regulation by pol-

lution control authorities, he alleged, "environment regulation has been so badly affected in the last two-three years... nobody is even bothered to check water, air or other form of pollution."

As regards Andhra Pradesh, AP Pollution Control Board Chairman B S S Prasad said constant monitoring of carbon emissions, particulate matter, suspended particulate matter, increase in green cover and a shift to clean energy sources helped in ensuring pollution levels are under check.

Visakhapatnam, the port city that was classified as "critically-polluted" about eight years ago, has now got rid of the dubious tag, he said.

"Pollution control has now become a focus for us... Our efforts are yielding results and pollution is not increasing as in the case of other cities," he said.



“If the US withdraws from the nuclear deal, then we will not stay in it”
ALI AKBAR VELAYATI | IRANIAN PHYSICIAN AND CONSERVATIVE POLITICIAN

WEIGHT LOSS SURGERY MAY HARM BONE HEALTH: STUDY

Weight loss surgery can cause declines in bone mass and strength, and increase the risk of fractures. According to a study, skeletal changes after surgery appear early and continue even after weight loss plateaus and weight stabilises



of the day quote

Yes, countries should adopt that approach because the quality of governance has a lot to do with how quickly countries are able to grow their economy and empower their people



BILL GATES | AMERICAN BUSINESS MAGNATE

We are committed to the permanent, verifiable, irreversible dismantling of North Korea's weapons of mass destruction program and to do so without delay



MIKE POMPEO | US SECRETARY OF STATE

The widespread persecution of Jews in Europe and Germany leading up to World War II was not because of their religious beliefs but instead because Jews were moneylending bankers who charged high interest rates



BENJAMIN NETANYAHU | ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER

INDUS WATER TREATY

Pak asked to pursue violations forcefully

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, May 3: Pakistan's top civil-military leadership has directed authorities to "forcefully" pursue the alleged violations of Indus Waters Treaty with India and the World Bank, the guarantor of the agreement.

The last round of talks between India and Pakistan over the issue was facilitated by the World Bank in Washington in September. Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi chaired the 21st meeting of the National Security Committee (NSC) held at Prime Minister's House Wednesday.

According to an official statement, the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission briefed the meeting on the water policy approved by the Council of

Common Interests April 24, 2018, along with a water charter, which was signed by the Prime Minister and the Chief Ministers of four provinces.

The Committee observed that this was a very significant achievement and if properly implemented could prove instrumental in averting the water crisis that was seriously threatening Pakistan.

Under the provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty, the waters of the eastern rivers - the Sutlej, Beas and Ravi - had been allocated to India and that of the western rivers - the Indus, Jhelum and Chenab - to Pakistan except for certain non-consumptive uses. Pakistan had approached the World Bank in 2016, raising concerns over the designs of two hydroelectricity projects located in Jammu and Kashmir.

CHINA DEFENDS MISSILE DEPLOYMENT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, May 3: China Thursday defended the deployment of anti-ship cruise missiles and surface-to-air missile systems in the disputed South China Sea, saying it has "indisputable sovereignty" over the area.

China is engaged in hotly contested territorial disputes in both the South China Sea and the East China Sea. China claims almost all of South China Sea. Vietnam, Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan have counter claims. "China has indisputable sovereignty over the Nansha (known as Spratly) islands and its affiliated islands," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying told a media briefing here when asked about the reported of deployment of the missiles.

Vietnam and Taiwan have rival claims over Spratly islands. "China's activities in the South China Sea is to uphold our sovereignty and territorial integrity."



It is our right," she said. Virtually confirming the deployment of the missiles, Hua said, "relevant deployment is not directed against any country. The relevant parties should not be concerned about this and should view this in an objective way."

The US media reports earlier said China has installed anti-ship cruise missiles and surface-to-air missile systems on three of its

outposts in the South China Sea. The reports said the missiles were moved to Fiery Cross Reef, Subi Reef and Mischief Reef within the past 30 days.

In April, the Chinese military held its largest ever maritime drill in the disputed South China Sea during which it displayed for the first time the country's aircraft carrier strike group and the most advance weaponry of

SCS ROW

- US media reported China has installed anti-ship cruise missiles and surface-to-air missile systems on three of its outposts in the South China Sea
- The reports said the missiles were moved to Fiery Cross Reef, Subi Reef and Mischief Reef within the past 30 day
- China: Activities in SCS is to uphold our sovereignty and territorial integrity. It is our right.

the People's Liberation Army (PLA). The drill was held amid frequent forays made by US naval and aircraft into the South China Sea to assert the freedom of navigation especially around the artificial islands built by China, where it has also established garrisons. The strategic South China Sea is rich in energy reserves, fishery resources and is a busy shipping route.

SHORT TAKES

Afghan launches new electronic ID cards

Kabul: The Afghan government Thursday officially launched the distribution process of electronic identity cards. But the first to criticize it was the country's CEO Abdullah Abdullah. "We mark another historic day, and I am pleased to announce the distribution of e-Tazkiras (identity cards) by becoming the first Afghan to receive it," President Ashraf Ghani was quoted as saying by the Radio and Television of Afghanistan (RTA). Ghani said the e-tazkira would help Afghan government to further promote good governance, economic planning and provide best public services to all citizens as well.

Bangla asks UK to extradite Zia's son

Dhaka: Bangladesh has asked the UK to extradite Tarique Rahman, the exiled son of former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Chairman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) who has been convicted in two corruption cases. "The process is going on. Next step always depends on the response from the British government," Foreign Minister AH Mahmud Ali was quoted as saying by *bdnews24.com* Thursday.

45 Afghan schoolgirls hospitalised

Kabul: At least 45 schoolgirls were poisoned following a suspected gas attack in Afghanistan's Takhar province Thursday, police said. "Up to 45 students of Banan Middle School in Khwaja Bahauddin district were mysteriously poisoned in their classrooms and were taken to hospitals," a police official was quoted as saying by *Xinhua news agency*. The affected students said they smelled a strange gas when entering classrooms. Frequent gas attacks in girls' schools are blamed on militants opposed to their education.

Chinese minister meets Kim in N Korea

Pyeongang: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi Thursday met North Korean leader Kim Jong-un here and congratulated him for the thaw in relations with South Korea, officials said. Wang met Kim at the Korean Workers' Party headquarters and praised the successful April 27 meeting between the North Korean leader and South Korean President Moon Jae-in. The Chinese minister backed the joint statement -- the Panmunjon agreement -- signed by Moon and Kim pledging to work towards the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula, *Efe news* reported.

FB employee fired

Washington: Facebook Thursday said it fired an employee accused of bragging on matchmaking app Tinder about his access to private user information. The incident comes as Facebook faces global concerns about personal data privacy, including Congressional hearings at which chief executive officer Mark Zuckerberg testified.

CANDID SHOT



A British Airways passenger plane flies in front of the moon above London, Britain, Thursday

REUTERS

QUICK READS

Pakistan denies 'deal' on doctor

Islamabad: Pakistan's foreign ministry says that no "deal" is in the works between Islamabad and Washington for the release of a physician who helped the United States track down Osama bin Laden in 2011. Thursday's comment by the ministry's spokesman, Mohammad Faisal, came days after Pakistani authorities moved Dr Shakil Afridi from a prison in the northwestern city of Peshawar to an undisclosed location, triggering speculation about his possible release. Afridi has languished behind bars since 2012, when a court convicted him and sentenced him to 33 years in prison over ties with militants. After the Abbottabad raid in which Bin Laden was killed, Afridi was taken into custody by Pakistani authorities for running a fake vaccination programme which had helped the CIA nab its target.

Trump confirms hush-money payment

Washington: US President Donald Trump confirmed Thursday that he reimbursed his personal lawyer the \$130,000 he had given to adult film star Stormy Daniels days before the 2016 election to buy her silence over an alleged affair with the then presidential candidate. Trump's confirmation came hours after his new legal aide and former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani revealed that the President had personally repaid Michael Cohen the \$130,000 that was used to buy Daniels's silence through a non-disclosure agreement. In an early morning tweet, Trump, 71, said his personal attorney, Cohen, was paid via a monthly retainer and that the hush agreement into which Cohen entered with Daniels had "nothing to do with the campaign." The President had previously denied knowledge of the payment.



Man warns drivers with toy gun

Dubai: An Indian man allegedly used a toy gun to threaten and scare "speeding bus drivers" here, a Dubai court has heard. The 35-year-old Dubai resident, working as a technician, told investigators that he used his daughter's toy gun to ask bus drivers to reduce speed on roads because he was "worried about his safety and that of others", the *Khaleej Times* reported Wednesday. He has been charged in the Court of First Instance with making "criminal threats". According to public prosecution records, he went to three drivers and tapped on the bus windows with the gun in his hand. A complaint was registered Wednesday and the trial will continue May 20. A police sergeant said: "I was on duty and sitting in my car when three men came running to me. They looked scared. They told me about a man carrying a gun and took me to where he was."



US, China high-level talks begin to avert trade war

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, May 3: Top Chinese and American officials Thursday kicked off their two-day crucial talks in Beijing to avert a trade war following US President Donald Trump's demand that China should immediately cut its trade surplus with the United States by \$100 billion.

A US delegation led by Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, who is also President Trump's special envoy, held talks with a Chinese team headed by Vice-Premier Liu He, a close confidant of President Xi Jinping and also a member of the powerful Politburo of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC). The US delegation also includes Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, assistant to the president for economic policy Larry Kudlow and assistant to the president for trade and manufacturing policy Peter Navarro. Confirming that the talks between the two sides have started, Chinese



Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said China welcomes the US delegation headed by Trump's special envoy. The negotiations have begun and still underway, she said. Talks were regarded key to avert a trade war between the two major trade partners as both sides have already announced increase in tariffs in a tit-for-tat trade spat.

The trade dispute between the top two economies of the world began last month with Trump imposing tariffs on steel and aluminium imports into the US. China retaliated by imposing additional tariffs worth about \$3 billion on 128 US products. Trump, while demanding China to reduce the \$375 billion by \$100 billion, retaliated with \$50 billion tariffs on Chinese products.

Sex scandal jeopardises Nobel Prize for Literature

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Stockholm, May 3: The Nobel Prize for Literature, one of the oldest and most prestigious cultural awards, could be cancelled in 2018 as the institution that awards it is mired in a sex and financial scandal.

The Swedish Academy is under fire for how it dealt with alleged sexual misconduct by French photographer Jean-Claude Arnault, who is married to a former member of the centuries-old institution, the *BBC* reported Thursday. The Academy was scheduled to decide whether this year's prize will go ahead, with some members reportedly concerned it was in no state to make such an award.

In November, inspired by the #MeToo campaign, 18 women made allegations of sexual assault and harassment against Arnault. Several of the alleged incidents reportedly happened in properties belonging to the Academy. Arnault has denied all the allegations.

The organisation then voted against removing his wife, the poet and writer Katarina Frostenson from its 18-person committee. The following day, the Academy's Permanent Secretary Sara Danius said the institution had cut all ties with Arnault in light of the reported allegations and additional claims that some Academy staff and members' relatives had experienced "unwanted intimacy" at the



his hands. Till now, six members of the Swedish Academy have stepped down, including Danius. The academy is also under fire for contravening its own conflict of interest regulations by providing funding to the Kulturplats Forum, a cultural centre run by

Arnault and Frostenson. An independent investigation by a Swedish law firm revealed that "unacceptable behaviour by (Arnault) in the form of unwanted intimacy had indeed taken place, but the knowledge was not widely spread in the Academy".

But the team of lawyers also discovered that the Academy had received a letter in 1996 outlining alleged sexual assault at Arnault's cultural forum, indicating that November was not the first time that some members were made aware that the photographer's name had been connected with misconduct. In its statement, the organization said it "deeply regrets that the letter was shelved and no measures

taken to investigate the charges". Ebba Witt-Brattstrom, the former wife of Horace Engdahl, Academy's Permanent Secretary from 1999 to 2009 and currently a member of the Nobel Committee for Literature, had also cast doubt on the claim that its members were largely unaware of Arnault's alleged misconduct. The flurry of withdrawals is potentially catastrophic for the 230-year-old academy, whose members, elected by secret ballot, must be approved by the King and traditionally hold their positions for life.

In 1943 -- the last time the literature prize was postponed -- was the height of World War II and the Nazis ruled much of the European continent.

9 DEAD IN US MILITARY PLANE CRASH

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Washington, May 3: All nine people on board an aging US cargo plane have been killed when the aircraft making its final military flight nose-dived into a highway in the US state of Georgia, an official said.

They were aboard the C-130 plane when it came down Wednesday beside the highway intersection near the airport in the coastal city of Savannah. The plane belonged to Puerto Rico Air National Guard and was on a training flight, the National Guard said. Images shared on social media showed wreckage engulfed in flames and black smoke spewing into the sky, the *BBC* reported. It was flying from Georgia to Tucson in Arizona, where it was to be decommissioned. The plane was at least 50 years old, according to an official familiar with the aircraft. "Nine crew members died in the accident, but until their families and relatives are notified, we cannot give their names," Brig. Gen. Isabela Rivera said. "Our prayers, thoughts and condolences to the families and loved ones of our aviators." Meanwhile, a Russian fighter jet crashed after taking off from an airbase in Syria Thursday, killing both pilots, Moscow's defence ministry said in a statement carried by news agencies. "As it was climbing after taking off from the Hmeimim airbase, the Russian fighter Su-30SM crashed into the Mediterranean Sea. Two pilots, who fought until the last minute to save the plane, died, according to reports from the scene," the statement said.

The ministry said the plane had not come under fire, adding that "according to preliminary information, the reason for the crash could have been a bird falling into the engine". The accident brings Russia's official military losses in Syria to 86.

business



We started off the new financial year on a high note, setting record numbers in scooters, bikes and the overall volumes

YADVINDER SINGH GULERIA | HONDA MOTORCYCLE AND SCOOTER INDIA SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT FOR SALES AND MARKETING

NOW PENSIONERS CAN VIEW PASSBOOK USING UMANG

Pensioners would now be able to view their pension passbook on mobile phones with the help of Umang app. EPFO Thursday announced the launch of a facility to extend the special service to pensioners



of the day quote

Although Indian startup ecosystem has come a long way, the policies for startups need to be liberalised further



VIKRAM UPADHAYA | GREEN HOUSE VENTURES FOUNDER

FY18 has been a good year for our group. Balance sheet grew by 42 per cent during the same period



RASHESH SHAH | EDLWEISS FINANCIAL SERVICES CHAIRMAN AND CEO

We strongly believe that technology can play a powerful part in solving the learning gap in India, and we are expanding our investments in India to ensure that all teachers and students are able to benefit from it



NICK CAIN | GOOGLE.ORG EDUCATION LEAD

Gold demand falls 12%; imports plunge 50%: WGC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 3: Gold demand declined by a steep 12 per cent in the first quarter of 2018 to 115.6 tonne due to high prices and poor investment demand, the World Gold Council (WGC) said Thursday. In the March 2017 quarter, demand had stood at 131.2 tonne, WGC said in a report.

As demand fell by 12 per cent, imports plunged by a whopping 50 per cent in the first quarter to 153 tonne from 260 tonne a year ago, according to the report.

Demand fall was led poor jewellery demand which during the reporting quarter dipped 12 per cent to 87.7 tonne from 99.2 tonne a year ago.

In terms of value, demand fell 8 per cent to ₹31,800 crore from ₹34,440 crore.

“Decline in demand can be attributed to a number of factors, including the rising local gold prices, a substantial drop in the number of auspicious wedding days this year compared to the previous year, and an anticipation of an import duty cut in the



Budget,” WGC India managing director PR Somasundaram told PTI.

“The transition to GST, especially by the unorganised sector, also affected demand to some extent,” he added.

He also said the PNB scam impacted the trade sentiment, which somehow got revived by the time of Akshaya Tritiya.

In value terms, jewellery demand dropped 7 per cent to ₹24,130 crore from ₹26,050 crore a year ago. Investment demand plunged 13 per cent to 27.9 tonne from 32 tonne in the previous 12 months period.

In value terms, gold investment demand stood at ₹7,660 crore, down 9 per cent from ₹8,390 crore.

Total gold recycled also declined 3 per cent to 14.1 tonne from 14.5

tonne, the report said.

“The first quarter is not naturally a dynamic period for gold in the country as people usually settle their other financial commitments for tax purposes. Moreover, there was also no catalyst like duty cuts to trigger demand,” Somasundaram said.

The 50 per cent decline in imports to 153 tonne from 260 tonne was “mainly on account of subdued consumer demand, down-stocking following the GST transitional period and also on expectations of duty cut in the Budget,” he

added. Asked about import this year, Somasundaram said inward shipment is likely to be on similar lines with demand.

For the full year of 2018, he said, gold demand is expected to be in the range of 700-800 tonne.

“We are positive about demand going forward due to expectation of better monsoons and the resultant higher rural income and an overall better GDP growth. The compliance standard is growing and in the long-run it’s going to be positive and transform the industry,” he said.

GST Council meet today

SIMPLIFICATION OF RETURN FORM ON AGENDA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 3: The 27th meeting of the GST Council Friday will among other things consider introduction of simplified tax return form and also decide on proposal for converting GST Network into a government company.

The Union finance minister Arun Jaitley-chaired council, comprising state finance ministers, will meet through video conferencing. The meeting comes at a

fore the council, an official said, adding GSTN proposal will also come up for consideration.

Currently, five private financial institutions - HDFC Ltd, HDFC Bank Ltd, ICICI Bank Ltd, NSE Strategic Investment Co and LIC Housing Finance Ltd - hold 51 per cent stake in GSTN, which was incorporated March 28, 2013, in the erstwhile UPA regime.

The remaining 49 per cent stake is with the Centre and states.

With Jaitley being advised by doctors to stay in isolation to avoid contracting infection, the meeting has been planned through video conferencing.

The council, the official said, will deliberate on the new simplified form to be common for both small and large tax payers and providing some relief for NIL return filers by allowing them to file return quarterly.

At present, NIL return filers have to file returns monthly.

Besides, monthly return filing process for other and quarterly return filing for composition taxpayers will continue.

The council had in March held discussions on the two models of GST returns and suggested that the GoM work on further simplification. The official said the amendment to the law would also be taken up once the council clears the new GST return format.

One of the models presented before the council was that provisional credit should not be granted unless the taxpayers file returns and pay taxes. The second model stated that provisional credit can be granted to a taxpayer, but returns must be filed within three-four months.



THE MEETING COMES AT A TIME WHEN GST COLLECTIONS ACHIEVED ITS RECORD HIGH BY EXCEEDING ₹1 LAKH CRORE MILESTONE IN APRIL

GOVERNMENT MOPPED UP ₹1.03 LAKH CRORE IN GST COLLECTIONS LAST MONTH

AT PRESENT, NIL RETURN FILERS HAVE TO FILE RETURNS MONTHLY

time when Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections achieved its record high by exceeding ₹1 lakh crore milestone in April.

The government mopped up ₹1.03 lakh crore in GST collections last month. The new indirect tax regime, which was rolled out July 1 last year, had earned a revenue of ₹7.41 lakh crore in entire 2017-18.

A decision on return simplification is on the agenda with the Sushil Modi-led group of ministers (GoM) putting the three models of new return form for discussion be-

NPS subscribers can go for partial withdrawals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 3: Pension fund regulator PFRDA Thursday said NPS subscribers will now have the option to partially withdraw funds from their accounts for pursuing higher education or setting up new business.

The decision was taken at the board meeting of the Pension Fund and Regulatory Development Authority (PFRDA) last week.

“Partial withdrawals will now be allowed to National Pension System (NPS) subscribers who wish to improve their employability or acquire new skills by pursuing higher education/ acquiring professional and technical qualifications,” the PFRDA said in a statement. Further, NPS subscribers who wish to set up a new business or acquire new business will also be allowed to make partial withdrawals from their con-



tributions. NPS is government's flagship social security programme.

The board also decided to increase the cap on equity investment in ‘active choice’ category to 75 per cent from current 50 per cent for private sector subscribers of NPS. However, the option of increasing investment in equity will be available to subscribers till the age of 50 years.

NPS offers subscribers to design their own portfolio based on

two investment options - ‘Auto Choice’ and ‘Active Choice’.

Subscribers opting for ‘active choice’ option, can invest in ‘Alternate Investment Fund’ up to 5 per cent, besides the three regular instruments - equity, G-Secs and corporate bonds.

At present, NPS and Atal Pension Yojna (APY), both regulated by the PFRDA, have a cumulative subscriber base of over 2.13 crore with total AUM of over ₹2.38 lakh

crore. The PFRDA board also approved a proposal on changing the investment grade rating from ‘AA’ to ‘A’ for corporate bonds.

“The change is subject to a cap on investments in ‘A’ rated bonds to be not more than 10 per cent of the overall corporate bond portfolio of the pension funds,” it said.

This initiative will enlarge the scope of investment for the fund managers while ensuring credit quality, it added.

The PFRDA has taken this decision in pursuance of an announcement in the Union Budget.

A proposal on adoption of Common Stewardship Code, as a measure of good corporate governance, was also approved.

“Further, it was also approved that the principles enumerated in such code shall be circulated to all pension funds for compliance and implementation,” PFRDA said in the release.

Life insurance penetration at 2.24%

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 3: The life insurance penetration in Odisha is 2.24 per cent with the number of policies per lakh population reaching 2,240.95, a top LIC official in the state said.

The number of agents per lakh population is 88.56 per cent while the share of number of policies per agent is 25 per cent.

The Bhubaneswar division has surpassed its target in the number of policies with an achievement to budget of 100.72 per cent.

The divisional office has also realised 20 per cent growth in the number of policies in FY18 when compared with the figures of same period last fiscal.

“We have realised 100.72 per cent of the budget last fiscal

by making 1,95,100 policies in FY18 as against 1,63,666 policies in FY 17. We also ranked first among other divisional offices in terms of single premium achievement and total fast premium income (TFPI) under the achievement to budget parameter,” LP Das, senior divisional manager, Bhubaneswar division, LIC, told **Orissa POST**.

He said the division has been consistently achieving its TFPI budget since the last five years. At the national level, it has occupied seventh position in the number of policies in achievement to budget ratio.

The division has also recorded 10 per cent growth in total fast premium income. It has received 1,63,273 maturity and survival benefit claims and settled more than 90 per cent of them with

outstanding remaining at 0.11 per cent, he pointed out.

The claims in FY18 were to the tune of ₹347 crore. The division has also achieved 100 per cent success both in consumer cases and civil suits in FY18. LIC has four divisional offices in the state at Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Sambalpur and Bhubaneswar. The Bhubaneswar division has achieved TFPI of ₹283.06 crore while Bhubaneswar has realised TFPI of ₹248.2 crore.

The TFPI figure for Cuttack division was at ₹631.42 crore while Sambalpur realised ₹269.98 crore, he added. He also said the division is yet to get future target figures from the central office but Das is confident that the division could achieve 20 per cent more TFPI.

RISING COSTS MAY HIT CEMENT COS’ PROFIT

AGENCIES

Mumbai, May 3: Cement companies are likely to face pressure on their profit margins and debt metrics in the near term on rising prices of pet coke, coal and diesel, a report said Thursday.

Rating agency Icrs in its report said higher power and fuel (increase in coal and pet coke prices) and freight costs (increase in diesel prices) in the near term are likely to continue to put pressure on the profitability margins and debt metrics of the cement companies.

“Hence, the ability of the industry players to secure increases in cement prices remains critical from the profitability perspective,” its senior vice president Sabyasachi Majumdar said.

The coal prices were higher by 24 per cent and diesel by 6.9 per cent year-on-year in financial year 2017-18, while the pet coke prices increased in Q1, Q2 and Q3 of FY18 by around 54, 16 and 20 per cent, respectively, the report said.

The government in December last year increased the import duty on pet coke to 10 per cent from 2.5 per cent earlier, which according to Icrs is expected to keep the pet coke prices at elevated levels.

Meanwhile, the rating agency pegged the cement demand to register a moderate growth of around 5-6 per cent in FY19.

“I feel it is important to let some more hard data come in, especially on growth, and allow some more time to let the early skirmishes on the global trade front play out.

“I am, however, likely to shift decisively to vote for a beginning of ‘withdrawal of accommodation’ in the next MPC meeting in June,” said Acharya.

RBI governor Urjit Patel preferred to wait for more data before changing monetary stance though he took note of recovery in economic activities and continued improvement in credit off-take, according to minutes of the April policy meeting.

Patel noted that economic activity has been recovering, with the GDP growth in 2018-19 projected to be higher at 7.4 per cent amid clearer signs of revival of investment activity.

The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), headed by Patel, had left the benchmark repo rate unchanged at 6 per cent for the third time in a row after deliberations on April 4-5.

Accordingly, reverse repo was kept unchanged at 5.75 per cent. No changes were made to cash reserve ratio (CRR) and statutory liquidity ratio (SLR), which stand at 4 per cent and 19.5 per cent, respectively.

Digital ad market to grow 30%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 3: The digital advertising spends in the country is estimated to grow at a compounded annual growth rate of 30 per cent to reach ₹12,046 crore by end of this calendar year, says an Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMA) and Kantar IMRB report.

The digital advertising spend which was estimated to be around ₹9,266 crore at the end of 2017, would be about 16 per cent of the total ad-spends in the country that is pegged at ₹59,000 crore.

In terms of total spend, banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) led the digital ad-spend in 2017 at around ₹2,022

crore, followed by e-commerce, according to the report Digital Advertising in India 2017.

“BFSI brands incurred the highest share of advertising on digital media with 46 per cent of their overall advertising spends in digital, followed by e-commerce, telecom and travel,” it said noting that 68 per cent of the overall digital ad spends comes from these four verticals.

The report also said that 27 per cent of total digital ad spends in 2017, around ₹2,502 crore was made on search, followed by spends on video and mobile that is around 19 per cent with ad spend being ₹1,779 crore and ₹1,761 crore, respectively.

Ad spends on social media stood at 18 per cent at around

₹1,668 crore, with the least being spent on display ads that has 16 per cent share with total ad spend being ₹1,483 crore.

It observed that spending on mobile advertising (SMS/in-app ads) reported a year-on-year growth of 34 per cent from ₹1,314 crore in 2016 to around ₹1,761 crore in 2017.

“This is because advertising on mobile is considered to be innovative and conveys the message clearly. Also in-app advertising is currently being explored and used across various industry sectors since it is believed to fetch better monetisation,” it said.

Driven by falling data prices and availability of low cost handsets, mobile advertising is expected to increase, it added.

Need policies to shield workers from job losses: ADB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Manila, May 3: Asian Development Bank president Takehiko Nakao Thursday called for progressive taxation and government policies, including universal healthcare, to shield workers from job losses in the advent of newer technologies like robotics and artificial intelligence.

In the ‘Asian Development Outlook 2018’ released last month, Asian Development Bank (ADB) had said that workers need to up-skill or face the risk of lower wages

and even unemployment as the application of new technologies will boost productivity but displace certain jobs.

“We need policies to support people who are behind the technological development and some people may lose jobs as they are not trained. We need to support people income, not the basic income, but to provide the minimum protection of life to the people. Also we need (to provide) universal healthcare to those people and education for kids of those people,” Nakao said at a press conference on the eve of



Takehiko Nakao

the 51st annual meeting of the ADB. Policymakers need to address the risk of job losses by way of providing adequate training and education and skills, he suggested. Stating that inequality is growing in countries, he advocated

for a “more progressive system of taxation” including levy of individual income tax, inheritance tax and property tax.

“I think how to look at tax system to adapt to the new reality over growing inequality is a very important political issue for countries,” Nakao said.

“We cannot just let market decide everything. We need proper redistribution system by taxes. For instance, China needs more stronger individual taxation system to cover more people,” he said.

The Asian Development Bank

is formulating its long-term ‘strategy 2030’ to deal with climate change and gender issues as well as the impact of technology on jobs. The strategy paper would be discussed by the bank’s board later this week, adopted by the end of this year. In the draft ‘strategy 2030’ document, ADB said income inequality has risen in several countries and social disparities remain.

“Close to 80 per cent of the region’s population lived in countries with widening inequality between the 1990s and 2000s,” ADB said.

NEW MESSIAH



Double Olympic gold medallist Caster Semenya of South Africa is seeking Dutee's help to fight the IAAF

Why is this sudden sympathy for Caster Semenya after the new IAAF ruling titled 'Difference of Sexual Development' was made public a few days ago?

This is not sudden. I know Caster since the 2016 Rio Games. We have been singled out because of the higher level of testosterone in our bodies in comparison to other women athletes. So it is but quite natural that we will develop a bond. We have kept in touch over phone and email for the last two years.

But then how can you help her?

Well I have already sent her the name of the lawyer who fought my case at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne. Jim Bunting of Montreal in Canada is a wonderful person indeed. When he took my case he told me, 'Madam you go back to your training, let me handle the legal side'. We will win this (case)'. I want Caster to approach him to fight against the new IAAF ruling. I know what an athlete goes through mentally when she/he has to face impediments like the one imposed by the IAAF. Tell me if Caster commits suicide today who will take the blame. We did not inject excess testosterone inside our bodies, we were born with it. However, we have been singled out as some form of 'cheaters'.

Tell me something, why this aggressive attitude?

It is not aggressive, it is fighting for your rights. The IAAF has said that if any women athlete has over five nanomol of testosterone in one litre

of blood she will be asked to compete with men. Why? Do they ask men if they have the requisite level less to compete with women? Why is that we will be singled out? Thankfully the CAS ruling has stopped the sex determination tests. It is not a fight or anything; it is just standing up to your rights.



Dutee Chand with Pullela Gopichand (L) and coach Nagapuri Ramesh. Just besides Ramesh, PV Sindhu (in green) can also be seen partially

Tell us something about the bad times you endured when you were first banned in 2014, just before the Glasgow CWG.

It was horrific to say the least. Everywhere I went, I faced sarcasm and taunts. Malls, movie halls, public places - I became the cynosure of all eyes and believe me, the looks were more of hatred and suspicion than anything else. I would have given up the sport had it not been for senior athletes like Seema Poonia, Krishna Poonia and Navdeep Kaur. When SAI did not provide me with residential facilities, they were the one who fought for me. I am forever indebted to them. They have been of great support.

Well how did the association with Pullela Gopichand come about?

In 2016, I had asked then SAI DG Jiji Thomson to provide me a place in

Hyderabad for training as my coach (Nagapuri) Ramesh Sir was stationed there. However, SAI did not have any residential facility in Hyderabad. I was at a loss about my future. It was then I got a call from Gopi Sir. He said, 'Dutee I have heard about you. I have a room for you. Your coach has talked to me. You can come and stay here and train, you need not pay any expenses'. His gesture floored me completely. Initially, I did not meet him, but when I did, he said a lot to inspire and motivate me. I cannot ever express my gratitude for Gopi Sir.

Coming back to the upcoming Asian Games, how confident are you about winning a medal? The Asian Athletics Championships at Bhubaneswar last year where you won bronze did not have any Chinese and Japanese competitors. Will not they pose a huge challenge?

Well the qualification timing for the Asian Games is 11.67 seconds, so I think, I won't have any problems qualifying. Frankly speaking, I am confident about getting a gold or silver as I am regularly clocking around the 11.30-second mark during training sessions. Prior to the Gold Coast CWG I had a hamstring injury for which I was not at my peak. However, I am now injury-free and hence I am quite confident that I will be in medal contention. In fact to tell you frankly, my aim before the Jakarta Asiad is to break the 11-second barrier in the 100 metres.

In the past you have been doing both the 100m and the 200m. What would be your priority now? Would you go for the double?

Personally now I would like to concentrate on the 100 metres. I would have liked to go for the double, but my best bet certainly would be the 100m. So I am going to put all my energy into it. I have missed out on two successive CWGs, hence my sole focus is to win an Asian Games medal.

How have you grown as a person in the last four years keeping in mind, the trials and tribulations you have been forced to go through

I would say that I am a more confident human being now. I wouldn't certainly want any athlete to face what I have gone through... but hadn't all this happened I wouldn't have been the fighter I am now. Yes, I've learnt never to give up. God will test your inner strength and you have to win that race.

Tell me something, is your height a disadvantage considering the fact that the Kazakh, Chinese and Japanese athletes are taller than you.

Well you can't complain about height as you are born with it. The disadvantage that I have, I try to make it up with quick strides. The disadvantage lies when it is a close finish... when you have to chest the tape at the finishing line. The tall athletes certainly get an advantage because of their reach. I lost out on the silver at the AAC in Bhubaneswar because the Kazakhstan athlete (Olga Safronova) was taller than me and could chest the tape before I could even though I matched her stride for stride. But then you have to live with it. Can't complain.

Your elder sister Saraswati has also been an athlete. How was she and your family supportive in your troubled times?

Without them, I wouldn't have been where I am today. When I was diagnosed with excess of male hormone, they stood by me. You know our society, the way people make up things, more so if it has to do with a female. My family withstood all that was said of me. When I used to train alone, Saraswati used to help me. My family has been my pillar of strength.

We (women athletes with excess testosterone in their bodies) have been branded as 'cheaters'. Why? We never injected the hormone... we were born with the deficiency
Dutee Chand



BORN TO RUN: Dutee Chand in action at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar during the 2017 Asian Athletics Championships

CHASING A DREAM

Ashok Mishra of Odisha is one of the top gymnastics coaches in India. Currently, working as the head coach at SAI, Kolkata, he has produced top class gymnasts like Rakesh Patra and Ashis Kumar. He has been the chief coach of the Indian team in many major tournaments including World Championships. In a free-wheeling chat with Rajendra Prasad Mohapatra the coach talks about what ails the sport and its future in India. Excerpts...

Dipa Karmakar's coach Dronacharya awardee Bisweswar Nandi speaks very highly of you. He said you should come back to Odisha if the state gymnasts want to shine.

Oh, Mr Nandi is my senior, but we are very good friends. We have worked together for many years and share a very good rapport. We both were chief coaches of the Indian senior team. Nandi is very lucky that he got a student like Dipa (Karmakar). Her success got him the recognition, he so richly deserves.

How did you turn to coaching?

I was a gymnast myself and won several state-level competitions in Odisha and also participated in a number of national championships in the period 1976-1985. After I retired, I cleared the coaches' course at NIS, Kolkata in 1987 and joined Cuttack SAI Hostel immediately. Since then I have been a coach.

Do you have any plans to return to Odisha?

No. Currently I am working as the head coach in SAI, Kolkata. I was working at SAI Cuttack from 1987-1999. However, the gymnastics centre there was hit by a cyclone and was badly affected. Since there was no effort to revive it, I was transferred to the Puri Sports Hostel the same year. I worked there for many years and produced top gymnasts like Rakesh. In 2015 I was transferred to SAI, Kolkata and since then have been there. Since SAI doesn't have any plans for the sport in Odisha, my chances of returning to the state are remote indeed.

Has there been any effort by the Odisha government to bring you back?

No, they haven't. But then they don't have any plans for the development of gymnastics in Odisha.

The performances of the Indian gymnasts were below par in the recently-concluded Commonwealth Games? Why?

Rakesh was the only medal prospect in gymnastics and also entered the finals. However, he missed out on a medal because of an imperfect landing. However, if you really assess, the



Mishra receiving the Biju Patnaik Award for best coach from Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik

standard of Indian gymnasts in comparison to the world is very poor indeed.

What are India's chances of a medal in the upcoming Asian Games?

There will be world powerhouses like Japan, China and Korea. So even if one Indian gymnast makes it to the final, it will be a great achievement. Rakesh has the potential to reach the final, but frankly speaking there is no medal hope.

What are the main reasons for the deterioration standards of gymnastics?

There are two parallel associations running the sport and players are suffering because of their feud. Ignorant people at the helm of the affairs are damaging the sport. Lack of competitive events is also a huge detriment to the development of the sport.

Why is your main protege, Rakesh failing to bag medals in big tournaments?

I think Rakesh has been a bit unlucky. He has missed medals by a whisker in many competitions. He has to adjust a bit in his final landing. Rakesh is away from me since 2015 and it may be a psychological factor affecting his performance as well.

Ashis is another top gymnast of India. But of late his performance has waned.

It may be due to the age factor. His ded-

er age and groom them with utmost sincerity over a long period of time to create another Dipa.

If you get a proposal to work in Odisha, will you accept it?

Yes definitely. But the Odisha government has to ensure that they provide top class facilities in gymnastics like athletics and hockey. There are facilities in Puri but they are not world standard. We need good infrastructure and modern apparatus.

Are there enough talents to groom in Odisha?

Yes, there are quite a few young talented gymnasts in Odisha. Especially in Puri there is a culture to promote the sport. Children there follow some basic exercise routines and they are very flexible and suitable for the sport. However, they have to be groomed from a tender age then only will they develop as the top class gymnasts.

What is your main goal?

I want my wards to win medals in international tournaments. I have talented wards like Rakesh and Papiya Das, who have done very well at the national level. I will be very happy if they do an encore in international competitions as well.



Ashok with his main protege Rakesh Patra



Brazilian footballer Neymar will travel Friday to Paris Friday complete the final stage of his recovery from foot surgery. The PSG forward is expected to attend the French Cup final against Les Herbiers next Tuesday. No time-frame has been given for his return to training

SERENA SKIPS MADRID OPEN

American tennis player Serena Williams has withdrawn from the Madrid Open tennis tournament, explaining that she more training to be ready to compete, the tournament's director announced Thursday. The 2012 and 2013 tourney winner will be replaced by her compatriot Coco Vandeweghe



SHORT TAKES

Sandhu, Kapur shine on day one of Korean meet

Seongnam (Korea): Ajeetesh Sandhu played brilliantly on a cold and windy day to emerge as the first round leader with four-under-par 67 score at the 37th GS Caltex Maekyung Open Golf Championships here Thursday. While Sandhu had six birdies against two bogeys, compatriot Shiv Kapur was tied fifth with a card of two-under 69 with five birdies, one bogey and a double bogey. Among other Indians, Gaganjeet Bhullar and S Chikkarangappa shot 72 each to be tied 33rd. The Korean trio of Heungchol Joo, LeeDong Ha and JaeBum Park stayed close to Sandhu, just a stroke behind with matching scores of 68. "The conditions were tough today, but I am happy with the way I played. Overall it was a satisfactory show keeping in mind the weather," Sandhu stated.

Shooter Rizvi tops ISSF charts in 10m air pistol

New Delhi: World record holder Shahzar Rizvi has risen to the top of the world rankings in men's 10m air pistol in the latest International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) charts released Thursday. The Indian Air Force man won a gold in the first ISSF World Cup stage in Guadalajara, Mexico, in March with a world record score of 242.3 points in the finals. He followed it up with a silver in the recently-concluded second World Cup stage in Changwon, Korea to ensure his elevation as the World's No.1 in his event. There were nine Indians in the top 10 including Rizvi, spread across six of the 15 Olympic shooting disciplines for which updated rankings were published.

F1 set to add new Miami event in 2019

Miami: Formula One (F1) announced here Wednesday it is planning to stage a street race in Miami starting in 2019 and the city commission has scheduled a vote next week on a proposal to formalise plans for a 10-year deal. The series has long sought to enlarge its presence in the United States. A Miami race would be the second in the US, joining the Grand Prix in Austin, Texas. "Miami's status as one of the world's most iconic and glamorous cities, combined with its robust tourism infrastructure, makes the city the perfect destination for Formula 1 and its fans," said Sean Bratches, F1's MD for commercial operations.

Former umpire seeks USTA compensation

New York: Former tennis umpire Anthony Nimmons who is black, has said in a lawsuit that he was forced out of the sport because he complained about racial bias, including that another colleague called him a 'monkey', allegations that the United States Tennis Association (USTA) has denied. In his suit filed last week at a federal court in Brooklyn against USTA, Nimmons, who started umpiring in 1994 stated that he was demoted and ultimately fired for speaking up about a racist environment in the world of tennis officiating. It seeks unspecified damages. The USTA 'strictly prohibits discrimination and retaliation in its workplace,' organisation spokesman Chris Widmaier said Wednesday.

Under scanner Kiprof keen to clear his name

Paris: Former Olympic 1500 metres champion Asbel Kiprof vowed Thursday to clear his name after reports allged he has tested positive for the endurance-boosting drug EPO. Earlier Kenyan newspaper 'The Standard' reported a high-profile athlete had failed a doping test, without naming Kiprof. British newspaper the 'Guardian' however, quoted Kiprof as saying: "As an athlete, I have been at the forefront of the fight against doping in Kenya, a fight I strongly believe in and support. I hope I can prove that I am a clean athlete in every way possible." The sample is believed to have come from an out-of-competition test taken late in 2017.

SA to fight IAAF rule

Johannesburg: South Africa's athletics federation said Thursday it would challenge new rules governing female athletes' testosterone levels, which can affect the nation's Olympic champion Caster Semenya. Athletics South Africa (ASA) said it would challenge the IAAF on these new regulations as we have found them to be skewed. The new policy targets women who naturally produce unusually high levels of testosterone. The ASA said that, after consultation with South Africa's sports minister, it would take the IAAF to CAS if it did not rethink the rule which can affect any athlete competing in events between 400m and one mile.

LIVERPOOL END 11-YEAR WAIT FOR A PLACE IN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL
Reds survive late Roma onslaught



NIGHT TO REMEMBER: Liverpool players celebrate after sealing the Champions League final spot, Wednesday

REUTERS

Rome, May 3: Liverpool reached the Champions League final after riding their luck to contain a fired-up AS Roma in a 2-4 defeat at the Stadio Olimpico here, Wednesday that sent them through 7-6 on aggregate. This is the first final for the Reds after 11 years, having lost to AC Milan in the summit clash of 2007. They last won the title in the 2004-05 season.

The five-time European champions, who will face holders Real Madrid in the May 26 final, suffered a nerve-shredding second half as the Italians pinned them back and scored twice late through

Radja Nainggolan.

Nainggolan's second, which came from an added on time penalty, moved Roma to within one goal of forcing extra time, but Liverpool, who clinched the last of their titles in 2005, held on to reach their eighth European Cup final.

Sadio Mane was their most potent attacking threat and put them ahead after nine minutes, but a bizarre own goal by James Milner levelled for Roma. A Georginio Wijnaldum header put Liverpool back in front but Roma, who overturned a three-goal deficit to beat Barcelona in the last round, were given renewed belief when Edin Dzeko fired past Loris Karius early

in the second half.

Nainggolan drilled in from distance after 86 minutes to make it 3-2 and smashed home from the spot but it was too late for the Italian side who lost the first leg of the semifinal 5-2 in Liverpool.

"We are deserved finalists 100 per cent," said Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp. "You don't come without luck. We needed it only one time tonight (Wednesday). The boys deserve it, the character they showed, the football they showed — it was just crazy: I forgot the score. It was 7-6 right? Unbelievable."

The Roma fans believed that an encore, like the one against Barcelona was possible. The noise

LAKSHYA GIVES LIN DAN A HUGE SCARE BEFORE LOSING
Sai Praneeth, Sameer in quarters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Auckland, May 3: Teenage shuttler Lakshya Sen reaffirmed his status as one of India's rising talents as he gave legendary Lin Dan a scare before losing in three games at the Auckland Open Badminton Championship, here Thursday.

Up against two-time Olympic champion Dan, 17-year-old Lakshya gave a fantastic account of himself by pocketing the first game but eventually lost out on experience and bowed out 21-15, 15, 21, 12-21 in a marathon second round men's singles match that lasted 67 minutes.

"Good Match against the Legend Lin Dan.....gave my best shot!!

Results (Singles only)

B Sai Praneeth bt Darren Liew **21-18, 21-7**
Sameer Verma bt Cheuk Yiu Lee **21-17, 21-19**
Lakshya Sen lost to Lin Dan **21-15, 15, 21, 12-21**
Ajay Jayaram lost to Kwang Hee Heo **21-15, 20-22, 6-21**

have realised that i still have a long way to go!!," Lakshya tweeted after the match.

Third seeded B Sai Praneeth and Sameer Verma however won their respective matches in straight games to enter the quarterfinals.

Sai Praneeth defeated Malaysia's Darren Liew 21-18, 21-7, while fifth

seed Sameer Verma got the better of Cheuk Yiu Lee of Hong Kong 21-17, 21-19 to seal their last eight berths. However, Ajay Jayram lost to Kwang Hee Heo of Korea 21-15, 20-22, 6-21 in another marathon second round match.

The men's doubles pair of Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Reddy, seeded fifth, also entered the quarterfinals with 21-9, 21-12 win over Thailand's Pakin Kuna-Anuvit and Natthapat Trinkajee. However, the women's doubles combo of Meghana Jakkampudi and S Ram Poorvisha crashed out in the second round losing 5-21, 6-21 against top seeds Della Destiara Haris and Rizki Amelia Pradipta of Indonesia.

Swimming pool to reopen soon



The newly-built swimming complex at the Kalinga Stadium is all set to welcome back the swimmers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 3: In a major relief for the aspiring swimmers of Odisha, the swimming complex inside Kalinga Stadium is all set to reopen. Sources stated here Thursday that major renovation work of the pool has been completed and it will soon be made available for the swimmers.

A huge ruckus had broken out when the state sports department had closed down the pool in September last year to increase the capacity of the hockey stadium which will host the World Cup beginning November, 2018. Protests by parents as well as the swimmers had started a huge controversy as to whether it was right to promote one sport at the expense of another. However, at that time

only, sports secretary Vishal Dev had said that the closure was temporary and a new swimming complex would be made available as soon as possible. True to its word, the sports department is all set to present a new pool to the aspirants including noted swimmer Pratyasa Ray who had then lamented that she may be forced to 'give up her career'.

The new pool complex has been constructed at a cost of rupees five crore and is an Olympic event-size pool of 50 metres with 10 lanes.

Swimming coach Surendra Kumar Nayak is happy at the way things have progressed. "The main construction is almost finished. But some minor works such as the cabin of the pool secretary, wash rooms (both boys' and girls') and a side wall of the pool are yet

to be done," said Nayak. "The finishing touch to the main swimming pool will also be done. I think, within a week or so, the pool will be ready for use," he added.

Even though, sources stated that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will inaugurate the new pool within a couple of days, Nayak was unable to confirm. "I don't know the exact date of inauguration. But what I know is the inauguration will take place within a couple of weeks." When asked about the swimmers' practice sessions, Nayak said that they are in touch and will join soon after the inauguration. "However, for the beginners, they will have to wait as we will advertise and ask them to apply before allowing them after verifying their credentials," informed Nayak.

Royals fall Short of revised target



Rishabh Pant played a match-winning knock Wednesday night for Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 3: Young Rishabh Pant cracked a blistering knock (69, 29b, 7x4, 5x6) while captain Shreyas Iyer (50, 35b, 3x4, 3x6) hit his fourth half century of the season as Delhi Daredevils (DD) kept themselves in the race for IPL play-offs with a nervy four-run win over Rajasthan Royals (RR) here Wednesday night. RR were a wee bit short of the target for a simple reason - D'Arcy Short's (44, 25b, 2x4, 4x6) knock.

A 25-ball 44 should not be criticised, but Short at one stage had scored 12 off 19 deliveries and in a chase where RR had to get 151 runs in 12 runs, that proved telling. That stalled the chase for RR for who Jos Buttler (67, 26b, 4x4, 7x5) batted brilliantly at the top of the order. With Short failing to keep the momentum going, Buttler had to take too many risks and ultimately perished, stumped off the bowling off Amit Mishra (1/12).

Brief scores
DD 196/6 in 17.1 overs (Rishabh Pant 69, Shreyas Iyer 50, Prithvi Shaw 47; Jaydev Unadkat 3/46) beat **RR 146/5 in 12 overs** (Jos Buttler 67, Trent Boult 2/26) by four runs via D/L method.

The Royals invited Daredevils to bat but were guilty of feeding the home batsmen with deliveries either too short or too full, making the job easy for the hosts after rain made it a 18-over per side affair. Rain brought a premature end to the DD innings when the hosts were 196 for six in 17.1 overs and RR were set a revised target of 151 from 12 overs under Duckworth/Lewis method. They ended at 146 for five with Trent Boult (2/26) getting rid of the dangerous Sanju Samson (three) and Ben Stokes (one). However, they should not be blamed as by then due to Short's inability to force the pace, the asking rate had gone close to 17 per over.

BRAIN TICKLERS

QUESTIONS

Dear readers,

We are back in business again as we tickle your brains with some general knowledge questions. Try out your luck with the 10 questions on offer and send in your answers to mettlemeet@orissapost.com. The answers must be accompanied with a passport size photograph and mobile number. Only those answers received by 6pm Friday will be considered valid.

- Estádio Milton de Souza Corrêa, also known as Zerão (zero), is a football stadium in Brazil. It has a unique position due to its location and this fact is reflected in its name. What?
- Which village in Manipur recently became the last one to be electrified by the government of India?
- What national standard did North Korea change and make the same as South Korea's, in show of unity? They both share the same 'line' now, in a manner of speaking.
- Bahujan Azad Party is a new political party founded by fifty people who are all alumni of which prestigious institute?
- Vivek Prabhakar and Shubhra Chadda founded this start-up in Bangalore by selling their home. Which is this brand that started out selling refrigerator magnets and then expanded into lifestyle products?
- Extinct since 1883, it was a type of Zebra, but with distinctive fading brown and white stripes. Which animal is this?
- What new inflight services will soon be available to all passengers in India after it was approved by Telecom Commission?
- Which messaging app was banned in Russia after its founder Pavel V Durov refused to provide the government with keys to read encrypted messages?
- Which two superstars are appearing in the film 102 Not Out, their first joint appearance in a film after a gap of 27 years?
- InSight is an upcoming mission by NASA to explore the interior and subsurface of which planet?

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Weird or unusual (6)
- Expressing contempt or disapproval (10)
- Treat as a celebrity. Nothing to do with the King of the Jungle (7)
- Dirty and unpleasant (6)
- A court or gathering (5)

DOWN

- The edible berry-like fruit taken as a cough cure or a type of sweet (6)
- Tawdry art or garishly sentimental (6)
- Superior in terms of ability or qualities (5)
- In the verb form, an addiction (5)
- A luxurious high up seating area in a sports arena (6)

NEXUS CONSULTING FUN WITH FUNDAS

TODAY'S MATCH
KXIP vs MI
Time: 8pm
IPL 2018
Telecast: Star Sports channels

SHORT TAKES
Kohli inks Surrey deal

New Delhi: India captain Virat Kohli officially inked his deal Thursday with top English county side Surrey in his bid to prepare for the tour of England, starting in July. The club announced the deal on their website. "Surrey County Cricket Club are delighted to announce the signing of India captain Virat Kohli for the month of June," the club said. Speaking after signing for the club, Kohli said: "It has long been an ambition of mine to play county cricket and I am thankful to Alec Stewart and Surrey for allowing me the opportunity to join them during their 2018 season. I can't wait to get to the Oval."

'Shaw's technique is similar to Tendulkar'

Mumbai: Legendary Australian batsman Mark Waugh has said that the technique of young batsman Prithvi Shaw is similar to that of cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar. "The first thing you notice is his technique, it's very similar to Sachin Tendulkar's," the elder brother of Steve, was quoted as saying in a media release Thursday. "His grip, his stance, he stays very still at the crease and plays all his shots around the wicket. He plays the ball quite late and is punchy in his stroke play and has an excellent base to play any shot from any bowler. He's just so much like Sachin Tendulkar," added Waugh.

Frome confident

London: Britain's Chris Frome said Thursday he is not even contemplating missing the Tour de France and is confident the investigation into his adverse doping test at last year's Vuelta a Espana will clear him of wrongdoing. The four-time Tour de France winner is fighting to clear his name after a test at the Vuelta revealed him to have double the permitted limit of the asthma medication 'Salbutamol' in his system. If found guilty of doping he will certainly face the prospect of a lengthy ban. "That's certainly not something that I'm coming into this race even thinking of," he told reporters. "I'm not going to entertain that idea. I will be in the Tour." AGENCIES

MSD ASSAULT POWERS CSK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, May 3: Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) spinners impressed with Sunil Narine (2/20) leading from the front before Chennai Super Kings' (CSK) inspirational captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni's (43 n o, 25b, 1x4, 4x6) late flourish guided his side to 177 for five in an IPL-XI encounter here Thursday. Narine was well supported by Piyush Chawla (2/35) as the duo kept CSK's batting in check. Young pacer Shivam Mavi also impressed with his pace and bounce but went wicketless as CSK scored bulk of their runs against veteran Australian left-arm pacer Mitchell Johnson.



SKIPPER'S KNOCK: MS Dhoni plays an attacking shot against Kolkata Knight Riders at Eden Garden in Kolkata, Thursday

Brief scores
CSK 177/5 (MS Dhoni 43 n o; Sunil Narine 2/20) lost to KKR 180/4 (Shubman Gill 57 n o) by 6 wickets

In reply, KKR rode on brilliant knocks by Shubman Gill (57 n o, 36b, 6x4, 2x6) and Dinesh Karthik (45 n o, 18b, 7x4, 1x6) to notch up a six-wicket win over CSK.

dismissing Du Plessis. Chawla delivered with his first ball cleaning up the South African skipper with a googly, and after that CSK batsmen struggled against KKR spin trio.

T20 matches and also removed Rayudu (21). Suresh Raina (31) also failed to score big before as he was dismissed by Kuldeep Yadav (1/34). It was then left to the 'captain cool' Dhoni to finish CSK's innings on a high.

Langer appointed Aussie head coach

AGENCIES

Sydney, May 3: Justin Langer vowed to fix the scandal-hit Australian cricket team's behaviour and win back respect after being named head coach in all three formats of the game, Thursday. The 47-year-old Langer cited a Test series win on Indian soil as the pinnacle and one that is required if the outfit want to lay claim to 'greatness'.

Steve Smith, David Warner and Cameron Bancroft are great kids. It was a surprise, the mistake (ball tampering) they made. If they want to meet the standards of the Australian cricket team, then of course they'd be welcomed back

JUSTIN LANGER

"The expectations are high in the Australian cricket team. We have got to make sure the behaviours are good. If we do that, I think the outcomes will look after themselves," Langer told a media conference.

"I think one of the things which is really important is that we keep looking to earn respect. To me, respect is worth more than all the gold in the world," added the former left-

handed opening partner of Mathew Hayden.

Langer made it clear that in spite of the upcoming 'big' tournaments, he was looking forward to a tour of India.

"We've got a World Cup, a T20 World Cup, a couple of Ashes (in 2019 and 2021-22) - I get nervous when I start thinking about it. There are some big tournaments coming up," said Langer.

"But ultimately, if I fast forward it, the Indian Test tour in about three or four years' time, to me that's the ultimate. We will judge ourselves on whether we're a great cricket team if we beat India in India," he added.

HI recommends Savita, Manpreet for Arjuna Award

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 3: Mid-fielder Manpreet Singh, who led India's men's hockey team at last month's Commonwealth Games, was among the three players recommended Friday for this year's Arjuna award by Hockey India (HI). Experienced mid-fielder Dharamvir Singh, and Indian women's team goalkeeper Savita have also been recommended for the Arjuna.

"Sangai Ibemhal Chanu and former men's captain Bharat Chetri have been recommended for the 'Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime Achievement'," HI said in a statement. It also said that veteran coach BS Chauhan has been nominated for the Dronacharya Award.

Speaking on the recommendations, Mohd Mushtaq Ahmad, secretary-general, HI said, "They have proven their worth with significant performances that has elevated the Indian team to new heights. They have donned the India colours with pride and have given it their all to help the team win several accolades within the country and internationally."

Manpreet captained the Indian team in the absence of PR Sreejesh who was injured last year. He was part of the Asia Cup success where India beat Malaysia to lift the title. He also led the Indian team to a bronze medal at the World League Final last year. With over 200 international caps, Manpreet was part of the team that participated at the 2012 and 2016 Olympic Games.

Savita was instrumental in India's historic Asia Cup win last year where she made a stunning save in the penalty shootout that helped the team beat higher-ranked China in the final. Her performance was critical in helping India qualify for the World Cup as continental champions after a gap of 13 years. Savita was part of the team that qualified for the Olympics after 36 years.

Odisha teams fare well

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 3: Hockey Gangpur men's and women's teams advanced into the semifinals while the Hockey Odisha men's team also made it to the last four stage of the VIIIth Junior Hockey National Championships (Division A) after beating their respective opponents Thursday in Bhopal. All the semifinal matches will be played, May 4.

Gangpur men defeated Uttar Pradesh Hockey 6-4 via the shootout after both sides ended regulation time with a 2-2 score-line. In the shootout, Sibren Lakra, Sanjay Xalxo, Sudeep Chirmako and Pratap Lakra netted for Gangpur while Vishal Kant Singh and Uttam Singh found the back of the net for UP Hockey.

Siben had put Gangpur ahead in the fifth minute before Ajay Yadav equalised for UP in the 23rd minute. Gangpur doubled their lead a minute later through Manoj Faraz made it 2-2 to take the game to shootout.

In the other men's game, Hockey Odisha defeated Madhya Pradesh Hockey Academy 4-2 via shootout after match ended 1-1 in regulation

Semifinal line-ups

- (Men's) Hockey Gangpur vs Hockey Haryana, Hockey Odisha vs Hockey Punjab, (Women's) Hockey Gangpur vs Hockey Jharkhand

time. Sudhir Kujur (39th) gave Odisha the lead while Mohd Talib (64th) restored parity for MP. In the tie-breaker, Ashwin Kujur, Sudhir and Krishna Tirkey scored for Odisha while Harshdeep Kapoor scored the lone goal for MP. In the women's category, Gangpur beat Hockey Odisha 5-3. Tie-breaker was implemented after both teams finished 2-2 in regulation period. Elima Minz and Ashmita Barla got the goals for Hockey Odisha in regulation time while Namrata Jasmin Bara and Janhavi Pradhan scored for Gangpur. In the ensuing tie-breaker, Rojita Kujur, Janhavi Pradhan and skipper Jivan Kishori Toppo scored for Gangpur. The lone goal for Odisha was scored by Ajmina Kujur.



Hockey Gangpur men's team players and officials pose for a photograph after their win at Bhopal, Thursday

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