



## I DON'T COMPETE: DISHA

Disha, whose *Baaghi 2* has turned out to be a box office winner, says she doesn't compete with others

GLITTERATI P10



## TOILET COVERAGE DISMAL IN STATE

The Swachh Bharat Mission seems to be floundering in Odisha even after four years of its launch

DOWNTOWN P3



## CHINA 'VERY SPOILED'

China is "very spoiled" by trade wins over America, US President Donald Trump says

INTERNATIONAL P12

### SHORT TAKES

#### Three LeT ultras gunned down in J&K

**Srinagar:** Jammu and Kashmir Police and CRPF personnel foiled a terror strike Saturday morning killing three Lashker-e-Taiba militants on the outskirts of the city. A civilian was also killed in the incident. Four securitymen were injured in the gunfight but all of them are stated to be stable. The militants, police said, were planning to strike ahead of May 7, when government offices were to reopen in Srinagar, the state's winter capital. The operation was launched in the wee hours at Chattabal, on the outskirts of the city, when SOG personnel and Quick Action Team of CRPF cordoned off a building following an input that three ultras were holed up inside. P11

#### 15-year-old 'raped' & 'murdered' in Tihidi

**Tihidi (Bhadrak):** A minor was suspected to have been raped before being murdered at Dapa under Tihidi police limits in Bhadrak district. The body of the victim was found hanging from a tree in a desolate place Saturday. A complaint was lodged by the victim's family with the police station alleging that the 15-year-old girl was kidnapped from her house Friday evening, raped and murdered. Tihidi IIC Subhansu Sekhar Mishra and ASI Bibhuti Bhusan Swain visited the spot as part of the investigation and recovered the body. It was sent for post-mortem.

#### BURNING TRAIN



Smoke billows out of the engine of Udaipur City Express after it caught fire in Mahoba district Saturday. P11 PHOTO

#### Bankers threaten stir as wage revision talks fail

**Chennai:** Wage revision talks between Indian Banks' Association and the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) failed Saturday in Mumbai as the offer by the former was meagre. A leader of the bank union said the unions may resort to agitation. The UFBU is the umbrella body of bank unions in the country. In a statement issued here, DT Franco, general secretary, All India Bank Officers' Confederation (AIBOC) said: "The initial offer of the Indian Banks Association was meagre which was rejected by the constituents of the UFBU. "Bank employees and officers are paid very low compared with the Government employees," he said. The bank employees' wages have to be revised from November 1, 2017.

#### J&K lensman dies in Dy CM's cavalcade mishap

**Jammu:** A cameraman was killed and three other persons were injured Saturday when a vehicle of Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister's cavalcade met with an accident here. Police said the vehicle was part of Kavinder Gupta's cavalcade and it went out of the driver's control and plunged into a canal in Gangyal area of Jammu district. Cameraman Suram Singh died in the accident while three others were injured. Two of the injured have been shifted to the Medical College, while the third person was undergoing treatment at the Gandhi Nagar hospital, police said.

WEATHER	
	BHUB CTK
TEMP	MAX 36.9°C 36.4°C
	MIN 27.0°C 25.6°C
Humidity	92% 79%
Rainfall	Nil Nil
	Forecast Partially cloudy sky

## Cracks spotted in chariots of Puri deities



Investigating team checking the defects in the chariot wheel at Rathayard, Puri

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Puri, May 5:** The chariot construction engineering committee of Srimandir Saturday found defects in the wheels of *Devadalan* and *Taladhujja* chariots of Devi Subhadra and Lord Balabhadra respectively.

The members, during inspection, found cracks in the axle of wheel of *Devadalan* chariot and some spokes of *Taladhujja*. Later, the broken axle was replaced. Similarly, repair of a spoke of the *Taladhujja* began and the weak spoke is expected to be replaced soon.

Similarly, a defect was spotted in the wood used for construction of the spokes of *Nandighosh*, the chariot of Jagannath. Later, a new spoke was carpented with healthy wood, said the sources. One of the spokes of *Nandighosh* chariot was found to be weak and it was replaced by a new one.

Sources said, the team comprising chief administrator (ritual) Pradip Kumar Das, Srimandir executive engineer Ashish Kumar Subudhi, caretaker Sudarshan Mekap, engineer Jagannath Mishra, Srimandir managing committee members Ramchandra Das Mohapatra and Bhagaban Mohapatra paid a visit to the Rath Yard and inspected the works.

Notably, due to defect in wood the axle of Devi Subhadra's chariot got broken three days before the Rath Yatra last year. However, the axle was replaced by the Maharana a day before the Yatra.

The temple administration has emphasised inspection during the car construction this year and formed an 11-member engineering panel to oversee the work. However, it was reported that the Maharana servitors are unhappy over the stand taken by the administration as it did not consider their demand for 20 per cent hike in their payment. Meanwhile, Three chief Maharana servitors have quit the construction committee.

### BOMIKHAL FLYOVER MISHAP

## Panda's bail plea rejected by court

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 5:** The Sub Divisional Judicial Magistrate, Bhubaneswar, Saturday rejected the bail petition filed by Pratap Keshari Panda, managing director of Panda Infra Projects Private limited, in connection with the collapse of an iron scaffolding under the Bomikhal overbridge which left one labourer dead and another injured late Thursday evening.

Following the court ruling, accused Panda was sent to a 14-day judicial custody. The Laxmisagar police Friday evening sent Panda to the court after registering a case (CS No.114/18) under the sections 304 (punishment for culpable homicide), 337, 338 and 34 of IPC.



Pratap Keshari Panda

While rejecting his bail plea, the court advised Panda to move the sessions court for his bail as the case under section 304 of IPC is beyond the court's purview. The bail plea of Panda was heard by the court Saturday afternoon. Panda is expected to move the sessions court Monday, said reliable sources.

Notably, Panda was on bail in an earlier mishap when a slab of the under construction bridge at Bomikhal had caved in killing a businessman and

injuring several others including the deceased's five-year-old daughter September 10, 2017.

The mishap has created statewide uproar and charges of neglect on the part of Panda. The police arrested Panda against whom a non-bailable warrant was issued by a lower court. Later, he moved the High Court after the lower court rejected the bail plea. The High Court directed the lower court to grant him bail under certain conditions October 16, 2017.

Subsequently, the state government also blacklisted Panda Infra Projects Private limited. Ironically, the contractor continued the bridge work Friday evening. Some workers were seen engaged in the construction without safety precaution and in the absence of field level officials. Questions are being raised about the circumstances under which the labourers have been asked to work in risky conditions. However, the work stopped in the day time.

Meanwhile, Congress and BJP slammed the government for favouring a blacklisted contractor. BJD leader Damodar Rout was critical in his comments on the issue.

Works Minister Prafulla Mallik said the contractor was already blacklisted and arrested. A probe has been ordered to find out the fault, he added. A high-level technical team will investigate the issue in a day or two, sources said.

PCC president Niranjan Patnaik said, "It is unfortunate that the the government was favouring a blacklisted contractor, who had failed to do his work properly."

More on P4

### MASTER IN CONTEMPLATION



A lion perched on an uprooted tree in Rajasthan

## 1716 die from snakebite in three years

Snake population is facing a threat to its survival not only in India but across the world

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 5:** Deaths occurring due to snakebites have emerged as a major disaster in Odisha as 1716 persons have reportedly died from snakebites between 2014-15 and 2017-18.

Odisha Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Bishnupada Sethi Saturday revealed the snakebite figures to reporters here even as reptile population has been dwindling across the world.

Snakebite has been declared as a "state specific disaster" by the state government beginning April 1, 2015. The district collectors have been reporting deaths from snakebite to the SRC. As many as 1716 such cases have been reported from 282 blocks of 30 districts till 2017-18, Sethi said.

As many as 446 people had died in 2015-16, 574 in 2016-17 and

### HISS-STORY

At least **1716** persons were killed due to snakebite between **2014-15** and **2017-18**

The government has been providing adequate number of anti-snake venom to government hospitals through Odisha State Medical Corporation

Most of the snakebite deaths have occurred between **May & October**. About **85 per cent** of deaths have occurred in rural areas due to lack of healthcare in the past **three years**

**446** PEOPLE WERE KILLED IN 2015-16

**DEATHS DUE TO SNAKEBITE TOUCH 574** IN 2016-17

**696** DIE IN 2017 IN VILLAGES

696 in 2017-18, he said.

The number of deaths reported due to various disasters in Odisha during the last three years (from 2015-16 to 2017-18) was 4689. Out of this, number of deaths due to snakebite is highest, which amounts to 37 per cent of total disaster deaths, the SRC stated.

Balasure district has recorded the highest number of deaths (164) followed by 147 in Ganjam and 145 each in Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj districts. Besides, 114 deaths have occurred in Bhadrak district, he said, adding, these five districts have recorded more than 100 deaths from snakebite in the last three years.

Sources said, a majority of farmers, labourers and poor people in rural areas are the victims. About 97 per cent of the victims are from rural areas and 77 per cent of the deaths occurred due to lack of proper healthcare facilities.

According to the SRC report, 33 deaths have occurred in Basta block of Balasure followed by 28 in Chandbali block (Bhadrak) and 26 in Gondia (Dhenkanal). There are 10 to 19 deaths from snakebite in 49 blocks, whereas 226 blocks have reported less than 10 deaths during the period. There are no reports on deaths due to snakebite in the remaining 32 blocks.

Most of the snakebite deaths have occurred between May and October. Out of 1716 snakebite deaths, 1464 (85 per cent) have occurred during the six-month period.

Continued on P5

### QUICK READS

#### Nasa blasts off Mars lander, InSight



**Vandenberg Air Force base:** Nasa Saturday blasted off its latest Mars lander, InSight (Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport), designed to perch on the surface and listen to 'Marsquakes' ahead of human missions to explore the Red Planet. The spacecraft was launched atop Atlas V rocket at 4:05am (1105 GMT) from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, marking Nasa's first interplanetary launch from the US coast. The \$993 million project aims to expand human knowledge of interior conditions on Mars, inform efforts to send human explorers there, and reveal how rocky planets like the Earth formed billions of years ago, said Nasa chief scientist Jim Green. The lander should settle on the Red Planet November 26.

#### Film awards to be sent to 'protesting' winners

**New Delhi:** The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is contemplating to send citations, medals and cheques by post to over 50 absentee awardees at the 65th National Film Awards this year. The National Film Awards were presented May 3 in New Delhi, but many recipients decided to "boycott" the ceremony over the President handing over the honour to only a select set of winners. "The ministry is contemplating to send the National Film Awards to those who missed the function, through post. A decision regarding it will be taken soon," ministry sources said. They said it was not a new practice to send the awards via post to those who missed the event. In a departure from tradition, the function, held at Vigyan Bhavan, was divided into two phases. The first set of awards was conferred by Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Smriti Irani and Minister of State Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore. The second lot included posthumous recognitions for Vinod Khanna and Sridevi (Dadasaheb Phalke and Best Actress, respectively).

#### Death-themed cafe in Bangkok offers sops



**Bangkok:** A death-themed cafe here offers its customers a unique experience of being able to contemplate their lives while lying down in a coffin, and a discount on their coffee. "Our goal is to convey Buddha philosophy that having an awareness of death decreases greed and anger," Veeranut Rojanaprapa, the creative brain behind Kid Mai Death Awareness Cafe, told reporters Saturday. The entrepreneur blames capitalism for distracting people in Thailand from Buddhist teachings. After the cafe-goer settles in the box, a staff member helps the customer to close the top to prevent the entry of the last glimmer of light. The little taste of death he offers customers who lay down in the coffin sees them come out as better human beings with inner calm and less greed and anger.

### BUTTERSCOTCH

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is  
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\*MRP (incl. of all taxes). Conditions Apply.



## THALASSAEMIA DAY

Thalassaemia Care Odisha celebrates World Thalassaemia Day at Red Cross Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Saturday.

## BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Dignitaries at the birth anniversary celebrations of revolutionary and tribal leader Dharanidhara Naik at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Saturday.



## FORTUNE FORECAST

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### ARIES



There are chances that there will be some disappointing moments today, foretells Ganesha. Your own recklessness may well be the cause. Ganesha says it's good to take inspiration from seniors once in a while.

### TAURUS



Love will come knocking at your door today, predicts Ganesha. Your wits are likely to remain very lively in the afternoon. A romantic mood will ignite your evening, as you please yourself by showering attention on near and dear ones, says Ganesha.

### GEMINI



God helps those who help themselves. Maybe. But He definitely helps those who help others. Support your colleagues and they will be grateful to you. This way, even your bosses will notice your talents, if they haven't already. They will shower praise on you, and favours too.

### CANCER



There is a strong possibility that you will reach an important milestone in your life today, says Ganesha. Your emotional health is important for your physical well-being. How about spending some good time with like-minded people who can light up your mood?

### LEO



Building Rome was not an easy task; neither were the Pyramids built just like that. It takes sheer grit and determination, and lots of hard work, to make monumental changes. You may have to do the same, and work awfully hard to establish yourself today, says Ganesha. Don't be disappointed if you do not get the results that you desire straight away.

### VIRGO



Serendipity will pit you against the friendly ghosts of the past. In the afternoon, you'll charm your way through good marriage prospects. But make careful decisions when it comes to furthering your educational qualifications, says Ganesha.

### LIBRA



Ganesha predicts that today you will receive that much-awaited good news from abroad. At the workplace, you will remain completely focused. You may devise and come up with some innovative method to speed up work, much to your relief.

### SCORPIO



It is quite likely that you will have an outstanding field day today, predicts Ganesha. At the workplace, you will possibly feel that you are stuck in the rut doing regular activities day after day. In relationship matters, evening will be full of surprises and excitement for you, expects Ganesha.

### SAGITTARIUS



Work while you work and play while you play, says Ganesha. On the professional front, you will outclass your rivals with sheer brilliance, leaving them flabbergasted and intimidated. On the personal front, you may spend quality time with loved ones or spend your evening being chased by the spotlight of a party.

### CAPRICORN



For once, you will think straight, planning for the future and saving every bit of your earning for a comfortable, if not luxurious, life, says Ganesha. To your loved ones, you will come across as relenting and forgiving of the mistakes committed in the past.

### AQUARIUS



Today, you will speak and everyone else will listen! Your eloquence will bring you recognition. But you must take it a step further. You will also manage to impress someone, and Ganesha sees the beginning of a new relationship. But don't forget to listen sometimes.

### PISCES



While no major troubles ought to crop up to disturb your peace of mind, you will still find yourself dealing with a few minor irritants at the workplace today. Delay the start of long-term projects for a more opportune time.

# COLOURS OF CHARCOAL ON CANVAS

Charcoal art is a huge trendsetter these days and Odisha has its own share of great artists. Meet Subhamaya Biswal, a charcoal artist who is attracting attention, thanks to the innovative technique of his work. Orissa POST interacts with the young artist on charcoal art and its prospects. Excerpts:

CHAITALI SHOME, OP

■ **How would you describe your style?**  
■ Modern surrealism incorporated with traditional style best describes my work. I have worked in every medium right from charcoal and acrylic to watercolour.



■ **What's your artistic stimulus?**  
■ Divinity, faith and traditional art turn me on. Whatever drives my soul I try to portray it through my art.

■ **Why do so many of your works reflect the influence of surroundings?**  
■ As an artist I do look out for inspiration and surroundings often drive me to reproduce them through my work. My charcoal art for the animal series in which I have a calf and its mother received rave reviews both from critics and art lovers.

■ **What do you hope to accomplish with your work?**  
■ I want to inspire more upcoming artists who are pursuing charcoal art in Odisha. Our state has so many great artists who are still living in the shadows. I want to set up an NGO for them which will help their art get more recognition.

■ **You have completed nearly 40 camps and 10 exhibitions in**

the last two years. Which one of them has been the most memorable and why?

■ Both exhibitions and camps were great, but personally the camp for artists in Lucknow inspired me a lot where I got to meet many young talents who are in schools. Trust me their work has really challenged me to do more good work.

■ **What is your message for upcoming artists?**  
■ Don't hold back your art and try to be more creative. Always stretch your limits as art is limitless.



## FEATHERS IN HIS CAP

- TULI RE SRI JAGANNATH" (COLORS ODIA) AWARD 2016.
- LALIT KALA AKADEMI AWARD-2018
- STATE LEVEL OSACS PAINTING AWARD.
- TATA STEEL NATIONAL ART CAMP AND AWARD
- INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION IN DHAULI ART FESTIVAL 2018.

## All praise for Subhamaya

Subhamaya Biswal is one of my best students. He grasps things quickly like watercolour painting. Charcoal is his forte while he is versatile in acrylic and oil colours too. As an artist and teacher I do appreciate his innovative style. Recently, he has completed his one man solo painting show in Lucknow.

MANAS RANJAN JENA | SECRETARY, ODISHA LALIT KALA AKADEMI

Subhamaya is an in-born artist. He has made great progress in his creative life. His experimental style is rooted in Odishan art and culture. May Lord Jagannath bless him.

RAGHUNATH MOHAPATRA | PRESIDENT, ODISHA LALIT KALA AKADEMI

Subhamaya is an emerging artist. He is a poet too in his paintings. I find his literary expressions and experiments with colours and concepts fascinating. Until now he has chosen charcoal and acrylic. It is too difficult to control charcoal on canvas. But through dedicated practice he is refining and redefining its style.

BIKRAM KESHARI ROUTRAY | EMINENT ARTIST

## Flavours of Mongolia tickle city gastronomes

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar:** A unique Mongolian food festival started in Swosti Premium hotel in the city Saturday. The food fest witnessed a bevy of food lovers who savoured the delicacies with pleasure.

Interacting with **Orissa POST**, executive chef of the hotel, Biswanath Dey said: "This holiday season is apt for food fests, so we selected Mongolian cuisine as it has influences of Mughal, Russian and Chinese cuisines. We have followed the Mongolian pattern of cooking spices and sauces to authenticate all the dishes. One can savour Mangolian lamb, kung pao prawns, dim sums with shrimp and chicken stuffing, fish with cashew nuts in light brown sauce and smoked prawns. We also have a wide spread of rice and noodles."

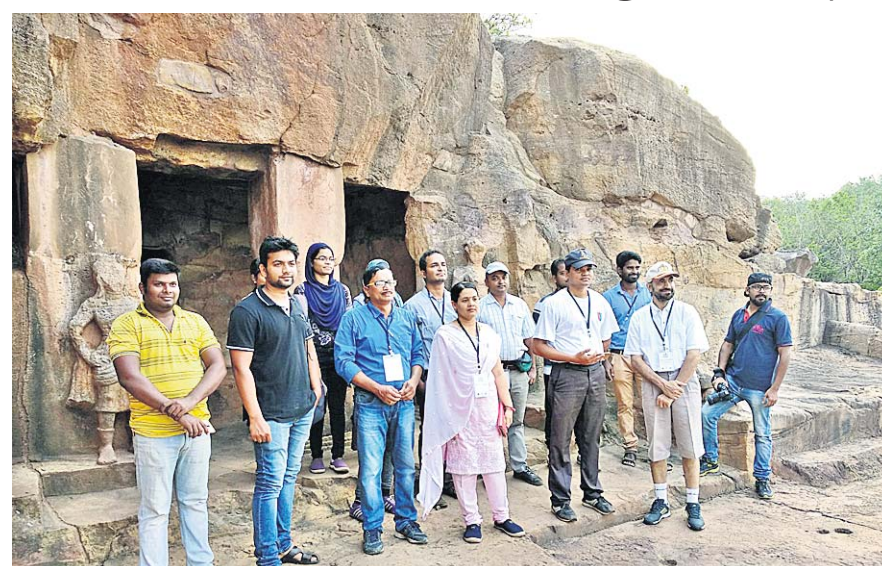
Saswati Soumya Pradhan, a food lover, said: "Being a food lover I am looking forward to try out delicious Mangolian treats and I hope they please my Indian taste buds."

Seconding her Shradhanjali Majhi, a resident of Nayapalli, said: "Authentic dim sums are my weakness and here I am having a great time digging into dim sums stuffed with fresh shrimps."

The 15-day fest is open from 12 pm to 3 in the afternoon and from 7 to 11 in the evening.



## Walk down heritage alley



Participants at the heritage walk in Udaygiri Saturday

OP PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 5:** NCC officials from the Odisha NCC Directorate, plastic engineering experts from the Central Institute of Plastic Engineering and Technology (CIPET) and students were part of the 22nd Monks, Caves and Kings. The walkers enjoyed their time at the beautiful Udayagiri-Khandagiri Jain heritage monuments.

Col Kirpal Singh, director at the NCC Directorate, joined the walk Saturday and was overwhelmed by the beautiful monuments with pre-historic caves, man-made caves, stone carvings and images reflecting the sociological

stories of 2nd and 1st centuries BC.

"We are such a beautiful nation and every region has got something beautiful - heritage monuments, beaches, forests, wildlife and nature. The beautiful site and the walk at Udayagiri, Khandagiri gave us knowledge about the history, archaeology and social aspects of that time and we are really happy to avail the opportunity," said Singh.

Stuti Hota, an engineering student at the College of Engineering and Technology (CET) had come with her elder brother Dibyesh Kumar Hota. She said: "The experience was wonderful and I will tell my friends to join the

walk in future." The brother-sister duo originally belongs to Sambalpur.

Another heritage enthusiast G Gnana Charan said: "I am originally from Hyderabad, but working at CIPET, Mancheswar. Today's experience was amazing. Earlier I had visited the Old Town tour and thought that I should try this at Khandagiri-Udayagiri."

Sushanta Kumar Pradhan, an engineer with the Rural Works department, had come from Berhampur to join the walk with his wife Kuntala Pradhan. Earlier, Pradhan had visited the Old Town heritage walk with his daughter.

# HEALTHCARE HUB TO PLUG SKILLS GAP IN STATE

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar:** The School of Vocational Education of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) will soon open a healthcare hub in the state capital in association with Acru Knowledge Centre (AKC) to provide skills training to youngsters to meet the huge paucity of trained professionals in the sector.

In the first-of-its-kind initiative in the state, the institute will provide Bachelor's degree in vocational education (BVoC), diploma programmes in patient care management, medical lab technology, X-ray and ultra sound assistance. The admission to



Dignitaries at the institute's inaugural ceremony Saturday

OP PHOTO

these courses will start from July next.

"The need for training in the healthcare sector has risen because of the lack of skilled manpower. Given the rate at which the health sector is growing in the country, the shortfall will be enormous in the next decade if the issue is not addressed immediately," informed Manaswini Swain, the hub's director.

The Indian healthcare industry has been growing at 12 per cent per annum over the last four years.

There have been marked change in terms of rise in life expectancy, improved income lev-

els, health insurance, and lifestyle related diseases and improved technology.

"The hub would open new vistas for the local youth in the health care sector in the coming years with guaranteed employment," Swain added. Besides, the institute would tie up with major hospitals in the state for knowledge acquisition and help in arranging bank loans.

Professor of the institute, Medha Somaia said: "Hospitals and nursing homes are ₹60,000 crore per annum industry in the country. In the next 10 years, the country would require 1.5 million doctors in addition to the present 7.5 lakh. Similarly, the

**The need for training in the healthcare sector has risen because of the lack of skilled manpower. Given the rate at which the health sector is growing in the country, the shortfall will be enormous in the next decade if the issue is not addressed immediately**

MANASWINI SWAIN | THE HUB'S DIRECTOR

strength of trained nurses would go up from the existing 3.7 million to 11 million. Supply of paramedics and technicians will grow four-fold."

## EVENTS THIS WEEK

### 7 MAY 2018 | MONDAY

**Event:** Arpana Theatre Festival  
**Organiser:** Arpana Theatre Group  
**Time:** 7:00 PM  
**Venue:** Bhanja Kala Mandap

The play *Ardhanari* (Rights of Transgender), written-directed by Sushant Kumar Satapathy, will be staged at the event. Music for the play has been given by Sakti Prasad Mishra.

**Event:** A spiritual discourse session  
**Organiser:** Chinnmaya Mission, Bhubaneswar  
**Time:** 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM  
**Venue:** Rabindra Mandap

The spiritual leader will be delivering speech on Ancient Wisdom and Modern Life to the gathering. The event will continue till May 8.

**Event:** Foundation Laying Ceremony  
**Organiser:** Centenary Boys' Higher Secondary Complex, Khandagiri  
**Time:** 7:30 AM  
**Venue:** School premises

### 8 MAY 2018 | TUESDAY

**Event:** Arpana Theatre Festival  
**Organiser:** Arpana Theatre Group  
**Time:** 7:00 PM  
**Venue:** Bhanja Kala Mandap

The play *Apekhyia* (Waiting is painful) has been dramatized and directed by Dumsanta Kumar Behera. Original story has been written by Kanheilal Das.

**Event:** Workshop on 'Odissi Music'  
**Organiser:** Guru Kelu Charan Mohapatra Odissi Research Centre (GKCMORC)  
**Time:** 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM  
**Venue:** GKCMORC

Four-day long workshop will emphasise on the basic idea to develop the Raga and its presentation and the rendering style of Bhabanga and Natyanga. The workshop will conclude May 11.

### 9 MAY 2018 | WEDNESDAY

**Event:** Golden Melody  
**Organiser:** Strings  
**Time:** 6:30 PM  
**Venue:** Soochana Bhawan

Rising Star India fame Shasank Sekhar will be felicitated on the occasion. Shasank along with Young singers will perform songs at the event.

### 10 MAY 2018 | THURSDAY

**Event:** Arpana Theatre Festival  
**Organiser:** Arpana Theatre Group  
**Time:** 7:30 PM  
**Venue:** Bhanja Kala Mandap

The play *Mahaveer* will be staged at the event. The play is an adoption of William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. Arubaba Mohanta has written the story while Gobinda Jena has give direction.

### 11 MAY 2018 | FRIDAY

**Event:** Play performance (Nukkad Club - The Reality Show)  
**Organiser:** Swetapadma  
**Time:** 6:30 PM  
**Venue:** Rabindra Mandap

Artistes from the Cultural organisation Swetapadma will stage the play *Nukkad Club-The Reality Show*. The play has been written and directed by Pradeep Biswal.

**Event:** Geomintech Conference  
**Organiser:** The Geomintech  
**Time:** 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM  
**Venue:** Hotel Swosti Premium

The conference will focus on New Equipment, New Technology, Management and Safety in Mining and Mineral based industries. The conference will conclude May 12.

### 12 MAY 2018 | SATURDAY

**Event:** Badya Silpee Samaroha  
**Organiser:** Soor Tarang  
**Time:** 6:00 PM  
**Venue:** Soochana Bhawan

The event titled *Madhura Murchhana* will witness many numbers of budding and established singers from the state.

### 13 MAY 2018 | SUNDAY

**Event:** Musical extravaganza  
**Organiser:** Delight Entertain  
**Time:** 6:00 PM  
**Venue:** Ekamra Haat

City-based singers will render popular Hindi numbers at the event. Also, School children will perform dance at the venue.

**Event:** Painting Exhibition  
**Organiser:** Gana Sanskritika Mancha  
**Time:** 10:30 AM  
**Venue:** Soochana Bhawan

Three-day long event will conclude May 15.

The Swachh Bharat Mission seems to be floundering in Odisha even after four years of its launch, with the state reportedly having the worst record of toilet coverage in rural areas compared to other states in the country. As per official records, Odisha which had a mere 11.75 per cent toilet coverage before the launch of the mission in 2014 has now 54 per cent Individual Household Latrine (IHL) coverage. States like Bihar and Jharkhand which had worse records than Odisha a few years ago have surpassed the state with their improved sanitation coverage.

As per statistics furnished by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation – the nodal ministry handling the Swachh Bharat Mission – only two districts in Odisha have Open Defecation Free (ODF) status while most other districts are reeling under shortage of toilets.

The latest data claims that 19 out of the 30 districts in the state have sanitation coverage between 30 and 60 per cent. The ministry, on the other hand, is painstakingly planning to make Odisha ODF by the end of 2018.

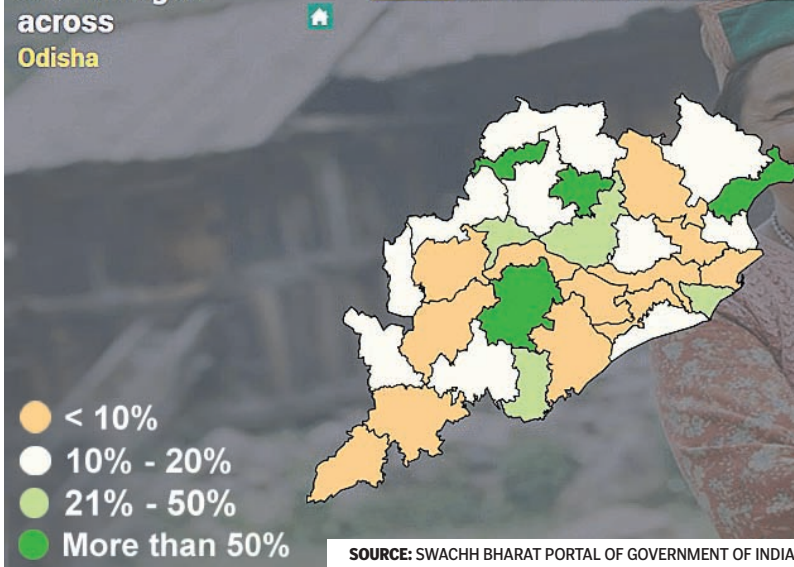
The ministry claims that the worst performers in terms of implementation of the scheme at the ground level included districts like Kalahandi, Bolangir, Cuttack, Mayurbhanj and Jajpur which have shown the least progress in the flagship programme of the NDA government at the Centre. People involved in the project claim several reasons for the failure of the mission in many areas. As per the officials involved, executive engineers in districts take care of the toilet construction work. The programme guidelines but not only for construction of toilets but also for works like intensive extension to make sure people are motivated to use

## TOILET COVERAGE DISMAL IN STATE

### SHODDY RECORD

- Bihar and Jharkhand, which had worse records than Odisha a few years ago, have surpassed the state with their improved sanitation coverage
- Worst performers in terms of implementation of Swachh Bharat in state include districts like Kalahandi, Bolangir, Cuttack, Mayurbhanj and Jajpur
- In many districts there is lack of coordination between officials due to involvement of multiple agencies or lack of a vision plan

### ODF Villages across Odisha



the constructed toilets. Experts claim that in many districts there is lack of coordination between the officials due to the involvement of multiple agencies or lack of a vision plan at the district level.

“Executive engineers in districts are not much concerned about motivating people; rather they focus more on construction of toilets. We need more focus on social engineering and devise a plan to have a single line mechanism system without involvement of multiple levels for Swachh Bharat like we have in programmes like Livelihood Mission,” an official said on condition of anonymity.

It is worth noting that a free hand has been given to states to devise programmes for implementation of the mission as per their convenience as well as to monitor projects and scrutinise ODF claims, besides taking care of ODF plus activities in ODF declared areas.

### SUCCESS STORY

## Lulang leads by example

THANKS TO FINES AND STRICT VIGILANCE, VILLAGE TURNS INTO A ROLE MODEL

Before the launch of Swachh Bharat Mission most villagers in Lulang panchayat in Deogarh district had no option but to venture into the nearby fields to relieve themselves. Reason: Abysmal number of toilets in their village. Today that same village is a role model.

The panchayat in Reamal block of the district not only has 100 per cent coverage of individual toilets but it also ensures that not a single person goes out for open defecation. Strict self vigilance, fines on violators, observance of all norms as per SBM guidelines are some of the reasons that make the sanitation coverage of villages in the panchayat a marked success.

“There is not a single household which does not have a toilet of its own. Not only have we all have toilets but we also have decorated and painted the toilets. I can confidently claim that not a single person from the village ventures out for defecation. We have abided

**Lulang panchayat in Reamal block not only has 100 per cent coverage of individual toilets but it also ensures that not a single person goes out for open defecation**

by all the norms of an ODF village,” said Santosh Kumar Rout, former panchayat sarpanch and a resident of Kirtanpalli village.

Kirtanpalli and other nearby villages of the panchayat like Chingudijharan and Similihata also show same results where 100 per cent coverage has resulted in 100 per cent usage due to several reasons, due mainly to the active participation of villagers and exemplary monitoring of the scheme at the ground level.

“We had passed a village resolution to

fine defaulters ₹500 and reward the whistleblower ₹250 per case. We also planned to name and shame the defaulters. We have our monitoring committee (Swachhata committee) at the village level to carry out scrutiny,” said Jadumani Sahoo, member of the Swachhata committee which should be active in every village for monitoring of ODF status as per norms.

The results are visibly clear: “There has been a decline in the number of communicable diseases like diarrhoea after the village became ODF as people shunned defecating in the open,” said Sanjalata Behera, ASHA worker from the village.

People involved in the project claim that the whole exercise was possible due to collaborated work. “In the panchayat, and even in the district, there were ample ‘swachhagrahis’ (ground level volunteers), monitoring committees and good coordination between all lines of officials from the district to the village level which made this a success,” said Kumuda Satpathy, SBM consultant in the district.



Villagers of Similihata have cleaned up and decorated a field earlier used for open defecation.

### Highest ODF Coverage

1	Debagarh	100.00
2	Jharsuguda	100.00
3	Baleswar	64.11
4	Kandhamal	57.60
5	Gajapati	38.29

## Follow-up failure hurdle in clean drive

Although the government claims that two districts of Odisha have been declared Open Defecation Free (ODF), there had hardly been any progress in most villages in Jharsuguda and Deogarh relating to post-ODF activities called ‘ODF Plus activities’.

The Swachh Bharat Mission guidelines as sent to the state governments for implementation said after the villages are made ODF, ODF Plus activities should be undertaken to make sure sanitation is ensured in every possible way.

The norms said: “Water, cleanliness of water sources and public water bodies, decentralised solid and liquid waste management, 3Rs (Reduce, Recycle and Reuse), maintenance of school and Anganwadi toilets, hand-washing and personal hygiene, hand-washing in school before mid-day meal, awareness and training on pit emptying and fecal sludge management should be taken up.”

However, visits to the villages proved most of these activities were abysmal even as awareness campaigns have been carried out at the village level in some pockets of the ODF districts. A number of villages still reel under water supply shortage and solid and waste management at the village level is still a utopian thought.

Visits to some of the ODF villages showed that there is no mechanism to treat waste and the villagers are left with no option but to burn the garbage they collect from the villages as neither a processing system nor a system to collect garbage from the village is in place thereby adding fuel to fire.

“We collect the garbage from our village regularly. Women Self Help Groups also

come forward to clean the villages every week. But we have no option but to burn the garbage on the fields to clear the trash. There is no mechanism to treat or collect it at our level,” said Pradeep Majhi, a villager from Chingudijharan in Reamal block of Deogarh district.

Majhi claimed that his village had not been receiving piped water after one of the main pipes got damaged, which affects the villagers’ toilet usage to some extent.

Villagers of Similghatta, one of the cleanest villages in Deogarh’s Lulang panchayat, also said they collect garbage from dustbins regularly and burn it.

### SBM aid yet to reach

Many villagers of Chingudijharan in Lulang panchayat rued that they had not received ₹12,000 Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) assistance for constructing toilets



Garbage being burnt outside a village in Reamal block of Deogarh district.

despite the campaign to shun open defecation. They said their names were not there in the baseline survey of 2014 and it is likely that they would be deprived of government aid.

## HYGIENE HIATUS

ALTHOUGH PRAISEWORTHY INITIATIVES AND INNOVATIVE IDEAS AT THE MICRO LEVEL HAVE GIVEN A FILLIP TO THE CENTRE’S OPEN DEFECTION FREE DRIVE IN THE STATE, THERE ARE STILL GAPING HOLES THAT NEED TO BE PLUGGED. THAT ODISHA IS LAGGING BEHIND BOTH BIHAR AND JHARKHAND IN IMPLEMENTING THE SCHEME SHOWS THAT A LOT OF TERRAIN NEEDS TO BE COVERED TO ACHIEVE ODF OBJECTIVES. MANISH KUMAR OF ORISSA POST SURVEYS THE REALITIES ON THE GROUND IN DEOGARH AND JHARSUGUDA

## Villagers abhor ‘attached’ toilets

Several villages in Odisha, especially those in Deogarh and Jharsuguda, the two districts that have been declared 100 per cent Open Defecation Free (ODF), have one thing in common: Segregation of toilets from the main houses.

During visits to rural areas, villagers in most parts of the state were found to have a common habit of segregating the toilet from their main house complex. Many believe that building a toilet within a house is not “good.”

“Most residents of my village have made toilets at a particular distance from the house. We do not like to have toilets attached to our house. We find it not acceptable socially. Such things should be kept at a distance. How can we have both toilets and kitchens in the same house,” said Kailash Chandra Sahoo, a villager from Kirtanpalli in Deogarh.

Most villagers have ensured that the toilets are away from their houses by building them either on the rear side of their dwellings or at the corner of the courtyard, around 10 metres away from their houses. In villages where water supply is not an issue, people have tried setting up a water

A toilet built at a distance from a house at Kirtanpalli village in Deogarh.

source next to the toilets which even the guidelines for toilet construction under Swachh Bharat Mission recommend.

“Either people build toilets on backyard of their dwellings or at the corner of a courtyard to segregate the activities associated with it. We want to keep our houses ‘pure’. In towns, due to lack of space, attached toilets have become a trend but in villages if we have space. We love to keep our houses and toilets segregated,” said Malati Behera, a villager said.

“We do not like to have toilets attached to our house. We find it unacceptable. Such things should be kept at a distance. How can we have both toilets and kitchens in the same house

KAILASH CHANDRA SAHOO | RESIDENT OF KIRTANPALLI IN DEOGARH DISTRICT

ing them either on the rear side of their dwellings or at the corner of the courtyard, around 10 metres away from their houses.

However, Pradhan took a step further to inculcate the habit of toilet use among kids. She was the first woman in the village to paint her toilet and make paintings on the walls of the toilet and emerged as the face of the campaign.

Soon, the innovative idea caught up with others. “I was the first in the village to paint the toilet walls. It not only added to the charm but also attracted kids and others to use the toilet as it became prettier. People started loving the idea,” Pradhan said.

Soon after Pradhan’s toilet got the

paintings, several houses in her village replicated the model and painted colourful flowers, leaves and petals on their toilet walls. Not surprisingly, the colourful toilet walls caught the attention of other villagers in the gram panchayat who adopted the idea with gusto. Soon, ‘toilet wall paintings’ became a trend in the panchayat and pockets of the district.

Malati Behera, a native of Kirtanpalli village in the same panchayat, said: “It all started in Similihata village and we liked the idea. Later we started painting the walls of our toilets. Now all toilets in our village are painted. I think this has also helped us to view toilets from a different perspective and increase their usage and acceptability.”

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Anganwadi worker from the village, was the first in her village who volunteered to start it with her toilet which later made

- Soon after Padmini Pradhan’s toilet got the paintings, several houses in her village replicated the model and painted colourful flowers, leaves and petals on their toilet walls
- The colourful toilet walls caught the attention of other villagers in the gram panchayat who adopted the idea with gusto

### CREATIVE TRICK



Padmini Pradhan was the first in her village to draw colourful paintings on toilet walls.

Similihata a model for others. While the Gram Panchayat monitor (under the

## Toilet wall paintings boost sanitation drive in villages in Deogarh

Similihata in Lulang gram panchayat was like any other village in Deogarh district five years ago. Locals had the habit of defecating in the open in the absence of toilets in the village. Now it is a role model for others.

With the advent of Swachh Bharat Mission, a number of houses in the village got toilets of their own. However, the challenge was to make sure beneficiaries use the toilets they constructed under the scheme.

Then came the idea of ‘My Toilet Campaign’, envisioned by Kumuda Satpathy, consultant of SBM in the district, to increase ownership of toilets in the panchayat which effected changes on the ground. Padmini Pradhan, a 28-year-old

Similihata a model for others. While the Gram Panchayat monitor (under the

Cops take Salipur accused to crime scene

Cuttack: The police Saturday took Mohammad Mustaq (25), accused of raping a six-year-old girl who subsequently died, to the crime scene. The accused gave live demo to the cops about the crime. The police had also questioned him why he had committed such a horrific crime. Although Mustaq was taken on a two-day remand for further questioning, the police completed the remand in two hours and produced him in the special court. The court has sent the accused to Choudwar jail. Earlier, Mustaq had attempted suicide during his stay in Salipur jail. Apprehending such attempt, the police produced him in court, sources said. Notably, the accused had raped the six-year-old girl and tried to strangle her to death April 21. Rescued in a critical condition, the minor girl was shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital. After struggling for survival on the hospital bed for nine days, she breathed her last April 29.

Need to bridge gap in quality of infra projects

If Bomikhal flyover incident is a wake-up call, series of bridge collapses and breakdown of public infrastructure in recent times call for government action

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 5: The recent collapse of a portion of under-construction Bomikhal flyover is a wake-up call to the government as this was not the first incident where a public infrastructure project either collapsed or caved in. A series of such incidents have taken place in the state in the past few years.

The Bomikhal flyover, being constructed by a private contractor-Panda Infra Project Pvt Ltd - collapsed twice before its completion. The first incident happened in September last year, in which one person was killed and five were seriously injured.

Even after that sad episode, the government had not taken the contractor off the work. Though the contractor was blacklisted and two engineers were arrested, nothing much had changed. The same contractor again failed to execute the work properly resulting in the death of another innocent person.

On September 4 last year, an under-construction bridge over Badanala in Antarpada panchayat under Buguda block of Ganjam district collapsed. However, no casualties were reported but no strong action was taken against the contractor. In a similar incident on September 24 last year, at least five persons were injured when an under-construction bridge over Jeera River near Jamdol under Bheden block of Bargarh district collapsed. The bridge, being constructed under Biju Setu Yojana, collapsed during installation of a slab. In this case, action was taken against the contractor and the field level functionaries.

However, the happening of such things have not stopped here. A few days ago, a small bridge



Forensic team members inspect the mishap site at Bomikhal in Bhubaneswar, Friday

OP PHOTO

constructed just three years ago over Ambakhala nullah near Buguda in Ganjam district collapsed during light rainfall. As no causality was reported and the incident was not highlighted in public, the government sat on it. And, no action has been taken against the contractor.

The important Gurupriya Bridge was also reported to have faced two such incidents. While three girders between columns 10 and 11 caved in due to heavy rains, two piles have tilted recently. Among similar incidents were two big slabs of Jaydev Vihar flyover collapsed twice in 2012.

Not only bridges, many roads have been washed away and caved in even during light showers. Collapse of school, hospital and

Anganwadi buildings have also been reported in recent past.

On February 13 this year, a portion of a road near Power House Square in the capital city suddenly caved in. Students in a college bus had a providential escape. When they saw the road sinking, the driver and all students got down from the bus immediately.

Prior to Nabakalebara, the government had taken up many infrastructure projects in a hurry. As a result, a huge crack appeared on Bada Danda (Grand Road) in Puri, putting a big question mark on the quality of work being undertaken for Nabakalebara. Samajajpur railway over-bridge (ROB) on Puri-Bhubaneswar NH 316 had developed cracks at that time due

to lack of proper planning.

While discussing the reasons behind such incidents and possible suggestions to improve the quality of infra, former chief engineer Ramesh Chandra Tripathy said, "The technical reason behind each case is different. But, as per my observations, these cases were reported due to carelessness of the concerned contractor and field level supervising staff."

The labourers and other skilled workers engaged in executing work must be sensitized about the risk of their job and how to carry it out to avoid any untoward incident, Tripathy said.

Asked about whether there is any need to strengthen the existing norms, the ex-engineer said, "The existing rules and regula-

Panda should pay up

The death of a construction worker after the collapse of a portion of the under-construction Bomikhal flyover has raised issues of serious public import. Nanda Nandan Das, former secretary of the Works department, along with Kamini Mohan Samantary and Raghu Nath Pati visited the spot in front of Santoshima temple in Bomikhal Saturday morning. The observations recorded by the team are of great significance in the context of recurring tragedies in the state due to such unforeseen incidents.

"Foundation work is under way under the surface and the tying of rods is in progress. Two rods two inches in diameter were erected vertically towards the side of the road along Kesari Talkies to ensure smooth traffic flow. There were no proper tie ups and stay arrangements to support these rods to stand vertically. While the reinforcement work was going on, the rods fell on the men at work underneath, resulting in the death of one worker and seriously injuring another. The reason was crass negligence in providing proper safety arrangements," said

Nanda Nandan Das, also Chairman, People's Welfare Suggestion Forum.

"It is the responsibility of the rod binders and the site engineers who should have taken sufficient precautionary measures against the falling of the rods," said Das, adding: "Since work was taken up under the custody of the contractor, the agency is responsible and should pay the penalty and compensation for the death and treatment of the injured. The issue is not sub-standard work. So project work should not be stopped."

The project has been delayed for about 8 years. This is already abnormal delay and people have suffered a lot. The cost of construction has already doubled. So the decision to complete the work within June, 2018, should be adhered to. "The defaulters - rod binders and the engineering personnel concerned - should be made responsible. The contractor should pay the penalty and compensation for the dead and the injured," said Das.

Work on the project should resume without further delay and should be completed before monsoon, he added.

ations are enough to take action against the violators. But, important is, the concerned engineering staff of the government must have to ensure quality and proper execution of projects."

A senior official of the Works Department said that detailed guidelines and instructions have been issued to all executive engineers and concerned staff to ensure quality and safety while executing big infrastructure projects.

The Works Department has also formed a task force to conduct surprise inspections of important projects to check quality of work, the official said.

As far as removal of Panda contractor from the Bomikhal flyover work is concerned, he said, "The government can remove the contractor. It is a little lengthy process. But, we are exploring all possible options because safety of public is our priority."

6 kids die as school wall gives in

Bhubaneswar, July 9: Six school children, including girls, were killed when the wall of an Anganwadi centre collapsed in Nayagarh district Saturday. The incident occurred at about 10:30 AM when the wall of the school building collapsed, killing six children. The children were aged between 5 and 10 years. The incident occurred in the village of Nayagarh. The school was under construction. The wall was made of mud and brick. The children were playing near the wall. The wall collapsed and fell on them. They were killed on the spot. The incident is being investigated by the police. The school has been closed. The government has ordered an inquiry into the incident. The school has been repaired. The children's families have been compensated. The government has taken steps to prevent such incidents in the future.

Flyover slab falls, mishap averted

Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: A concrete slab of a flyover under construction in Nayagarh district Saturday fell from a height of 25 feet, but no one was injured. The incident occurred at about 10:30 AM. The slab was being lifted by a crane. The crane was overloaded. The slab fell and landed on the ground. No one was injured. The incident is being investigated by the police. The flyover has been closed. The government has ordered an inquiry into the incident. The flyover has been repaired. The government has taken steps to prevent such incidents in the future.

BHEDEN BIJU SETU CAVES IN, 7 HURT

Bhubaneswar, Sept 24: A portion of the Biju Setu flyover under construction in Bargarh district Saturday caved in, injuring seven people. The incident occurred at about 10:30 AM. The concrete slab of the flyover caved in. Seven people were injured. The incident is being investigated by the police. The flyover has been closed. The government has ordered an inquiry into the incident. The flyover has been repaired. The government has taken steps to prevent such incidents in the future.

Cement concrete falls off flyover

Bhubaneswar, Sept 24: A large piece of cement concrete fell from a flyover under construction in Nayagarh district Saturday, but no one was injured. The incident occurred at about 10:30 AM. The concrete slab of the flyover fell. No one was injured. The incident is being investigated by the police. The flyover has been closed. The government has ordered an inquiry into the incident. The flyover has been repaired. The government has taken steps to prevent such incidents in the future.

OP SNATCHES OF MISHAPS: (From L) Six schoolchildren were killed after the wall of an Anganwadi centre collapsed in Nayagarh July 9, 2012. Concrete slab fell from Jaydev Vihar flyover September 23, 2012. Seven people were injured after Biju Setu in Bheden caved in September 24, 2017. Large pieces of concrete fell off the Rasulgarh flyover January 9, 2018.

Worker's death in Aarti steel plant mishap sparks protest

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khuntuni, May 5: Tension prevailed at Aarti Steel Plant after scores of people from Dwarabatipur and Ghatikhala in Khuntuni police limits staged a demonstration in front of the plant demanding compensation for the family of a labourer, who died at a private nursing home in Cuttack Saturday morning.

As per reports, the deceased Manas Swain of Dwarabatipur, a contractual labourer, was undergoing treatment at the hospital after being hit by a truck while on duty inside the plant premises Friday. Sources said the mishap took place when a truck driver,

while reversing the vehicle, hit Swain. He was rushed to a private nursing home in a critical condition where he succumbed to his injuries Saturday.

The deceased's family along with hundreds of locals staged a protest outside Gate No 1 and 2 of the plant at around 8 am demanding compensation. When informed, Khuntuni inspector-in-charge Satyabrata Lenka, along with a police team, rushed to the spot and took stock of the situation.

Meanwhile, the irate people also raised concerns over lack of safety measures in the plant. They recalled a similar incident that had happened two years ago in which a labourer

was crushed by a truck inside the plant. Some labourers alleged despite several complaints made to the plant authorities, no step has been taken to install safety measures in the plant. Besides, it is also alleged, that the plant authorities are yet to issue proper guidelines for the safety of labourers.

Later, Choudwar SDPO Satyanarayan Das and Athagarh tehsildar Binod Jena reached the spot and held discussions with the agitators. The protest was withdrawn after the plant authorities announced 78 lakh compensation to the family of Manas and a job in the plant to the next of kin of the deceased.

378 VILLAGES ELECTRIFIED AFTER CENTRE'S 100% CLAIM

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 5: The Ministry of Power now claims that 378 'unelectrified villages' in Odisha have now been electrified under the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) after April 28 this year when the Centre claimed 100 per cent rural electrification in Odisha.

As per the claims of the government-monitored rural electrification portal "GARV" till April 28, this year the government had electrified 2,903 unelectrified villages in Odisha and claimed 100 per cent rural



electrification in Odisha.

But as per the government data Saturday, a total of 3,281 unelectrified villages in Odisha got electrified till April 1, 2015.

The facts revealed that after declaring 100 per cent rural electrification in Odisha, 378 more villages remained unelectrified which later got electrified either through grid or offgrid (solar systems).

1 held for molesting Class VII student

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, May 5: Bidanasi police Saturday arrested a youth on charges of molesting a Class VII girl while she was on her way to tuition here. The accused was identified as Nilu Samal.

Nilu used to stalk her and followed her on her way to tuition and while coming back home regularly. The matter came to the fore after the girl's father lodged a complaint with the police. Based on the complaint, police nabbed Samal Saturday morning. According to the complainant, Samal followed the girl while she went to tuition as usual Friday evening and halfway, he dragged her to a secluded place and molested her.

CLASSIFIED BOOKING STATION
Akhya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alrish 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-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square-Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree Fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227222, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

AUTOMOBILE
Sale
Innova- 2008, Mahindra Bolero- 2016, Pajero- 2005, Pajero Sports- 2013, Maruti A star- 2013, Skoda- 2009 automatic, 7381091234, 9861194627.
Tata LPT 407/ 34 model - 2014 in good running condition, white full body. Price Rs.- 6 lacs. Contact : 0674-2432799, Mobile: 9938411574.
REAL ESTATE
Sale
Running condition hardware sanitary at BBSR Mainroad. Contact: 9437287761.
New four storied 5500 sqft. building at Ghatikia, Bhubaneswar, price- 185 Lakhs. Contact: 9178518254.
2BHK, 3BHK ready to move flats at Sundarpada near Axis Bank, Bhubaneswar. 9937179713, 9937846404.
Booking amount Rs. 20,000/- gharabari plots installation near BJEM-(2). 7735738102.
INTERIOR
Interior works with qualified designers with well trained workmen for Trunky interior works, wall to wall wardrobes & modular kitchen with worlds best quality products and brands. Contact: 9437009824.

GENERAL
Sale
LG fully automatic washing machine 6.5 ltrs capacity perfect working. Contact: 9437764673.
TO LET
Warehouse, office space available 3500 sqft. near Chandrasekharpur mainroad. 9437008388.
Two BHK house available in Nageswartangi, Bhubaneswar. Family not preferred. Contact: 7064094744.
Available 1225 sqft. office space for rent at DLF Cyber Tower, Bhubaneswar. Contact: 9337318415, 9652457167.

PACKERS & MOVERS
Shivam logistic packers movers. Household/ car relocation countrywide. 9777044177, 9338461133.
HEALTH CARE
Ashrudai Spa is reputed ayurvedic clinic provided all type herbal body massage by well trained ladies therapist. Contact: 9040050502.
Rejuvenate and ayurvedic full body massage by smart therapist. 9114402304.
Feel complete refreshment be cool in hot summer. Appointment: 9776598888.
Ayurvedic full body massage back pain, joint pain smart expert therapist. 9114697517.

EDUCATION
Home coaching available for all subjects for class- 8 upto class-10/ Physics for class- XI, XII. By excellent faculty for bright career. 7809385726, 7008448047.
AFFIDAVIT
By virtue of an affidavit before the executive magistrate, cuttack on 15.07.2008. I have change my name from Phirdooshi Tabsum to Firdausi Tabassum.

AGE NO BAR
Job aspirants demonstrate at PMG Square in Bhubaneswar Saturday demanding increase in the upper age limit from 32 to 42 for state government jobs.
OP PHOTO

## 5 PLACES RECORD ABOVE 40 DEGREES

**Bhubaneswar:** After a brief respite, heatwave returned to state with eight towns in the state recording above 40 degree Celsius Saturday. According to Met report, the highest temperature of 42.7 degrees Celsius was recorded in Bolangir. Other places that recorded 40 degrees or more are Angul (40.7), Sambalpur (41.5), Jharsuguda (41.7), HiraKud (41.1), Talcher (42), Sonepur (42.4) and Bhanwanipatna (40), it added. Capital city recorded 36.9 degrees while it was 36.4 degrees at Cuttack. Meanwhile, the local office of India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued lightning and thunderstorm warning for 10 districts in next 24 hours. The districts are Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Bhubaneswar, Balasore, Sundargarh, Kandhamal, Rayagada, Koraput, Gajapati and Ganjam.

Continued from P1

## 1716 die from snakebite in three years

A maximum number of deaths due to snakebites have occurred in July (314), followed by 306 in August, 281 in June, September (253), May (156) and October (154) in the last three years. The lowest snakebite deaths have occurred in January followed by February, March, December, November and April, the report elaborated. Official sources said snakebite deaths have been gone up but many snakes are being killed by people. That may be due to an increase in snake population and depletion of forests, where the reptiles dwell. A study which revealed the snake species is dwindling across the globe.

Environmentalist Biswajit Mohanty said, "The death of persons due to snakebites has gone up in the past three years due to lack of awareness and proper treatment at appropriate time. But, the decline of forest coverage is also a major concern, for which such cases are being reported."

"The government has taken a record of human deaths. But none has taken note of the killing of snakes by human beings. Snakes are an endangered species in this country and across the globe. In Odisha, poaching and illegal trade of snakes are rising. But, no one is taking measures to curb it," Mohanty said.

The government should initiate steps to curb snake-human conflict. Otherwise, the snake population will disappear, he apprehended. The lack of proper healthcare facility and anti-snake venom in the government hospitals are major causes for human deaths in rural areas. When asked about the availability of anti-snake venom at hospitals, a senior health department official said, "Adequate number of anti-snake venom is available in various government hospitals through Odisha State Medical Corporation. The venom is being provided to district, sub-division and also block level hospitals."

# Govt, OFDC lock horns over Kalinga Studio sports complex

Sports dept requested GA dept to allot vacant land of Kalinga Studio for the sports hub

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 5:** The state government and Odisha Film Development Corporation locked horns over setting up of a sports complex on the premises of the 25-year-old Kalinga Studio.

The Sports department has requested the General Administration (GA) department to allot vacant land of Kalinga Studio for construction of a sports complex to further the development of sports.

"The government is trying to set up sports complexes in and around Bhubaneswar. It is learnt that a vast stretch of land occupied by Kalinga Studio is lying vacant. Since Bhubaneswar is growing, development of a sports complex at the site will cater to the needs of citizens of the area. GA & PG department may please allot the unutilised vacant stretch of land of Kalinga Studio in favour of Sports and Youth Services department for developing a sports complex at the site," Sports secretary Vishal



**I cannot tell what prompted the Sports department to shoot a letter in this regard. The studio was built to facilitate work related to film production. We cannot spare it for any purpose other than film-making**

MUNNA KHAN | OFDC CHAIRMAN

Dev has written in a letter to the GA department.

However, OFDC Chairman Munna Khan strongly opposed the move.

"I cannot tell what prompted the Sports department to shoot a letter in this regard. The studio was built to facilitate work related to film production. We cannot spare it for any purpose other than film-making," Khan said.

As OFDC has planned a lot of projects to revive the film studio, the available land will shrink. "How will we provide land?" he asked.

The Odia film industry also opposed the move. Actor Mihir

Das said the studio is providing livelihood to many people and should not be handed over for any other purpose. Das requested the state government not to go ahead with the proposal.

Actress Anu Choudhury also raised her voice against the government, saying, "Not only me, if you ask anybody in our industry, you will hear the same view. It should not be happen," she said.

The Kalinga Studio was built on an area of 25 acres on the outskirts of the capital city in 1982. Due to the apathy of government, the studio is lying in dire state.

## DGP launches app to monitor police stations

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar/Cuttack, May 5:** Odisha Police Saturday came up with a special app which will help senior officials closely monitor the performance of police stations across the state including investigative officers (IOs). In this application, a dashboard will appear on the computers of officials enabling them to check the progress of investigations into cases on a daily basis.

Director General of Police RP Sharma launched the application through video conferencing, which was attended by all range IGs and DIGs, including district police superintendents in Bhubaneswar.

The dashboard will have all the details of the cases under various cognizable offences filed at police stations during the previous 24 hours. The police also assured that the app would ensure better data integrity as the system cannot be manipulated.

SPs would be able to review the performance of the IOs, track the progress of special cases reported at police stations and accident cases. Senior superintendents of police (SSPs) can review the working of police stations in

**A dashboard will appear on the computers of officials enabling them to check the progress of investigations into cases**

the e-governance cell, citizen services, missing persons and status of the pending verifications under the Right to public services act. Senior officers will get the 'Daily Crime Digest' on their computers every day.

Chairing a coordination workshop organised by the Crime Branch (CB) in Cuttack, DGP Rajendra Prasad Sharma felicitated 21 Investigation Officers (IOs), five Public Prosecutors (PPs), and Bolangir SP K Subramani for their remarkable contributions in solving criminal cases.

In his address on the occasion, Sharma said: "The conviction rate has gone up in the last two years and proper coordination between police officers and prosecutors can further strengthen the prosecution system and enhance the rate of conviction in criminal cases."

## IAS reshuffle

**Bhubaneswar:** In a minor reshuffle among IAS officers, the state government Saturday appointed Vipin Kumar Saxena as new Resident Commissioner, New Delhi. As per a notification issued by the General Administration department, Vinod Kumar has been placed as officer on special duty (OSD) at Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) department while Madhab Chandra Baribah has been posted as director OBC in SC and ST Development department.

## Conman dupes 12 students

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 5:** Around 12 students who were duped by a city-based private consultancy company have alleged that police are shielding the fraud company's owner.

The job aspirants Friday returned home dejected from Nayapalli police station as they weren't paid back the money the company owner had collected from them as fees on the pretext of providing them jobs.

The students have alleged that instead of tightening the noose on the fraudster, police are pressuring them to accept the paltry compensation money that the company owner was prepared to pay.

According to the complainants, the accused Chetan Kumar Khuntia had collected around ₹30,000 from 12 students on the pretext of providing them jobs after a fourteen-day training session at his institution in Nayapalli. But as no such job was availed to the students, they filed a complaint.

## HOCKEY WC EFFECT

# CPDO near Kalinga stadium to be shifted

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Barang, May 5:** The eastern region Central Poultry Development Organisation (CPDO) which is currently located near Kalinga Stadium at Jaydev Vihar in Bhubaneswar will be shifted to Naraj-Talagarh in Barang block of Cuttack.

A team led by District Collector Sushant Kumar Mohanty Friday inspected a patch of land between Talagarh village and firing range here for the relocation of the poultry centre.

Sources said Barang tehsildar agreed to provide 35 to 40 acre of land for setting up of the centre. The team also visited two locations at Choudwar and Khurda before reaching Talagarh in the afternoon. After inspection, the team found the location suitable



Officials at the proposed site

for the poultry centre as it has all sorts of facilities like drinking water, river, communication and the railway station, said Barang tehsildar Bijayananda Nayak.

Notably, there are plans to shift the centre to Naraj-Talagarh area before the commencement of men's hockey world cup-2018.

The CPDO is currently functioning on a 10 acre land near the Kalinga Stadium.

## 'I try to provide instant solutions to people'

Awinash Kumar, a 2007-batch IPS officer from Bihar, took charge as Mayurbhanj superintendent of police (SP) about one and a half-month ago. Earlier, Kumar had served as the Commandant of 5th Battalion of Odisha Special Armed Police Battalion at Baripada. The IPS officer had also served the police forces in Malkangiri, Koraput, Deogarh, Bolangir and Balasore. Be it an event of the district administration or district police, Kumar's



Mayurbhanj SP Awinash Kumar

**HEART TALK**

presence is felt by all. The SP likes spending leisure with his family.

- **How do you start the day?** I am an early riser. I wake up at 5am and start the day with exercise. I jog, sometimes I even

lunch at home, I try to provide instant solutions to the grievances with which people approach my office in the second half of the day.

- **What about holidays? How do you like to spend them?** It's no secret that we have nominal holidays. However, in leisure I divert my time for my better half and two daughters. In fact, my daughters often complain that I spare no time for them. Enjoying food cooked by my second half is another best part of my holiday.
- **Are you mulling to introduce something special?** If geographical boundary of the state is taken into account, Mayurbhanj is the largest district which shares its boundaries with many states. It is evident from past instances, that the district often reports sorceries and law and order situation. I have plans to build a healthy society in coordination with the youths, intellectuals and locals.

## EAST COAST RAILWAY

### HIRING OF VEHICLE

1. Tender Notice No. e-Tender ESTATE/KUR-13-2018, Dated : 24.04.2018

**DESCRIPTION :** PROPOSED HIRING OF ONE NO. OF LIGHT MOTOR VEHICLE (TATA SUMO / MAHINDRA BOLERO OR SIMILAR NON AC) FOR SENIOR DIVISIONAL ENGINEER (ESTATE) / BHUBANESWAR OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

**Approx cost of the work :** ₹12.34 Lakhs, EMD : ₹24,680/-, Cost of Tender Form : ₹2,360/-, Completion period : 36 (Thirty six) Months.

2. Tender Notice No. e-Tender HQ-KUR-42-2018, Dated : 27.04.2018

**DESCRIPTION :** PROPOSED HIRING OF ONE NO. OF LIGHT MOTOR VEHICLE (TATA SUMO / BOLERO) FOR SENIOR DIVISIONAL ENGINEER (HQ) / KHURDA ROAD OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION UP TO DT.07.10.2019.

**Approx cost of the work :** ₹5.75 Lakhs, EMD : ₹11,500/-, Cost of Tender Form : ₹2,360/-, Completion period : 07.10.2019.

Date and time of closing of tender (For all tenders) : At 1500 hrs of 06.06.2018.

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-Tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website ten days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>.

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.) PR-65/18-19 Khurda Road

## EAST COAST RAILWAY

### HIRING OF VEHICLE

Tender Notice No. e-Tender-Elect/OPKUR-03-18, Dated : 01.05.2018

**NAME OF WORK :** HIRING OF 01 (ONE) FOUR WHEELER LIGHT ROAD VEHICLE (TATA SUMO / MAHINDRA BOLERO NON-AC) ALONG WITH DRIVERS STATIONED AT CUTTACK ROUND THE CLOCK FOR ARRANGING CREW RELIEF ENROUTE FOR A PERIOD OF 03 (THREE) YEARS.

**Tender value :** ₹31,53,597.51, EMD : ₹3,080/-, Cost of tender Document : ₹3,000/-.

Date and time of closing of tender : At 1530 hrs of 11.06.2018.

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-Tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website seven days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (OP) PR-63/18-19 Khurda Road

## e-Procurement Notice for Road & Building Work

Identification No. 04/EERW/JLS/2018-19

No. 129-O:-

- Procurement Officer : Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Jaleswar
- Name of the Work : Road & Building
- Total No. of Works : 02 Nos.
- Estimated Cost : Approx. Estimated Cost Rs. 5.39 lakhs to Rs. 10.61 lakhs
- Class of Contractor : 'D' & 'C' & 'C' & 'B' Class
- Time of Completion : One & Three Months (As per annexure)
- Availability of tender : From 11.05.2018 at 11.00AM Online for bidding to 17.05.2018 upto 1.00PM
- Last date & time of seeking tender clarification : 16.05.2018 upto 1.00PM
- Date & Time of opening of tender in the office of the Executive Engineer, R.W. Division, Jaleswar : 18.05.2018 at 11.00AM

Further details can be seen from the website: [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in)

Sd./- Executive Engineer R.W. Division, Jaleswar

250511/10/004/1819

## Child deaths: Sishu Bhawan in sickbed

More than 2k kids perish in a year, six babies per day

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, May 5:** Death continues to haunt Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Post Graduate Institute of Paediatric popularly known as Sishu Bhawan that came under fire in August 2015 after dozens of children had died within a month.

According to data obtained through an RTI query, the state's premier paediatric hospital witnessed as many as 2,062 deaths of children in a year between April 2017 and March 2018. The shocking figure suggests that the death rate of babies remains unchanged at the hospital throughout the year.

The data given by Sishu Bhawan authorities stated that 170 children died on an average at the hospital in a month, which means nearly six babies die every day. Even as the death of children continues unabated, financial assistance worth ₹3 crore allocated to Sishu Bhawan could not be used and was returned to the government, the RTI query revealed. The shocking data revealed that 173 babies died in April 2017, 188 in May, 137 in June, 181 in July, 209 in August, 191 in September, 185 in October, 162 in November and 175 in December. The hospital witnessed 141 deaths each in January

and February and 179 in March this year.

It is alleged that due to administrative failure and lack of interest of Sishu Bhawan authorities the state government is bearing the brunt.

When contacted, Sishu Bhawan superintendent Saroj Satpathy came up with an obscure answer: "Sishu Bhawan is a referral institute. Critical patients ranging from different primary health centres to the district headquarters hospitals are being shifted to Sishu Bhawan as a last resort. While 92 per cent of the total patients admitted here attain recovery, eight per cent die. It is not correct to say that more children are dying here than before."

Dismissing the report regarding unused funds, Satpathy said: "There must be some mistake while giving the reply to the RTI query."

"The state government never ignored Sishu Bhawan while sanctioning funds. However, due to the lackadaisical attitude of the authorities, many children are dying because of negligence. We have decided to meet Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to discuss the matter," said Rajya Rogi Adhikar Manch president Amiya Bhusan Biswal and secretary Malay Ranjan Sarangi.

Notably, the premier paediatric institute hogged headlines after deaths of 54 children between August 20 and 31 in 2015.

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# state



## VENDORS' RALLY

Roadside vendors take out a rally in Sambalpur over their demands

## EYE CAMP

A cataract operation camp is under way at Damanjodi in Koraput district



## Kudumis call for Mayurbhanj bandh May 7

**Baripada, May 5:** People of the Kudumi community have again raised their demand for Scheduled Tribe tag for them and decided to observe Mayurbhanj bandh May 7.

Activists of Kudumi Sena (Odisha) held a press conference at Baripada stadium here Saturday. State Kudumi Sena president Jaimuni Mohant, district unit president Durgacharan Mohant, district women unit Sabita Mohant and district executive president Mamata Mohant put for their demand and stated that a six-hour Mayurbhanj bandh will be observed.

Thousands of Kudumi people from various parts of Keonjhar, Sundargarh, Jajpur, Dhenkanal, Angul, Deogarh, Sambalpur and Balasore districts will take part in the bandh.

They alleged that the government has taken no step over the demand for ST status to Kudumis despite repeated reminders. The bandh is the last resort to pressurise the government, they added.

## 6 houses gutted, livestock charred

**Angul, May 5:** As many as six houses were reduced to ashes while at least 20 goats and chickens were burnt alive in a deadly fire at Tampara in Iswar Nagar panchayat under Pallahara police limits here late Friday night.

While no exact reason of the fire was known, the police launched a probe into the incident.

Sources said the incident occurred late Friday night while everyone in the village was asleep after dinner. Suddenly, sparks erupted in a local's house.

Soon, it spread to other houses in the neighbourhood. Residents woke up to find the blaze. But it was too late as the fire had already engulfed around six houses and a cattle shed.

Locals called up the fire brigade for help. By the arrival of the fire tender team, the flames had burnt down valuable household goods, electronic items and paddy worth lakhs of rupees.

## Two malnourished siblings admitted to Dhenkanal DHH

**Dhenkanal, April 5:** Two malnourishment-affected tribal siblings were admitted to the district headquarters hospital (DHH) here Saturday.

They were identified as Saroj Munda (4) and Mamuni Munda (1), the son and daughter of Banshi Munda (48) of Kendupasi in Mahulapala panchayat, about 7km away from Kamakhyanagar block headquarters.

The kids were rescued by the members of a youth outfit and admitted to Kamakhyanagar sub-divisional hospital first before being shifted to the DHH in the evening.

Their father was also admitted to the DHH for an illness as he has no money to afford treatment.

Banshi is a poor man with no means of livelihood. He finds it difficult to feed his children and lives in a dilapidated shanty after his wife died a month back.

Kankadahada BDO Jyoti Shankar Sahoo, who is also in-charge of Kamakhyanagar block, said the child development project officer and the medical officer have been asked to collect details of the case and steps will be taken after receiving a report from them.

District child protection officer Anuradha Goswami said the siblings will be produced before the district child protection committee for further action.

## Bank manager arrested for ₹42 lakh fraud

**Bantala, May 5:** Police detained the manager of a private bank's Sankhapur branch under Bantala police limits in Angul district for allegedly committing a fraud of Rs 42 lakh Saturday.

The action was taken against Subham Ray, manager of Sankhapur branch of Federal Bank, after regional head of the bank, Nirojanta Rout, lodged a complaint in Bantala police station.

Rout filed the FIR after an audit report indicated the fraud. A case was registered and investigation was on.

# Villagers opposing irrigation project plead for euthanasia

**Bargarh, May 5:** The rage over the proposed Anga river bridge project and the construction of a mega irrigation project at Pujharipali in Padmapur sub-division in this district flared up again after villagers who are likely to be displaced for the projects wrote to the President of India pleading for euthanasia Saturday.

The villagers have pleaded with the President to grant them permission for euthanasia instead of displacing them from their native land. Hundreds of farmers of the

**The people's opposition to the project is not new. They have been trying to draw the attention of the government to their plight by conducting meetings and holding mass protests**

A total of 3912.67 hectares of private land, 212.35 hectares of forest land and 974.98 hectares of other land will be submerged along with minerals underneath.



Villagers posting their letters to the President at Bargarh.

area visited the Bargarh head post office and posted their letters addressed to the President.

"About 30,000 people in the area likely to be displaced for the projects have wrote letters to the President pleading for euthanasia," Balakrushna Nayak of Anga Nadibandh Yojana Pratirodh Committee said.

Sources said after repeatedly changing the sites of the proposed irrigation project during last three decades, the government has now planned to build it at Pujharipali. The proposed project would displace 30,000 people of 6228 families in 32 mouzas. Over 11 mouzas will be completely submerged while 21 villages will be partially affected. All the villagers will have to lose their homestead and farmlands.

The people's opposition to the project is not new but has been going on for a long period. They have been trying to draw the attention of the state government to their plight by conducting meetings, Satyagrahas, mass movements, rallies and demonstrations. However, the state is yet to act on their pleas, the villagers alleged.

This has perhaps prompted them to choose euthanasia instead of being displaced, committee members Padmalochan Beria, Chamaru Dharua and Khirasindhu Sahu said.

Committee members Shyamal Nayak, Rakhypal Sahu, Ramesh Barik and convener Ramesh Mohapatra of Jay Kishan Andolan among others were present during the posting of the letters.

## Maoist threat: 10 families leave Kalahandi village

**Bhawanipatna, May 5:** At least 10 families of Trilochanpur village under Lanjigarh block in Kalahandi district Saturday fled their homes due to threat from left wing extremists, a report said.

The ongoing torture and killing of innocent tribals by the ultras has compelled them to abandon their ancestral lands and take shelter in nearby villages, it was learnt.

The presence of the security forces and safety assurance by the district police couldn't change the decision of the terrified villagers, according to sources.

"We are constantly in touch with the villagers and trying to instill a sense of security among

them so that they can come back to their village," said a police official on the condition of anonymity.

Earlier, the rebels had abducted at least four villagers from Lakhpadar village in the district April 20. Among the abductees was a village guard. They were released after two days of confinement.

The Maoist had also shot dead a super-class contractor, Shivshankar Das, while he was taking rest at a temporary camp set up near his construction site in Bajibahali village of the district February 16. Such incidents triggered panic among the people and made them flee their native place, said a resident.

# 'KALAPAHADA' OF YORE NOW LIVES IN ISOLATION

**Dhamnagar, May 5:** His portrayal of the historic character Kalapahada, the destroyer of hundreds of Hindu shrines, on stage used to send chills down the spine of the audience in the 70s.

However, age has taken its toll on Jatra actor Gopal Goswami, an ardent disciple of Natyacharya late Raghunath Panda, who now spends his twilight years in isolation in his thatched house.

Even as Goswami struggles to recall his golden days when he ruled the stage and battles poor vision, the defiant stare is still evident, observed this correspondent.

"Some unforgettable moments of my Jatra days are still fresh in

my memory," said the actor. Born in 1943 at Suryapur village under Dhusuri panchayat under this block in Bhadrak district, Goswami had created quite a sensation with his entry into the Jatra world about three decades back.

His father Golak Prasad was a postmaster but his salary was not enough to meet the need of the family which is why Goswami was brought up at his maternal uncle's house.

After completing his education, Goswami returned to his village and joined a nearby school as a teacher. Later, he started working at the soil conservation department. However, his leaning towards acting made him join Dhusuri Jatra Party. Soon after, he became a part

# Vegetable farming hit as Aradei dries up

**Keonjhar, May 5:** River Aradei passing through Keonjhar has been a lifeline for thousands of farmers living along its banks, but this summer there is no water in the river for them to irrigate their farmland.

Farmers alleged that though a small dam is under construction across the river for water conservation its construction is being inordinately delayed. Lift irrigation points are there, but they are not working for want of water in the river, farmers of Shankarpur rued. On the other hand, they have to pay unnecessarily water cess and electricity bills even without using the facilities.

Aradei passes near Shankarpur and merges with river Baitarani. For the last three years, the river has dried up at many places during the summer even as farmers solely depend on its water to raise their crops.

"A dam is being constructed, but there is no sight of its completion. So, we are forced to stop our farming activities," said Laxmikant



A dry Aradei passing through Keonjhar.

Mohant, a local farmer.

But water is available downstream where farmers have no problems in raising crops.

Each farmer used to grow vegetables like tomato, brinjal, beans, okra, bitter melon, pumpkin, cucumber, and sunflower in farmlands along NH-49, but now these

farmlands are lying barren for want of water.

As production of local vegetables has gone down, prices of the same have gone up in the nearby Keonjhar market.

"If the dam work is completed soon, the water problem will be sorted out in the coming days,"

observed Ramesh Sethi, a farmer. Moreover, villagers can also bathe in the dam during the summer days, he noted.

Even lift irrigation points are not working for shortage of water for the last three years, while farmers have to pay electricity bills to the tune of ₹10,000 per annum.

## BJD youth leader escapes attack bid

**Dhenkikote, May 5:** A gun-brandishing youth had allegedly made an attempt to attack Dinesh Mishra, the youth BJD president of Dhenkikote block and his friend Manas Ojha at a shop under Ghatagaon police limits in Keonjhar Friday night.

Police started an investigation into the alleged attack following a complaint lodged with Ghatagaon police station. CCTV footage are being examined to identify the attackers and efforts are on to nab the culprits.

It was learnt that the accused had managed to flee in an SUV carrying two unidentified persons. The complainant said the attacker entered his shop at around 9 pm when he was about to down shutters at Dhenkikote bazaar.

The accused asked Dinesh why he was chatting on social networking website Facebook about political parties and abused him. As Dinesh opposed it, the youth took out a gun and tried to shoot him, but the trigger did not work.

# BRICK KILNS DENUDING GREENERY IN KEONJHAR

**Keonjhar, May 5:** Illegal brick kilns have come up along NH-20 on the outskirts of Keonjhar. Despite legal restrictions, the revenue department has not taken action against such brick-making units, which are badly polluting the atmosphere.

Besides, these units are ruining the greenery of nearby Gobara and Patarapani hills. Sometimes under pressure from locals, the administration just imposes fine on the units, it is alleged.

Reports said, pits and craters have been created all over the region due to wanton earth quarrying. The brick kiln owners have cleared patches of forests and plain land at the foothills of Sidhhamath and Atibudhipada where they have set up their units. They have dumped coals and wood at the place for baking bricks.

Local environmentalists expressed concern that due to rampant mining of earth, the area has been facing soil erosion, damage



An illegal brick kiln in Keonjhar.

to forests while black smokes emanating from the units pollute the atmosphere.

Besides, the illegal units have posed serious danger to the survival of reptiles and wild animals living in the area, they pointed.

They demanded that the forest

department should take stern action against the brick kiln owners who reportedly get protection from the revenue department.

Several quarters demanded that steps be taken to stop brick making in Sidhhamath and Puruna Bazaar areas.

## 1 held for nun's murder in Dhenkanal

**Dhenkanal, May 5:** Police Saturday cracked the murder case of a nun in a mutt at Kankalanda village under Gondia police limits in this district as they arrested a man for the offence which occurred after a failed rape bid.

The victim Golap Sahu (60) was killed in her mutt premises April 27. The accused was identified as Biju Barik of Palashpitha village under Bhuban police limits in this district. Two mobile phones of the victim and a motorbike were seized from his possession.

This was stated here by Dhenkanal Superintendent of Police (SP) Santosh Kumar Nayak at a press meet organised at the district police headquarters Saturday.

The victim was first a member of a religious organisation and



Police produce the accused before media.

OP PHOTO

later established a mutt at Kankalanda village about 14 years ago. She used to work as a soothsayer, palmist and traditional healer following which many people including the accused used to visit her mutt at regular intervals, the police said.

Barik, who works in tyre resolving shop at Mahishapat in Dhenkanal, was returning home

in an inebriated condition on his bike April 17. He stopped his bike near the mutt's gate and scaled its gate to enter inside after finding it closed. He noticed the victim sleeping on the verandah and tried to outrage her modesty. The victim woke up and raised an alarm following which the accused picked up a spade lying nearby and hit her to death with it, the police said.

## 3 MORE HELD IN PS ATTACK CASE

**Sambalpur, May 5:** The total number of arrested persons came to 15 with three fresh arrests Friday in connection with torching of Ainthapali police station by an unruly mob February 9 in reaction to an alleged custodial death the previous night.

The arrested were identified as: Ashok Banchhor of Khairpali under Sadar police station; Pabitra Majhi of Canalpada and Kambhu Chhura of Gopalimal under Ainthapali police station in Sambalpur.

They were rearrested in connection with earlier FIR No 45 and 46 registered at Ainthapali police station February 10 after reactivating the torched police station at a different place.



Gopal Goswami in front of his thatched house.

OP PHOTO

of Nilachakra Opera, a party formed by Natyacharya Panda.

Goswami was the obvious choice to enact the character of ferocious Kalapahada character with his stature of 6'4" coupled with dark complexion and baritone voice.

The viewers who had seen him playing that character are yet to forget him, said Narendra Goswami, a local literary scholar. He has left his imprints in plays like 'Jajati Bimala' and 'Kanhhu' where he played positive characters.

Goswami again played negative roles when he joined famous Tulasi Gananatya after the dissolution of Nilachakra Opera.

His other notable performances were in plays that include 'Hase Sati Kande Jama', 'Ajira Dunia',

'Nakali Raja', 'Mahisashura' and 'Jhansi Rani Laxmi Bai'. He recalls how the actors had to walk miles to perform in remote areas and the donations collected by the Jatra party owners were distributed among the actors.

The financial hardships of the family forced him to quit acting. Though his son's joining as a constable improved the condition to some extent, he had to sell most of his ancestral properties to marry off three daughters. These days, he somehow manages himself in his small old thatched house, said Goswami. Even as the Jatra parties of the present generation have taken big strides in terms of decorations and presentations, the acting has deteriorated, observes Goswami.

SHORT TAKES

Youth arrested for kidnapping minor

**Dharmasala:** Police Saturday rescued a minor girl and arrested a youth on the charge of kidnapping the former. The accused was identified as Amar Mallick (28) of Phuladi village under Dharmasala police limits in Jajpur district. The girl was sent for a medical examination and later handed over to her family members. Meanwhile, Amar was produced in a court and subsequently sent to judicial custody after the court rejected his bail plea. Based on a complaint lodged by the girl's father, police registered a case and launched a probe into the incident. According to sources, Amar was in a relationship with the girl. He abducted her March 13 and kept her at different places. Acting on a tip-off, a police team conducted a raid and made the arrest, investigating officer Anil Pradhan said.

Picnicker drowns

**Udala:** A youth from Andhra Pradesh, who along with his company's staff had visited Devakund for picnic, drowned in a water body. Two days have passed since his drowning, but his body has not been recovered despite sustained rescue operation by the fire brigade. The youth was identified as Panendra Reddy (21) of Kadapa district. The mishap took place when four of them were taking bath in the water body.

Youth held for rape

**Korei:** Police Saturday arrested a youth from Amrutia village under Panikolli police limits in Jajpur district on the charge of raping a girl on the pretext of marrying her and subsequently dumping her. Based on a complaint lodged by the victim, police registered a case and arrested Rabindra Mallick (32). Mallick was produced in a court and remanded in judicial custody after the court rejected his bail plea. According to sources, Mallick was in a relationship with the girl for a couple of years. Promising marriage, he lured her into physical intimacy. Later, he dumped her and tried to get married to another girl. When the victim insisted on marriage, he threatened her with dire consequences. Left with no option, the girl lodged a police complaint. Investigation into the case is on, police said.

Miscreants loot ₹36 lakh from ATMs in Balasore

**Balasore, May 5:** Unidentified miscreants looted cash worth Rs 36 lakh from ATMs here late Friday night.

While Rs 26 lakh was looted from an ATM in Sunhaat, the miscreants decamped with Rs 10 lakh from a State Bank of India ATM at ITI Square. The miscreants used advanced equipment, including a gas cutter to execute the crime. The matter came to the fore after locals spotted the broken ATMs Saturday morning and alerted the police. The police swung into action and formed a special team to undertake investigations into the matter. Forensic experts were pressed into service for the probe. The miscreants had come in a vehicle without any registration number, police said after preliminary investigation. Balasore SP, B. Jugal Kishore confirmed the loot of the cash. "A forensic team has been deployed for probe and a special force has been formed to arrest the miscreants," he added.

Woman seeks Collector's intervention to get back son's body from Kerala

**Koraput, May 5:** A woman has approached the Collector to initiate steps to get back her son's body from Kerala where he died under mysterious circumstances April 30.

Chaitanya Bhatara, elder son of Lokanath Bhatara and Purba Bhatara of Suruli village of Kotpad block in Koraput district, had gone to MLP district in Kerala April 25. To get back their son's body the couple had knocked at the doors of the block administration as well as the local MLA, but to no avail. Finally, Purba, requested the Collector to take steps to get her son's body back. Chaitanya went to Kerala with one of his friends to earn for his poor family. Once in Kerala, he informed his family over phone that he had reached safely. While working as a labourer there, he died April 30. Hearing about the incident, the deceased's father went to Kerala with Sonu Bhatara, Sahadeb Bhatara and Maniram Bhatara of his village May 2. But they were not allowed to see the body.

Back in the village, the mother went to Suruli Panchayat, Kotpad block, and the local MLA seeking help for an investigation into the death and bringing back the body. Collector K Sudarshan Chakraborty promised the bereaved family of all possible help. He also gave them a financial assistance of Rs 20,000 from the District Red Cross Fund through the district emergency department. He assured Purba that steps would be taken to bring her son's body back to Koraput.

RALLY FOR A CAUSE



Women and Anganwadi workers take out a rally as part of Gram Swarajya Abhiyan in Koraput, Saturday.

OP PHOTO

Steel co builds dam sans Palli Sabha nod

SEVERE WATER CRISIS LIKELY IN MINING REGION, SAY LOCALS

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Joda, May 5:** Even as water crisis has been routine for the last few years in Bhuyan Roida panchayat under Joda block in Keonjhar district, Tata Steel has reportedly been building a dam across river Suna near Khandabandh (Cholmalda mine-10), that too without any Palli Sabha nod for it.

Thousands of people living in the area expressed their concern over this development, stating that the dam will certainly have an adverse impact on the flow of the river and trigger water crisis in the region when huge amount of water will be drawn from there and used by the company.

"There has been no Palli Sabha in the area to approve the dam project," said Tulasi Babanga, a samiti member of Bhuyan Roida.

Joda block welfare officer Trilochan Das, after receiving a complaint from the locals in this regard, said that no Palli Sabha was held for the purpose and no letter has been received from the Collector in this connection.

Over 3,000 people residing in Bhuyan Roida, Kunderaipani, Keth



The under-construction dam across river Suna.

OP PHOTO

Hutting, Mankan Hutting, Baru Hutting, Chindakundi (under ward 14 of Joda) are dependent on the river for their water needs.

"Besides, a population of 10,000 living on the lower reaches of the river will face severe water crisis," apprehended Niranjana Bohidar, president of Joda Bikash Manch. Bohidar warned of an ag-

itation if no step is taken to stop the dam construction.

Retired teacher Somnath Mohanty observed that if the water flow goes down in the river, other water bodies like wells, ponds and natural streams in the area will dry up.

Besides, poor flow of water in Suna will affect the flow in river

Baitarani where the state's second largest dam project at Kanpur is under construction, Mohanty pointed out.

The company has been carrying out the dam construction for the last three months. Opposing the project, samiti member Tulasi Babanga, locals like Arjun Das, John Hembram, Amarnath Nayak and Bidyadhar Nayak had taken up the issue with the Barbil tehsildar.

Tehsildar Khirod Kumar Behera said that Bhadrasahi revenue inspector had been sent to the site for stock taking and he has submitted a report about the project.

"A case will be registered against the company soon," the tehsildar said.

Mining officer (Khandabandh) of the company Mukesh Ranjan said that the dam is being built up as per legal provision after approval of the water resources department.

He, however, parried a query on whether approval was taken in this regard in a Palli Sabha.

Collector Ashish Thakare said he will take action if any irregularities were found.

Tusker tramples man to death

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Athgarh, May 5:** In yet another incident of man-animal conflict, a man was trampled to death by a tusker at Kalijanga village under Athgarh police limits in Tigiria block of Cuttack district early Saturday morning.

The deceased was identified as Shyam Sundar Mohanty. Sources said the incident occurred while Mohanty along with other locals had gone to his farm to harvest brinjals.

Meanwhile, the tusker entered the farm and attacked the group. Everyone ran helter-skelter in a bid to save their lives. Some even climbed trees to escape the attack.

However, Mohanty failed to escape and was trampled to death by the animal. The elephant also damaged the vehicles of the farmers that were parked near the farm before straying into a nearby forest.

JUMBOS ON RAMPAGE

**Parjang:** An elephant herd has been giving sleepless nights to the residents of Gailo Daiti Sahi under Mahabirod forest range in Dhenkanal forest division. After a gap of two months, the herd has once again strayed into a forest near the village. The animals enter the village at night and damage houses apart from feeding on harvested paddy crops. The herd, comprising 22 tuskers, strayed into the village Friday night and pulled down the house of Kumari Naik. Her eight-year-old son, who was sleeping, sustained injuries after a wall caved in on him. The elephants also damaged 10 more houses in the village. On being informed, Dihadol Forester Harmohan Nayak along with a team reached the village Saturday morning and took stock of the situation. Angry locals staged protests for the forest department's failure to drive away the elephants. They also demanded compensation for rebuilding their damaged houses.

The incident triggered outrage among locals as the forest officials arrived quite late at the spot even after timely information.

Demanding compensation for the kin of the deceased, angry villagers gheraoed the forest officials.

The agitators relented after

Athgarh forest ranger Rabindra Nayak assured them of compensation as per government norms.

"The forest department has declared a compensation of Rs 4 lakh. Apart from that, we assure to provide a job in our department to Mohanty's son, who is pursuing his graduation," said the ranger.

Tribal woman raped, accused arrested

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Soro, May 5:** A tribal woman was raped at Budakhunta village under Soro police limits in Balasore district. The accused has been arrested. Shyam Singh, 29, had raped the married woman of his community during a marriage function in the locality, police said.

Shyam is from Phuldidhi village but has been staying since long in his in-laws' house at Digibhanra village. The 25-year-old married woman from Budakhunta village under Badapokhari panchayat under Oupada police limits had been to Digibhanra village as a guest to a marriage function.

The incident allegedly took place May 2 during her stay in the village. An FIR has been lodged with the Soro police station and after registering a case, the police arrested the accused. As per the complaint, Shyam allegedly dragged the victim to a secluded place and forced

SIT takes Punjilal to Raipur for probe

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bolangir/Patnagarh/Kantbanji, May 5:** The special investigation team (SIT) of Crime Branch accompanying parcel bomb case mastermind and prime accused Punjilal Meher left for Raipur from Kantabanji railway station for reconstruction of the crime scenes Saturday.

Crime Branch IG Arun Bothra, who visited Punjilal's house and interrogated the latter's wife Friday, boarded the Puri-Durg intercity express with the team.

The SIT wants to ascertain if the statements made by Punjilal during the interrogation were correct. As part of this strategy, they are taking him to different places for reconstruction of the crime scenes.

Punjilal after taking classes at Jyotivikash College in Bhainsa left for Kantabanji railway station carrying the parcel bomb on his motorcycle February 15.

There he boarded a train for Raipur without a ticket to dispatch the bomb through a courier service agency.

Punjilal after arriving at Raipur first tried to book the parcel bomb in DTDC courier agency through a rickshaw puller but later withdrew after his staff enquired about the consignment.

He later managed to get it booked at Skyking courier through an auto-rickshaw driver.

The SIT members want him to perform a demonstration of the



Crime Branch IG Arun Bothra at Kantabanji railway station. OP PHOTO

events in Raipur. The SIT members have also identified some rickshaw pullers and auto-rickshaw drivers to identify Punjilal when paraded before them.

It will be a great success for the SIT if the rickshaw pullers and auto-rickshaw drivers identify Punjilal. The entire process would be videographed.

Bothra had Friday visited Punjilal's Meherpada residence in Patnagarh and met his wife and mother. There he questioned them for over 45 minutes. The two women denied having any knowledge about the incident and claimed that Punjilal was innocent.

NOTORIOUS CRIMINAL ARRESTED AFTER ENCOUNTER IN NAYAGARH

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Nayagarh, May 5:** A hardcore criminal, wanted in several cases, was arrested following a brief encounter with the police near Bapujipali hills under Ranpur police limits in Nayagarh district Saturday.

Rabi Dora sustained bullet injury and was admitted to the district headquarters hospital. After preliminary treatment, he was shifted to Cuttack-based SCB Medical College and Hospital for advanced treatment as his condition deteriorated.

Ranpur IIC Girija Rath also was hurt in the exchange of fire.

Acting on a tip-off, a team led by the IIC raided a hideout where Dora had taken shelter. Sensing the movement of the police, Dora first opened fire and tried to escape. However, the police retaliated and shot at Dora while he was trying to escape on his bike.

Dora sustained bullet injury on his right leg and fell off the bike after which he was nabbed. It was revealed that Dora was involved in the Sunakhala bombing incident that took place a couple of months back.

"He will be produced in a court once he recovers from his injuries," Nayagarh SP Asish Kumar Singh said.

Anganwadi worker sexually abused

**Keonjhar:** An Anganwadi worker in Keonjhar district was allegedly raped by her neighbour. The incident was reported from Tenteinali under Telkoi police limits. The accused Sushil Nayak has been arrested. The matter came to fore Saturday after the victim lodged a complaint with the police. According to the complaint, while the victim was returning after watching a Jatra show, when Sushil sexually assaulted her finding her alone at a secluded place in the village. While the police are interrogating the accused a further investigation was on, sources said. Amid a lot of hue and cry over the increasing rape incidents and the government's promise of stringent action against the perpetrators, such cases are still on the rise. At least three separate rape incidents were reported from Sambalpur and Sundargarh districts Wednesday and Thursday. While an 11-year-old was raped by a sexagenarian at Bankibahal in Sundargarh district Wednesday, a 9-year-old was raped and another minor was allegedly raped in Sambalpur district.

himself on her. The woman's husband caught Shyam red-handed. Both the accused and victim were taken for medical examination. Police booked Shyam under Section 376 (1) of IPC and produced him in a court. Soro IIC Dilip Kumar Sahu said, "The woman and her husband had come to attend a marriage function. After the marriage, they were in an inebriated condition. Meanwhile, Shyam raped her."

On the other hand Shyam termed the allegation against him as false. He said, "The woman was sleeping in our house. While some were under the influence of liquor some were busy at the wedding spot. I had come home to give a necklace to my daughter. While entering the room, my head hit somewhere and out of pain I ran out of the room. I was blamed for the crime I have not committed."

AADC undergoes major transformation on countering air threat

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**Gopalpur, May 5:** The Army Air Defence College (AADC), one of the youngest corps of the Indian Army, at Gopalpur-on-sea is undergoing a major transformation as far as technological advancements and countering modern air threat are concerned.

Lt Gen AP Singh, Commandant of the AADC told visiting media persons on the completion of 25 years of its existence Friday that till now ZU 23MM guns, Schilka self propelled gun and LGLA weapon system, which was the mainstay of the AD arsenal system till now, has changed with the introduction of the latest Akash weapon system heralding a modernising drive for the Air Defence warriors.

The Commandant said Air Defence was the given status of an independent corps January 1, 1994 following which it established

its own training college for officers and centre for jawans at Gopalpur after bifurcating from the school of Artillery in Deolali, Maharashtra.

He said the college is imparting training about modern air threats like from unmanned drones to beyond visual range arrangements and how to counter them.

Lt Gen Singh said new radars and missile firing system like Akash and Fly Catcher have been inducted and some others are in the pipeline.

Men and officers kept abreast of all the latest technologies in the college arsenal through various compulsory and competitive courses besides regular exercise.

The college which imparts training to Army, Air Force, Navy, CRPF and CISF personnel of the country and also to defence personnel of 20 Asian and African friendly countries including Bhutan, Nepal,



Defence equipment put on display at AADC.

OP PHOTO

Myanmar, Mozambique and Rwanda has emerged as a centre of excellence on all ground-based air defence weapons.

Lt Gen Singh said officers and men hone their skills in the warfare of the air defence in the well laid out equipment parks and classroom equipped with guns and radars like flycatcher, upgraded SFM and their acquired knowledge on the weapon system during the training is tested in the actual battle like situation.

He said a war like situation is created through simulation and the trainees were trained on how to overcome the obstacles in nine minutes through the assault course.

With its motto 'Akashe Shatrun Jahi' (no enemy can dare venture in our skies), the AADC in a demonstration exhibited how it can knock down enemy aircraft venturing into the Indian sky within seconds.



Do not pretend - be. Do not promise - act. Do not dream - realise.

THE MOTHER



# History of hypocrisy

Ninety-nine years ago, in April 1919, the massacre of Jallianwala Bagh happened. We are all taught in school of the details. An officer named Col Dyer (later Brigadier General) ordered 90 soldiers, 65 Gurkhas and 25 Punjabis from the Baloch regiment to open fire on a crowd in Amritsar. The soldiers fired with their Lee Enfield .303 rifles, stopping to reload every few seconds. In about 10 minutes, the Indian soldiers fired over 1600 bullets into the unarmed crowd.

The government said that the crowd had gathered there in violation of orders, and the official number said that 379 people were killed and over 1100 wounded. The Congress said that more than 1000 people were killed, and we will never know the exact number. I find it hard to believe that the official number was wrong, for several reasons. Anyway, the story shocked the world and Rabindranath Tagore gave up his knighthood.

Many of us will know that the crowd was protesting against the Rowlatt Act. What was so problematic about it? The Rowlatt Act said that any Indian could be detained without trial. This was preventive detention, meaning that the government would hold any citizen in jail without any crime having been committed. Essentially, it means that if someone inside the government suspects that a citizen might commit a crime later, that citizen can be put in jail. Indians were outraged by such a law and one Lahore newspaper described the Rowlatt Act with the headline: 'No dalil, no vakil, no appeal'. That is a good description of what preventive detention is.

This then is the background to the Jallianwala Bagh event and this is the nature of the law for which so many of our fellow citizens were protesting and were killed. They felt the colonial government was wrong to jail Indians without charge or trial and it is difficult to see why they were wrong in protesting. Because of Jallianwala Bagh, the Rowlatt Act's provisions were not fully implemented. That was 99 years ago, under a colonial government. Let us turn to the present.

In November 2017, the Uttar Pradesh government jailed the Dalit leader Chandrashekhar Azad Ravan without a case. He was booked under the National Security Act. Under the NSA, Chandrashekhar Azad does not have any of the human rights protections that are part of ordinary criminal procedure and fair trial standards. He can be jailed for 12 months without charge or trial. On his release, if he is released, he can be put back again under some other detention law.

Chandrashekhar Azad's term of administrative detention expired a few days ago May 2. On that day, a non-judicial 'advisory board' established under the NSA, put him in jail for another six months. Instead of promising to have lunch with Dalits, it would be better if our leaders promised to treat them fairly and not use laws against them that are a basic violation of constitutional rights.

The High Court has also refused to release Chandrashekhar Azad. Remember that he has not been charged with any crime. This is preventive detention and in the past the Supreme Court has itself called the preventive detention laws "lawless laws". There are many laws like the NSA under which the government of India and our various states detain Indians that they may not personally like or disagree with. We are doing to our people what even the colonial government hesitated to do. There is no problem getting Indian judges and bureaucrats to do this to their fellow Indians. The reason I mentioned the detail of the shooting of 1919 was to reiterate that it was fellow Indians, Gurkhas and Punjabis, who actually took aim and pulled the triggers that killed so many of us in that peaceful protest.

The National Security Act sounds like a serious piece of legislation intended to save India from a security threat, but the government is not holding Chandrashekhar Azad for fear of any terrorism. Indeed, most of our preventive detention laws have nothing to do with terrorism. Gujarat can jail its citizens under the Gujarat Prevention of Anti-Social Activities Act. Karnataka has the Prevention of Dangerous Activities Act (popularly known as the 'Goondas Act'). Periods of possible detention under state laws range from six months to two years. Authorities can impose preventive detention for a range of activities in different states, including boot-legging, land-grabbing and even video piracy.

Tamil Nadu had 1,268 such people in jail in 2016, of whom 62 were either graduates or post-graduates, and 21 were women, according to a report in The Hindu. The National Crime Records Bureau for 2015 showed that Telangana had detained 339 Indians, Karnataka 232, and Gujarat 219. Tamil Nadu's law is called the Prevention of Dangerous Activities of Bootleggers, Drug offenders, Forest offenders, Goondas, Immoral Traffic Offenders, Slum grabbers and Video Pirates Act.

The vague and open nature of the wording is absolutely deliberate. The democratic government of India, just like the colonial government, sees citizens as a nuisance. It does not trust the legal system and demands to have open-ended and draconian laws that can jail us without a crime being committed. Till we are able to understand and appreciate this reality of what is happening to our fellow citizens today in 2018, it would be hypocrisy to continue to teach in our textbooks about the great atrocity of 1919.

## WISDOM CORNER

No religion has mandated killing others as a requirement for its sustenance or promotion. DR API ABDUL KALAM

Do not say, 'It is morning,' and dismiss it with a name of yesterday. See it for the first time as a newborn child that has no name. RABINDRANATH TAGORE

All that we are is the result of what we have thought. The mind is everything. What we think we become. GAUTAMA BUDDHA

## WORDSWORTH

### Alcolock

An alcolock, or more formally in Euro-bureaucrat-speak a "breathe alcohol ignition interlock device" (BAIID), is fitted to a car's ignition to stop a driver from starting it if he's over the drink-driving limit. The device is seen as a way to stop people who have been convicted of driving under the influence from offending again. Trials have been taking place in recent years in the US, Australia, Canada, and Sweden, though not always under this name. The European Union has been conducting studies to see if it ought to be adopted throughout the EU and as a follow-up to this investigation a trial is to take place in two areas of the UK shortly. Supporters of the scheme argue that it helps to prevent repeat offences.

### LOL

#### Want to live 100 years

Doctor, how can I live longer than 100 years?  
Do you smoke?  
No.  
Do you eat too much?  
No.



Do you go to bed late?  
No.  
Do you have affairs with promiscuous women?  
No.  
Then why would you want to live more than 100 years?

# CPI-M & ANTI-BJP COALITION

FOCUS POLITICS

Given the weakened position of the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) at the national level, the uneasy truce between its two factions led, respectively, by the present and former general secretary, will be of interest mainly to the party faithful.

Even then, what the other political parties will be looking at is the kind of "understanding", as mandated by the party congress, which the CPI-M will be able to reach with the Congress and whether the opponents of this line - former general secretary Prakash Karat and his comrades - will accept the formulation or wreck it.

The tussle between Karat and the present general secretary, Sitaram Yechury, will be at its most intense in the three states where the CPI-M still has some influence - Kerala, West Bengal and Tripura.

Of these, it is in Kerala that the Yechury-Karat confrontation will be most fierce since the state is the home ground of Karat and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, both of whom are against any deal with the Congress.

Since communist "discipline" stipulates that once a political line has been accepted, everyone, including its critics, has to abide by it; the Kerala scene will be enlivened by the CPI-M's pursuit at the ground level of an "understanding" with the party's main rival, the Congress.

True, the arrangement will be only for the Lok Sabha elections when the two parties are expected to work together against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which is known to be rather weak in the state.

Had there been a stronger opponent, there might have been a possibility, however faint, of the red flag and the tricolour fluttering together. In the present context, the distance between the CPI-M and the Congress is unlikely to be bridged, whatever the party line. All that can be expected is that their mutual recriminations will be put on hold.

Unlike Kerala, where the CPI-M and the Congress are evenly matched as can be seen from the way the two parties come out on top in alternate assembly elections, both are quite weak in West Bengal



The tussle between Karat and the present general secretary, Sitaram Yechury, will be at its most intense in Kerala, West Bengal and Tripura

at present.

It is perhaps for this reason that the animus between them is not as strong as in Kerala, which is why they were able to fight the last assembly election jointly against the Trinamool Congress although to no avail.

The two parties will also know that they are losing ground to the BJP in West Bengal, which has pushed the CPI-M down to the third position in recent elections and the Congress to the fourth. The Trinamool Congress, of course, remains at the top. For the two "losers", however, the setbacks may facilitate their coming together in a rescue act.

From this standpoint, there is unlikely to be any difficulty in reaching an understanding between the CPI-M and the Congress, except for the fact that it is not known what the ties will be between the Congress and the Trinamool Congress.

If the projected joint platform against the BJP advocated by Mamata Banerjee takes shape, then a threesome comprising the Trinamool Congress, the CPI-M

and the Congress cannot be ruled out although such a combination will be a rerun of the hodge-podge anti-Congress Janata conglomerate of 1977 and may prove to be equally fragile.

In Tripura, the scene will be rather weird because the Congress has been politically assimilated by the BJP as the reversal of the vote shares of the two parties show. While the polling percentage of the Congress dropped precipitously from 36.5 in 2013 to 1.8 this year, that of the BJP rose from 1.5 per cent to 43, showing a wholesale migration of the Congress's base of support to the BJP.

The CPI-M, on the other hand, managed to hold on to its base by securing 42.6 per cent of the votes compared to 48 in 2013. But, given the virtual disappearance of the Congress, the Marxists are unlikely to be interested in an understanding with a non-existent party. In Tripura, therefore, the CPI-M will be taking on the BJP on its own.

Of the other states, the CPI-M's impressive performance in organ-

ising the week-long, 180 km "long march" of the farmers from Nashik to Mumbai last month has shown that the communists have retained some of their influence in Maharashtra although it is nowhere near what it was in the 1950s and 60s.

If there is a Congress-Nationalist Congress Party tie-up in the state, the CPI-M will not have any difficulty in joining the two. It is in cementing an alliance (the word is anathema to Karat) of this nature in Maharashtra and elsewhere that the amiable Yechury can play a crucial role even if the Marxists will have no option but to play second fiddle.

Even then, there is little doubt that as the electoral race gathers momentum, Yechury can be expected to be engaged in stitching the loose ends of the anti-BJP combination together, thereby gaining stature which his party's position does not warrant. If he succeeds, it will put the final seal on his "victory" over Karat.

(Amulya Ganguli is a political analyst.)

## SPECTRUM SUNDAY SATIRE

# Why is modern life so incredibly annoying?

A man raised by wolves in a forest says he misses his old life. Living as a wolf cub in a Spanish wilderness was much less stressful than modern life, Marcos Rodríguez Pantoja told the BBC recently.

Journalists expressed surprise at his declaration, but I totally get his point.

Last week, my book ran out of batteries!

I know Socrates is looking down at me from heaven and laughing, waving his "always on" scroll.

Meanwhile, at home, my child is outraged. Why? "My snacks are so crunchy I can't hear the TV," she complains, furious.

This is literally the worst thing that has ever happened to this child. I mean, how is she going to cope with real life, during which massively tragic things happen, like they forget to put mayo in your sandwich, a devastating incident that totally spoiled this columnist's day yesterday?

I told her that in my day, the only TV was a window facing a brick wall and the only snacks our fingers. She said brick walls were probably better than what was on TV



A man raised by wolves in a forest says he misses his old life. Living as a wolf cub in a Spanish wilderness was much less stressful than modern life

these days and she's probably right.

Back at work, I was moaning about my dead e-book when a colleague told me about another tech problem. The trend spreading across Asia is to have a Roomba machine, a wheeled disk that quietly vacuums your floors in the middle of the night.

Unfortunately no one told these machines that a) Koreans and Japanese people often sleep on thin mattresses on the floor; and b) sucking up hair on the floor is not a good thing to do if it is still attached to a human's head. On one

recent occasion, fire-fighters had to be called to remove a ravenous Roomba vacuum cleaner from its Korean owner's head.

East Asian owners are junking their cleaning robots for superior technology: Broomsticks.

Police officers in the Indian state of Odisha recently demonstrated how they use pigeons to get messages across a vast portion of the state in just 20 minutes. During floods and power cuts the police pigeon service is the only functioning communications system.

So, basically, if their conversations

are anything like mine, you send a bird across the state with your message, such as "LOL" and 40 minutes later, you get the bird back with a message saying "LMAO" (Laughing My Ass Off).

Oh well, at least no one can complain about information overload.

A colleague showed me an angry text that had been sent by a young person from an aircraft recently. "There's so much leg room in business class that I can barely reach the touch screen TV," she complained. What suffering!

The odd thing is her inability to realise how the rest of us, sitting in economy class seats with our noses mere millimetres away from the seat in front, will take her message. Where's her brain?

Uh-oh. I would canvass readers, contributors and colleagues for more examples to fill this column with, but the main functional section of my own brain - which is housed in a smartphone in my right hand - is about to run out of batteries. So I have to stop here. Socrates! Stop laughing!

(Nury Vittachi is an Asia-based frequent traveller.)



The funny side Nury Vittachi

## EAST ASIAN OWNERS ARE JUNKING THEIR CLEANING ROBOTS FOR SUPERIOR TECHNOLOGY: BROOMSTICKS

# 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](mailto:edit@orissapost.com)

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

### World through prism of vision

Sir, The recent bomb attacks in Afghanistan were unfortunate as they killed many people including journalists. The US President Donald Trump's call for combating terrorism and the purge of 'foot soldiers of evil' is welcome. Such measured speech of Trump has sent some positive vibes across the world. In this fashion, my message to the Muslim World in the Middle East with respect to the renewed fight against the extremism must be seen clearly through the prism of vision. The real spirit behind the speech should not be tampered with anymore. Especially the media has a designated role to play in order to highlight the correct things from the excerpts of the big leaders like Trump. A word of advice will turn out to be useful for the countries in distress. So far terrorism has taken a heavy toll on the people the world over - both economically and generally. The fact is that the big cities have come under terror attacks on various occasions. In this context, stringent efforts are necessary to keep vigil over the possible untoward situations in metropolitan cities. Strong strategies and mutual cooperation are required on the part of the countries the world over in order to fight the evil of terror menace.

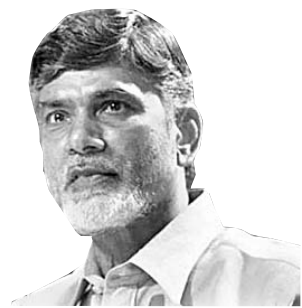
P Senthil Saravana Durai, EMAIL

### Cry for clean city

Sir, One of the most disgusting sights one usually witnesses on Bhubaneswar roads is the littering of the streets by irresponsible passengers who throw empty water bottles, containers and empty potato chips packets on the streets from a running vehicle. I am sure every responsible citizen would feel extremely upset with such uncivilised behaviour. Two reasons could be leading to such behaviour: the first could be because these persons are insensitive to public welfare and are irresponsible by nature or, second, because they find no place provided for the purpose. This is a despicable act unbecoming of an Indian with a civic sense. However, it may possibly reduce such littering if BMC, BDA and the department of public transport work towards making it mandatory for vehicles especially public transport vehicles, to have attached a detachable waste box close to the passengers' seat. Thus, the driver could empty it after every trip or at the end of the day. The drivers themselves ought to be told to instruct their passengers to use the waste box. BMC could facilitate the project by inventing and supplying those waste boxes at a low price. I feel this could be a workable solution to end the problem of littering from running vehicles.

K Ravi, BHUBANESWAR





Persons committing crimes, including sexual assault, against women should consider it as their last day on earth. They should be hanged. We will deal with them sternly and book them under Nirbhaya Act and POCSO Act. It should serve as a strong warning to others

N CHANDRABABU NAIDU | AP CM

## UK MINISTER TO VISIT INDIA

UK Minister of State for Asia and the Pacific Mark Field will be on a two-day visit to India starting May 7 during which he will hold high-level talks on technology, cyber security and energy with his Indian counterpart, the British High Commission said Saturday



## of the day quote

Science and technology is one of the most important factors required for development and advancement of a society with medical science and healthcare playing a major role



PB ACHARYA | NAGALAND GOVERNOR

I have asked agriculture universities in the state to prepare a 'earn while you learn' stipend scheme for students to carry out field work



DEVENDRA FADNIS | MAHARASHTRA CM

Constantly decreasing fertility rate among the indigenous inhabitants of Sikkim throws an alarming picture. The data shows that the increase in the overall population in the state in the successive census, is not proportional at all, especially among indigenous Sikkimese



SHRINIVAS PATIL | SIKKIM GOVERNOR

## ATMs still going dry in northeast

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Agartala/Kohima/Itanagar, May 5: The cash drought in most of the ATMs of the northeastern states has caused a lot of inconvenience for the people in the past few days.



Senior bank officials said that the delay in supplying of remittances by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in Guwahati caused the note crisis in most of the ATMs. "We should put fresh notes in the ATMs to run the apparatus smoothly. Currently, the bank has old notes and we have asked the RBI in Guwahati to supply fresh notes of different denominations urgently," State Bank of India (SBI) Regional Manager Dipak Chowdhury said.

He said, "We expect that the situation would be normalised by mid next week. This is a temporary

phenomenon." Reports of cash scarcities in the ATMs in Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya, and Mizoram in the first week of the month have left the public in a state of anguish. An SBI official in Itanagar said that the bank had to make an internal arrangement of cash from rural branches to urban branches to address the cash deficit. Dimapur SBI Assistant General Manager Debjyoti Dutta said that the short supply of notes from the RBI aggravated the situation and hardships to the people.

# MODI BLASTS CONGRESS, JD-S

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tumakuru, May 5: Claiming that the Congress and the JD(S) have entered into a "secret" pact for the Karnataka Assembly polls, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Saturday H D Deve Gowda's party was "protecting" the Congress.



Addressing an election rally in Tumakuru, Modi alleged that the Congress, for years, spoke about poverty eradication only to garner votes, while neglecting farmers and the poor. "Poll surveys, political pundits...everyone is saying the JD(S) cannot defeat Congress. They cannot form government. If anyone can change the government in Karnataka, it is the BJP. "If anyone is protecting the Congress, it is the JD(S)... Congress and JD(S) have a secret understanding...an understanding behind the curtains," Modi, who lavished praise on JD(S) patriarch and former prime minister

H D Deve Gowda only a few days ago before training his guns on him, said.

The Congress, Modi demanded, make it clear if it had a secret understanding with JD(S) or not. He said it was with the support of Deve Gowda's party that the Congress had its mayor in Bengaluru. "Why are you hiding this? Congress should have the courage to speak out the truth to people."

Modi, however, insisted he

Modi had showered praise on Deve Gowda at a rally in Udupi last Tuesday and castigated Congress president Rahul Gandhi for 'insulting' the former Prime Minister

still has respect for Deve Gowda, who had announced before the 2014 Lok Sabha polls that he would commit suicide if he became the prime minister. The prime minister said despite Deve Gowda opposing him, when he came to Karnataka for campaigning during the Lok Sabha elections, he said the JD(S) leader should live for 100 years and serve the society.

Modi had showered praise on Deve Gowda at a rally in Udupi

last Tuesday and castigated Congress president Rahul Gandhi for "insulting" the former Prime Minister. But two days later at a rally in Bangalore, Modi asked people not to "waste" their votes by backing Deve Gowda's party as it was going to finish "a poor, distant third" in the elections.

Modi said the Congress, which ruled the country for decades, with "one family" in power for most part, neglected the poor and farmers. "Garibi, garibi, garibi (poverty, poverty and poverty) was their constant rant. But once the son of a poor mother became the prime minister, they clammed shut...now they don't talk about poverty," he said.

He alleged the Congress was responsible for the backwardness of Tumakuru. The farmers, he said, were suffering because of the policies of successive Congress governments at the Centre and in the state.

## SHORT TAKES

### Kashmir teacher goes missing, protests erupt

Srinagar: An assistant professor from the Kashmir University has been reported missing leading to protests by the students, police said Saturday. The family of Muhammad Rafi Bhat from the Sociology department told University authorities that he had been missing since Friday. The varsity's Vice Chancellor met the protesting students and Bhat's family members to inform them that Governor N.N. Vohra, Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, Director General of Police (DGP) and the university the Chancellor were notified of the incident.

### BJP minister's cavalcade stoned

Jammu: Angry protesters demanding a CBI probe into Kathua rape and murder Saturday stoned BJP Minister Sham Lal Choudhary's cavalcade on Jammu-Pathankot highway. The protesters tried to block the highway when the state Minister's cavalcade was passing and did not stop, the angry protesters pelted stones at the cavalcade. Families of the accused have been demanding CBI probe into the horrendous abduction, rape and murder of an 8-year old in Rasana village of Kathua district.

### Eight Naxals held in Chhattisgarh

Raipur: Eight Naxals were arrested from separate places in Chhattisgarh's insurgency-affected Sukma district, police said Saturday. They were held from places under the limits of Chintalnara, Chintagufa and Jagargunda police stations Friday during joint search operations conducted by the Central Reserve Police Force, its elite unit CoBRA and the district police.

### New general secy of Mahila Congress

New Delhi: President Rahul Gandhi Saturday appointed former MLA Danasari Anasuya as the General Secretary of All India Mahila Congress (AIMC). Danasari Anasuya is an ex-MLA from Telangana. Rahul Gandhi also appointed Fathima Rosna as the Secretary of AIMC, a statement released by party General Secretary Ashok Gehlot said.

### 14 arrested over gang rape, burning of minor

Ranchi: Fourteen of the 18 accused have been arrested in connection with an alleged gang rape of a minor girl, who was later burnt to death in Jharkhand's Chatra district, police said Saturday. "Of the 18 accused, 14 have been arrested. No one involved in the incident will be spared. We will provide security to family members till they feel secure," Shambhu Thakur, Inspector General of Police, said. Three persons were arrested Friday night, while 11 others were nabbed Saturday, he said, adding that the arrested include village Mukhiya Tuleshwari Devi and Panchayat Samiti members.

## Pak girl's photo in Bihar booklets; probe ordered

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, May 5: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar Saturday ordered a probe into the appearance of a Pakistani girl's photo on the cover page of a booklet that aims to promote sanitation.

A picture of Pakistani girl has been featured as the "brand ambassador" on the booklet that seeks to promote Swachh Jamui Swasth Jamui and Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao initiative in Bihar's Jamui district.

According to a press release issued by government, Nitish Kumar has directed the district magistrate of Jamui to investigate into how a picture of Pakistani girl was featured as the "brand

ambassador". The matter reportedly came to light on Friday and further investigation revealed the girl was being promoted as the face of Unicef in Pakistan for education. The issue has embarrassed the government.

Around 5,000 booklets and notebooks that feature the girl's photo were distributed in schools, aanganwadi centres, school children and among others in Jamui district.

They were printed by Suprabh Enterprises printing press in Patna. The firm said a prior approval from the district administration was taken before putting the photograph on the notebook covers.

## TOMB CONVERTED TO TEMPLE IN DELHI

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Panchkula (Haryana), May 5: A Delhi government inquiry report has confirmed the controversial "conversion" of a Pathan Era tomb to temple in the city and it said that a fresh complaint was lodged to hand it back to the government for restoration, an official said Saturday.

After a daily reported about an alleged conversion of a tomb to a temple in South Delhi, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia ordered on Friday an inquiry to be carried out by the Art, Culture and Language Department of the Delhi Government.

An official in the know of the development told IANS that the inquiry report was prepared and sent to the Deputy Chief Minister by Saturday evening. The official, however, refused to be named.

"The monument in question is a Pathan period Tomb locally known as 'Gumti' situated in south west of village Humayunpur, mentioned in the List of Muhammadan

and Hindu Monuments' in Delhi prepared and compiled by Archaeological Survey of India in the first quarter of 20th century," the report said.

"It is domed building 21' square constructed of rubble masonry plastered all around with an arched doorway on each of its four sides..." according to the report.

The official said: "A fresh complaint has been lodged with the Delhi Police and they have been requested to remove encroachments at the tomb and hand it back to the department for restoration."

According to the official, the report also said that the tomb was listed as a heritage site and a preliminary notice for its protection was issued in 2009.

The report also said that it was one of the 18 monuments for which an MoU was signed with INTACH (Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage) for restoration. "When the authorities went for restoration in March, they found that it was encroached and locked," the official said.

## Ayurvedic student abducted, raped for four days

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Gurugram, May 5: A first-year student of an Ayurvedic college in Haryana's Yamunanagar was abducted and allegedly sexually assaulted in Gurugram for four days by a man known to her, police said on Saturday.

The victim's family hails from Faridabad and they are currently living in Gurugram, while the girl was staying in a college hostel in Yamunanagar. According to the police, the victim came in contact with Dharmender; a.k.a Dhaman, two months ago in Gurugram and they were in touch on the phone.

The accused called her on April 13 and citing an incident, threatened he would defame her in the college. The girl asked the accused to come to Yamunanagar bus stand for a "talk" police. The victim said as she reached the bus stand, she was pushed into an SUV and raped in a Gurugram PG facility located in the Naharpur Rupa area on the Delhi-Gurugram Expressway.

## CARTOON CORNER



## Parrikar cannot sign files, says RTI reply

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Panaji, May 5: Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar, currently undergoing treatment for pancreatic cancer in a US hospital, cannot sign government files due to risk of infection, a RTI petitioner said, citing official documents.

City businessman Kenneth Silveira, who obtained the February 28 memo signed by Parrikar through the Right to Information Act, has now filed a complaint with the Goa Police's Crime Branch claiming signing of government correspondence and notings by Secretaries to the Chief Minister's Office instead of Parrikar, who is medically unfit to hold office, was illegal, and requesting a probe.

The February 28 memo, released to the media during a press conference here on Saturday, has Parrikar say: "I have been advised by the doctors treating me to avoid physical contact with files for the time being on account of possibility

of secondary infection as part of ongoing treatment.

"I have therefore authorised principal secretary to the Chief Minister and in his absence Secretary to the Chief Minister to record my decisions/directions on the government correspondence including files/notes and append his signature for disposal of the same till further orders."

In his complaint to the Crime Branch, Silveira, who was arrested last month for uploading a false Facebook post hinting at the Chief Minister's death, has also said it was illegal for government files to be endorsed by representatives designated by the Chief Minister, especially when the latter was "unfit" to hold office.

"The Crime Branch should probe as to how government business, especially which passes through the CMO can be legally allowed to happen, when the files are not endorsed by Parrikar, but his secretaries," he said.

## RLD, SP UNITE FOR BYPOLLS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, May 5: Hoping to repeat the Gorakhpur and Phulpur feat, the Rashtriya Lok Dal will join the united Opposition to contest the upcoming bypolls to two seats in Uttar Pradesh against the BJP, an RLD leader said.

RLD vice-president Jayant Chaudhary held close to a three-hour long meeting with SP chief Akhilesh Yadav in Lucknow Friday. An understanding was reached that both the parties would jointly contest the May 28 by-elections to Kairana Lok Sabha and Noorpur Assembly seats, RLD spokesperson Anil Dubey said.

A broad understanding has also emerged that the coming 2019 Lok Sabha elections should be contested together by all Opposition parties, Dubey added. The Samajwadi Party had caused a major upset in the Gorakhpur and Phulpur Lok Sabha by-elections recently, wresting both the prestigious seats - vacated by Yogi Adityanath and Keshav Prasad Maurya after becoming the state chief minister and deputy chief minister respectively - with the Bahujan Samaj Party extending support to its candidates. The victory had shown a way to the Opposition to come together for countering the BJP's victory march, especially in the run-up to the general elections, due to be held in 2019.

As far as the Kairana seat is concerned, where the RLD was keen to field Jayant Chaudhary in the bypoll, the party is understood to have agreed to extend support to a Samajwadi Party candidate, whereas it will field its candidate in Noorpur, a senior RLD leader said. A formal announcement in this regard is likely to be made in a day or two, he added.

Before making an announcement, the SP and RLD are expected to apprise BSP chief Mayawati - the other alliance partner - regarding the names of the candidates, the RLD leader said, adding that all the Opposition parties must be kept united in order to counter the saffron challenge.



## Saffron Chief Ministers pull down BJP

Saffron wearing Chief Ministers are not lucky for BJP, the ruling party is now learning the hard way. Yogi Adityanath may have been projected as mascot by the saffron party for some time, but his ways of governance is pulling down the BJP. The debacle of the BJP in the Gorakhpur and Phulpur Lok Sabha bypolls has brought down the graph of the Yogi, who earlier was riding high due to the backing from the Nagpur. Old timers in the BJP dub the Yogi as a male version of Uma Bhatti, the mercurial sanyasin who had proved to be a disaster as Chief

Minister for the BJP in neighbouring Madhya Pradesh some 15 years back. That time Uma had helped the BJP to win back the state from Congress at a time when the then Digvijaya Singh government had become quite unpopular. But governance was not Uma's cup of tea. Incidentally, Uma is now a Lok Sabha member from Uttar Pradesh having shifted base to Bundelkhand adjoining Madhya Pradesh which is her home turf.

## Sympathy wave for Lalu

The summary manner in which ailing Lalu Prasad was moved from the prestigious AIIMS here to a Ranchi hospital has not gone down well with a sizable section of people of Bihar. In fact, the talk in BJP is that the way the Bihar unit, especially Sushil Modi, has allegedly been "harassing" Lalu has been generating a sympathy wave in favour of the ailing leader. The action came close on the heels of Rahul Gandhi going to

AIIMS to inquire about the health of Lalu which apparently pushed the panic button in Bihar BJP. Two assistants given to Lalu being a former Chief Minister were taken away allegedly at the instance of Sushil Modi and when the jailed RJD supremo wanted to be brought to Delhi by air for treatment at AIIMS, he was not allowed and instead had to take a train.

## Friends and foes

If Congress insiders are to be believed then BJP CM candidate in Karnataka B S Yeddyurappa had made concerted attempts to join the Congress after the last Assembly polls. At that time, Yeddyurappa was going through a bad patch as he was out of BJP. In fact, a senior Congress leader said that Yeddyurappa had met the then Congress General Secretary Digvijaya Singh who was in charge of party affairs in Karnataka in a Delhi hotel. Yeddyurappa's close associate Shobha Karandide was also present in these meetings, it is said. Sonia Gandhi who was the Congress chief then had summarily rejected the attempts

telling the concerned party leaders that Yeddy was unwelcome to the Congress given the taint of corruption he carried with him. Yeddyurappa was earlier removed as the BJP chief minister after the controversy over his corruption snowballed into a major crisis for the party. Interestingly, BJP circles are also claiming that Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah too had attempted to join the BJP way back in 2008 as he was not getting the support from Sonia at that time.

## Gowda dumps Pawar

Sharad Pawar may be on cloud nine the way Rahul Gandhi is consulting him now a days on matters political, but in poll-bound Karnataka, the NCP supremo has been dumped by former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda as a partner in the third front. Gowda has given the shock treatment to the NCP after Pawar attended a function at Belgaum associated with the Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti (MES), which is spearheading

agitation for decades for merger of Belgaum and adjoining Marathi-speaking boundary areas with Maharashtra, a sensitive issue in Karnataka politics. A former Maharashtra Chief Minister, Pawar was once a key leader of the stir over the demand for the disputed boundary areas of Karnataka to be merged in Maharashtra.

## Rahul learning on the job

Four years back, Rahul Gandhi's first TV interview ahead of the Lok Sabha polls was an unmitigated disaster. The then Congress Vice President literally walked into a minefield as the TV anchor, who has now become an unabashed saffron soldier. It was no coincidence that Congress was reduced to a mere 44 in the polls as the interview showed that the party was on a journey steep downhill with a mumbling leader in command. Rahul has become more than cautious after becoming the Congress chief and this showed in his first interview to Deccan Herald last week.



of the day quote

We have consciously undertaken measures for judicious use of bio-diversity to create congenial environment for sustainable development. We may be small in geographical area, but we have given high priority to maintaining rich bio-diversity, designing specific schemes to create payments and incentives for eco-system services



PAWAN KUMAR CHAMLING | CM SIKKIM

Any accredited institution reaching the threshold of certain academic standard should go for autonomy



ANIL SAHASRABUDHE | AICTE CHAIRMAN

The delay by the Prime Minister and the Centre in constituting the board exposes the NDA government's intention to let down farmers of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry dependent on the Cauvery system for irrigation



V NARAYANASAMY | PUDUCHERRY CM

SHORT TAKES

Modi, Hasina to share stage at VisvaBharati

Santiniketan (WB): Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will share the dais for the inauguration of Bangladesh Bhawan here on May 25, officiating vice-chancellor of Visva-Bharati University, Sabujkali Sen said Saturday. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will also be invited to the programme, Sen said. Modi will also attend the convocation ceremony of Visva-Bharati University. It would be his maiden visit to the varsity after becoming its 'acharya' or chancellor.

Termination of rape victim's pregnancy

Chennai: The Madras High Court has allowed the termination of pregnancy of a 14-year-old girl, who was allegedly raped five months ago by a man known to her. When a petition from the Child Welfare Committee in Chengalpet came up for hearing recently, Justice T Raja directed the dean of Chengalpet Medical College and Hospital to terminate the pregnancy of the girl and preserve the foetus.

CBI seeks custody of Customs officials

Mumbai: The CBI approached the Bombay High Court Saturday seeking custody of six persons, including four senior Customs officials, arrested in a corruption case. The CBI had May 1 arrested the six persons, including four Deputy Commissioner rank officials of the Customs department in Mumbai, for allegedly demanding a bribe of Rs 50 lakh from an importer to clear his consignment.

200 school vans plying illegally booked

New Delhi: The Delhi Transport Department has booked and penalised around 200 illegally plying school vans on the city roads in the last three days under a campaign against such vehicles, officials said. The move comes after a 7-year-old girl was killed while 18 other children were injured when an illegally-plying school van met with accident in north Delhi's Keshavpuram last month. As per the officials, the number of school vans registered with transport department is over 4,500 while a far larger number of illegal private vehicles, estimated around 40,000, are hired as school vans by the parents of children.

Tree saves 22 Badrinath pilgrims

Gopeshwar (Uttarakhand): Twenty two pilgrims from Rajasthan had a providential escape Saturday when the bus, which was ferrying them to Badrinath in Garhwal Himalayas, skidded off the road after being hit by a truck but was saved from falling into a deep gorge by a roadside tree. ITBP and police personnel immediately rushed to the spot and rescued the pilgrims, ITBP commandant (Gauchar) Girish Chandra Purohit informed.



Dear Modi ji, You talk a lot. Problem is, your actions don't match your words. Here's a primer on your candidate selection in Karnataka. It plays like an episode of 'Karnataka's Most Wanted'

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS PRESIDENT

UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS A MODEL FOR THE COUNTRY: PREZ

President Ram Nath Kovind Saturday hailed the University of Madras as a "model" for the country. Delivering the 160th convocation address at the prestigious Madras University here, he said no other university in the country could boast of the fact that six former presidents had studied in the varsity



Seizures of over ₹120 cr made in Karnataka, says official

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 5: The Election Commission-appointed surveillance teams have seized suspect cash, jewellery and other inducements worth over ₹120 crore in the poll-bound Karnataka, a senior official said Saturday. Cash amounting to over ₹67.27

crore, over 5 lakh litres of liquor worth ₹23.36 crore, gold valued at ₹43.17 crore and other items such as pressure cookers, sarees, sewing machines, gutkha, laptops and vehicles, among others, worth about ₹18.57 crore, have been seized, he said. The official said ₹32.54 crore in cash, out of the total seizures of ₹152.78 crore, has been released



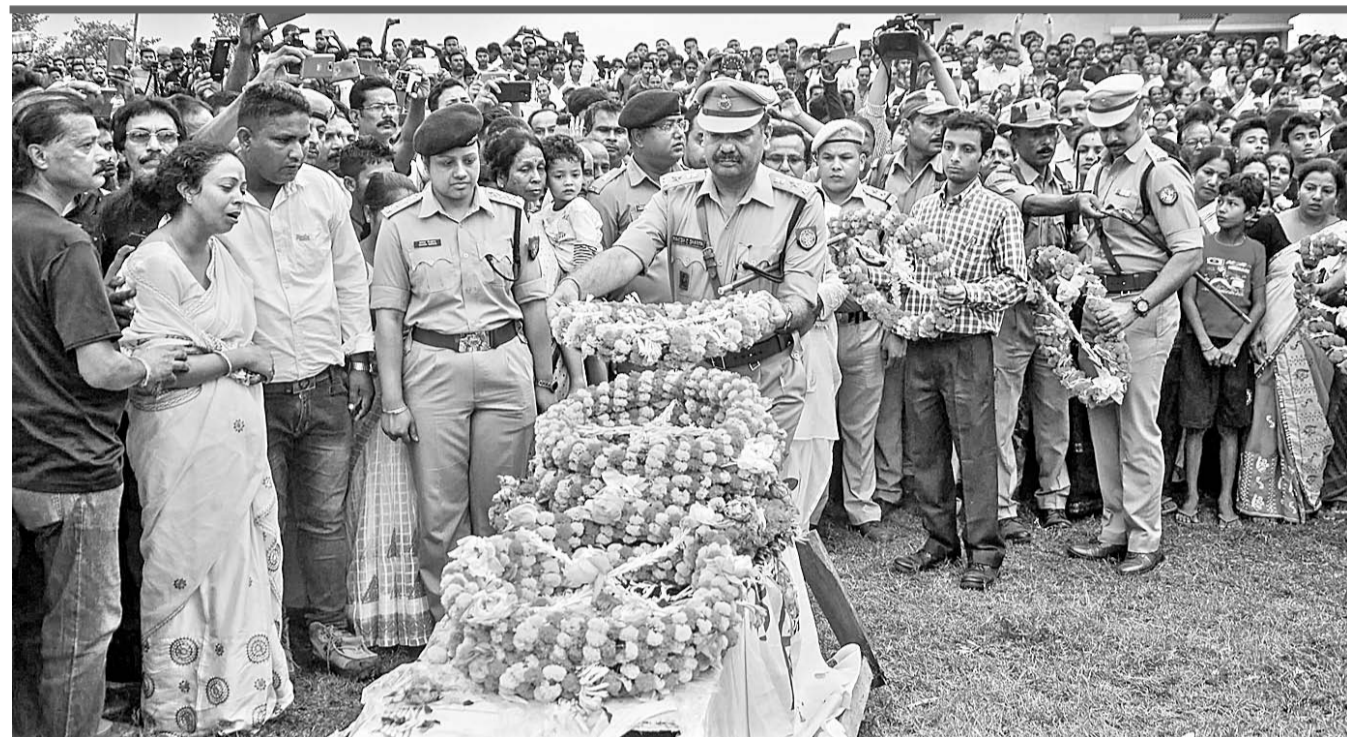
The state will go to polls May 12. The counting of votes is scheduled for May 15

after verification. The figure also includes seized narcotics worth more than ₹39.80 lakh, according

to official data since the declaration of the elections for the Karnataka Assembly.

The seizures have been made by various surveillance, police and Income Tax department teams that have been deployed in the state by the poll panel to check the use of black money and illegal inducements, the official said.

SALUTING THE MARTYR



Assam Police officials pay tribute to Bhaskar Kalita who died in an encounter with ULFA (I) at Majiri village in Palashbari, Kamrup district Saturday. PTI PHOTO

Roy's kin held for running job racket

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, May 5: West Bengal Police has arrested BJP leader Mukul Roy's brother-in-law from New Delhi for allegedly duping railway job seekers, a senior official said today. Mukul Roy is a former Trinamool Congress MP.

Roy's brother-in-law Srijan Roy was arrested from New Delhi airport late Friday night by a team of police from Buzpur police station in North 24 Parganas district on the basis of complaints which were filed around six years ago, the police officer said.

"Srijan Roy has been arrested for taking money from several people on the pre-text of providing them jobs," a district police official said.

Various charges under different sections of the IPC including 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property), 406 (punishment for criminal breach of trust), 468 (forgery for the purpose of cheating), 471 (using a forged document as genuine), including others have been slapped

Describing the arrest as "political conspiracy" by TMC Mukul Roy said he himself was the actual target of the move

against the arrested accused. The accused was produced at a district court Saturday and was remanded to 12 days of police custody, he added.

Describing the arrest as "political conspiracy", Mukul Roy, who was the Union railway minister in 2012 when the cases were lodged against his brother-in-law, said he himself was the actual target of the move.

"This is a conspiracy hatched by Trinamool Congress supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee against me and my family members. She is resorting to such things because she is afraid of the Bharatiya Janata Party. I am the real target of this conspiracy," Roy said.

The BJP leader said he would fight such conspiracies "politically".

CBI books former PEC CMD, other officials for cheating

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 5: The CBI has booked ex-chairman cum managing director of PEC, AK Mirchandani, and its several serving and former officials, along with two private companies, for allegedly cheating the PSU under the Commerce Ministry to the tune of ₹531 crore, officials said Saturday.

The agency has booked Pisces Exim (I) Pvt Ltd and Jet Link Infotech Pvt Ltd, their officials along with officials of PEC on charges including criminal conspiracy and corruption, they said.

PEC had entered into 15 agreements between 2010-12 with Pisces Exim Ltd for export of iron ore to a foreign buyer for which funds were released by it, they said.

In its complaint, PEC has claimed that Pisces Exim allegedly defaulted

on its agreement, they said. Not only it failed to supply iron ore, as required, but also failed to refund the amount paid to it by PEC, they said.

"Presently, a sum of ₹531.72 crore (including the interest up to September 30, 2016) is due and payable to PEC along with interest till realisation. Importantly, the said monies due are public money," the PEC has alleged in its complaint, now a part of the FIR.

The agency has booked 15 persons and companies in this connection.

Global Covenant of Mayors launches South Asia chapter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 5: To tackle the effects of climate change, the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM) Saturday launched a chapter for South Asian countries and urged mayors and commissioners from India as well as local governments across the region to join the coalition and commit to moving towards a low-carbon and climate resilient economy.

The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy-South Asia (GCoM-SA) aims to support the efforts of cities in India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and make their communities more re-

TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE



silient toward the effects of climate change.

It was launched within the context of the South Asian Cities Summit and with support from the European Union (EU)-funded International Urban Cooperation programme in India and city network partners.

GCoM Vice-Chair and former ex-

ecutive secretary of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Christiana Figueres, who was the architect behind the historic Paris Agreement, said the aim is to let the cities have a reach and voice on how global actions and policies to tackle climate change can ensure benefit for the people.

"Tackling climate change in South Asian cities is about delivering this opportunity for economic development, jobs, growth, long-term resilience and improving quality of life. It is also about ensuring that we reach the global climate turning point to bend the curve of emission downward by 2020 to ensure the long-term resilience of our cities and other areas," Figueres said.

Justice Shahrukh J Kathawalla presided over a packed courtroom till 3.30 am, hearing arguments and passing orders on petitions.

"The courtroom was packed with senior counsels, lawyers and litigants, whose matters were being heard. There were over 100 civil petitions that had sought urgent interim reliefs," a senior counsel, who was present in the court till the judge rose from his seat, said.

While this is the first time Justice Kathawalla sat in the court till so late, two weeks ago, he had heard matters in his chamber till midnight.

"Justice Kathawalla, even at that hour (3.30 am), was as fresh as one would be in the morning. My matter was one of the last ones to be heard. Even then the judge heard our arguments patiently and passed orders," another senior counsel, Praveen Samdani, said.

Justice Kathawalla often begins the court proceedings at 10 am, an hour earlier than the other judges, and hears matters beyond 5 pm, when the court shuts for the day.

3 Rly officials face enquiry over graft

New Delhi: The railways will conduct an enquiry against three senior officials for allegedly taking bribes of up to Rs 3 lakh from the operators of Yatri Ticket Suvidha Kendra (YTSK), which were launched by the national transporter in 2014 to expand its ticketing system, sources said. The Northern Railway officers, one of whom is a senior divisional commercial manager in New Delhi, face termination if found guilty of corruption, the sources added. Railway Board Chairman Ashwani Lohani received a complaint Thursday, alleging that the three officers had demanded bribes for issuing licences, when all of them were posted in Delhi, for the modernisation of and running YTSKs. Audio and video clips against the alleged offenders were also sent to Lohani, following which the Railway Board decided to conduct an enquiry, the sources said. The Railway Board chairman has called a meeting of all senior officials of the Northern Zone Monday, when the course of action in this regard is likely to be decided. Approximately 188 YTSKs are currently functioning. The railway ministry has allowed public private partnership in establishing and operating these centres.

Railways to build walls along high-speed corridors

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 5: The Indian Railways is considering a proposal to generate revenue through advertisement on walls along the tracks on high-speed corridors, sources have said, amid a push by the national transporter to boost its non-fare earnings.

In talks with contractors, who can deliver pre-fabricated walls, the railways plans to generate revenue through advertisements. The sources said the idea is to share revenue with contractors, thus enabling the railways to get the walls built at minimum cost.



"With the plan for the Delhi-Mumbai high-speed corridor underway, the need for such walls is imperative for issues of safety. We are mulling the option of generating

revenue from them through advertisement as they are high density areas and will get maximum exposure. Pilot projects are already underway and we are hoping to

put up walls across the network starting with urban areas," said one of the sources.

The railways is trying to boost non-fare revenue through right-of-way charges, advertising, land monetisation, catering and parking amid intense competition from airlines and road transport to carry passengers and goods.

Not just revenue, the wall will also help the railways maintain safety on tracks, get rid of encroachers, reduce interference with cattle or other disturbances.

Officials in the ministry also said that various options are being assessed such as a proposal to build

sound-proof walls to reduce sound pollution in areas with railway tracks. A pilot project implemented in the South Delhi area around a busy railway track has shown that such walls reduce sound of approaching trains by around 20 decibels.

The walls to be built around 7-8 feet high will have the option of selling space both outside and inside portions of the wall.

The building of these walls is the first step towards converting the Delhi-Mumbai corridor into a high-speed zone, and track changes allowing express trains to run at a maximum speed of 160km per hour.

HC judge hears pleas till 3.30 am to clear backlog

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 5: While most judges in the Bombay High Court tried to wrap up the pending matters and urgent hearings by 5 pm Friday, the last working day before the summer break, one judge presided over his court until the wee hours Saturday, hearing pleas that sought urgent interim reliefs.

Justice Shahrukh J Kathawalla presided over a packed courtroom till 3.30 am, hearing arguments and passing orders on petitions.

"The courtroom was packed with senior counsels, lawyers and litigants, whose matters were being heard. There were over 100 civil petitions that had sought urgent interim reliefs," a senior counsel, who was present in the court till the judge rose from his seat, said.

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Justice Kathawalla often begins the court proceedings at 10 am, an hour earlier than the other judges, and hears matters beyond 5 pm, when the court shuts for the day.



**Elections will be held by aliens, but even then we [Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz] will participate in it**  
SHAHID KHAQAN ABBASI | PAKISTAN PRIME MINISTER

**BUY MOVIE TICKETS WITH GOOGLE ASSISTANT**

Google has collaborated with US-based ticketing company Fandango to let users buy movie tickets using voice commands on Google Assistant



## of the day quote

Demonstrations are banned, talking is banned, criticism of the government is banned, even defending peace is considered terror propaganda



SELAHATTIN DEMIRTAŞ | TURKISH POLITICIAN

Foreign labour complements Singaporean workers and brings along relevant skills to create new industries and job opportunities



CHAN CHUN SING | SINGAPOREAN POLITICIAN

There's enormous diplomatic effort to continue to keep the pressure on North Korea and bring them to the negotiating table, to a place where we can successfully eliminate the threat from Kim Jong-un's nuclear arsenal



MIKE POMPEO | US SECRETARY OF STATE

## SHORT TAKES

### Venue, date set for US-N Korea summit

**Washington:** President Donald Trump is offering his latest teaser for a historic US summit with North Korea. The time and place have been set, but he's not saying when and where. The White House Friday did announce the details of a separate meeting later this month between Trump and South Korean President Moon Jae-in, as Washington pushed back on a report that Trump is considering the withdrawal of US forces from its ally.

### UAE tops world in job satisfaction: Poll

**Abu Dhabi:** The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has the highest percentage of employees satisfied with their jobs, according to a survey released by Gallup World Poll. The poll, which was released earlier this week, surveyed over 1,000 people in each of 128 countries and found that the three nations with the highest percentage of employees satisfied with their jobs were the UAE, Russia and the US. In the UAE, the lowest percentage, 31 per cent, were seeking full-time employment.

### Divisions resurface as Germany fetes Marx

**Trier (Germany):** Germany marked the 200th anniversary of Karl Marx's birth Saturday, but celebrations risked being marred by protests as the revolutionary philosopher remains a divisive figure almost three decades after the fall of the Berlin Wall. Marx's birth city of Trier led commemorations of the man officials describe as a "great son of the city", with 600 events planned around the 19th-century scholar hailed for foretelling the ills of capitalism. The centrepiece of the festivities will be the unveiling of a 5.5-metre (18-foot) tall statue of the philosopher -- a gift from communist China -- with dignitaries including a Chinese delegation and the head of Germany's Social Democratic Party to attend.

### Early voting begins in Malaysia

**Kuala Lumpur:** Malaysia's Election Commission (EC) Saturday opened 586 polling centres for early voting ahead of the country's general elections scheduled for May 9. The early voters comprised 278,590 Royal Malaysia Police, Malaysian Armed Forces and Special Task Force personnel and their spouses, reports Channel News Asia. They form the bulk of the 300,255 people who are eligible for early voting, according to the EC.

### 19 Syrian troops killed fighting IS

**Damascus:** At least 19 Syrian government forces were killed fighting the Islamic State over the past 24 hours in an attempt to capture the last IS-held enclaves in the southern outskirts of Damascus, a Britain-based war monitor reported Saturday. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the fighting had been taking place since Friday around the IS-controlled Palestinian refugee camp of Yarmouk and in the adjacent neighbourhoods of al-Hajar al-Aswad and al-Tadamon.

# Enforced disappearance: Dubai told to clarify runaway princess' status

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Beirut, May 5:** Human Rights Watch Saturday urged Dubai authorities to reveal the whereabouts of a princess and daughter of the ruler, saying her case could constitute "enforced disappearance". In a March video, 32-year-old Sheikhha Latifa bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum announced she was fleeing the emirate because of mistreatment and restrictions imposed by her family. She said she was the daughter of

Dubai ruler Mohammed bin Rashed Al-Maktoum and an Algerian mother, Horriya Ahmed, and that she had tried to escape in previous years. But the following month a source close to the Dubai government said the runaway princess had been returned to the emirate. "What I can confirm is they took her and she was brought back," the anonymous source told AFP by phone April 17. In a statement Saturday HRW said Dubai authorities must "reveal" her whereabouts and "clarify her legal status".

"Failure to disclose the whereabouts and status of the princess could qualify as an enforced disappearance, given the evidence suggesting that she was last seen as UAE authorities were detaining her," the US-based rights group said. It cited a witness saying authorities in the United Arab Emirates had "intercepted Sheikhha Latifa March 4, 2018, as she tried to flee by sea to a third country, and returned her to the UAE". "Sheikhha Latifa, who told friends



Sheikhha Latifa Al Maktoum that she wished to flee restrictions imposed by her family, has not been seen or heard from for two

months," it said. That raised "serious concerns about her safety and well-being, two friends said," HRW added. "UAE authorities should immediately reveal the whereabouts of Sheikhha Latifa, confirm her status, and allow her contact with the outside world," said Sarah Leah Whitson, HRW's Middle East director Saturday. "If she is detained she needs to be given the rights all detainees should have, including being taken before an independent judge." Latifa's cause has been taken up by

a UK-based group called Detained in Dubai. The group said Latifa tried to flee Dubai by ship, but the vessel was intercepted on March 4 less than 80 kilometres (50 miles) off the coast of India. It said a Finnish woman and friend of the princess was among foreigners on board. The source close to the Dubai government said last month that the Finnish woman and two French men, one with dual US citizenship, participated in the escape attempt and were wanted in Dubai on previous charges.

## 6.9 MAGNITUDE QUAKE HITS HAWAII

AGENCIES

**Leilani Estates (US) May 5:** A magnitude 6.9 earthquake has shaken Hawaii's Big Island, prompting fresh eruptions from a volcano that has been spewing lava near residential areas, forcing hundreds of people to flee.

The US Geological Survey said the quake struck at 12:32 pm (local time) and was centered on the south flank of the Kilauea volcano, which first erupted Thursday after a series of tremors. "This is in almost exactly the same location as the deadly 1975 M 7.1 quake," USGS said in a tweet. That quake killed two people and injured 28.

Another 5.7-magnitude tremor had hit the island earlier Friday and authorities said they expect more seismic activity. The quakes have prompted the Kilauea volcano, one of five active on the island, to erupt. Meanwhile, an earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale struck the Philippines' Luzon island on Saturday without any reports of casualties, damage or a tsunami alert.

# CHINA 'VERY SPOILED': TRUMP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Washington, May 5:** China is "very spoiled" by trade wins over America, US President Donald Trump said late Friday, as a top business delegation headed back to America after high-stakes talks with Beijing. The two days of talks were aimed at forestalling momentum towards a looming conflict between the world's two largest economies, with both sides prepared to pull the trigger on tariffs that could affect trade in billions of dollars of goods. "Our high level delegation is on the way back from China where they had long meetings with Chinese leaders and business representatives," Trump wrote in a tweet. "We will be meeting tomorrow to determine the results, but it is hard for China in that they have become very spoiled with US trade wins," he added.

The American President has accused China of unfair trade practices that have driven up the US goods deficit with the Asian giant. Washington has also alleged "theft" of American intellectual property by China. The discus-



TRADE ROW

"OUR HIGH LEVEL DELEGATION IS ON THE WAY BACK FROM CHINA WHERE THEY HAD LONG MEETINGS WITH CHINESE LEADERS AND BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES" TRUMP SAID

THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT HAS ACCUSED CHINA OF UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES THAT HAVE DRIVEN UP THE US GOODS DEFICIT WITH THE ASIAN GIANT

sions promised a potential off-ramp for the trade conflict. Trump has threatened to levy new tariffs on \$150 billion of Chinese imports while Beijing shot back with a list of \$50 billion in targeted US goods. "Both sides recognise there are still big differences on some issues and that they need to continue to step up their work to make progress," China said in a statement released by the official Xinhua state news agency. "The two sides exchanged views on expanding US exports to China, trade in services, bilateral investment, protection of intellectual property rights, resolution of tariffs and non-tariff measures." The agency said both sides had agreed to establish

a "working mechanism" to continue talks. Beijing has promised reform on several fronts in recent months - including lifting foreign ownership restrictions for automakers and allowing foreign investors to take controlling stakes in financial firms. But a list of US demands presented at the talks in Beijing showed these steps fall far short of expectations in Washington. The demands included cutting China's trade surplus with the US by at least \$200 billion by the end of 2020, lowering all tariffs to match US levels, eliminating technology transfer practices, and cutting off state support for some Chinese industries, according to Bloomberg News.

# Israel withdraws from UNSC election

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**United Nations, May 5:** Israel has withdrawn from the election for a two-year term on the Security Council that pitted it against Germany and Belgium.

Israel's UN Mission announced the decision shortly before a debate between the three candidates was due to start at the UN Friday afternoon. "After consulting with our partners, including our good friends, the State of Israel has decided to postpone its candidacy for a seat on the Security Council," the mission said. The non-permanent seats in the Council are distributed regionally and Israel, which is in the Western European and Other Group (WEOG), had



planned to contest one of the group's two seats for the 2019-2020 term. The failure to run unopposed for the WEOG seat is a diplomatic setback for Israel, which has never had a seat on the Council, and, according to the US ambassador to Germany, Richard Grenell, a broken promise by West European countries. He asserted in a tweet in March that Washington, which had brokered

a deal for Israel to run unopposed for one of the WEOG seats, must ensure that the European nations kept their word. Grenell said that the late Richard Holbrooke, a former assistant secretary of state, had arranged the deal. Although Middle Eastern nations are in the Asia-Pacific Group, Israel has faced opposition from some members of the group and was taken in by the WEOG. Israel has never held a Council seat and would have been difficult for Israel to win against those to European nations, but it would have won by default if it was unopposed in the group.

There is one vacancy for the Asia-Pacific Group for 2019-2020 term and Indonesia and Maldives are contesting it.

## Russian oppn leader Navalny detained

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Moscow, May 5:** Russian opposition leader Aleksei Navalny was detained by police at a demonstration against President Vladimir Putin here Saturday. Thousands of demonstrators denouncing Putin's inauguration into a fourth term gathered in the capital's Pushkin Square.



Navalny was taken into custody by police shortly after arriving at the rally where riot police carted away some protesters while some were beaten by pro-Putin supporters, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty reported. Videos showed police carrying a struggling Navalny out of the square by the legs and arms. According to a Guardian report, the unauthorised protest was part of nationwide demonstrations taking place under the slogan: "He is not our tsar." Navalny has called for nationwide rallies to protest against Putin's inauguration May 7. At least 150 people were arrested in Krasnoyarsk, in eastern Siberia and a further 75 in Yakutsk, the capital of a diamond-mining region in northeast Russia.

# Netanyahu briefs Modi on Iran's N-breaches

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jerusalem, May 5:** Drumming up international support for his call to "fix" or "nix" the Iran nuclear deal, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has reached out to his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi to update him on the recent developments.

A statement from Netanyahu's media advisor Friday said the Israeli Prime Minister spoke to three key international leaders, including Modi, Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, and British Prime Minister Theresa May. He discussed regional issues



with the world leaders and also updated them on the important material that he revealed regarding the Iranian nuclear archive, the press release stated. Netanyahu had earlier told the media that he would share the archive of more

## PAPAL POSE



Pope Francis gestures during a meeting with Neocatechumenal Way movement in Tor Vergata, on the outskirts of Rome, Italy, Saturday REUTERS

than 100,000 documents said to have been obtained by Israel's espionage agency Mossad from a Tehran warehouse, which allegedly proves Iran's past clandestine efforts to assemble nuclear weapons. "The leaders of the E3 - Britain, France, and Germany - said they want to see the material. They're very interested in seeing what we discovered," Netanyahu told journalists in his Jerusalem office. Intelligence professionals from London, Paris and Berlin are coming to Jerusalem later this week to examine the material Israel presented, he said in a statement.

The Israeli Premier spoke to

French President Emmanuel Macron, Russian President Vladimir Putin and German Chancellor Angela Merkel to update them about the Mossad's findings Monday. "I told Putin that he's welcome, too, to see the material. I also invited the leader of China and [Yukiya] Amano (the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency)," Netanyahu said. In a sensational presentation Monday evening, Netanyahu showcased an enormous trove of Iranian documents that he said proved the existence of Iran's nuclear Project, Amad, which Tehran claimed to have frozen in 2003.

# Bajwa confirms death sentence for 11 terrorists

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Islamabad, May 5:** Pakistan Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa has confirmed the death sentences awarded to 11 "hard-core terrorists" who were given the capital punishment by special military courts over the killings of 60 people, the military said Saturday.

The Army said the terrorists were involved in the killings of 36 civilians, 24 officials of the armed forces, frontier constabulary and police officials besides injuring 142 others.

Arms and ammunition were also recovered from the possession of the terrorists, who were tried by special military courts, an Army spokesperson said in a statement.

"The terrorists were involved in heinous offences related to terrorism, including attacks on law enforcement agencies and armed forces of Pakistan, Malakand University and killing of innocent civilians including Imran Khan Mohmind, a member of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Assembly," the official said.

These convicts had admitted their offences before the magistrates and the trial court and were awarded death sentences. Three other convicts have also been awarded imprisonment by military courts set up after Peshawar School attack of December 2014, according to the statement.

# Markle and Simpson: US divorcees in UK royal history

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**London, May 5:** Meghan Markle enters the British royal family in drastically different circumstances from the last American to join: Wallis Simpson, a name that still sends shivers through Buckingham Palace. Although both US divorcees, the times have changed so dramatically that while Simpson's presence threatened to bring down the monarchy, Markle is seen as a figure who can revitalise it in the 21st century. King Edward VIII was forced to abdicate in 1936 within months of acceding to the throne in order to marry Simpson

-- a seismic event that rocked national stability in the years before World War II. And the shadow of 1936 will be impossible to ignore when Markle and Harry tie the knot May 19.

The wedding will take place in St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle, west of London -- the very same church where Wallis's funeral was held in 1986. The duchess of Windsor, as she became, is buried next to her husband a 10-minute walk away in the Royal Burial Ground outside Frogmore House, where the newlyweds' evening reception will be held. "Listen very carefully at the choir's singing as



Meghan Markle walks down the aisle," said royal writer Andrew Morton, for the faint sound of the nearby king Edward "spinning in his grave". The monarch had to give up the throne to marry a US divorcee -- now one is welcomed into the royal family with open arms, he noted. Morton, who has penned biographies of both Wallis and

Markle this year, contrasted the twice-divorced Baltimore socialite to the mixed-race Los Angeles television actress. "Wallis's family were slave owners as opposed to slaves themselves," Morton said. Edward and Wallis "would have been astonished at the transformation in the British monarchy over the last 80 years," he said.

Wallis's grip over Edward chilled the royal family. She was deemed politically, religiously, socially and morally unacceptable as a potential queen. Had Edward married against prime ministerial advice, the British government would have been forced to resign, triggering a crisis. Edward

stepped down and the couple married in a French chateau in 1937. Their high-profile visit to Nazi Germany's dictator Adolf Hitler that year caused great alarm and suggestions that the couple were Nazi sympathisers. Their life in exile on the outskirts of Paris saw them essentially living in retirement, entertained by wealthy friends. However, the ice never fully thawed with the royal family, with contact and trips to Britain rare events. The monarchy's response to Edward's abdication helped mould it into an institution that Markle, an earnest embracer of public service, is well placed to join.



**Facebook must bring changes and become more transparent with users**  
KATARINA BARLEY | GERMANY'S JUSTICE MINISTER

## US JOBLESS RATE DROPS BELOW 4%

The US' headline unemployment rate fell to 3.9 per cent in April, the first time it has dropped below 4 per cent since 2000, the government said Friday



## of the day quote

The initial offer of the Indian Banks Association was meager which was totally rejected by the constituents of the United Forum of Bank Unions.



DT FRANCO | ALL INDIA BANK OFFICERS' CONFEDERATION GENERAL SECRETARY

The accounting change will severely distort Berkshire's net income figures and very often mislead commentators and investors



WARREN BUFFETT | BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY CEO

We consider it essential that wealthier borrowers with market access that continue to borrow from ADB contribute more progressively to ADB's capital resources



GEORGE OKAMOTO | US TREASURY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY

# 'INVEST IN FINTECH, HEALTH STARTUPS'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Manila, May 5:** India Saturday asked ADB to invest in fintech and health startups to help improve the quality of life in Asia while sharpening focus on infrastructure lending by ensuring loan disbursements within a year of request.

Economic affairs secretary Subhash Chandra Garg said that the Asian Development Bank (ADB) should factor in the number of poor people in a country while deciding resource allocation.

He was speaking on the sidelines of ADB's annual board meeting. The multilateral lender is making efforts to create 'Strategy 2030' to sustain its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty and to achieve sustainable growth in Asia and the Pacific.

"ADB should continue to place its primary focus on infrastructure creation, energy, communication, transportation, cities, rivers cleaning... New technologies... is the new evolution - the digital age. While agriculture and industrial age will continue to exist,

## INDIA TO ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK



and we should not ignore that the digital age is going to shape up our future.

"ADB should become a facilitator of ushering in digital age in Asia. It should invest in innovations, in startups and venture capitals to help countries produce goods and services using technologies in digital age.

"It should invest in fintech, healthcare and other ways in which public services can be delivered to people of Asia to improve their quality of life," Garg said.

Urging the ADB to undertake more direct attack on poverty reduction, malnutrition illiteracy, including digital illiteracy, and health, he said ADB needs to review its administrative processes for delivering its finance and services to help realise its vision.

"For this, first, ADB should encourage adoption of country systems. Many countries in the region, including India, have sound country system and social and environmental safeguards.

"We would do well to adopt coun-

try systems for procurement safeguards and other fiduciary policies," Garg said.

Cautioning the ADB against adopting differentiated approach while lending to countries, the secretary said, "We do not believe differential pricing will either add to its capital, which is not needed at this moment, or lead to any significant revenue.

"Therefore, probably, pursuing this idea may not be very advisable," he added.

He said ADB should factor in the number of poor people living in the country, besides income inequality and geographical imbalances, for resource allocation.

India is a founding member of the ADB and is currently the fourth largest shareholder and the largest borrower of ADB sovereign lending since 2010. The multilateral lender has so far committed sovereign loans totalling USD 35.9 billion to India.

ADB should also introduce more targeted intervention in low income and poverty-concentrated geographic pockets, Garg said.

# 'No one can turn clock back on globalisation'

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, May 5:** Noting that India's increasing engagement in international trade has been crucial in the country becoming a \$2.5-trillion economy, commerce minister Suresh Prabhu said Friday that despite protectionist challenges to it from time to time, globalisation has come to stay as a durable phenomenon.

Addressing the 52nd convocation here of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), Prabhu said for the first time since the creation of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), serious challenges are being posed to global trade, without specifying the recent protectionist measures of the US.

"Nobody can turn the clock back on globalisation...it has happened. Consider that trade came first and it is much later that globalisation has developed as a concept," he said.

"There are a lot of challenges around... For the first time since



the WTO was created, there is a real challenge to the entire global trading system. "While some countries are questioning its very rationale, some others are creating hurdles to the free flow of goods and services," the minister said.

He noted that more than half a century ago, India's GDP was less than \$50 billion and she had "never thought then of integrating with the rest of the world".

"Integration of India with global trade has significantly contributed to economic growth and the result is a \$2.5-trillion economy," he said.

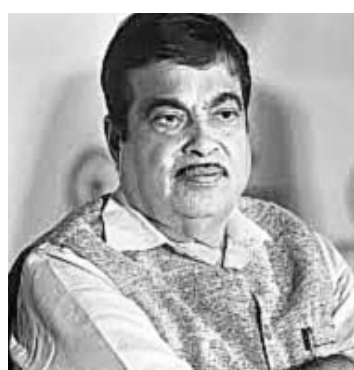
## Bajaj, TVS get nod for 100% bio-ethanol vehicles

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Hyderabad, May 5:** Union minister Nitin Gadkari Saturday said his ministry has accorded permission to auto makers Bajaj and TVS for making vehicles that run using 100 per cent bio-ethanol made out of rice and wheat straw.

"I told the managements of Bajaj and TVS to make ethanol based bike and auto rickshaws. They made it. I am giving them permission and the auto rickshaws or bikes or scooters will run on 100 per cent bio-ethanol," he said.

The Road, Transport, Highways and Shipping Minister was speaking during the launching ceremony of 'Vijaya Kranti', a Telugu news daily here.



Gadkari suggested that institutions engaged in agricultural research take up topics such as biofuel to reduce dependency on oil imports. He said rice straw, as waste, is burnt

in Punjab and Haryana, resulting in pollution in Delhi. According to him, 280 litres of ethanol can be produced from one tonne of rice straw.

"We import \$40,000 crore worth of timber, \$4,000 crore worth of raw incense sticks, \$35,000 crore worth of paper pulp and \$35,000 crore worth of newsprint every year. So a total of \$1 lakh crore worth of imports related to wood.

He said the centre was encouraging farmers to cultivate bamboo so that imports are considerably reduced.

The government has, for the first time, decided to declassify bamboo as tree, he said.

Expressing concern over 'political influence' of the media, Gadkari said people of the country want the media to be independent and impartial.

## NFL to invest ₹1,250 crore in two years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 5:** State-owned fertiliser firm NFL will invest ₹1,250 crore over the next two years on energy saving projects in its five existing plants and setting up a new factory in Madhya Pradesh to produce di-nitrogen tetroxide, its CMD Manoj Mishra said.

Besides that, he said National Fertilizers (NFL) is reviving a closed urea plant at Ramagundam, Telangana, in a joint venture with EIL, FCIL and the state government with an estimated cost of over ₹5,300 crore. NFL is also exploring the possibility of setting up a di-ammonium phosphate (DAP)

plant in Algeria through a joint venture and under buyback arrangements.

"We have posted a record turnover of ₹8,928 crore during the last fiscal. Urea production and sales were also at all-time highs," Mishra told reporters.

NFL, which has five plants at Haryana, Punjab and MP, produced a record 38.1 lakh tonnes of urea in 2017-18 fiscal with 118 per cent capacity utilisation.

Urea sales stood at 39.16 lakh tonnes.

It imported 4.47 lakh tonnes of non-urea fertilisers like DAP and muriate of potash (MoP) and sold 3.93 lakh tonnes in the domestic

market. Total sales of fertiliser was a record 43.09 lakh tonnes.

Asked about planned capital expenditure, Mishra said, "We will invest ₹1,250 crore over the next two years on energy saving projects and setting up of new plant".

The company has taken up energy saving scheme at Nangal, Bathinda and Panipat units at an estimated cost of about ₹650 crore, he said, adding that ₹220 crore would go towards energy saving schemes at two plants - Vijapur I & II - in MP with a capex of ₹220 crore.

Mishra highlighted that the company achieved lowest energy consumption at all its plants during the last fiscal and targets to

bring energy cost further.

Stating that NFL has bagged an order from ISRO to supply di-nitrogen tetroxide (N2O4), Mishra said the company would set up a plant at Vijapur in MP with an investment of ₹350 crore.

The annual capacity of this plant would be 1,000 tonnes.

The company has received 'letter of intent' from ISRO to BOOS (built, own, operate and supply) basis.

On the status of Ramagundam plant, Mishra said the company has already contributed ₹218.69 crore towards equity in its joint venture (RFCL) out of total requirement of ₹343 crore.

## WEEKLY MARKET REVIEW

# Market snaps five week winning streak, slips 54 points

The benchmark Sensex snapped five weeks of gains to slip 54.32 points close at 34,915.38, while the broader Nifty ended at 10,618.25, losing 74.05 points.

The resilient domestic market succumbed to the global uncertainty on fears set-off by US-China trade war. The truncated week saw the key indices opening on a strong note reclaiming the psychological 35,000-level on slew of positives like Reserve Bank of India (RBI) further liberalising the external commercial borrowing for more sectors, also buying in stocks specifics on good corporate earnings ruled roost.

The country's strong market fundamentals strengthened further with India's Nikkei Manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) expanded to 51.6 in April from 51 in March. The manufacturing sector improved for the ninth consecutive month in April, added to it a three month high in Services sector growth 51.4 in April from 50.3 in March.

However, global attention shifted as officials of the US and China met at Beijing to find a way forward in trade battle, with Fed cautioning on expectation of any quick resolution between the world's two largest economies.

Global weakness mounted the domestic markets selling pressure in most of the sectors, despite the key indices tried to recoup losses amid dovish Federal Reserve monetary policy which kept interest rates unchanged and indicated higher inflation ahead. The market closed Tuesday, May 1 on account of 'Maharashtra Day'.

The BSE Sensex started the week higher at 35,021.20 and hovered between high of 35,357.15 and low of 34,847.61 before closing the week at 34,915.38, showing a loss of 54.32 or 0.16 per cent.

(The Sensex gained 2,373.16 or 7.28 per cent during the previous five weeks session) The Nifty also resumed the week higher at 10,705.75 and traded between 10,784.65 and 10,601.60, the index finally closed at 10,618.25, down 74.05 points, or 0.69 per cent.

In the broader market with both Smallcap and Midcap witnessed extensive losses.

Barring Banks which found some buying support, the selling was led by Metals, IPO, Oil&Gas, Realty, Auto, IT, Teck, HealthCare, PSUs, Power, FMCG, Capital Goods and Consumer Durables sectors.

Meanwhile, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) and foreign institutional investors (FIIs) sold shares worth ₹2,890.37 crore during the week, as per Sebi's record including the provisional figure of May 04, 2018. The BSE Mid-Cap index fell 356.17 points or 2.11 per cent to settle at 16,561.01. The BSE Small-Cap index fell 248.51 points or 1.36 per cent to settle at 17,991.45. Among sectoral and industry indices, metal fell by 3.35 per cent, IPO 2.73 per cent, Oil&Gas 2.39 per cent, Realty 2.30 per cent, Auto 2.18 per cent, IT 1.76 per cent, Teck 1.69 per cent, Healthcare 1.36 per cent, PSU 1.36 per cent, Power 1.22 per cent, FMCG 0.79 per cent, Capital Goods 0.73 per cent and Consumer durables 0.61 per cent, while only Bankex rose by 0.47 per cent.

Among the 31-share Sensex pack, 21 stocks fell and remaining 10 stocks rose during the week.

Coal India was the top Sensex loser last week it lost 4.83 per cent. It was followed by Reliance 4.11 per cent, Axis Bank 3.45 per cent, Bharti Airtel 3.02 per cent, ICICI Bank 1.79 per cent, Tata Steel 1.42 per cent, Hero Motoco 1.40 per cent, Maruti 1.13 per cent and Bajaj Auto 1.06 per cent.

Kotak Bank was the top gainer in the Sensex pack it jumped 3.49 per cent. It was followed by HDFC Bank 3.14 per cent, HDFC 2.65 per cent, Adani Ports 1.68 per cent, Asian Paints 0.83 per cent and TCS 0.75 per cent. The total turnover during the week on BSE fell to ₹12,503.33 crore as against last weekend's level of ₹16,885.82 crore and NSE decline to 1,25,254.39 crore compared to ₹1,73,159.52 crore previously.

### Muted demand hits gold

In a holiday shortened week, both the precious metals lost its sheen for the second straight week at bullion market backed by weak global cues amid muted demand from local jewellers and retailers at higher levels.

Traders said, besides the fall in demand from local jewellers and retailers at the domestic market, a weak trend overseas on a firmer dollar, while investors focused on the US jobs for fresh catalysts, kept pressure on gold prices.

Elsewhere, silver also witnessed a fall, and ended lower owing to reduced offtake by industrial users and coin makers.

The Bullion market was closed Monday and Tuesday on account of 'Buddha Purnima' and 'Maharashtra Day'.

In worldwide trade, gold futures settled with a



modest gain, following mixed trading Friday, but tallied a loss for a third week in a row as investors showed a lukewarm reaction to the monthly US jobs report. The data came in a bit softer than expected in some areas, offering the Federal Reserve little reason to turn more aggressive with interest-rate hikes, but still largely support the Federal Reserve path towards tightening policy.

June gold rose USD 2, or nearly 0.2 per cent, to settle at USD 1,314.70 an ounce. Prices, which settled Wednesday at a roughly two-month low, ended around 0.7 per cent lower for the week.

In other metals trading, July silver added 0.4 per cent to USD 16.519 an ounce. It saw a roughly 0.1 per cent weekly rise. In the New York Comex trade, gold for June delivery dropped to settle at USD 1,314.70 an ounce compared to last weekend's close of USD 1,323.40, while July silver contract rose to finish at USD 16.519 an ounce from USD 16.497 earlier.

On the domestic front, standard gold (99.5 purity) resumed lower at ₹30,900 per 10 grams from last Friday's closing level of ₹31,180 and drifted further to ₹30,860, before closing at ₹31,010, revealing a loss of ₹170 per 10 grams, or 0.55 per cent.

Pure gold (99.9 purity) also commenced lower at ₹31,050 per 10 grams compared to preceding weekend level of ₹31,330 and declined further to ₹31,010 before finishing at ₹31,160, revealing a loss of ₹170 per 10 grams, or 0.54 per cent.

Silver ready (.999 fineness) opened negative at ₹38,900 per kilo grams from last Friday's closing level of ₹39,270 and slipped to ₹39,165 before settling at 39,180, showing a fall of ₹90 per kilo, or 0.22 per cent.

### Dollar strength hurts rupee

The rupee failed to find reprieve and endured yet another volatile week on the back of steady uptick in dollar demand from importers and growing

concerns about capital outflows. After plunging to fresh 14-month low of 66.92, the domestic currency ended at 66.87 - revealing a fall of 21 paise against the resurgent dollar.

This is the fourth-straight weekly fall and the longest losing streak of the year so far.

Overall, forex market sentiment remained bearish and displayed some signs of exhaustion after the rupee's recent spell of impending volatility on hardening concerns over capital outflows as well as macro headwinds. For the last few weeks, there has been a host of domestic and global factors leading to substantial slide in the domestic currency with crude and commodity prices running higher.

Mounting concerns over fiscal imbalance due to trade deficit, ongoing US-China trade tariff tiff and looming political uncertainties could further hit sentiment, a forex dealer commented.

Moreover, the rupee's movement will be influenced by the Reserve Bank of India's stance on intervention in the foreign currency market, he added. As expected, the Federal Reserve maintained the benchmark rate unchanged in its policy meet with the inflation indices shifting towards the target, though the US central bank confirmed that the path of monetary policy normalization is firmly in place with the inflation indices nearing the targeted level.

Meanwhile, the country's foreign exchange reserves fell by USD 3.216 billion to USD 420.366 billion in the week to April 27 due to a fall in foreign currency assets, RBI data showed.

Foreign investors and funds pulled out more than ₹15,500 crore from the Indian capital markets so far this month due to weak rupee, surge in global crude prices and uncertainty over US-China trade relations.

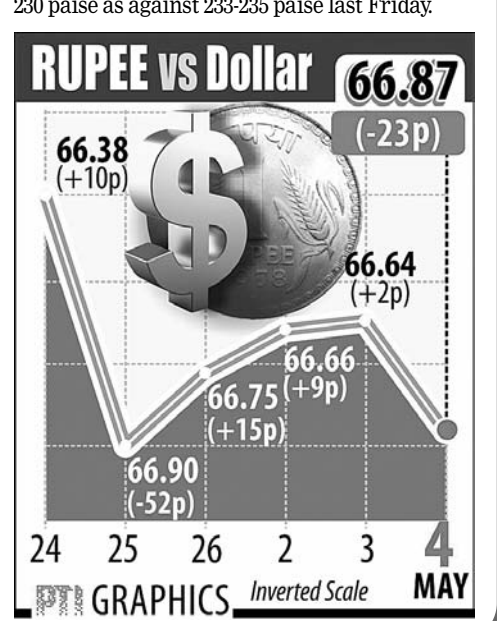
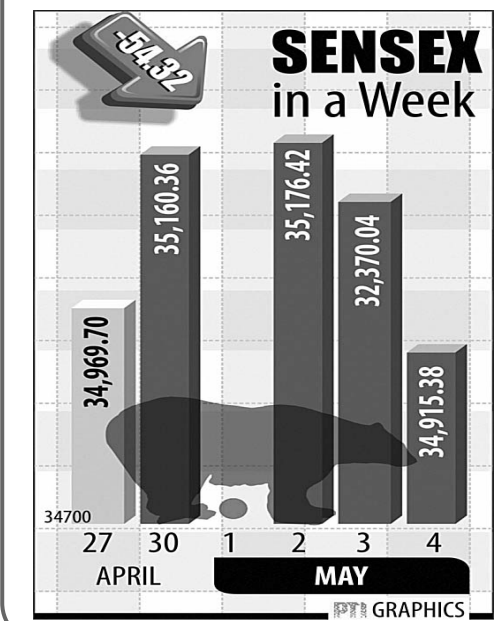
On the energy front, crude prices staged a sharp rally after several days of volatile trading on global supply woes due to falling production in Venezuela and Angola even as the market awaited news from Washington on possible new US sanctions against Iran. Brent crude futures, an international benchmark, ended at USD 74.87 a barrel.

After an extended weekend, the rupee resumed lower at 66.75 against last Friday's close of 66.66 at the inter-bank foreign exchange (forex) market and traded within a pretty small range.

The home currency, later regained some upside traction amidst the ongoing bearish move to touch a fresh high of 66.52 during the mid-week trade following expected monetary policy decision from the US Federal Reserve.

However, the recovery proved to be shortlived and waned in light of heavy dollar demand as state-run and private banks stepped up dollar purchases for their importer clients.

The follow-through weakness eventually pulled down the home currency to hit a fresh intra-day low of 66.92 before ending at 66.87, showing a loss of 21 paise, or 0.32 per cent.



# INTERACTION WITH PARENTS DEVELOPS CHILD'S BRAIN



When the participants reached 25 years of age, a sub-sample of nearly 100 participants was recruited from the larger study to take part in a neuroimaging session that measured brain activity using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI).

Specifically, the researchers used fMRI to study a network of brain connections called the anterior salience network (ASN). The participants also answered questions about harmful alcohol use and emotional eating at age 25.

Greater parent-child communication in early adolescence predicted greater connectivity of the ASN at age 25, the researcher said.

Greater ASN connectivity was, in turn, associated with lower harmful alcohol use and emotional eating at age 25, they added.

IAN S

Good communication with parents promotes in a child the development of a brain network involved in the processing of rewards and other stimuli that, in turn, protects against the over consumption of food, alcohol and drugs, says a study.

The findings of the 14-year study, published in the journal Biological Psychiatry, suggest that robust parent-child communication has an impact on health behaviour in adulthood.

"These findings highlight the value of prevention and intervention efforts targeting par-

enting skills in childhood as a means to foster long-term, adaptive neurocognitive development," said study co-author Allen Barton from the University of Georgia in the US.

In 2001, the research team began a longitudinal study involving rural US families with a child 11 years of age.

Between the ages of 11 and 13 years, participants reported on interactions with their parents, including the

frequency of discussions and arguing.



# Daily aspirin may double skin cancer risk in men

Men taking aspirin every day may have double the risk of melanoma, the most serious type of skin cancer, compared to those who are not exposed to daily to the common pain reliever, says a large study involving almost 200,000 patients.

Melanoma is a type of cancer that develops from the pigment-containing cells known as melanocytes. It typically occurs in the skin, but may rarely occur in the mouth, intestines or eye.

The researchers suggested that among the numerous possibilities, one reason men may be more vulnerable could be related to males expressing a lower amount of protective enzymes, like superoxide dismutase and catalase, compared to females, the researcher said.

"These lower levels of pro-

TECTIVE enzymes suggest that a higher level of resulting oxidative cellular damage in men that might contribute to the possibility of developing melanoma," said study co-author Beatrice Nardone from Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in the US.

Besides acting as a painkiller, aspirin has other uses as well such as reducing the risk of heart attacks and strokes.

"This (the finding) does not mean men should stop aspirin therapy to lower the risk of heart attack," Nardone stressed.

According to the researchers, the result of the study, published in Journal of the

American Academy of Dermatology, were surprising because aspirin is often reported to decrease risk of gastric, colon, prostate and breast cancer.

*Aspirin has other uses as well such as reducing the risk of heart attacks and strokes*

Nardone attributed this to variability of the research methods used in studies that look for associations and risks for cancers.

For the study, researchers collected data comprising almost 200,000 patients who were aspirin-exposed or aspirin-unexposed (control group) with no prior history of melanoma and with a follow-up time of at least five years.

For the aspirin-exposed patient population, the study included only patients who had at least one year of once-daily aspirin exposure at a dose of 81 or 325 mg.

When the groups were separated into men and women, men exposed to aspirin had almost twice the risk for diagnosis of melanoma compared to men in the same population who were not exposed to aspirin.

The findings suggest that men who take daily aspirin may benefit from periodic skin exams by the dermatologist.

IAN S



# Watch IPL, but take care of your eyes

The ninth edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) is underway and cricket enthusiasts, especially those fond of the T20 format, are glued to TV screen every evening. However, little do they realise that watching too much TV has a negative effect on our eyesight and it may even result in strained eyes. This aside, watching TV for prolonged period at a stretch may also cause fatigue, sharp pain, headaches, and overall tiredness of the eyes. Doctors S T Muralidhar, a Bhubaneswar-based ophthalmologist, and Reema Sarin, a post-doctoral fellow at the Indian Institute of Science, have come up with 20-20-20 rule with a difference to protect your eyes from eye problems due to excessive TV watching.

According to the American Academy of Ophthalmologists,

continuous exposure to digital devices may not cause any permanent eye damage, but it definitely causes digital eye strain syndrome as well as lead to other consequences like blurred vision and red eyes. Digital Eye strain syndrome may also cause blurry vision, eye irritation, headache, neck and back pains, depression, sleep disorders, myopia and age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

**Why does this happen?** Responding to this query, the doctors say, "A normal person blinks about 15-20 times in 60 seconds, but studies have shown that blinking reduces to as little as 2-5 times per second while watching programmes on a phone/tab/computer or TV. Blinking helps to keep the eyes moist and maintain the tear film on the outer surface of the eye, acting like a lubricant.



With continuous gazing, the tear film tends to break up faster and evaporate resulting in dryness of the eyes. However, these problems can be avoided by following the 20-20-20 rule, which, simply speaking is taking a 20-second break from the screen every 20 minutes and looking at something located 20 feet away.

It is worth mentioning here that most of the digital devices mainly emit blue light. Blue rays form short-wave-length visible light that is associated with more eye strain compared to longer wave-length of other hues, such as orange and red.

Blue light is what gives screens their brightness. Reducing the colour temperature of your digital display also lowers the amount of blue light emitted by a device and ensures better and comfortable long-term viewing. According to the eye expert duo, "People with or without refractive errors, especially IT professionals, other others in similar professions, jobs requiring extensive travelling on bikes or professional drivers, usually complain of bright light or glares. Even in these cases the cause is unstable tear film and dryness of the eyes."

Dr Muralidhar and Dr Sarin

further explain that in order to address these occupational hazards, lens manufacturing companies are promoting use of specialised lenses." Leading brands like GKB Vision RX are promoting lenses that provide protection from blue light emanating from the digital screens and ant glare coatings. Brands like Blumax, Nova, Blucut from GKB HiTech, to name a few, are available at leading eye clinics and optical stores in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack. Your ophthalmologist can help you choose what best suits your requirement," they signed off.

# ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF LAUGHTER YOGA

First Sunday of May is World Laughter Day. It's a time to take advantage of all the joy that the simple act of laughter can bring to our lives. Laughter yoga is a new twist on an ancient practice. Not only does it increase happiness, but it also strengthens the immune system, reduces pain and lowers stress.

**What is laughter yoga**

Laughter is an emotion that has the power to heal illness and prevent diseases. It can transform our lives and ensure health and happiness. Yet, we don't laugh enough. Laughter Yoga is an effective method to cure many mental and physical health disorders in a natural way. Laughter strengthens the immune system, reduces pain and lowers stress. All we have to do is laugh for good health. Laughter yoga is a unique style of yoga that involves laughing voluntarily. This new twist to the ancient practice of yoga is probably the only exercise routine that will leave you happier and healthier.

**Origin**

In the mid-1990s, the Indian physician Madan

Kataria developed laughter yoga based on the concept that voluntary laughter could provide the same health benefits as spontaneous laughter. Soon after, laughter yoga spread worldwide, sparking the creation of Laughter Yoga Clubs where people would gather to practice. Instead of using humor, laughter is initiated through creative exercise. Practitioners do not have to master any of the traditional yoga postures. They simply need to laugh. As of 2011,

more than 65 countries were home to over 8,000 laughter clubs. The first World Laughter Day was celebrated on January 10 in Mumbai. It was arranged by Kataria. Now, World Laughter Day is celebrated on the first Sunday of May.

**BENEFITS**

**Lowers blood pressure:** The playful exercise and the yogic breathing can lower the blood pressure. It also lowers the level of cortisol, the stress hormone, in your blood.

**It is a great aerobic exercise:** You will burn calories by practising laughter yoga. In fact,

the calories burned during 100 laughs are equal to the amount burned during 10 minutes of rowing. Laughter yoga also massages your internal organs.

**It increases oxygen intake:** Laughing helps you to have longer inhale and exhale. It will fill your body with oxygen, which is the lifeline for your body.

**Improves concentration:** Your brain will function better with all the oxygen you are inhaling while laughing. Your brain will be more focused and active.

**Improves immune system:** Having belly laughter will increase the flow of the lymphatic fluid and increase the number of lymphocytes, which the killer cells of our body that fights infection. So, once the number of

lymphocytes increases, your immunity increases. According to research conducted by the National Cancer Centre in California and Linda Loma Medical Centre, Indiana State University, your immune system improves up to 40% with laughter.

**Makes you happy:** Who doesn't feel good after a hearty laugh? Although laughter yoga starts with a voluntary laugh, it soon turns into real one. This is such a contagious exercise routine. Laughing triggers the release of endorphin, the happy hormone. It is also the natural pain killer. So laugh more if you want to get rid of the pain in your body.

**Improves respiratory system:** Your lungs get revitalised with more oxygen rushing into your lungs while you laugh.

**Improves the health of your heart:** Your heart becomes happy when you laugh. Your blood vessels expand when you laugh and it improves the blood circulation making the heart happy.

**Improves pain tolerance:** According to a study conducted to see the level of pain tolerance and how it is linked to laughter. It was proved that those who were laughing had more pain tolerance.

AGENCIES





**MI skipper Rohit Sharma became the first Indian to hit 300 sixes in T20 format with an over-boundary against KXIP in their IPL-XI game, Friday. In IPL, the Mumbaier has hit 183 sixes, in T20s it is 78 and in other games the figure is 40**

**'IN GOOD HANDS'**

Former Australian coach Darren Lehmann said Saturday that his successor Justin Langer is the man to take the side away from the ball-tampering controversy. "I am so pleased that Australian cricket will be in such good hands," Lehmann said. "He is the perfect man for the job"



**SHORT TAKES**

**Two Indian golfers in title contention**

**Seongnam (Korea):** Ajeetesh Sandhu suffered finishing blues in tough conditions for the second day running but still stayed in sight of his second Asian Tour win at the 37th GS Caltex Maekyung Open Golf Championships here Saturday. He ended the day with a score of three-over 74, a card that had two birdies and four bogeys. Yet he remained joint second with two Koreans - Lee Sanghae (68) and Park Sanghyun (71). The leader for the second day running was Lee Dongha (75) and he is two-under for 54 holes. Meanwhile Gaganjeet Bhullar who was tied 11th after day two improved to tied fifth with an even par 71. Shiv Kapur (74) however, slipped from tied fifth to tied 11th.

**Neeraj smashes own record, finishes fourth**

**Doha:** Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra shattered his own national record of 86.48m by clearing a distance of 87.43m en route to a fourth-place finish in a star-studded field at the season-opening Diamond League series here Friday evening. Neeraj was up against Olympic champion Thomas Rohler, World Champion Johannes Vetter and Andreas Hoffman, all Germans and all in the 90m club, but the 22-year-old Indian was not intimidated. In the process, Neeraj beat 2017 World Championships silver medalist Jakub Vadlejch of the Czech Republic, who finished fifth with a best throw of 86.67m. Neeraj began with a 81.17m throw, then came up with 87.43m before fouling his next three attempts. He had an 81.06m in his sixth and last throw. Rohler won gold with a best throw of 91.78m.

**Lightning-struck player succumbs to his injuries**

**Pietermaritzburg (South Africa):** Midfielder Luyanda Ntshangase from South African top-flight side Maritzburg United died here Saturday, a little more than two months after being struck by lightning during a friendly fixture March 1. The promising 21-year-old had been in an induced coma since the incident. "We are extremely sad about the loss of Luyanda, an exciting young player with enormous potential," Maritzburg chairman Farook Kadodia said in a statement. Ntshangase, who made his debut against Kaizer Chiefs in October 2016, is the third Maritzburg player to perish in a little more than two years after midfielders Mondli Cele, 27, and Mloni Dlamini, 20, died in separate car accidents.

**Four-game touchline ban for Atletico coach**

**Madrid:** Atletico Madrid coach Diego Simeone has been banned from the touchline for the next three European matches after being sent to the stands during the first leg of his club's Europa League semifinal against Arsenal at the Emirates Stadium in London, last week. Simeone had turned abusive while protesting against the sending off of defender Sime Vrsaljko two minutes earlier. The ban handed out by FIFA means Simeone will be confined to the stands when Atletico face Olympique Marseille in the Europa League final, May 16 at Lyon.

**Liang sets new WR in 50km walk event**

**Taichang (China):** China's Liang Rui powered to a 4:04:36 second victory in the women's 50km race at the 2018 IAAF World Race Walking Team Championships here Saturday, breaking the world record (WR) in her first race over the distance. The 23-year-old Liang improved the previous world record of 4:05:56, set by Ines Henriques of Portugal at last year's World Championships in London, by one minute and 20 seconds to take the gold. Her teammate Yin Hang finished second in 4:09:09s, followed by Claire Tallent of Australia, who set a continental record of 4:09:33 to grab the bronze. Reigning World Champion Henriques failed to finish the race.

**DOUBLES ACE DETERMINED TO RETURN TO COURTS AFTER OCT DELIVERY DATE**

**TENNIS STILL SANIA'S FIRST PRIORITY**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, May 5:** Tennis icon, Sania Mirza, a former World No.1 in doubles asserted Saturday that her first priority will be to return to the courts once her pregnancy is done with. However, she also said that commenting on her participation in the 2020 Olympic Games would be a little premature as the event is still quite far off.

"The 2020 Olympics is a long way off. I've said this many times that as tennis players, we wish we knew what tomorrow holds for us," stated Sania in a telephonic conversation with this agency. "Having said that it definitely looks doable. But one has to wait and watch where life takes you. Most definitely, I would say returning to the courts and playing competitive tennis is my priority as soon as the pregnancy is done," added the 31-year-old, who is due to deliver her first child in October.

Sania stated that starting a family has been in her mind for some time now. "It was just about time... I was down with my knee injury anyway and we (she and husband Shoab Malik) had been thinking about it for a while. We thought it was a good time to start a family and experience this new phase of our lives," informed Sania.

The tennis ace is suffering from a con-



Former World No.1 in doubles, Sania Mirza posted this picture of hers on her Twitter account with the caption, 'Saturdays are for chilling'

dition called 'jumper's knee', which has kept her off the game for over six months. She even missed the Australian Open earlier this year. Sania, however, stated that the knee has improved. "It definitely is better. I haven't

played since mid-October, so it has been a solid rest of six months and more. I won't say it is perfect, but it's better," stated the player.

One of the most successful doubles exponents in the last decade or so,

**My goal is obviously to come back and that's the most important thing. It's an example I'd like to set for my kid as well that you don't give up on your dreams just because you're pregnant**

SANIA MIRZA

Sania asserted that motherhood won't in any way impede her return to tennis.

"Pregnancy is not something that holds you back in any way. It's very empowering and is something that is part of being a woman and it's something I always looked forward to... having a family. I knew tennis is something that will take a backseat eventually. However, as of now, I am confident that I will be able to handle my career as well as motherhood," asserted Sania.

She is also not letting weight woes worry her. "Weight is so superficial. For a woman, it's all about embracing the pregnancy. When you're pregnant, what's most important is having a healthy baby. You are going to get bigger when you're pregnant and you will lose the weight as long as you want to," Sania pointed out.

**2019 AFC ASIAN CUP**

**Coach backs India to qualify for knockouts**



(FROM LEFT): Shanmugam Venkatesh, Sunil Chhetri and Stephen Constantine pose for shutterbugs during the Asian Cup draw, Friday night

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dubai, May 5:** India have the ability to qualify for the knockout stage of the 2019 Asian Cup, national football team coach Stephen Constantine said Saturday, giving wings to his players' aspirations, quite appropriately, from the world's tallest building - the Burj Khalifa.

India were Friday night clubbed with hosts United Arab Emirates, Thailand and Bahrain in Group A of the AFC Asian Cup, the draw for which was conducted at the Burj Khalifa.

"I think it's a group from where we can qualify to the knockout stage. I won't say it's an easy group but we have the ability to win against some of these teams and on our day, we can beat most of them," Constantine, who attended the draw along with team manager Shanmugam Venkatesh and skipper Sunil Chhetri, said.

"All these teams will give us different kinds of problems and we have to be prepared before facing them in the AFC Asian Cup UAE 2019," he added.

The last time India participated in the continental tournament,

**It is a great opportunity for us to rub shoulders with players who play in top European leagues and learn from them**

SUNIL CHHETRI

in 2011, they were thrashed by South Korea, Australia and Bahrain. They returned home bruised and battered after conceding a barrage of goals.

Speaking at the ceremony, Chhetri said: "The AFC Asian Cup is an enormous opportunity for us to rub shoulders with the best of Asia and play against players many of whom play in many a Premier League and other parts of the world. We are looking forward to the challenge. Back home in India, everyone is excited and we have the blessings of all the people and we will do our best."

Chhetri, India's all-time leading scorer will be the lynchpin of the team. "It will be an eye-opener and even if it is a learning experience, we aim to be competitive and give our best on the pitch," Chhetri asserted.

**LAHIRI FALTERS, WOODS, RORY ACHIEVE CUT**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Charlotte (USA), May 5:** The firm and tough greens took a toll on Anirban Lahiri as the Indian golfer missed the cut at the Wells Fargo Championships after shooting 76-74 in the first two rounds, even as the legendary Tiger Woods managed to make it here Friday. Woods (71-73) squeezed inside the cutline which fell at three-over 145.

Peter Malnati (67-68) was his best over the last three holes and finished with a three-under 68 for a one-shot lead. Malnati made two straight birdies and finished with a par that felt like a birdie. He cleared the steep lip of a bunker with inches to spare and made a six-foot putt.

Apart from Woods, another former World No.1 Rory McIlroy (68-76) made it to the weekend, though not by much.

Woods at tied 48th made his only birdie on his final hole for a 73 that assured him a cut at Quail Hollow for the first time since 2009. McIlroy was also tied 48th.

Malnati leads at seven-under par, while Jason Day (69-67) and rookie Aaron Wise (68-68) are one shot back. Paul Casey (69-68) and Charl Schwartzel (70-67) are two strokes behind.

**BRIGHTON SEAL PREMIER LEAGUE SPOT FOR NEXT SEASON**

**Seagulls soar over Red Devils**



Brighton & Hove Albion's Pascal Gross (R) celebrates with teammate Anthony Knockaert after scoring the winner against Manchester United, Friday

REUTERS

**London, May 5:** Brighton and Hove Albion made sure of their Premier League spot next season with two games to spare after a Pascal Gross goal gave them a memorable 1-0 home win Friday over Manchester United.

It was no more than Brighton deserved after outplaying their more illustrious rivals throughout the contest and they sent a passionate home crowd into raptures after Gross headed home a 57th-minute winner.

The German forward got on the end of a sharp Jose Izquierdo cross

from the left and the ball crossed the line before Marcus Rojo's desperate attempt to keep it out.

The result lifted Brighton into 11th place on 40 points from 36 matches and left them assured of finishing above the bottom three as they visit Wednesday, champions Manchester City before their final game away to Liverpool.

Manchester United stayed second on 77 points ahead of Thursday's trip to West Ham followed by a home game against Watford. The result also meant that they lost this season to all three promoted teams - Brighton, Huddersfield and Newcastle United.

**Indian challenge ends with Praneeth's ouster**

AGENCIES

**Auckland, May 5:** B Sai Praneeth went down fighting to second seed Jonatan Christie of Indonesia in the men's singles semifinals of the New Zealand Open badminton tournament here, Saturday. With the exit of the 25-year-old Praneeth, the Indian challenge in the event ended.

Praneeth put up a valiant fight before losing to Christie 21-14, 19-21, 8-21 in a match that lasted over an hour. The Indian shuttler who won the first game, had his chances in the second also to close out the match. However, he made some crucial errors while leading 11-8 and 14-11 in the second game. It allowed the Indonesian to catch up and once he did so there was no looking back for Christie.

With the score tied at 19-all in the second game, Christie won two points in a row to restore parity in the match. The first of these points came when Praneeth missed an easy smash with the entire

**Results**

B Sai Praneeth lost to Jonatan Christie 21-14, 19-21, 8-21

Lin Dan beat Kwang Hee Heo 21-16, 21-16

court at his mercy. Praneeth struggled to compete against his Indonesian rival in the third game, as Christie dominated from the beginning to seal his spot in the summit clash.

"In the third game, I suffered a lapse of concentration and once I surrendered an early lead, it was always difficult to catch up," said Praneeth after his tie. "Even though any loss is disappointing, I am overall satisfied with the show I put up in the tournament. I beat some real tough players," he added.

In the title clash, Christie will face the legendary Lin Dan of China. The top seed had no problems in disposing Korea's Kwang Heo 21-16, 21-16 in a match that lasted 49 minutes.

**Kvitova delights home fans with Prague title**

AGENCIES

**Prague, May 5:** Second-seeded Petra Kvitova came from a set down to beat seventh seed Mihaela Buzarnescu of Romania 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 in the Prague Open final played here, Saturday. It was the 23rd career WTA title for the two-time Wimbledon champion.

The Czech raced into a 3-0 lead but Buzarnescu took the opening set after winning five straight games. Kvitova committed five dou-

ble faults and 23 unforced errors in the set, thus allowing the Romanian player to come back into the match. In the second set, local favourite Kvitova save six breakpoints on her serve and broke Buzarnescu twice to restore parity in the match.

Kvitova broke Buzarnescu in the fourth game of the deciding set and held her serve for a 4-1 lead. The 10th-ranked Czech converted her first match point on clay on the way to her third title this year after

wins at St Petersburg and Qatar.

"No doubt it feels great to win in front of my home crowd," said Kvitova who was out of tennis for six months since surviving a knife attack in December 2016.

**Svitolina advances** Meanwhile at the Madrid Open tennis tournament, fourth seed Elina Svitolina of Ukraine started her run at Saturday in an auspicious fashion, defeating Frenchwoman Alize Cornet

6-2, 6-2 in the first round.

During the 71-minute contest, Svitolina managed to break her rival's serve five times, which in the process earned her the third career win over the French player in their fifth encounter.

The 23-year-old Svitolina, who won the Brisbane International and the Dubai Tennis Championships earlier this year, has failed to advance beyond the second round in her four previous tournament appearances.

**NALCO CMD LAUDS WOMEN ACHIEVERS**



Nalco CMD Tapan Kumar Chand (R) felicitated Nalconian Sradhanjali Samantaray at the office premises Friday in Bhubaneswar. Sradhanjali as an assistant coach contributed immensely to help Odia club, Rising Students emerge champions in the recently-concluded Indian Women's Football League. "We are very proud of Sradhanjali Samantaray for helping brand Odisha shine in the sporting arena," Chand said while handing over a trophy to the coach. He also praised another Nalconian, Sunita Lakra who has been selected as the captain of the Indian women's hockey team. Also seen in the picture is former India cricketer Debashis Mohanty (L)

**TODAY'S MATCHES**

**MI vs KKR**  
Time: 4pm

**KXIP vs RR**  
Time: 8pm

Telecast: Star Sports channels

## Pragyan settles for silver medal

**Bhubaneswar, May 5:** Pragyan Prasanti Sahu of Balasore bagged a silver medal Saturday in the 100m hurdles at the ongoing South Asian Junior Athletics Championships in Colombo.

Pragyan clocked 14.98 seconds to secure the second position. Sapna Kumari (14.19 seconds) of Jharkhand clinched the gold medal. The bronze medal went to Sri Lankan MA Bhagya Nilmini (15.25 seconds).



**BUDDING TALENTS:** Participants at the summer shooting camp pose with their certificates along with guests in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

**Shooting camp ends**

The summer shooting camp jointly organised by Orissa Rifle Association (ORA) and Utkal Karate School (UKS) concluded here Saturday.

Joining as the chief guest, ORA president Ananga Udaya Singh Deo distributed certificates to 55 participating trainees from all parts of the state.

"The second part of the training will start May 8. A total of six camps will be organised to search talents from Orissa," stated UKS founder secretary Hari Prasad Patnaik through a press release Saturday.

"A pre-state level shooting competition will be organised in June and qualified shooters will be eligible to take part in the state-level Shooting Championships," informed Singh Deo.

# CSK INCH CLOSER TO PLAY-OFF SPOT

## JADEJA, HARBHAJAN SCRIPT VICTORY

**Pune, May 5:** Chennai Super Kings (CSK) inched closer to an IPL-XI play-off spot after a comprehensive six-wicket victory over Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB), courtesy a superb bowling effort from the spin duo of Ravindra Jadeja (3/18) and Harbhajan Singh (2/22).

The two bowled eight overs during which they conceded only 40 runs and sent five RCB batsmen, including Virat Kohli (8) and AB de Villiers (1), back to the hut and restrict them to 127 for nine in 20 overs. Only Parthiv Patel (53, 41b, 5x4, 2x6) batted well at the top of the order and Tim Southee (36 n o, 26b, 3x4, 1x6) took the score past the 100-run mark.

On a tricky pitch, Mahendra Singh Dhoni (31 n o, 23b, 1x4, 3x6) then picked up Yuzvendra Chahal for some special treatment with three huge sixes as CSK knocked off the required runs in only 18 overs to move to 14 points from

10 games. Earlier, CSK had been given a good start by Ambati Rayudu (32, 25b, 3x4, 2x6).

Another win in the next four matches will guarantee CSK a spot as 16 points has always been a cut-off for play-off qualification.

RCB's sloppy fielding also contributed to their downfall. At 80 for four in the 13th over, CSK were in a spot of bother but Parthiv as usual was shoddy behind the stumps and dropped Dwayne Bravo (14 n o, 17b, 1x6) off Murugan Ashwin. The batsman then was on one.

Ashwin was also unlucky when Chahal dropped Bravo at deep extra-cover as the all-rounder along with his skipper added 48 runs for the unbroken fifth wicket stand.

**Brief scores:** RCB 127/9 (Parthiv Patel 53, Tim Southee 36 n o; Ravindra Jadeja 3/18, Harbhajan Singh 2/22) lost to CSK 128/4 in 18 overs (Ambati Rayudu 32, MS Dhoni 31 n o; Umesh Yadav 2/15) by six wickets.



Ravindra Jadeja (L) celebrates with teammates after taking a wicket against RCB at Pune, Saturday

## 'Saina, Sindhu are precious diamonds'

**New Delhi, May 5:** India's chief badminton coach Pullela Gopichand termed PV Sindhu and Saina Nehwal – his two most successful pupils – as 'precious diamonds'.

"As a coach I treat both Saina Nehwal and PV Sindhu as precious diamonds. Winning or losing happens every day at the Academy in Hyderabad. Win or defeat in games encourages the winner and loser to raise the bar and reach higher standards," said Gopichand here Saturday at a felicitation programme organised by FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO), the women business wing of the Federation of Indian chambers of Commerce & Industry.

The taskmaster added: "During competitions or upcoming matches I take away players', including Saina's and Sindhu's, mobile phones and raid their rooms to check laptops and refrigerators to prevent them from stocking chocolates. One has to be strict

with them. My dream is my students winning gold in the Olympics."

While Saina (2012) is an Olympic bronze medalist, Sindhu won silver at the 2016 Rio Olympics.

Meanwhile Saina who holds a 3-1 head-to-head record against Sindhu, did not attribute her success rate to any special reason. "I am comfortable while playing. May be that's the case with Sindhu," she added.

Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei has been Saina's nemesis in the recent past winning the last seven encounters between the two. "She is a very tricky player, very deceptive and so she is difficult to beat," Saina pointed out.

Meanwhile Sindhu did not buy the theory of 'choking' in the finals of big tournaments. "I think reaching the final of any tournament is in itself a big feat and that should be lauded," asserted the shuttler.

## Prithvi half century props Daredevils

**Hyderabad, May 5:** Delhi Daredevils (DD) could not cash in on the brilliant platform laid by young Prithvi Shaw (66, 36b, 6x4, 3x6) as Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) clawed back to restrict them to 163 for five in an IPL-X encounter here Saturday.

After scoring 95 in the first 10 overs, DD managed only 67 in the back 10 with the pitch getting slower and the odd delivery holding up. Leg-spinner Rashid Khan (2/23) was the most impressive bowler for SRH as he put the brakes in the second half of the Delhi innings.

**Brief scores**

**DD 163/5**  
(Prithvi Shaw 65, Shreyas Iyer 44; Rashid Khan 2/23) lost to **SRH 164/3**  
(Alex Hales 45; Amit Mishra 2/19) by 7 wickets.

Shaw once again provided a blazing start. He teed off with six over long on off Sandeep Sharma and then lofted Shakib Al Hasan inside out for his second maximum. The most fruitful over was the final one in the powerplay where Shaw literally got stuck into Siddarth Kaul (1/37), hitting him for a six and three boundaries.

The 18-year-old is one of the cleanest hitters among the 'Gen-Next' players. With a slight back-foot trigger towards leg-stump, the Mumbaikar makes room and plays his shots all around the wicket. While there is a preference for straight hits, he is equally adept in hitting the cut shots and is not afraid to pull the short balls when the need arises.

Till Shaw was taking on the bowlers, his skipper Shreyas Iyer (44, 36b, 3x4, 2x6) played the second fiddle to perfection during their 86-run stand. Shaw was finally out when he tried to hit Rashid Khan against the turn, gifting a simple catch to Kaul at short third man.

Skipper Iyer was looking good for another half-century before his attempted flick shot off Kaul's bowling was snapped by Shikhar Dhawan at deep mid-wicket. Delhi's top run-getter in the season, Rishabh Pant (18) was off-colour as Rashid trapped him leg-before.

Naman Ojha, getting his first look-in in the tournament, was run out. From 95 for one, Delhi slumped to 134 for five in the space of 6.4 overs. It was Vijay Shankar (23, 13b, 1x4, 1x6), who take Delhi past 160-run mark.

**In reply SRH rode on knocks from Alex Hales(45, 31b, 3x4, 3x6) and Kane Williamson (32, 30b, 1x6) to beat DD by seven wickets.**



**GOPI'S TREASURE:** Pullela Gopichand (C) poses with PV Sindhu (L) and Saina Nehwal at a function Saturday in New Delhi




### ODISHA COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CARE PROGRAMME

Signing of MoU between

**HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT  
GOVT. OF ODISHA**

and

**TATA TRUSTS**

in presence of

**Sri Naveen Patnaik**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha

&

**Sri Ratan N. Tata**  
Chairman, Tata Trusts

6th May 2018 evening  
3rd Floor, Conference Hall, Odisha Secretariat

**ODISHA GOVERNMENT'S INITIATIVE FOR BETTER CANCER CARE**

HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

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