



RIGHT STEP  
RIGHT DIRECTION  
RIGHT CLICK TO RIGHTS

# EVICTING SLUM DWELLERS OR EMPOWERING THEM?

**“WE DECIDED TO EMPOWER THEM BY PROVIDING LAND RIGHTS.”**



Naveen Patnaik

## IN KEEPING WITH ITS POLICY OF PEOPLE FIRST, THE ODISHA GOVERNMENT HANDS OVER LAND TITLES TO URBAN SLUM-DWELLERS.

Barely seven months after the enactment of a historic legislation to grant land rights to urban slum dwellers, about 2000 families will be given land right certificates (Pattas) today at Ganjam by Chief Minister, Naveen Patnaik. Traditionally viewed as encroachers, Odisha in a pioneering move has recognised their right to a dignified life and launched a mission to convert slums to liveable habitats, with technical support from Tata Trusts. This project will benefit 1 million people residing in 2,500 slums across the state in the next one year, and will probably be the largest project of its kind in the world.

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SPIRITUAL DISCOURSE

A spiritual leader delivers a discourse organised by Chinmaya Mission at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

BOOK LAUNCH

Dignitaries unveil a book of poems Samudra Bijaya by Gajanan Mishra at Red Cross Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Sunday



FORTUNE FORECAST



ARIES Logic and reasoning will hold court, while creativity takes a backseat today. There are challenges at work, but you are a dynamo and will meet them upfront.



TAURUS You are going to be exceptionally intense in the way you communicate your emotions and feelings.



GEMINI You need to guard against hurting anyone's feelings because of your ill-temper or harsh language.



CANCER People will surround you. You will entertain them with your hilarity. Social contacts will benefit you.



LEO Your mind will be filled with conflicting emotions, says Ganesha. You will feel extreme happiness one moment, and then will be depressed the next.



VIRGO The remarkable manner in which you function at work will earn you a lot of accolades and supporters.



LIBRA Ganesha feels the day will be beneficial for you when it comes to transactions with the government.



SCORPIO Ganesha feels that you may be confronted with vital decisions at work.



SAGITTARIUS Your imagination knows no boundaries. Your kind heart is ready to forget and forgive the evil.



CAPRICORN Aren't you tired of doing the same thing again and again? Ganesha advises you to come out of your shell and breathe in some fresh air.



AQUARIUS A romantic liaison is headed towards you. Quite naturally, you don't want to be caught dead in a ratty old tee.



PISCES You will have no idea how time flies by today, while you struggle to complete an unceasing flow of tasks.



When learning is fun

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: Although the summer holidays have commenced, it is no time to sit idle. In fact, it is 'edutainment' time - where learning becomes fun.



YOUNG MINDS AT WORK: Students take part in an art and crafts class (Left) while a few try their hands at pottery at the Modern Art Gallery in Bhubaneswar

The city-based Modern Art Gallery inaugurated a fortnight-long summer workshop titled, 'Fine Heart' for children on its premises here, Sunday.

The organiser behind the camp Tarakant Parida said, "Children have forgotten to play with mud as they live in a 'smart' city. Therefore, we provided a platform for them

so they can utilise their creative minds while playing with mud, sand, paper and vibrant colours and create something new.

The participants also are happy at the opportunities they are getting. Akriti a student of the school said, "This is an opportunity for me to learn techniques to create beautiful artifacts at home. As I

Promoting life's values through art

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: Art reflects life and based on this theme, scholars of fine arts are participating in a four-day long exhibition of sculpture and painting titled 'Parikrama' which began Sunday at the Lalit Kala Akademi Regional Centre in Bhubaneswar.

The event was inaugurated by Jayanta Kumar Das principal of Govt College of Art and Craft, Khallikote. Sharing his thoughts Das said, "The world around us is in turmoil and a medium is needed to express the pain created due to it.

The artists also interacted with Orissa POST and shared their thoughts on such an initiative.

Sukanya from Bihar whose sculpture is showcased at the exhibition said, "I have used iron pieces to de-



Artists display their artefacts during an art and sculpture exhibition at Lalit Kala Akademi in Bhubaneswar, Sunday.

scribe the pain a woman experiences during life's journey."

Tissue paper and wood carving are the mediums for Odisha-based painter and sculptor Gagan Bihari Mandal, sculptor Manisha Verma, Suresh Kumbhakar and Dhanraj Nissad (all from Chhattisgarh).

Gagan's has showcased two of his works in Gallery. The first is a watercolour painting and the second is an artefact where he has used dry leaves that represent the dying moral values of the society. "My message is for all parents who should impart some moral education to

their children, rather than worrying for their future," pointed out Gagan. Sculptors Manisha, Dhanraj and Suresh have also worked with wood carvings. Suresh's work is titled Thought of Mind which has wooden and steel balls with the latter being examples of water bubbles that conjure and disappear in a whiff.

Suniti Ahuja a resident of Unit-VIII who had come to see the exhibition said, "Earlier there used to be a lot of watercolour paintings. However, this time there is a huge change due to the skills of these five artists. They have done exceptional work and it's great." The exhibition will continue for the next three days from 11.30am to 7.30pm in the evening.

Odisha's music doyen Gurukrushna no more



Gurukrushna Goswami

Gurukrushna was born November 7, 1934 at Nuagaon

Started career as a lyricist with Odia film Maa which was released in 1958

Bagged the Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi award in 2000

POST NEWS NETWORK

The entire cine fraternity expressed grief at the demise of Gurukrushna.

Eminent Odissi vocalist Shaymamani Devi said, "I have sung several songs composed by him. He was a very honest and open-hearted person. He always praised a good rendition, if that did not happen, there was no way he would appreciate it. His simple writing style touched every heart. His loss is irreplaceable."

Veteran Odia film director Raju Mishra described Gurukrushna's demise as a 'great loss to the Odia film industry'. "I never got the chance to work with him much because of the distance between us. He stayed in Cuttack while I resided in Jatni," informed Raju.

"Only once I had the opportunity of working with him, when he wrote the song Ei Jeevana Adhe Chhaai, for my film, Pathara Khasuchi Bada Deulu. He was a very nice and honest person and was never afraid to speak his mind. He certainly was an inspiration to everyone who came across him," Raju added.

Singer Sangeeta Gosain is yet to come to terms with Gurukrushna's demise. "We were close because of our family connections. He was a very dignified and lovable person. He has composed music and lyrics for both me and my sister. It must be mentioned here that he has worked with renowned music director and singer, Shantana Mohapatra," stated Sangeeta with emotion choking her voice.

Vocalist Nazia Alam while expressing her condolences said, "Gurukrushnaji will always remain in our hearts".

Gurukrushna bagged many prestigious awards for his contributions to the Odia film industry. Among them were the 'Best Lyricist award of Odisha' in 1996, 'Bhakta Kabi Salabeg' and 'Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi (OSNA)' awards (both in 2000). Goswami was also appointed as the approved music director for All India

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DELHI BOUND FLIGHTS

(Bhubaneswar-New Delhi) IndiGo

6E-104: dep 0545 hrs, arr 0810 hrs; 6E-256: dep 0945 hrs, arr 1220 hrs; 6E-646: dep 1640 hrs, arr 1900 hrs; 6E-314: dep 1845 hrs, arr 2120 hrs; 6E-5405: dep 2105 hrs, arr 2320 hrs.

Vistara

UK-786: dep 0845 hrs, arr 1100 hrs;

(\*Monday to Friday)

UK-760: dep 2120 hrs, arr 2345 hrs. Air India

AI-474: dep 2110 hrs, arr 2320 hrs.

BANGALORE BOUND FLIGHTS

(Bhubaneswar-Bangalore)

IndiGo

6E-897: dep 0830 hrs, arr 1035 hrs;

6E-492: dep 1355 hrs, arr 1555 hrs;

6E-3869: dep 2050 hrs, arr 2255 hrs;

6E-878: dep 2345 hrs, arr 0150 hrs.

AirAsia

I50535: dep 09:35 hrs, arr 11:45 hrs (\*Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday)

I50535: dep 18:50 hrs, arr 21:10 hrs

(\*Tuesday)

MUMBAI BOUND FLIGHTS

(Bhubaneswar-Mumbai)

IndiGo

6E-375: dep 08:50 hrs, arr 11:20 hrs;

6E-257: dep 13:20 hrs, arr 15:55 hrs.

Air India

AI-670: dep 14:00 hrs, arr 16:25 hrs; GoAir

G8-247: dep 18:50 hrs, arr 21:05 hrs;

KOLKATA BOUND FLIGHTS

(Bhubaneswar-Kolkata) IndiGo

6E-312: dep 0540 hrs, arr 0650 hrs;

6E-557: dep 1025 hrs, arr 1130 hrs;

6E-5401: dep 1625 hrs, arr 1725 hrs;

6E-6857: dep 1745 hrs, arr 1845 hrs;

6E-598: dep 1955 hrs, arr 2100 hrs.

GoAir

G8-216: dep 0900 hrs, arr 1005 hrs.

AirAsia: I50536: dep 15:00 hrs, arr 15:50 hrs; (\*Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday)

I50563: dep 00:15 hrs, arr 01:15 hrs; (\*Wednesday)

Enquiry office numbers of airlines

Indigo - 0674-6543547,

2595016, 2596174, Air India- 0674-2596178

GoAir- 92 23 222111,

Vistara- 0674259095

TRAIN SCHEDULE

TRAINS ORIGINATING FROM OR TERMINATING AT BHUBANESWAR

Table with columns: Sl. No., Train Nos. (2-Way) No. Away | Towards, Train Name, PF No. \*, Days of Operation Away | Towards, Departure Away, Arrival Towards. Lists various train services like BBSR-Rourkela Rajyarani EXP, BBSR-Rameswaram EXP, etc.

TRAINS PASSING THROUGH BHUBANESWAR

Table with columns: Sl. No., Train Nos. (2-Way) A | B, Train Name, PF No. \*, Days of Operation A | B, Train A ARR | DEP, Train B ARR | DEP. Lists various train services like Paradip-VZG Paradeep EXP, Howrah-Mysore Weekly EXP, etc.

\* For inquiries: 0674-2532233



## MANISHA FEELS HONOURED

Actor Manisha Koirala says she feels honoured to portray the character of late actress Nargis Dutt

GLITTERATI P8



## US WILL REGRET: IRAN

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani says that the US will regret if it quits the nuclear deal with his country

INTERNATIONAL P10



## FERGUSON FIGHTS FOR LIFE

Former Manchester U manager Sir Alex Ferguson undergoes emergency surgery following a brain haemorrhage

SPORTS P13

### SHORT TAKES

#### Sambalpur farmer ends life over crop loss

**Sambalpur:** A farmer ended his life by consuming poison at Puruna Jhankarpali village under Burla police limits in this district Saturday evening. The incident comes in the wake of suicide attempts by two farmers in Bargarh district last week. The deceased, Pramod Rohidas, 34, was under stress due to severe crop loss caused by cattle herds from a neighbouring village, the family said. He approached local officials to complain about the loss, but his pleas fell on the deaf ears. Finding no option, an upset Pramod took the extreme step when other family members were away.

#### BSF jawan guns down 3 colleagues; kills self

**Agartala:** A BSF jawan allegedly shot dead three colleagues with his service weapon before committing suicide Sunday at a border outpost at Maguruli in Unakoti district, about 180 km from Agartala, police said. S P (Special branch), Shankar Debnath said the BSF jawan opened fire on three others including a head constable before killing himself. The incident happened at around 1 am. The head constable died on the spot. One of the injured jawans succumbed to injuries at Unakoti district hospital and another jawan, who was shifted to ILS Hospital in Agartala, also died, Debnath told PTI.

#### Isha Ambani to wed Anand Piramal in Dec

**New Delhi:** Richest Indian Mukesh Ambani's daughter Isha will wed Ajay Piramal's son Anand in December, sources said. Isha is the twin sister of Akash who was recently engaged to Shloka Mehta, daughter of diamondaire Russel Mehta. Their wedding too is planned for December. Piramal group did not respond to email sent for comments. Anand and Isha have been friends for long and their families have shared a strong friendship for over four decades, the sources said. Anand is the founder of Piramal Realty and prior to that he had founded Piramal Swasthaya, a rural healthcare initiative.

#### Lyricist passes away

**Cuttack:** Eminent Odia lyricist Gurukrushna Goswami passed away here Sunday following prolonged illness, family members said. Goswami died at his residence in Tulasiapur area. He was 84. Goswami had penned a large number of folk, devotional and modern songs in a career spanning over five decades. He is survived by wife Arati Goswami and two sons.

WEATHER		BHUB	CTK
TEMP		36.0°C	35.5°C
MAX		36.0°C	35.5°C
MIN		27.8°C	26.2°C
Humidity		94%	79%
Rainfall		Nil	Nil
Forecast		Partially cloudy sky	

# Prof among 5 ultras killed in encounter

FIVE CIVILIANS WERE ALSO KILLED IN CLASHES BETWEEN STONE-PELTERS AND THE SECURITY FORCES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Srinagar, May 6:** In a major success for security forces, five Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists including a top commander and a fresh recruit – a university professor – were killed in an encounter in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir Sunday, even as five civilians died during clashes between protesters and law enforcing agencies near the encounter site, the police said.

“Five terrorists of the outlawed Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) were neutralised during an encounter at Badigam village in Shopian,” a police spokesman said here. He said the identities of the slain terrorists were being ascertained.

The encounter broke out less than 24 hours after the security forces killed three militants during a gun battle in the Chattabala area in the heart of the city Saturday.

The security forces launched a cordon and search operation in Badigam village in the Zainapora area of the south Kashmir district

## SHOPIAN SKIRMISH



DURING THE OPERATION, THE POLICE TRIED TO PERSUADE BHAT TO SURRENDER, BUT TO NO AVAIL

The professor has been identified as Mohammad Rafi Bhat who had reportedly gone missing Friday

Top Hizbul Mujahideen commander Saddam Padder is also believed to be among the slain terrorists

following specific information about the presence of terrorists there. Official sources said top Hizbul Mujahideen commander Saddam Padder and Mohammad Rafi Bhat, an assistant professor in Kashmir University, were among the slain terrorists.

The other terrorists killed in the gunbattle are Tauseef Shiekh,

Aadil Malik and Bilal alias Molvi, all residents of south Kashmir.

Bhat, a contractual assistant professor in the Sociology department of the university and a resident of the Chundina area of Ganderbal district, had gone missing on Friday. He had joined the terrorist ranks. Inspector General of Police, Kashmir, S P Pani said the

police made repeated attempts to persuade the professor to surrender, but to no avail.

“After receiving input about his presence there, we brought his family from Ganderbal to persuade him to surrender,” Pani said.

Two police officials and an Army personnel suffered minor injuries during the gunbattle, a police official said. He said incriminating materials, including arms and ammunition, have been seized from the encounter site.

Meanwhile, clashes broke out between groups of stone-pelting youths and the security forces near the encounter site, leading to injuries to several protesters, the official said. “A number of youths suffered injuries during the clashes and were rushed to hospitals. Of them, five have succumbed to injuries,” the official said.

Kashmir University has suspended classes for two days from tomorrow as a precautionary measure and postponed all examinations that were to be held Monday.

# 7 Indian engineers abducted in Afghan

AGENCIES

**Kabul, May 6:** Seven Indian engineers and an Afghan national working for a power plant in northern Baghlan province of Afghanistan were kidnapped Sunday, officials said.

Zabihullah Shuja, spokesman for Baghlan police, said the engineers were travelling to a government-run power station in a minibus when unknown gunmen abducted them and their Afghan driver. They were abducted while travelling to the area, where the company owns an electricity sub-station contract, he said.

The armed men abducted seven Indians and one Afghan employee of Indian company KEC in Bagh-e-Shamal village of the provincial capital Pule-Khomre, TOLONews reported, citing local officials.

A senior Indian embassy official said over 150 Indian engineers and technical experts are currently working across Afghanistan on large infrastructure projects.

In response to queries on the report of abduction of the Indian nationals in Afghanistan, external affairs ministry spokesperson in New Delhi said, “We are aware of the abduction of Indian nationals from Baghlan province in Afghanistan. We are in contact with the Afghan authorities and further details are being ascertained.”

## TALIBAN ATTACK

- ▶ The men are employees of an Indian infrastructure company in Afghanistan's Baghlan
- ▶ Baghlan provincial council has linked the incident to the Taliban
- ▶ MEA is in touch with Afghan authorities to ascertain the details of the incident

“We are working out ways to ensure the release of our engineers,” the official said. It is not known who is responsible for the kidnapping or whether a ransom has been sought for their release.

Baghlan provincial council has linked the incident to the Taliban. No group has claimed responsibility for the abduction so far.

Kidnapping of locals for extortions are common in Afghanistan. Rampant poverty and rising unemployment has worsened the situation.

In 2016, an Indian aid worker was kidnapped in Kabul. She was released after 40 days.

The Indian government regularly issues a security alert for Indians residing in Afghanistan and travelling to the war-torn country.

KEC is one of the largest Indian companies in Afghanistan that is responsible for electricity supply in the country, the report said.

## INVOKING THE LORD



Buddhist monks offer prayers at Lord Buddha Temple in Howrah on the outskirts of Kolkata, Sunday

### QUICK READS

#### First photos of Prince Louis released

**London:** Britain's royal family released the first two official photographs of newly born Prince Louis Sunday, one of which shows him being held by his sister Princess Charlotte, aged three. Louis, who is fifth in line to the British throne, was born on April 23 weighing 8lbs 7oz (3.83 kg). Both the photographs were taken at Kensington Palace by Kate, the children's mother and wife of Prince William, Queen Elizabeth's grandson. The first photograph, which the palace said was taken on April 26, shows Louis propped up against a white cushion, wearing a white jumper and trousers. The second photograph, taken May 2, Charlotte's third birthday, shows the princess holding her sleeping younger brother affectionately.



#### Arnab booked for abetting suicide

**Mumbai:** Editor-in-chief and managing director of Republic TV, Arnab Goswami, was booked along with two others following the death of an interior designer Saturday, according to media reports. Goswami and the two others have been booked under Section 306 (abetting suicide) of the Indian Penal Code after police lodged a case on the basis of a complaint filed by the wife of an interior decorator, who allegedly killed himself over non-payment of dues owed to him by the news channel, Times Now reported. The designer had reportedly left behind a suicide note naming three people: Goswami, Feroz Shaikh of IcastX and Nitesh Sarda of Smartworks. His wife told the police that her husband was under financial stress after his dues were not paid by Republic TV, the report added.



# State, Tata Trust sign MoU for cancer hospital

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 6:** The state government Sunday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Tata Trusts, Mumbai, to set up a state-of-the-art Cancer Treatment and Research Hospital in the capital city with a view to provide high quality and affordable cancer care services in the state.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Tata Trusts chairman Ratan N Tata.

As part of the MoU, the Tata Trusts will set up and manage the Cancer Treatment and Research Hospital. On its part, the state government will provide land to the extent of 25 acres free of cost to set up of the cancer care centre, which will be benchmarked to the Tata Memorial Hospital in Mumbai.

State government officials said that ₹800 crore has been earmarked for executing the cancer care project under the programme over a period of next five years. Of this, state government's share will be ₹500 crore, while Tata Trusts has committed ₹300 crore.

Besides, the state government will also fund the operational expenses of all facilities established under the programme and will provide support for free treatment of poor and needy patients.

Continued on P3

# Govt mulls special drive to check HIV infections in jails

A special programme will be launched in Swadhar grehs and Ujjwala centres



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 6:** The state government plans to launch a special programme to prevent spread of HIV infections among the targeted community people who are living in closed areas like prisons and other such areas.

As per the plan, it will be launched here May 10 where special measures would be taken to prevent new infections and provide treatment to the people staying in prisons, Swadhar greh and Ujjwala centre.

State government officials, representatives from the

National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO), Odisha State AIDS Control Society, NGOs, and National Health Mission are likely to take part in the launch. Community leaders are also slated to come to the capital for launching the special targeted programme.

Officials claim that as per the studies carried out by the United Nations (UN) Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organisation, the prevalence of HIV and other blood borne viruses among people living in prisons and closed settings is higher than in the general population.

The spread of HIV in these closed settings has significant public health implications as almost all inmates return to their community thereby facilitating the spread of HIV infection to the general population.

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WASSUP TODAY

BHUBANESHWAR

- Laying of foundation stone for Sivananda Centenary Boy's Higher Secondary School, Chidananda Vihar, Kahandagiri, 7.30am
- 2nd day of summer course for children Fine Heart-2018, Odisha Modern Art Gallery, Forest Park, 8am
- 2nd day of art exhibition 'Parikrama', Lalit Kala Akademi, 11.30am
- 19th occasion of literature magazine 'Apurva', hotel The New Marion, Ram Mandir Square, 6pm
- 'Raja Mouja' programme jointly organised by Infosys Foundation and Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan, Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan open air auditorium, Unit-3, 6.30pm
- Spiritual programme by Chinmaya Bichara manthan, Rabintra Mandap, 7pm

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

CITY SHOWS

<b>AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR (HINDI - 3D)</b> BHUBANESHWAR INOX 09:00 AM 03:20 PM MAHARAJA HALL 08:30 AM 11:20 AM 02:10 PM 05:00 PM 07:50 PM 10:40 PM KESHARI 12:00 PM 03:00 PM 06:00 PM 09:00 PM OMERTA - HINGLISH BHUBANESHWAR INOX 11:25 AM 08:20 PM 102 NOT OUT - HINDI BHUBANESHWAR	<b>WAR (HINDI - 3D)</b> CUTTACK SANGAM PLEX 09:00 AM 12:00 PM 03:00 PM 06:00 PM
<b>AVENGERS: INFINITY War - English</b> BHUBANESHWAR INOX 10:05 AM 12:10 PM 01:15 PM 04:25 PM 06:30 PM 07:35 PM 09:40 PM 10:45 PM AVENGERS: INFINITY	<b>SANGAM PLEX</b> 09:15 AM 02:30 PM 06:30 PM 09:15 PM OMERTA CUTTACK SANGAM PLEX 12:15 PM 04:30 PM AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR (HINDI - 3D) CUTTACK GRAND CINEMA HALL 09:15 AM 03:05 PM 09:20 PM AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR (ENGLISH - 3D) CUTTACK GRAND CINEMA HALL 12:05 PM 06:20 PM

AIRING GRIEVANCES



Members of School Teachers' Federation of India stage a demonstration in Puri to press for their demands Sunday

PURI DHH PLAGUED BY MULTIPLE ISSUES

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, May 6: At a time when complaints continue to pour in about the deteriorating healthcare services at the district headquarters hospital (DHH) here, allegations of absence of the chief district medical officer (CDMO) from the headquarters has raised many eyebrows.

Convener of Sachetan Nagarika Manch Prasanna Kumar Das Saturday wrote to the district Collector addressing the Health Minister vividly highlighting the poor service delivery at the only International Standard Organisation (ISO)-certified government-run hospital in the state.

In his letter, Das stated that patients visiting the hospital face considerable inconvenience due to dearth of doctors and other staff. More than half of the sanctioned posts of doctors, staff nurse and other staff are lying vacant at the hospital. Besides, absenteeism of doctors at outpatient department (OPD) is worrisome, Das alleged.

Das said although the state government introduced Niramaya Yojana to supply free medicines to patients since 2015, the flagship scheme falls flat at the hospital. The patients are deprived of quality treatment at the hospital, he alleged.

In spite of frequent questions being raised on the degrading healthcare service, the CDMO does not take any step to improve the situation. The CDMO himself remains absent from the district headquarters frequently, Das pointed out in the letter.

He further alleged that poor quality of food is being served to the patients at the hospital while the sanitation mechanism has completely collapsed. The hospital is continuously reeling under acute drinking water shortage.

The water purifiers installed



- Over 50% of the sanctioned posts of doctors, staff nurse and other staff are lying vacant at the DHH
- Due to defunct lift, the pregnant women are forced to use stairs of the seven-storey building
- The post-mortem room is lying defunct while the sunstroke ward is locked

at the maternal and child health-care (MCH) centre here are lying defunct for a long time. The patients have to rush to OPD to fetch water. Due to defunct lift, the pregnant women are forced to use stairs of the seven-storey building. Moreover, the post-mortem room is lying defunct and the sunstroke ward is locked, Das added.

Recently, during the Rath Yatra coordination committee meeting many members had raised the issue of deteriorating healthcare service at the hospital. During the annual festival doctors are hired from outside the district, but no steps are being taken to fill-up the existing vacancies, Das alleged. He sought permanent solution to the issue.

When contacted, CDMO Hara Prasad Patnaik said, "Efforts are on to improve the healthcare service at the DHH. We have directed doctors to prescribe medicines listed under Niramaya scheme. Drinking water and sanitation issues will be resolved. I am also aware of various problems of different health centres in the district and efforts are underway to sort out them. The allegation about my absenteeism is false and baseless."

No final decision on sports complex: Govt

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 6: Amid controversy over the proposal to create a sports complex on the unused land of Kalinga Studio, the Sports department Sunday clarified that it was just a proposal and no final decision was taken in this regard.

"Since the city is growing, we have requested General Administration (GA) department to identify land patches for setting up sports complex and playgrounds in different parts of the city. The letter about Kalinga Studio was also written with the same objective," Sports and Youth Services Secretary Vishal Dev said in a statement.

In his letter to GA department, Dev had proposed for allotment of the unutilised vacant stretch of land of Kalinga

KALINGA STUDIO ROW



Studio for developing a sports complex.

"It is a simple proposal from our side and no decision has been taken at government level," he said, adding the GA department gets requests for land from different departments and agencies.

This proposal, however, has sparked a row within Odia film industry.

Odisha Film Development Corporation chairman Munna Khan had also opposed the move. In his reaction, Odia film star Mihir Das accused the state government of showing step-motherly attitude towards Odia cine industry. He said Odia actors and actresses will strongly oppose such move to attack their home.

BJP playing divisive politics, says Manik

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, May 6: The BJP government at the Centre is dancing to the tune of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), said former Tripura Chief Minister Manik Sarkar while participating in the concluding ceremony of School Teachers' Federation of India (STFI) conference being held here Sunday.

Sarkar claimed that RSS and its sister organisations VHP and Bajrang Dal are fanning divisive sentiments in the country

Sarkar claimed that RSS and its sister organisations Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and Bajrang Dal are fanning divisive sentiments across the country. "The Sangh parivar is dividing



the people of India in the name of religion and caste. Many innocent people in the country are being targeted on the pretext of cow protection. The BJP is trying to distort the essence of Hinduism," Sarkar alleged.

Terming the BJP government at the Centre as anti-poor and anti-labourer, the former Tripura Chief Minister alleged that there is a rise in incidents of farmers' suicides in the country.

"The BJP is trying to saffonise the educational system in the country. The Centre is working on commercialisation of education sector. A few capitalists have managed to take control over the education sector," Sarkar said.

Lid off cement unit fraud

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, May 6: Jagatpur police have traced a cement manufacturing factory at Jagatpur Industrial Estate involved in adulteration and arrested the owner of the unit here Saturday night. The owner was identified as Lalit Kumar Jain, 45, a resident of Laxmisagar police limits in Bhubaneswar.

As many as 7,547 fake cement bags, 2,380 empty bags of a branded cement company, some samples of different cement brands and machinery were seized from the warehouse. The accused has been forwarded to the court, said Cuttack DCP Akhileshvar Singh.

Acting on a tip-off, a team led by Zone-I ACP Trinath Mishra raided 'D & D Manufacturing Industry'

owned by Lalit and seized two cement-laden trucks from the spot. Meanwhile, some workers who were spotted adulterating cement in the warehouse managed to flee the spot as police were closing in.

According to police sources, Lalit is a franchise holder of Rasee Gold Cement who used ash and cement from damaged cement packets to prepare an adulterated mix of the product. Later, the debased cement was supplied to different parts of the city.

Preliminary investigation revealed that Jain has been running the illegal trade for the last 10 years. A case (89/19) under various sections of IPC and the Trade and Merchandise Act has been registered at Jagatpur police station while further investigations are under way, police said.

Govt to raise ₹500cr from open market

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 6: For third time in current financial year (2018-19), the state government will raise ₹500 crore from open market through security sale.

As per a notification issued by state Finance department, the government after taking consent from the Centre will borrow ₹500 crore through sale of government securities of 10 years' tenure. The proceeds of the loan will be utilised in financing development projects to be undertaken in the state.

The stock would be sold through auction to be conducted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Mumbai May 8. Bids for the auction are to be submitted in electronic format on RBI's core banking solution (CBS) system- E-Kuber,

THRICE THIS FISCAL



The total debt burden of Odisha will be ₹91,943 cr by end of the fiscal - 20.73% of the gross state domestic product

on the same day between 10.30 am to 12 pm.

RBI would display the auction results on the same day while successful bidder has to make payment May 9 before closure of banking hours. The borrowing stock would commence May 9, 2018 while the loan will be repaid May 9, 2028.

The interest rate for this borrowing would be paid November 9 and May 9 of each

year till end of its tenure.

Earlier in this fiscal, the state government had borrowed ₹500 crore from market in two phases each. During last financial year, the government had borrowed ₹8,000 crore from open market.

As per government's projection, total debt burden of Odisha will be ₹91,943 crore by end of 2018-19 fiscal year - 20.73 per cent of the gross state domestic product (GSDP).

NEWS SNIPPETS

1 hurt in 'cylinder blast' at city PS

Bhubaneswar: A jawan was admitted to Capital Hospital due to suffocation during a reported gas cylinder explosion at Capital police station here at 1.30pm Sunday. The jawan, identified as Satyaprakash Mantri, has been rushed to Capital Hospital. Fire brigade personnel started a rescue operation while the police station compound was enveloped in dark smoke. Sources said an employee had hosted a feast inside the police station. While the cooking was on, the cylinder exploded, sources added. Under the impact, a wall caved in. However, the police was tightlipped over the cylinder explosion version. They narrated that there was a short-circuit which caused the fire and some clothes a wooden cut were burnt. There was thick smoke, leading to the suffocation of Mantri.

Class X boy drowns

Cuttack: A 15-year-old boy drowned in Kathjodi River here Sunday evening. The deceased, identified as Abhishek Ray, had gone along with five of his friends to take bath at Khannagar Ghat, police said. Ray, a Standard-X student of SCB Medical Public School and a resident of Madhupatna police limits, was taking bath with his friends when he was swept away by strong currents. Even though his friends tried to save him, but they failed to retrieve Ray. On being informed Chauhananjay Fire Service along with Odisha Disaster Response Action Force (ODRAF) reached the spot and recovered the body. He was rushed to the SCB Medical College and Hospital where doctors declared him 'brought dead'. "A case of unnatural death was registered," said IC Rashmi Ranjan Mohapatra adding that the body will be handed over to the family Monday, after post-mortem.

2 women held for assault

Bhubaneswar: Nayapalli police Sunday arrested a woman and her sister for illegal road blockade at Behera Sahi in Banadurga Lane and attacking a resident of the area. The accused sisters have been identified as Gayatri Mallick and Itishree Mallick of Behera Sahi area. The victim, Raj Kishore Behera, has a plot adjacent to the residence of the accused duo near Banadurga Lane. Both the families

Girl falls prey to lottery scam, loses ₹3L

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, May 6: A college girl from Bhadrak approached the Crime Branch (CB) authorities here Saturday alleging that she had lost ₹3 lakh to a lottery scam.

The victim, a Plus II second year student of a college at Mir Sahi in Bhadrak district, claimed that she had received a phone call last April 14 in-

forming her that she was the winner of ₹1 lakh lottery.

"The scamster claimed that my mobile number had won the prize and to claim the amount I need to register for the same by paying ₹18, 500," the victim said in her complaint. Unable to sense the scam, the girl thought she was going to pocket the huge amount. Initially she deposited ₹18, 500 April 17 and ₹48,000 April 22 with the bank account

whose details were shared by the scamster.

"Later, the fraudster asked me to deposit more amounts on flimsy grounds following which I deposited around ₹3 lakh with the same bank account on several occasions," the victim claimed, adding that after receiving the amount the cheat was unreachable. Left with no option, the girl lodged a complaint with CB sleuths who claimed to have

launched an investigation.

When asked, a senior CB officer said such frauds are handiworks of cyber offenders, mostly from outside the state. "Such frauds are also known as advance fee fraud, Nigerian fraud and 419 frauds. The girl had submitted some counterfoils of bank deposits. We are verifying the bank account details where the girl had deposited the amount," the officer said.

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## CM hopeful of inclusion of 'Ahimsa' in preamble

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 6:** After completing his six-day tour to New Delhi, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik returned here Sunday.

Speaking to reporters here, Naveen said, "I made a suggestion that Ahimsa or non-violence should be included in the Preamble of India's Constitution as a mark of respect to Mahatma Gandhi. I am hopeful that Centre will accept it."

Naveen attended the first preparatory meeting for celebration of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, held recently under chairmanship of President Ram Nath Kovind at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi. Asked about any proposal for early finalisation of Biju Janata Dal (BJD) candidates for the next general elections, the party president replied: "It will be finalised on party forum."

## Thief meets with mishap while escaping

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 6:** In a failed attempt to escape the police net at Indira Gandhi Market, a thief met with an accident here Thursday.

The thief identified as Santosh Bauri of Berhampur district had been staying in the capital. Thursday, Bauri went to a computer shop at the IG market and tried to sell a stolen laptop by posing as its owner. However, suspecting his behavior, the shopkeeper secretly informed Nayapalli police who reached there immediately.

Seeing police Bauri tried to flee the spot when a speeding scooter hit him. He was later rushed to Capital hospital here by the police and was undergoing treatment as he broke his leg.

According to hospital sources, Sunday he was referred to the SCB medical college and Hospital for further treatment. Notably, a complaint about theft of the laptop had been filed with the police a few days ago.

Continued from P1

## Engineers' team to begin probe today

Asked about the deadline for submission of probe report, the member said, "As this incident was not like the earlier one (the one that occurred in September 2017), we will submit the report within a week... may be within next the four or five days."

It is very likely that the contracting firm - Panda Infra Project Limited - will be removed from the project, as it has failed twice to ensure safety measures, let alone keeping to the deadline. The firm's actions have invited criticisms from various quarters, which are holding the government responsible to the tragedies. So, the probe panel will also find out possible solutions to complete the work within the new deadline (end of June 2018), official sources said.

However, the blacklisted construction firm will continue to work at the other projects awarded to it at Jatni, Pokhariput, etc. they said.

Two major incidents took place before completion of the flyover simply because of the negligence and carelessness of the contractor. In first incident, which occurred September 10 last year, one person was killed, while at least 11 others were injured. In the second incident that took place May 3, one labourer was killed and another injured.

## State, Tata Trust sign MoU for super...

As per the MoU, the comprehensive care project will be set up through a three-tier network of facilities with the Tata Trusts' proposed centre at Bhubaneswar and Acharya Harihar Regional Cancer Centre in Cuttack as the apex centres.

The medical colleges in the state and the district hospitals will be equipped to offer diagnostics and standardised day care chemotherapy with selected district hospitals additionally offering radiotherapy services to create a state-wide cancer care network with an objective to take treatment closest to patients, Health Minister Pratap Jena said.

The Chief Minister said Tata Trusts has immense expertise in the field of cancer care and research and the comprehensive cancer care programme will certainly create the much need synergy.

Ratan Tata said that through this project Tatas will share their knowledge in cancer care to support the state's efforts in providing high-end cancer treatment.

The state government also said it will set programme priorities through an advisory committee headed by the Chief Secretary. As per the pact, the advisory committee will recommend a Special Programme Management Entity for executing the proposed network of cancer care facilities. The Project Management Entity will have members both from the state government and the Tata Trusts.

# Food panel fumes over poor FRA implementation

IS THIS THE WAY TO RESPECT THE LAWS OF THE LAND, FOOD COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON RANGLAL JAMUDA ASKS TO DISTRICT COLLECTORS

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 6:** Expressing severe dissatisfaction over the poor execution of Forest Rights Act (FRA)-2006 even after repeated instructions, the Odisha State Food Commission (OSFC) has lashed out at collectors asking them: "Is this the way to respect the laws of the land?"

OSFC Chairperson Ranglal Jamuda has dashed off letters to all collectors in this regard. In his letter, Jamuda said, "It is extremely difficult to believe that even after 11 long years (2008 onwards) the activities mandated under the FRA-2006 and the rules made there under could not be translated into action to safeguard the interest of the ST right holders."

As per the letter, not a single title relating to the FRA has been distributed in Puri district while Kendrapara collector, who had given a written commitment to complete this task by December, 2017 has failed to do so.

The government has distributed 4, 15,522 titles under FRA so far. However, demarcation of vested land has been completed only in respect of 2, 52,527 titles, which is 60.77 per cent of the total titles only. Even, 2, 99,754 titles (72.13 per cent cases) correction



of records (including maps) is yet to be done, he pointed out.

As per the earlier commitments, except eight districts (Jajpur, Malkangiri, Angul, Ganjam, Keonjhar, Nabarangpur, Sambalpur and Sundargarh), the entire exercise right from demarcation of land up to correction of RoRs (including maps) was to be completed by March end.

"It is very painful to note that as many as 18 districts did not honour their commitments and at this belated stage they have indicated revised deadlines. What is even more painful is the fact that four collectors (Koraput, Bargarh, Cuttack and Kendrapara) neither performed this task nor indi-

Not a single title relating to the FRA has been distributed in Puri while Kendrapara collector, who had given a commitment to complete this task by December, 2017, has failed to do so

cated any revised deadline to complete it," the chairman said.

At a meeting held under the chairmanship of Revenue & Disaster Management minister in July 2017, it was decided to complete the task by December 2017. But, the decision was not taken seriously by the collectors.

Citing these examples, the Food Commission asked, "Is this the way to respect the laws of the land? Is this the way to carry out the government orders? Is this the way to promote food and nutritional security? Is this the way to serve the more vulnerable people who are still struggling to achieve freedom from hunger? Is this the way to promote 'inclusive growth' in our society?"

## June 30 date for resolving ration card applications

**Bhubaneswar:** With over 64,000 applications for ration cards under National Food Security Act pending for months, the OSFC has given an ultimatum to all district administrators for their disposal by June 30, 2018.

It has also ordered necessary action against the BDOs of all the districts where the task is not completed within the stipulated time as these applications are pending before these officials for their consideration.

Commission Chairperson Ranglal Jamuda, in a letter to all district collectors, has said that of the 74,688 applications for ration cards pending as of December 2017, a little over 10,000 applications have been disposed of till this date and the remaining 64,108 applica-

tions are still pending. "The applications should have been disposed of by the end of the March this year," he said, adding, "This exercise should be completed latest by June 30, 2018." The Commission said 13 districts, including Bhadrak, Bolangir, Dhenkanal, Ganjam, Jajpur, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Keonjhar, Koraput, Nuapada, Nabarangpur and Puri, have not been able to furnish their reports on the status of their pending applications.

A large number of these applications is pending with officials at block level in Ganjam, Keonjhar, Koraput, Nuapada and Puri, sources said. Jamuda said that the applicants whose applications are rejected should be communicated in writing

with reasons for rejection mentioned on it. He said that the applications considered eligible for ration card under the National Food Security Act should be included in the final priority list (FPL) to receive foodgrains or else their names need to be enlisted in draft list and subsequently included in the FPL when vacancies in the list occur due to death of some beneficiaries or exclusion of ineligible households from the list.

The Food Commission chairperson also pointed out that while 86.58 lakh households are receiving food grains, around 19.79 lakh households haven't received their printed ration cards, mostly in Angul, Bargarh, Bolangir, Boudh, Gajapati, Koraput, Malkangiri and Sambalpur.

## NEET over; results to be published June 5

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 6:** Around 40,000 students from across the state appear the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET), the examination for admission into undergraduate MBBS and BDS courses being conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) Sunday.

NEET-2018 was conducted at 40 centres across the state, as per official sources. The question paper was in different languages like Hindi, English, Urdu, Gujarati, Marathi, Odia, Bengali, Assamese, Telugu, Tamil and Kannada containing 180 objective type questions from physics, chemistry and biology (botany and zoology). The duration of test was three hours - 10 am to 1 pm. Entry into



Students come out of an examination centre at Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 1 in Bhubaneswar after writing the NEET examination, Sunday. OP PHOTO

examination hall started at 7.30 am and admit card checking was done till 9.40 am.

As per instructions, the students have been advised to carry admit cards while stationery items like tex-

tual materials, electronic gadgets, pen, scale, writing pad, pen were not allowed. The CBSE had also asked the students to adhere to dress code - light clothes with half sleeves. Male candidates were asked to

avoid dresses with big pockets, elaborate embroidery. Shoes were also not allowed. Female candidates avoided clothes which have embroidery, flowers, brooches and buttons. Salwars and trousers were allowed along with slippers or sandals with low heels. Jewellery like earrings, ring, pendants, nose ring, necklace or any kind of metallic items were also forbidden.

According to the students, who appeared for the NEET 2018 exam, the question paper was easy to moderate so far as difficulty level is concerned. Most of the students felt that the paper turned out to be easy on them. They said that the content of the question paper was from the CBSE prescribed syllabus and from the NCERT textbooks. The results of the entrance will be declared June 5.

## Liquor trader thrashed to death

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 6:** Two miscreants beat up a man to death over an argument in front of a salon at Mochi Sahi market near Station bazaar Sunday morning. The deceased has been identified as B Kameswar Reddy (38) of Falikia Basti under Capital police station limits.

As per police sources, Reddy was a small liquor trader who procured alcohol from a government wine shop at station Bazar area to sell it at his shop and also supplied it to others at Falikia Basti area.

Sunday, he was on his way to Station bazaar for business as usual where he engaged in an argument with two other liquor traders of Halidipadia Basti over

some issue. During the altercation, an enraged Reddy slapped one of them at the wine shop. Later, at around 10 am Reddy stopped at a nearby salon to get a haircut. While he was waiting for his turn there, the duo rushed there and started hitting him on his head repeatedly with a bamboo stick. The duo fled the spot leaving an unconscious Reddy in a pool of blood. The locals rushed him to capital hospital where he was declared brought dead.

Notably, residents of Falikia Basti claimed that tension was prevailing between Reddy and the accused duo due to some old rivalry. Police arrested both the culprits and registered a case (116/18) based on Reddy's brother Ganapati's complaint. The killer-duo will be produced before the court Monday.

## Love for Lord makes him chariot carpenter

Narottam Das has been assisting the traditional carpenters of Srimandir for the last four years

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Puri:** He is not a traditional carpenter of Srimandir but his love for Lord Jagannath has prompted him to engage himself in the construction of chariots at the Rath Yard here.

Narottam Das, a believer in Vaishnavism, has been assisting the traditional carpenters of Srimandir in chariot construction for last four years. Das's tryst with the Rath Yard began during the Nabakalebara festival of Srimandir deities in 2015. "I had an opportunity to observe the chariot construction after paying a visit to Srimandir in 2015. Soon, I decided to work at Rath Yard. A Maharana servitor had intro-

duced me to Krushna Chandra Maharana, the chief carpenter of Darpadalan chariot of Devi Subhadra," said Das who hails from a carpenter's family in Rairakhol.

According to Das, the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) and all the senior carpenters of Srimandir allowed him to work at Rath Yard after knowing his love for Lord Jagannath.

"My father was a skilled carpenter. I had learned carpentry under his personal supervision. But, I had left home a few years ago and started residing in a mutt at Rairakhol," said Das.

Das usually reaches the Holy City ahead of the Akhaya Trutiya ever year and engages himself in chariot making from day one. "Authorities of a local mutt have allowed me to stay in a room for two months during the chariot construction. I return to Rairakhol after watching the Bahuda Yatra of Srimandir deities," Das claimed.

Like any other ardent devotee of Lord Jagannath, Das starts his work at Rath Yard after paying obeisance to Srimandir deities every day. "I have a special interest to watch the Chandan Yatra of deities at Narendra pond in the evening after completing my work at Rath Yard every day. I will engage myself in chariot construction ahead of the annual car festival till the last day of my life," Das said.



Narottam Das

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**RALLY FOR INCLUSION**

A forum of various panels takes out a rally demanding inclusion of places on the outskirts of Berhampur under BeMC jurisdiction.



**FOREST PROTECTION**

A meet on forest protection and management under Ama Jungle Yojana is in progress at Tainsi Hataambatata in Angul.



**SHORT TAKES**

**Woman dies, kin allege medical negligence**

**Berhampur:** Family members of an elderly woman who died while undergoing treatment at the MKCG Medical College and Hospital here have alleged negligence on the part of the medical staff. Sources said K Jayana of Chamakhandi was suffering from spondylosis. She was staying with her eldest daughter at Lanjipali here. After her condition deteriorated, she was admitted to MKCG April 22. The doctors advised operation and allegedly demanded Rs 2,000 as bribe for the same. The deceased's daughter Laxmi said they had given the doctors Rs 1,000. "As we had not given the full money they demanded, the doctors did not conduct any operation and caused my mother's death," she alleged.

**Man assaulted by in-laws, critical**

**Parjang:** A man in Sundaitala village under this block in Dhenkanal district Sunday sustained critical injuries after he was assaulted by his in-laws over a family dispute. The villagers rescued injured Kabiraj and admitted him to the local community health centre. Later, he was shifted to a hospital at Talcher as his condition deteriorated. According to sources, Kabiraj had differences with his in-laws over some issues. It took an ugly turn Saturday night following which he was attacked by his father-in-law Pahali Sahu and brothers-in-law - Aravind Sahu and Amrish Sahu - with sharp-edged weapons. Police visited the hospital and launched a probe.

**Man, nephew held for poaching**



**Barbil:** Forest officials Sunday arrested a man and his nephew on the charge of poaching a boar at Thakurani reserve forest here in Keonjhar district. The accused were Mangal Munda and his nephew Motu Munda of a nearby village. The officials said they seized from them a board used for the illegal act, as also a sharp-edged weapon used for chopping the meat. According to sources, the two spread trap in the reserve forest at night and caught the boar. Later, they sold the meat at premium rates in the village. Acting on a tip-off, forest officials conducted a raid at their house and made the arrest. Barbil divisional forest office(DFO) Padmanav Rout said. A case was registered and the two were produced in court.

**1 dies in car-bus collision**



**Redhakhol:** One person died and eight others were injured near Betagarh village under this police limits in Sambalpur district as a car and bus collided head on Sunday morning. The deceased was Rakesh Pandey, 43, the car driver from Balangir. Among the injured, four were travelling in the car and the rest were bus passengers. The injured were rushed to a hospital here. The mishap took place when the bus from Angul, in an attempt to overtake a truck, hit the car from opposite direction. Police seized the body and began an investigation.

**BIZ TIME**



Braving the blazing sun, a woman selling bamboo ware in Bhawanipatna.

OP PHOTO

**NHRC seeks report on relief to minor rape victim**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kendrapara, May 6:** The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has recently sought a report from the District Magistrate of Mayurbhanj whether monetary compensation has been provided under the Victim Compensation Scheme to a differently-abled minor girl raped on a temple premises at Bariipada. It also wanted a proof of payment within six weeks if compensation is provided to the victim.

The NHRC direction came in the wake of a case filed by rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy who, in his petition, alleged that the physically challenged girl was raped by a youth on the temple premises March 31, 2017.

**Accused Guru Charan Behera managed to take the girl into the temple and assaulted her sexually taking advantage of the darkness and seclusion**

In his plea to the NHRC, he also alleged that there is no safety and security for minor girls at public places even when one is challenged. Psycho-social counselling and compensation as per law has not been provided to the victim nor has she been ensured the benefits of social welfare schemes, the petitioner contended. He requested the NHRC to in-

vestigate the case and direct the DGP and the secretary of the department of social security and empowerment of persons with disabilities to act against the errand officials immediately as per law and provide compensation of Rs 10 lakh to the girl along with her rehabilitation and recommend psycho-social counselling.

Pursuant to the NHRC notice, Mayurbhanj SP, vide his communication dated 10.10.2017 stated that the father of the victim has been running a snacks shop for the last 12 years near the temple in Bariipada. The victim also used to help her father in the business.

On the fateful day, the accused, Munu alias Guru Charan Behera, called the victim towards the temple offering her chocolates and the

girl went inside the temple with him. The accused had taken advantage of darkness and loneliness and sexually assaulted her.

When the victim started bleeding profusely, Munu took her to a nearby pond called Hemsagar for cleaning to make the evidence disappear. Later he again sexually assaulted her. Some people had noticed him at Hemsagar and he was brought to the police station, where he had confessed to his crime.

Since the report is silent about compensation, the NHRC directed the District Magistrate to file a report whether any monetary compensation has been awarded to the victim or her parents under the Victim Compensation Scheme of Government of Odisha along with proof of payment.

**Locals agitate against mining firm over jobs**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Joda, May 6:** Upset over lack of job opportunities, locals agitated against Sri Metallik near Khandabandh in Jalhari panchayat in Keonjhar district Saturday. Mineral extraction and transport was paralysed during the agitation.

The locals charged the mining firm with providing no job opportunities to them. They also pointed out, "The mining authorities had promised to the people of Jalhari panchayat during a public hearing that they would create job opportunities for local youths, apart from making provision of drinking water, repair of roads and control of transport-induced pollution. The locals had given their consent in favour of the company on its promises."

Now, the company has reneged on its promises, they said, adding the company has cleared a number of sal trees for mining though people used to earn from



selling sal leaves and twigs.

"Now, the sal forest has been denuded due to mining," said Abhay Munda of Khandabandh.

Apprehending law and order problem, Bamebari police rushed to the spot. The mining authorities and the police tried to convince the agitating people and finally brought the situation under control.

"The mining authorities assured us that the matter will be resolved by May 17," said agitators Bala Sitari, Mithun Nayak, Ajay Munda, Sukra Munda, Bijay Munda and Gopal Chhatar.

**'Mystery animals' kill 11 more sheep**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Patapur, May 6:** The 'mystery killer animals' that were preying on goats and sheep seem to have made a comeback after a brief hiatus as 11 sheep were found dead Saturday morning in a pen at Sahaspur village under Sanakhemundi block in Ganjam district.

The flock of sheep belonged to A Kureshu Patra, a farmer of the village. The intestines of the dead animals were missing, Patra said.

Reports said many more sheep, goats and cows were also injured in the attack by the unidentified animal. On being informed, Paramananda Panigrahy and Mrutunjay Behera, two officials of Digapahandi forest division along with a team reached the village and took stock of the situation. The carcasses were seized and sent for post-mortem to the local veterinary hospital.

The officials suspected that the sheep were attacked by hyenas. "We are probing into the deaths and necessary compensation will be provided to the farmer for the loss," Panigrahy said.

**Missing Sambalpur woman traced**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Boinda, May 6:** A woman of Sambalpur region who went missing near Nakichi under Handapa police limits in Angul district Thursday has been traced in Jagatsinghpur district, the police said Sunday. She is with one of her relatives in Jagatsinghpur district, Handapa IIC Sunil Kumar Kar said.

According to police, the woman was travelling with her husband and daughter from Sambalpur to Bhubaneswar in a car. She went missing near Nakichi after she got down from the vehicle to relieve herself.

She brought out a water bottle to attend nature's call when the car's door got locked accidentally. Her husband mistook that she got inside the car and drove the vehicle, leaving her on the desolate road. The husband realised this only after reaching Boinda. He drove back to Nakichi and searched for his wife, but to no avail.

Greatly distressed and

**Sex racket busted, 3 arrested**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Angul, May 6:** Acting on a tip-off, police busted a sex racket at Geeta area in this town and arrested three persons including a woman Sunday.

The accused were identified as Manjula Tripathy, who was running the racket, and two men - Debanand Sahu (30) of Kandarpur village under Parajang police limits and Tukuna Moharana (22) of Hindol in Dhenkanal district.

The arrested persons were later produced in a court. Cash worth Rs 35,000, seven mobile phones and some objectionable material were seized from the accused while two sex workers were rescued. A case was registered and the two men and the sex workers were sent for medical examination.

Tripathy was running the racket from a house which she had taken on rent by hiring girls from outside the district, the police said.

**Breakthrough at last**

- The woman was travelling with her husband and daughter from Sambalpur to Bhubaneswar in a car
- She went missing near Nakichi after she got down from the vehicle to relieve herself.
- Police say the actual reason behind the incident could be ascertained only after the woman is rescued from her relative's place.

shocked at the turn of events, he went to the Handapa police station and lodged a complaint. Police registered a case and launched a search operation at every possible location to trace the woman.

They searched for the woman in the villages in the area, local bus stand and the railway station but failed to get any clue about her.

The police, however, detained five persons as eyewitness claimed to have seen her walk-

ing down the road sobbing after five persons including an auto-rickshaw driver molested her. The detainees are being interrogated and the auto-rickshaw has been seized, the police said.

Later, the police were tipped-off that the woman has managed to reach the house of one of her relatives.

Kar said the actual reason behind the incident could be ascertained only after the woman is rescued from the place in Jagatsinghpur.

**4 families ostracised over sorcery**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**SOCIAL MALADY**

**Dasmantapur, May 6:** Four families of a village are living a life of isolation for the past five years after they were socially boycotted over suspicion they practised sorcery. This happened in Tikriguda under Dasmantapur block in Koraput district.

Worse, the villagers often threaten the four families and do not allow them to use public properties like ponds, tube wells, roads and electricity. They are not even allowed to speak to anyone. No one calls them for work and they are not allowed to work for others. The villagers have threatened to boycott even those who talk to the families. Among the victims were Dana

Saunta, Sudru Saunta, Nanda Saunta and Ladi Saunta.

A few days back, some villagers stormed into Dana's house and assaulted his wife and minor children. They even branded his minor children with hot iron. The accused were Ruhuni Saunta, Jhadu Saunta, Amul Saunta and Bhaskar Saunta.

The villagers have threatened the families to kill them if they dared to lodge a complaint with the police. It has been more than five years that these families are living a life of isolation. The families pleaded with the administration to rescue them and help them get justice.

**Freedom fighter's village given short shrift**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Raisuan, May 6:** The 154th birth anniversary of noted freedom fighter Dharanidhar Bhuyan was observed May 5 in Keonjhar and other parts of the state, but sadly his native place Kusumita remains a picture of neglect. His kin are now living in miserable condition, a report said.

Locals recalled the contribution of Dharanidhar Bhuyan Sunday. Leaders often make it a point to garland his statues at several parts of the district, but never show any concern for his kin and his birth place, they rued.

Dharanidhar was born May 5 in 1864 at Kusumita. He had fought against the kings who were meting out injustice to their subjects at that time.

Unfortunately, his village still lacks a proper road. Most of his kin are jobless and sometimes migrate outside in search of livelihood. Telephone services are poor, locals said, adding that whenever they want to speak with someone, they have to climb up to an elevated location to access network.

Narahari Bhuyan (67) and Pandab Bhuyan (71) are the kin of Dharanidhar. Despite their old



The successors of the freedom fighter in their dilapidated house. OP PHOTO

age, the administration has not enlisted them under pension schemes. Ujwala scheme is still a dream for them.

Locals alleged that officials of the administration have never set their feet in their village to observe the birth anniversary of the freedom fighter.

Dharani Sangathan, an outfit named after him, observed his birth anniversary near his portrait Saturday. Intellectuals and outfits demanded that the administration took immediate step for development of the village and ensure basic facilities to the freedom fighter's kin.

SHORT TAKES

Train runs over labourer

**Boinda:** A labourer was run over by a train at Boinda railway station in Angul district Sunday. The deceased was identified as Chhatra Mahato (45), a native of Jharkhand. GRP recovered the body Sunday and sent it for post-mortem after registering a case. Police said five labourers from Jharkhand were standing near the station after arriving by Tapaswini Express. However, Chhatra accidentally fell on the track and was run over by the train, the police said.

Ganja seized, 3 held

**Jeypore:** Police Sunday arrested three persons on the charge of illegal supply of ganja here. They also seized two quintals of the contraband and a four-wheeler that was carrying it. According to police, the three were smuggling ganja to Jeypore. On a tip-off, a patrolling team intercepted their vehicle on National Highway-26 and effected the seizure. A case was registered and the three were produced in a court. A probe was on, police said.

Youth's body found

**Amarpali:** Police Sunday recovered a youth's body from a forest near Kusadadar village under Subalaya police limits in Subarnapur district. He was Ramesh Jamudali (20) from the same village. His family suspects it was a pre-planned murder. According to the family, Suna Jamudali called Ramesh on the pretext of collecting firewood from the Goudagad reserve forest near the village. Suna claimed that while chopping a tree, it fell on Ramesh, resulting in his death. The family is not ready to believe this. They suspect he was murdered. Police sent the body for post-mortem. A case has been registered and a probe was on, police said.

SUMMER FUN

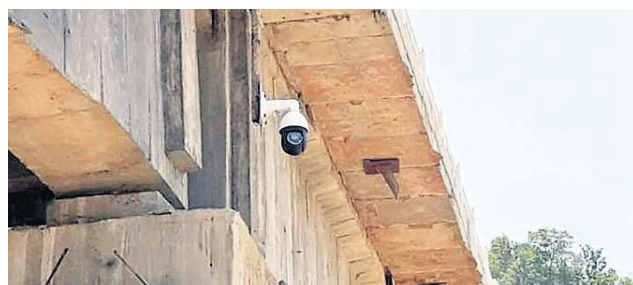


Kids learning the art of dribbling a basketball at a summer camp in Berhampur Sunday.

OP PHOTO

SURVEILLANCE EFFORT

CCTV cams & high mast lights installed at Gurupriya Bridge



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Malkangiri, May 6:** Closed circuit television cameras and high mast lights are being installed at the newly-constructed Gurupriya Bridge in Maoist-hit Malkangiri district to ensure protection of the bridge in view of Naxal threat. At least six high resolution CCTV cameras are being installed to ensure protection of the bridge, built at a revised cost of over Rs 172 crore, Malkangiri Superintendent of Police (SP) Jagmohan Meena said. Powerful high mast lights are also being put on the entire stretch of the 910-metre-long bridge, which will link 151 villages located in the cut off Chitrakonda area, the SP said. The bridge will also help security forces during the on-

going anti-Maoist operation in the area, police said.

The control room of the CCTV cameras will be located at a Border Security Force (BSF) camp in Janbai ferry point to monitor the movement of suspicious elements, including naxals in the area, the SP said.

Arun Kumer Sahu, executive engineer in the works department in Malkangiri, said work on the Gurupriya Bridge has already been completed and the bridge, which was slated to be completed in September last year, is likely to be inaugurated shortly.

While work on the main bridge and the connecting road has been completed, some minor works are going on and the bridge would soon be thrown open for traffic, he said.

'Digital India' dream goes for a toss

NO POWER CONNECTION IN 77 PER CENT OF GOVT SCHOOLS IN SUBARNAPUR DISTRICT

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sonepur, May 6:** Online education and coaching through video conferencing has become an integral part of teaching these days.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi too launched 'Digital India' movement to put India in the race to compete with technologically advanced countries.

However, the campaign seems to have derailed in Subarnapur district due to miserable infrastructure in many government schools.

While computers are the most essential components for the campaign, students in 77 per cent government schools in this district have no access to them as the schools have no power connections, a report said.

How can India be digital and educated without getting computer education, questioned many locals here.

According to Odisha Primary Education Programme Authority (OPEPA) sources, there are 1,026 government schools in the district that include primary, upper primary and high schools. A large share of the state budget is pumped into education sector while the Centre regularly sanctions funds through schemes like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, RAMSA and RUSA.

Despite this, only 236 schools have

got electricity connections.

Even as grants such as School Improvement Grant (SIG) of Rs 5,000 for primary schools and another grant up to Rs 15,000 for high schools are sanctioned on a regular basis by the government, no measures have been taken to ensure power connections in government schools.

Though the government is laying emphasis on computer education from grassroots level, the students of most of the government schools are deprived of this.

This is one of the reasons that force the guardians to turn towards private schools to enroll their wards.

The 'Digital India' dream would remain unfulfilled unless all government schools are equipped with adequate number of computers, said OSSTA's district secretary Pramod Panda.

"In the age of competition, students of government schools should be at par with their counterparts of private schools. It is a matter of regret that so many schools in the district don't have power connections," said Laxminarayan Sahoo, a teacher of Bagabar Nodal UP School in Birmaharajpur block.

He demanded immediate connection of power supply and computer education facility in all government schools in the district.

POWER CONNECTION STATUS IN GOVT SCHOOLS OF SUBARNAPUR

Block/civic body	Total no of schools	Schools with no power supply
Sonepur (Block)	134	103
Sonepur (civic body)	20	12
Binika (Block)	133	103
Binika (Civic body)	21	18
Dunguripali (Block)	168	127
Tarabha (Block)	174	133
Tarabha (Civic body)	12	7
Ulunda (Block)	188	145
Birmaharajpur (Block)	176	142
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,026</b>	<b>790</b>

Six arrested for minor's gangrape

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sambalpur, May 6:** Police Saturday arrested six persons including a minor on the charge of raping a 15-year-old girl near Sasan canal here in the intervening night of Wednesday-Thursday. All of them were acquaintances of the girl. Police said they were produced in a court.

The accused were identified as Afzal Raja, Tinku Sahu (24), Hadu Panchbihar (24), Ashirbad Behera (26), Avishek Panchbihar (22) and a minor. All the accused are residents of Bazaarpada under Sasan police station.

Sambalpur SP Sanjiv Arora said a case has been registered at Sasan police station. All the accused were sent to judicial custody by Saturday evening.

He said the case has been handed over to the Investigative Unit for Crime against Women. Moreover an officer of DSP rank is investigating the case to get more details.

The family of the victim hailed from Bihar and used to reside in a village under Sasan police station limits. The girl had an affair with Afzal and went to Sasan weekly market as she got a phone



call from him. Local people have seen both of them roaming around in the market.

They were seen by five local youths while suspiciously moving towards a local school at an isolated place. They followed them and caught them red-handed in a compromising position. Afzal fled the scene apprehending threat from the youths.

All the five youths raped the girl throughout night and left her there in the wee hours of Thursday. She came to Sasan bus stand to catch a bus and go to one of her relative's house. She was located by her parents there, who were in search of her the whole night. Her parents took her to Sasan police station after hearing her plight and lodged their complaint there. Police initially arrested Afzal in the case Friday and the remaining accused were arrested Saturday after their names and identifications were disclosed by him.

Centre's claim falls flat: Electricity still eludes Jajpur tribal village



**Jajpur/Sukinda:** The Centre's ambitious Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana has failed to electrify some areas in Jajpur district. Tribal village Kenduakan at the foothills of Mahagir under Lembo panchayat in Sukinda block is one such, even as the Centre has claimed to have electrified all villages in the country by April end last.

This, however, is not the sole village that is yet to have a 'taste' of electricity. Many villages in this backward district are waiting for electricity. Kenduakan has a host of other civic problems as well; like lack of healthcare services, schooling and drinking water facilities.

The situation in the village is in fact worse than Nagada village that had shot into ill-fame a year ago for a spate of malnutrition deaths.

Kenduakan is situated about 6km from the Sukinda block office. It got the status of a revenue village in 2017 though it has been in existence for long. It was left out due to administrative apathy. The inhabitants are still identified either as residents of Lembo or Kabat village in the voter identity cards issued to them.

The village is in virtual darkness at night, but it has been able to produce some meritorious students. "A local girl, Sambhari Purty, after receiving college education, is working as the panchayat executive officer in Danagadi block," noted a villager, Bagun Munda, with great pride.

The villagers are resigned to their fate as their repeated pleas to political leaders and administrative officials have met with no response. "We do not have an Anganwadi centre or school for education of our children. The children walk for over three km to an Anganwadi centre for pre-school education at Dhoblipathar village," another villager said.

The villagers are not introduced to modern ways of farming and they do not even have proper drinking water. The solar-powered motor pump provided to them by Tata Steel is the only means to get drinking water. However, the pump fails to draw water during summer when the water level recedes.

Villagers Gambia Purty, Hadibandhu Tiu and Dang Soy said the village is being neglected because its residents are tribals. "Power supply and proper drinking water are our immediate requirements," they said.

Seven hurt in group clash

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rupsa, May 6:** Tension prevailed at Silada under Sadar block in Balasore district over the alleged kidnap of a minor girl Saturday. In a fit of rage, family members of the girl attacked the house of the 'abductor' and set it on fire. Seven family members of the abductor were injured.

The seven were Anirudh Das, his son Sarbeswar Das, daughter-in-law Kabita Das, nephew

Tapan Das and Murali Das, grandson Krishna and neighbour Benudhar Madual.

They were admitted to Basta CHC. According to sources, Anirudh's son Hitesh kidnaped the girl. Angry over this, the girl's family launched an attack on Hitesh's family. Anirudh refuted the allegation of kidnap and claimed the two were in love and might have eloped. Police registered two cases and launched a probe.

Criminal killed in encounter

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhampur, May 6:** A hardcore criminal was killed while another was grievously injured in a police encounter near the Baghua forests under Buguda police limits in Ganjam district Saturday night.

The deceased was identified as Srikant Rana from Bharatpur area of Bhubaneswar while the injured was Gouri Shankar Swain from Mudulipali in Bhanjanagar. They were involved in several cases of extortion, loot, kidnapping and bombing.

A special team had been formed to zero in on the movement of the two



criminals. Acting on a tip-off, a police team surrounded the criminals while they were allegedly hatching a loot plan in the Baghua forests.

Sensing the movement of the police, the two opened fire and tried to escape.

The police retaliated with fire, in which the two sustained bullet injuries on their legs and fell down unconscious.

The police team rushed them to the Buguda government hospital. After preliminary treatment, they were shifted to the MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur. Rana died while on treatment in MKCG.

Police seized a bike, two pistols, four live bombs and gloves from the accused. The condition of Swain was stated to be critical.

Mob thrashes man for theft bid

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Ghasipura, May 6:** Taking the law into their hands, a group of locals attacked a man accused of theft bid after tying him to a tree at Ananadapur Block Chhak in Keonjhar district Sunday. Acting on a tip-off, police rushed to the spot and rescued the accused from the mob.

Sandhyarani Sutar, a woman of Fakirpur, was in a shop to purchase some articles. She had parked her scooter by roadside. At this time, two persons came on a bike and attempted to break open the case of the bike. As the woman by chance saw the theft bid and raised an alarm, the two miscreants ran away in different directions. Babuli

Sethi, a local trader, chased one of them and managed to capture him.

A large crowd gathered and tied the accused D Sriram to a tree and gave him a good thrashing before he was rescued by police. Another accused D Rajesh managed to escape. Police recovered a lock-breaking tool, Rs 2,000 and a cell phone from the accused.

Rape victim's kin allege police inaction

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhadrak, May 6:** The family members of a rape victim accused the police of inaction against the accused at Bhandaripokhari in Bhadrak district.

They took up the issue with Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik

through a public grievances redressal cell. The college student of SC community was allegedly kidnapped and raped at Nerada May 9. The family alleged that the police registered a complaint, but have not yet arrested the main accused Srikant Bal.

The family members said their daughter and they don't

feel safe as the accused is roaming scot-free. The family members had staged a dharna in front of the SP's office April 20.

Police officials had assured them with immediate action against the accused. However, two weeks have passed but the accused has not been arrested, the family members lamented.

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SAMBALPUR**  
Tel:0683-2548268, E-mail: id-servcirclesbp@yahoo.com

**e-Procurement No.1286** Dated:03.05.2018

No.142-O: Superintending Engineer Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur on behalf Odisha State Rural Roads Agency invites Percentage (%) bids through e-Procurement from eligible class of experienced bidders for construction of roads and CD works including maintenance for 5 years of rural roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) Batch-III and Batch-II(2017-18).

1 Name of work.	Construction of road and CD works including five year maintenance under PMGSY, Batch-III (2017-18) and Batch- II(2017-18)
2 Class of Contractor	'B' & 'A'
3 No. of packages	02 Nos of contract Package
4 Estimated cost	Rs. 43.05 Lakh to 61.88 Lakh
5 Bid submission fee	Rs. 10,000/- (Non-Refundable) per set of package costing more than Rs.50.00 lakh and Rs.6,000/- (Non-Refundable) per set of package costing less than Rs.50.00 lakh
6 Mode of submission of tender	Only through online in website <a href="http://www.pmgstenders.gov.in">www.pmgstenders.gov.in</a> .

Summary of key dates are provided below:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding		Last date & time for seeking clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur	PMGSYOnline-RWCSBP-33	11/05/2018 From 10.00 A.M.	26.05.2018 Up to 01.00 P.M.	25.05.2018 Up to 1.00 P.M.	31.05.2018 At 11.00 A.M.	07.06.2018 At 11.00 A.M.

\*Special conditions 1-EMD-2% of the amount put to tender as per DTCN-2- EPF registration is mandatory before drawl of agreement.3- Rate quoted by the contractor shall be excluding GST.4.Original EMD,Bid submission fee and original affidavits should be submitted only at the office of Superintending Engineer,Rural Works Circle,Sambalpur,before opening of technical bid,otherwise bid will not be opened.  
\*Details can be seen from the e-procurement portal [www.pmgstenders.gov.in](http://www.pmgstenders.gov.in).  
\* Subsequent modification/corrigendum/Addendum if required shall be appeared in the website only.  
2509/11/0005/1819 Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**RURAL WORKS DIVISION-II, GANJAM, BERHAMPUR**  
Phone-0680-2404096, E-Mail: [eervgmt@yahoo.co.in](mailto:eervgmt@yahoo.co.in)

**Government of Odisha e-Procurement Notice**

**Bid Identification No. Online Tender/01/EERWD-II/2018-19**  
No. ....4960...../RWD-IIGB, Date 28.04.2018

1 Name of the work	:: Bridge Works
2 Estimated cost	:: Rs. 82.42 lakhs.
3 Period of Completion	:: 9 (Nine) Calendar Months as per Annexure
4 Date & Time of availability of Bid documents in the Portal	:: From 10.05.2018 at 10.00 AM to 24.05.2018 upto 3.00 PM
5 Last Date/ Time for receipt of Bids in the Portal	:: 24.05.2018 upto 3.00 PM
6 Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	:: Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division-II, Ganjam, Berhampur

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal website <https://tenders.ori.nic.in/nicgep/app>.

Executive Engineer  
25073/11/0001/1819 R.W Division-II, Ganjam, Berhampur

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** No.163-A  
**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

**"e" Procurement Notice-BAID 02 OF 2018-19**

**BID IDENTIFICATION NO. BAID 02 OF 2018-19**


1 Name of the Work	Building, River Embankment & Canal works for the year 2018-19
2 Total No. of Package	7 Nos.
3 Tender Cost	Rs. 8.00 Lakhs to 39.50 Lakhs as per DTCN
4 Bid Security (Online)	Rs. 8000/- to Rs. 39500/- as per DTCN
5 Cost of Tender Paper (Online)	Rs. 4000/- & Rs. 6000/- as per DTCN
6 Period of Completion	120 Days
7 Availability of Tender online for bidding	From 09.05.2018 at 12.00 Noon to 18.05.2018 upto 5.00 P.M.
8 Date and place of opening	Dt. 19.05.2018 at 11.00 AM in the office of the Executive Engineer, Baitarani Division, Salapada
9 Tender Inviting Authority	Executive Engineer, Baitarani Division, Salapada, Keonjhar, Odisha

Further details can be seen from the website <http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in> / [www.dowrodisha.gov.in](http://www.dowrodisha.gov.in) Any addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation to the above notice will be published in this website only.

Executive Engineer  
32006/11/0002/1819 Baitarani Division, Salapada

**“Astrology has never been scientifically disproved, nor has any rational ground ever been advanced for treating it as a pseudo-science. It simply came to be assumed at a certain period and under certain intellectual influences that it was a childish superstition.”**

**SRI AUROBINDO**



## Unstoppable Putin

Russia is set to witness the inaugural of virtual dictator Vladimir Putin's fourth term in power Monday. One of the longest-serving rulers, Putin presides over the destiny of a dominant nation for nearly two decades with virtually no opposition worth the name. The March presidential election, that handed him a fresh yet predictable victory, ensured that he would run Russia for six more years up until 2024 – and certainly with a greater sense of grit and determination.

Putin has said this would be his last term and that he does not intend to be President for life as his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping has now tasked himself with. But, knowing the way Putin resolutely remained in saddle so far; even by tweaking law to his advantage in 2008, there is little to suspect he has any plans to step aside in the foreseeable future.

Putin's re-election to Presidency comes at a time when he is steering the nation forward in admirable ways. There is no trace of the militancy in Chechnya, something he fought back and succeeded in seeing an end; an end for all practical purposes, but by use of brute force. Unlike in democracy, Putin's advantage was that he was both the final word and law, and that he enjoyed somewhat unquestioned authority. He steamrolled dissent in the past, put influential oligarchs in their place and even "physically eliminated" rivals to his power.

What upset Putin's calculations in making Russia an economic super power was the fall in prices of oil in recent years. Had that not been the case, Putin would have been unstoppable. This, in the background, means economic might which obviously translates itself into military might. China stole a march over Russia in recent decades, and has emerged as the super power next only to the US – a position that the erstwhile USSR and to an extent Russia itself held on to until the end of the Cold War era, or even beyond. Oil let Putin down.

The former spy chief has come a long way despite his patent shyness on public stage, a personal trait that he turned into an art.

The democracy he practises in Russia is a personalised kind, and it can hardly be termed as governance based on people's will. At the same time, Putin has delivered in admirable manners, keeping the interests of the nation uppermost in his mind. Geographically and ethnicity-wise an extremely varied nation, Putin never played a divisive card. From Europe to the Pacific, Russia straddles two continents and very many different races and people. Yet he cemented everybody for a brighter future. He did play nasty too. Most notably, he is believed to have shown the courage on the sly to engineer the American presidential elections 2016, to turn it to Advantage Trump against a doubtful Hillary Clinton. Truth may never come out, but no one suspects the former Russian spy chief as being incapable of doing this and more. Still, he played nasty abroad to gain at home. Never nasty at home.

From year 2000 when he stepped in to lead Russia, there had been no occasion when Putin had to take a step back. The year 2004 Belsen school hostage crisis, caused by Chechen militants, led to the killing of over 100 children, but Putin was unruffled. Human rights bodies paint Putin a villain for acts like these, but he proved a point; no blackmailing, no muscle-flexing would work with him.

Putin had his way with law. When the Constitution didn't allow President a third term, Putin switched gear in 2008 and donned the cap of Prime Minister; all the same vesting all the authority to run the government by himself. And, he had his way with the world as well; the 2014 intervention in Ukraine and annexation of Crimea in one go, embarrassing the West to no end. The US again was caught unawares as Putin unilaterally stepped into the Syrian civil strife, sent in fighter jets and extricated close chum President Bashar al Assad from impending loss of power. President Trump had just to grin and bear with it at a time when he thought Assad was as good as gone for good.

A leader is judged by his achievements. Putin's adversaries too do not hide their grudging admiration of a leader who led Russia from the front with remarkable ease and virtually no challenge from within or outside. It is too early, even six years hence, to script a political obituary for this young 65-year-old President. He has too much of life left in him.

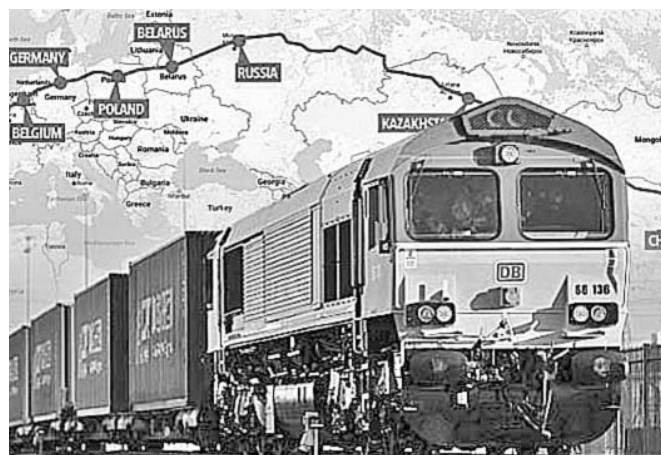
## FOR GLOBAL SERVICES INITIATIVE

FOCUS CHINA

The first direct train from China to England reached London recently. It travelled 12,000 kilometres carrying a cargo of garments and other manufactured goods. This is the trailer of the times to come. China is aggressively pushing the Belt Road Initiative (BRI) to establish state of art road and rail transport facilities from China to Europe and Africa. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor from China to Pakistan through the Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) is part of this larger initiative.

The BRI will pass through 65 countries. Chinese State-owned Banks are borrowing money from global investors and using this borrowed money to give loans to the participating countries. These countries are, in turn, are giving contracts to Chinese companies to construct the BRI. Thus global money, which is often controlled by the United States, is financing the BRI. European partners of the BRI have complained that their companies are being deprived of their fair share of the construction works. However, China's approach is similar to that followed by many western donors. The US Government, for example, may give aid for installing computers in Indian schools. The computers are then purchased from American manufacturers. In this way aid money was often recycled to the donors' economy. China has adopted the same strategy. It is giving loan to the BRI countries only to have the money recycled to its own companies.

The BRI will make it cheaper to transport goods from China to Europe. That will reduce the cost of Chinese goods in comparison to those supplied by American Multi-National Corporations (MNCs). Truly, this will promote global trade and improve welfare of the European people. However, in the process, Europe will slip out of the dominance of American MNCs. Say an American MNC is presently manufacturing an electrical equipment in France. At present the Chinese equipment of the same quality is more expensive. The BRI will reduce the cost of reaching the Chinese equipment to France. The French user will then buy



Alternatively, it can work out some arrangement with China and seek rebalancing of the global economy in favour of the developing countries. I think the latter is the way to go.

There are three steps that India must consider. The BRI will reduce the cost of manufactured goods. The global income, however, is being increasing spent in the purchase of services such as computer games and space travel. India's strength lies in this services sector. India can beat China by launching a Global Services Pathway which increases the reach of Indian services into the global

**China is not seeking funds from multilateral agencies like the IMF, the WB or an arm of the UN where the US could have stalled the project. It is borrowing from private investors and entering into bilateral pacts with 65 participating nations**



**Dr Bharat Jhunjhunwala**  
**CHINA HAS ADOPTED THE STRATEGY OF GIVING LOAN TO THE BRI COUNTRIES ONLY TO HAVE THE MONEY RECYCLED TO ITS OWN COMPANIES**

from China rather than America. It is for this reason that the United States is opposing the BRI. No wonder, some commentators have said the BRI will be the next version of the WTO. The China-dominated umbrella system managing the BRI will have greater clout than the WTO in determining the trade between Europe, Africa and Asia. The BRI, therefore, hides a contest between China and the United States for global economic supremacy. BRI will strengthen China's position in the global economy and correspondingly loosen the grip of the United States.

India has aligned itself with the United States in opposing the BRI. The issue raised by India is that the Pakistan stretch of the BRI passes through Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK). India's demand is justified. But, let us say, the Pakistan part of the BRI is abandoned under India's pressure. Will it really improve India's global economic position? The main objective of the BRI is to establish Chinese supremacy in the European markets. That BRI will not be affected by killing the POK stretch.

Moreover, it is highly unlikely that India will be able to actually stall the Pakistan stretch of the BRI. China is not seeking funds from multilateral agencies like the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank or an arm of the United

Nations where the United States could have stalled the project. China is borrowing from private global investors and entering into bilateral agreements with the 65 participating countries. The United States and India are bystanders in the game. They have very little leeway in stalling the project. They can pass resolutions in the United Nations condemning the violation of India's sovereignty and the environmental impacts of the BRI but that is all that they can do. No more.

Now the question is whether China's supremacy in the European markets is good or bad for us? We must view the question in the backdrop of the larger global economy. The developed countries which include the United States, Europe and Japan, have about 25 per cent of the world population but enjoy 75 per cent of the world income. The developing countries which include China and India, have about 75 per cent of the world population but enjoy only 25 per cent of the world income. Therefore, strengthening of China versus the United States is fundamentally a global rebalancing act. It will strengthen the developing countries against the developed countries.

India has a choice to make. It can either align with the United States and strengthen and perpetuate the United States' disproportionate share of the world income.

markets. For example, India can make new internet pathways. It can develop an International Tourism Protection Force to increase the flow of tourists to India. The gains to China from the BRI will pale into insignificance in the face of India's clout in the supply of services.

The second step could be that India can demand China pressurizes Pakistan to provide India with a corridor from Kashmir to Afghanistan through the POK as a condition for extending her support to the BRI in international platforms. That will open a land route for India's exports to China just as it will open for China's exports. Indian manufacturing companies will be able to reduce the cost of their goods in Europe. In fact, India could join the BRI through Tibet and steer away from the contentious issue of POK.

The third step is to intervene in the New Development Bank. India and China are the major partners here. India's representative KV Kamath is the head of the Bank. Reportedly the New Development Bank is providing loans for the BRI. The least India can do is not to be a partner and indirectly support the BRI.

*(The author is a former professor of Economics at IIM, Bangalore)*

## SPECTRUM ELECTIONS

# A rare election forecasting model

This year – the year before the 2019 Lok Sabha elections – was to witness elections in eight states. Three are already done, and it will be interesting to see how voters' opinions shape electoral outcomes in the other five states.

In deciding who to vote for, citizens take into account certain factors which they think of as important in choosing their leaders. In most democracies, a belief dominant among politicians is that of all the factors, it is good economics that makes for good politics. But to attribute an incumbent's successful re-election to just economic growth might be too naive in a complex democracy like India.

There have been numerous studies conducted for the developed nations that seek to prove the importance of economic policies on the popularity of the incumbent party. In India, however, there is a paucity of such forecasting models for electoral outcomes. This is somewhat explained by the fact that because of the disparities that exist within our regions, and hence among the citizens living in those regions, it indeed becomes difficult to capture the factors that have a role to play in affecting their voting behaviour.

Going forward then, an attempt to develop a comprehensive prediction model of this kind must address two empirical questions. First, whether growth rates based on the economic theory of voting can explain state-level election results in India and, second, what are the other measures that voters might be considering in the process of rewarding/penalising the incumbent party in their state.

The economic theory of voting rests upon the popular notion that the chances of an incumbent party winning elections rise if the region experiences positive economic growth during its term. However, in India, in 2006, the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) in Tamil Nadu lost the elections with a growth number as high as 13 per cent. Even more interestingly, Arunachal Pradesh in 2014 chose to re-elect the Congress party despite its poor show in the state in terms of economic aspects.

Moreover, a simple correlation analysis shows that there is a negative relationship between the growth rate of GSDP per capita of a state and the re-election of the

incumbent party, implying that in most of the cases higher growth does not lead to the incumbent getting re-elected. This observation then means that our voters, while ranking the governing capabilities of different parties, also consider a lot of factors other than just the economic performance.

The other factors that might contribute to shaping the voting patterns of our citizens can be (a) the level of social progress in a region, (b) the level of consumer and business confidence in the government at the Centre and (c) the level of social media leveraging by political parties. Using a probit regression model for the period 2006-2017 with the re-election of the incumbent party as the dependent variable and the rest of the factors as explanatory variables, the success rate of the predictions turns out to be 78 per cent. Perhaps the biggest prediction by this model was that Tripura would not be ruled by the Left any more.

For the upcoming elections in Karnataka, the model predicts that the incumbent Congress has only an 18 per cent chance of coming back to power given the conditions

that exist today. Similarly, in the case of Mizoram, it is predicted that the ruling Congress has almost negligible chances of re-election. However, in Chhattisgarh the ruling BJP is expected to make a comeback. Likewise, in Madhya Pradesh, the BJP has a 90 per cent chance of coming back to power. In Rajasthan, however, it is going to be a close battle since the chances of the BJP again gaining power lies at around 60 per cent. In the model, the social progress in any state is mapped through using the social progress scores from the Social Progress Index, India, which is related to the prospects of getting re-elected. The index is an integrated measure of the capacity of a society to meet the basic human needs of its citizens, establish the building blocks to allow the citizens to enhance and sustain the quality of their lives and create the conditions for all individuals to reach their full potential.

Furthermore, two different indicators are taken to capture the confidence on the central government – the Business Confidence Index by the CII and the Nielson Global Consumer Confidence Index.

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## WISDOM CORNER

**“Work like you don't need the money. Love like you've never been hurt. Dance like nobody's watching.”**  
**SATCHEL PAIGE**

**“If you love someone, set them free. If they come back they're yours; if they don't they never were.”**  
**RICHARD BACH**

**“Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage.”**  
**LAO TZU**

## WORDSWORTH

### Fabless

Semiconductor manufacturers have two possible approaches to making their products. They can either build and run their own manufacturing plants, or restrict themselves to designing chips that are then made by others. The former was once the more usual method, involving the construction and operation of extremely expensive factories (called silicon foundries in the jargon) which are capable of the high standards of precision and cleanliness required to make these complex circuits. Many of these plants were seen in places where wage rates and other costs were low and were usually restricted to manufacture of components with no research or design facilities. These became known in the business as fabs, short for “fabrication plants”. More recently, some companies – especially the smaller ones – have begun to select the other route to manufacture, because they have discovered they can innovate more effectively and bring products to market more quickly if they contract out the production stages to a foundry. Such firms are said to be fabless.

### Going south

Alistair Cooke talks about things going south. Where do going west and going south spring from? Both have the same meaning, but go south has largely supplanted the older go west in the USA and seems likely to do so everywhere else fairly soon. In Britain, it tends to be younger people that use go south, leaving us older ones sounding geographically challenged. The origins of go west – meaning to die, perish, or disappear – seem anciently to be connected with the direction of the setting sun, symbolising the end of the day and so figuratively the end of one's life. Going west has been linked to dying in English since the sixteenth century, though the idea must surely be older.

## LOL MANLY ACT

As an aeroplane is about to crash, a female passenger jumps up frantically and announces, “If I'm going to die, I want to die feeling like a woman.”

She removes all her clothing and asks, “Is there someone on this plane who is man enough to make me feel like a woman?” A man stands up, removes his shirt and says, “Here, iron this!”

## 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, Rasulgurh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

### Row over film awards

**Sir:** This has reference to the controversy about the boycott by recipients of National Film Awards involving the President of India. Non-coordination between the President's secretariat and the Union Ministry for Information and Broadcasting has led to the row. If the President cannot attend a function due to some reason, then the Vice-President should present the awards. Or else, speeches could be cut short so that function could be finished within an hour and ensure all awardees get prizes from the President. Once the then President APJ Abdul Kalam had presented the awards and cut short the speeches. Boycotting the function by film personalities was not totally unjust because invitation cards clearly mentioned that the president would honour the artistes. However, the film-personalities should not have taken the decision to boycott the function because it involved the head of the nation. The incident recalls the unpleasant situation when former President Pratibha Patil wished to take her grandchildren, relatives and friends on a luxury trip to Seychelles from where there was a telegraphic invitation, copy of which could not be provided by the President's secretariat. It is well known that Patil misused the office by squandering public money.

**Subhash Agrawal, DELHI**

### Yashwant outbursts

**Sir:** Ever since Yashwant Sinha was sidelined after the Modi government took over in 2014, he has been blowing hot and cold. At times, he has given vent to outbursts against the BJP leadership. Although Sinha was not accommodated in the Cabinet, his son Jayant Sinha was given a berth. Senior Sinha is not the only person who has been sidelined. There are people like LK Advani and Murali Manohar Joshi, who were co-founders of the saffron outfit in 1980 and had strengthened Atal Behari Vajpaee government, were not honoured by Modi government. Both Advani and Joshi have maintained dignified silence and did not air their grievances for not figuring in the Cabinet. In fact, Advani was the Prime Ministerial aspirant. Modi's charisma outweighed the veterans like Advani and Joshi. Because of this, Modi found favour from large sections of BJP members. The 2014 Lok Sabha elections fought under the dynamic leadership of Modi drew impressive response from the electorate. Both Advani and Joshi are gentlemen. Had they vowed to weaken the chances of BJP in 2014, certainly they could have done so by forming a separate group to ditch the saffron structure. Yashwant Sinha should emulate the examples of such veterans.

**KV Seetharamaiah, HASSAN**





Whenever there are assembly polls, the entire central machinery and chief ministers of all BJP-ruled states go there (to campaign), leaving the administration of the country and of their own states in the lurch. The country is watching all this

**SANJAY RAUT | SHIV SENA MP**

## MAHA BID TO ENCOURAGE INTERCASTE MARRIAGES

The Maharashtra government is planning to enact a law to encourage intercaste and inter-religion marriages and focus on giving protection to such couples, in the backdrop of instances of honour killing



## of the day quote

Just providing jobs and ensuring development is not the solution that will end 'violence and alienation' in Kashmir

**OMAR ABDULLAH | FORMER JAMMU AND KASHMIR CM**



I have no information that Mukul Roy's brother-in-law is associated with BJP. And we need to check if the politics of revenge and vendetta are involved in it. While BJP will not take responsibility if the charges are proved, we are also of the view that this state government is pursuing the policy of revenge

**RAHUL SINHA | BENGAL BJP NATIONAL SECRETARY**



The government's decision to send back the Supreme Court collegium's recommendation for elevation of Uttarakhand Chief Justice K M Joseph as a judge of the top court was unprecedented and needed more detailed discussions

**KURIAN JOSEPH | SC JUDGE**



## SHORT TAKES

### Kairana by-poll: RLD fields Tabassum

**Lucknow:** Buoyed by the Opposition's grand success in Gorakhpur and Phulpur, the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) Sunday said it would contest the May 28 Kairana Lok Sabha by-poll with the "full support" of like-minded, non-BJP parties. "We have decided to field Tabassum Begum from Kairana parliamentary constituency," Uttar Pradesh RLD chief Masood Ahmad said. "We expect the full support of like-minded, non-BJP parties, especially the Samajwadi Party (SP) and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), besides the Congress. Tabassum Begum has joined the RLD today and hopefully, she will emerge as the joint opposition candidate," he said.

### Employee rapes woman in hospital

**Hyderabad:** An employee of the government-run Osmania Hospital here has allegedly raped a woman who had come to the hospital for treatment of injuries she suffered at the hands of her husband, police said Sunday. Police have arrested V. Nagaraju, working as a ward boy in this oldest and the biggest government-run facility in Telangana. Home Guard Qamar Elahi has also been taken into custody for alleged abetment.

### Woman gangraped, 2 BJP workers booked

**Sihore (Madhya Pradesh):** A 28-year-old woman was gangraped by two persons working for the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, following which a case was registered and one person arrested, police said Sunday. Ashita police station SHO V.D. Veera said that the young woman worked at a skilling centre run by one Raja Collector, who is one of the two accused of the complainant's rape.

### Minor girl raped, set on fire in Jharkhand

**Pakur (Jharkhand):** A minor girl was allegedly raped and set on fire by her neighbour in Jharkhand's Pakur district, following which the accused was arrested, police said Sunday. The incident comes close on the heels of another minor girl being allegedly raped and burnt to death in the state's Chatra district, in which 15 people were arrested till Saturday and a Special Investigation Team was formed to probe the case. The incident took place Friday, police said.

### Man dies of stroke as son writes exam

**Kochi/Chennai:** The father of a Tamil Nadu youth who was writing the medical entrance exam in Kerala's Ernakulam district died of a heart attack Sunday, said a hotel employee where the two had checked in a day earlier. Hailing from Tiruvur district in Tamil Nadu, around 340 km from here, Krishnaswamy and his son Kasturi Mahalingam checked into the Airlines Hotel Saturday morning.

# Naxals armoury reloaded with rambo arrows, rocket bombs: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 6:** The Naxals have developed some latest "very lethal" and crude ammunition like 'rambo arrows' and 'rocket bombs' as part of their new IED armoury to launch attacks and inflict casualty on security forces, a latest report on the emerging trends in the LWE theatre has revealed. According to a report prepared by a joint security command on

IED threats said the Maoists have devised a smart way of concealing crude bombs "in animal excreta to deceive sniffer dogs" of the security teams from detecting and alerting their masters.

"There were occasions in the first quarter of 2017, when sniffer dogs of security forces were killed or injured as pressure improvised explosive devices (IEDs) exploded while the canines were getting agitated because of the obnoxious



smell (of the excreta) while trying to detect the hidden IEDs," the report said.

# 12,066 acres of unused Railway land up for grabs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 6:** Nearly 12,066 acres of surplus land of railways are now up for grabs. The national transporter has written to 13 states asking them to either buy or exchange these land parcels for developmental projects. A letter written by the Railway Board last month to the chief secretaries of West Bengal, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh and Assam stated that they send in proposals to use these land parcels which have remained unused.

"These land parcels can be used by the state governments for construction of highways, roads or any other useful purpose... The amount payable for the land will be in all cases be its market value on the date of transfer... The land can also be transferred to the state government on the basis of exchange of land with state government land which may be useful to the railways on equitable cost basis," said the letter. Railways also said that most of these land parcels were acquired by it as part of its uni-gauge pol-

icy to improve connectivity. In areas where the conversion from meter or narrow gauge to broad gauge has been carried out taking detour from the existing gauge either due to technical requirement or request from state governments, land at such locations of abandoned alignment of narrow/meter gauge section has remained unused, it said. According to the details of the land parcels enclosed in the letter, Railways is in possession of some land in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Assam for more than 100 years.

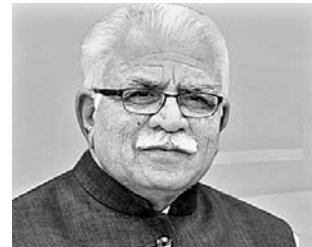
For example, the land in the Dudhwa-Chandan Chowki section in Uttar Pradesh was acquired by the railways in 1893 and 129 acre land was left abandoned after the conversion to broad gauge. Similarly in Assam, land was acquired in 1894 and 42 acres are now up for grabs. In these two states alone, around 500 acres of railway surplus land are available. Sources say that railway is set to earn thousands of crores if state governments decide to utilise the land earmarked in their areas. The Board has asked states to send their proposals to the Divisional Railway Manager in case they have a need for such land parcels.

# Namaz be read at designated places: Khattar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chandigarh, May 6:** In the wake of alleged disruptions to namaz by right-wing groups at multiple locations in Gurgaon, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar Sunday said such congregations should be restricted to mosques, eidgahs or private places, even as he asserted the government will ensure that law and order is maintained. Right-wing outfits have been trying to 'disrupt' Friday prayers in Gurgaon over the last two weeks alleging that some people were trying to grab land.

"Our point of view is that namaz should be offered in the precincts of religious places like mosques and Eidgahs, and if there is shortage of place for offering namaz, it should be done at private places," Khattar said. He was addressing a press conference here before leaving for a 10-day tour of Israel and the United Kingdom. Over the last two weeks, there



Right-wing outfits have been trying to 'disrupt' Friday prayers in Gurgaon over the last two weeks alleging that some people were trying to grab land

were "disruptions" to namaz at Wazirabad, the Atul Kataria Chowk, the Cyber Park, the Bakhtawar Chowk and at the South City, the police said. The disruptions were caused allegedly by members of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, the Bajrang Dal, the Hindu Kranti

Dal, the Gau Rakshak Dal and the Shiv Sena, they said. Asked as to what would be the government's strategy to ensure law and order is maintained in view of such disruptions, Khattar said, "To maintain law and order is our duty and we will do it. We are ensuring that harmony is maintained and there is no tension and we have alerted our officials there." The BJP leader said the instances of namaz being offered at public places have been "increasing". The Friday prayers, he said, should be offered at designated places because certain individuals or departments may have objections to it being done at public areas.

## PARCHED THROATS



Monkeys quench their thirst on a hot day in New Delhi, Sunday

PTI PHOTO

## PMLA case filed in UCO Bank loan fraud

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 6:** The Enforcement Directorate has registered a case of money laundering in connection with an alleged Rs 621-crore loan fraud involving UCO Bank, officials said Sunday. The agency has filed a criminal complaint under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) after taking cognizance of a CBI FIR registered last month. The CBI booked a former chairman and managing director (CMD) of UCO Bank, Arun Kaul, and others in the case. Besides the bank CMD, the CBI booked realty firm Era Infra Engineering India Ltd., its CMD Hem Singh Bharana, two chartered accountants, and Pawan Bansal of Altius Finserve Pvt. Ltd. among others.

The ED will probe if the alleged defrauded bank loans were used to create tainted assets by way of money laundering. The CBI alleged that the accused persons in pursuance of a criminal conspiracy had defrauded UCO Bank to the tune of about Rs 621 crore by diversion and siphoning off the bank loans, they said. According to the CBI, Arun Kaul, who was the CMD of a Kolkata-based bank between 2010 and 2015, allegedly facilitated the accused company in obtaining the loans. The loan was not utilised for the sanctioned purpose, the CBI alleged. The ED will also work to identify assets of the accused so that they can be attached, if required, during the course of investigation, they said.

# 6 killed in dog attacks in 5 days

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Sitapur, May 6:** A 10-year-boy was mauled to death while another was injured by feral dogs Saturday in two separate incidents which are the latest in a series of attacks that have claimed lives of six kids in five days and left this district terrorised, officials said Sunday.

Such is the fear these attacks have generated here that school attendance has dipped, police are doing extra patrolling, while men go to their orchards and fields armed with rods and axes. Saturday, Qasim was grazing his goats when a pack of strays attacked him. He did not survive, a Taalgaon police

station official said. Not far away in Biharipur village, another boy, Irfan, was brutally mauled in a similar attack, the official added. "Since November 2017, 12 children have fallen prey to dogs while six have been injured," District Magistrate Sheetal Verma said.

Verma said assistance was sought from the Lucknow Municipal Corporation to catch the dogs. Till date 22 dogs have been caught, she said. UP government minister Rita Bahuguna Joshi, who visited Saturday, said financial aid will be provided to affected families.

Concrete measures will be adopted to counter the menace

and every community health centre in the area will be equipped with adequate vaccines and medicines, Joshi said.

The spate of attacks is challenging the experts, of whom some believe shortage of food, especially after the crackdown on illegal abattoirs, to be a reason for the canine aggression. May 1, three children were mauled to death by dogs in villages of Khairabad area after which the district administration called a dog-catching team from Mathura to deal with the menace, officials said. May 4, two more children were mauled to death and as many injured by packs of stray dogs in the district, police said.

## India to begin forecasting reach of tsunami waves

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 6:** India would now be able to foretell the distance a destructive sea wave would travel after it breaches the coast, a prediction that can greatly reduce loss of life and property.

The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, has developed a model to predict how far sea water would travel after violating natural boundaries, INCOIS Director SSC Shenoai said. This would be a Level-3 alert under

India's Tsunami Early Warning System, put in place after the deadly 2004 tsunami. The Level-1 tracks the magnitude of a tsunami and Level-2 generates an alert about a potential tsunami and wave height.

December 26 in 2004, a magnitude 9.1 earthquake struck beneath the Indian Ocean near Indonesia, triggering one of the biggest tsunamis the world had ever seen. It claimed more than 2 lakh lives in South and Southeast Asian nations. During the tsunami, deadly waves of up to 30 metres lashed at the coast.

## Modi refuses to play ball with Gadkari

**M**odi is upset with Nitin Gadkari as he failed to deliver him the Delhi leg of Meerut Expressway in time. So upset was the PM that he refused to inaugurate the truncated Eastern Peripheral Expressway (EPE) and Delhi leg of the Meerut Expressway April 29. The PM had laid the foundation stone of the Rs 7,566-crore Meerut Expressway December 31, 2015. The PM was so upset with Rajiv Kumar, chairman of the NHA that he was shown the door. The PMO said that the Meerut Expressway has serious problems across the Pandav Nagar in East Delhi, a Rail Over Bridge (RoB) over the EPE in Meerut.

## Ordinance route for jinxed Motor Vehicle Bill

**I**f Nitin Gadkari has his way, the jinxed Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill will see the light of the day through Ordinance. The Bill is pending for two years. It was passed in the Lok Sabha but failed to clear the muster in Rajya Sabha. The Opposition had signaled to Gadkari that they were ready to pass it by a voice vote without discussion. But continued ruckus on other issues resulted in

Parliament being adjourned sine die and the Bill failed to pass the muster.

## Prashant Kishore desperate

**P**rashant Kishore is in the news again. Not because he is currently advising Jagan Reddy of the YSR Congress. But ever since, Kishore entered in the life of Jagan Reddy, his good days have come. N Chandrababu Naidu is out of the NDA government. The decks have been cleared for an understanding between YSR Congress and the BJP if all goes according to plans. It may also be a coincidence that Nitish Kumar joined hands with the Prime Minister. Prashant Kishore was poll strategist for Nitish Kumar as well during the 2015 Assembly polls and the BJP & Modi suffered a humiliating defeat. Just to refresh memory, he is same Prashant Kishore who crafted Modi's 2014 Lok Sabha strategy. He was so close to Modi that he used to live in the chief ministerial bungalow. But when Modi won the polls, Prashant Kishore was asked to leave the premises. What transpired and why it happened could be anybody's guess. But four years down the line, Modi's charisma is fading. Though he has won polls after polls in states, he is on a weak wicket in Lok Sabha polls 2019. However, the air is

thick with rumors that Kishore may do business with Modi again.

## The importance of being Tripura CM

**T**ripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb is perhaps right in saying that he has not been summoned by the PM to Delhi for his so-called embarrassing utterances. He may be right when he claims that Modi treats him as his son. But Biplab Kumar Deb has a key role to play in Delhi and Modi did ask him to come to Delhi. But the reasons for Deb being asked to come to Delhi were different. Biplab Kumar Deb has a strong connection with Justice Ranjan Gogoi who is in line to the Chief Justice of India after Dipak Misra retires October 2. It is learnt that Biplab Kumar Deb used to live in Gogoi's bungalow in Lutyen's Delhi.

## Rahul to decide on Haryana

**B**hupinder Singh Hooda may have proved himself as an undisputed leader of the Haryana Congress as he mobilized maximum number of people for the Rahul Gandhi rally April 29. But it does not mean he has earned the coveted post of Haryana Congress chief. The argument put forward by Hooda's detractors is that

he will face the music at the hands of the CBI in corruption cases which will be hugely embarrassing for the party. But Hooda's supporters argue that the masses are with him and the Modi government is victimising him. It now transpires that Rahul Gandhi will take a decision about Haryana leadership after the Karnataka poll process is over.

## Sharad Pawar to stitch alliances

**R**ahul Gandhi is understood to have told Sharad Pawar during meetings that being the senior most leader among the Opposition parties, he alone can bring like-minded parties together. Rahul Gandhi wanted Pawar to play the leadership role. Though there was no finality as to who will lead the coalition, it is an unwritten understanding that Pawar would be the leader provided other regional parties like Mamata Banerjee (TMC), Mayawati (BSP), Akhilesh Yadav (SP), Lalu Prasad Yadav (RJD), M K Stalin (DMK), CPM, TDP and others also accept him. These regional parties may not have alliance with the Congress in the Lok Sabha polls in their respective states. But they will try to avoid direct confrontation with the Congress wherever feasible. The Congress-NCP have already finalised alliance in Maharashtra for the Lok Sabha and even Assembly polls.



## Modi's bullet train cost may go up

**N**arendra Modi's ambitious bullet train project is giving more trouble than expected and may push up cost causing huge worries to the Japanese who fund the 90% of the cost. In his zeal to complete the project before the deadline of 2023, Modi is now pushing for more "elevated Track" than the high speed track on land. With more & more farmers protesting against their land being acquired, Modi wants elevated portion of the bullet train be enhanced. Of the 509 kilometers of the high speed track between Mumbai and Ahmedabad, 322 km was to be laid on the land and 144 km elevated. Tired of delays in land acquisition, Modi is pushing for elevated track. The Japanese are worried as out of Rs 1.08 lakh crores project, it is funding 88000 crores at .01 rate of interest per annum for 50 years.



**Elli AvrRam | Happy #WorldLaughterday dear @ElliAvrRam & #ellians sirf khush raho aur enjoy karo life #woopwoop**



**Sunny Leone | Cape Town has become one of my favorite places in the world! Its just so beautiful!**



**Gautam Gulati | Your body is a temple for your mind and soul so nourish it only happy thoughts, good Health and positive energy.**



## STORIES TOP

### JENNIFER LOPEZ SHOWS OFF TONED ABS

**Miami:** Actress-singer Jennifer Lopez showed off her fit and toned abs in a hot pink long-sleeved crop top and black workout pants here. The 48-year-old entertainer and boyfriend Alex Rodriguez were spotted walking hand-in-hand while out at lunch here Friday, reports said. JLo also rocked dark aviators, her hair in a slick bun and carried a large black purse while cooing up to her beau. Meanwhile, Rodriguez was all smiles, casually dressed in a black tee, jeans and black sneakers, while carrying a book in one hand.

### PETER RABBIT TO GET A SEQUEL

**Los Angeles:** Director Will Gluck will be back to helm the sequel of *Peter Rabbit*, which is slated to open in 2020. Sony Pictures has dated *Peter Rabbit 2* for release February 7, 2020 in the US and March 27, 2020 in the UK. Gluck will be writing the sequel too, reports *variety.com*. The film adaptation is based on the classic tale by Beatrix Potter about Peter Rabbit and his family. It narrates the adventures that Peter Rabbit (voiced by James Corden) and his sisters Flopsy, Mopsy and Cotton-Tail (Margot Robbie, Elizabeth Debicki and Daisy Ridley) undergo to reclaim their home.

### RITA ORA TO RELEASE GIRL POWER ANTHEM

**Los Angeles:** Singer Rita Ora has joined forces with rapper Cardi B and fellow singers Charli XCX and Bebe Rexha for a new girl power anthem. Ora revealed the all-star line-up for her forthcoming single, appropriately named *Girls*, on social media when she shared a photograph of a Scrabble board with each of the stars' names, and the song titled, spelled out, reports *aceshowbiz.com*. Alongside the image, she wrote: "I'm so happy to finally announce my new single *Girls* feat some amazing powerful women who have inspired me so much!" The track, which is set for release May 11.

### KIRBY AGAINST USING 'SEXUALITY' TO GET ROLES

**London:** *The Crown* star Vanessa Kirby believes that sometimes people "expect" an actor to use their "sexuality" to bag certain roles. The actor recalled an uncomfortable audition where she had to kiss an actor, who was already cast. "I remember sweating massively, and I left thinking, 'Oh my God, I've just snogged this person for an hour and I feel really weird about it, you know?' And also the expectation with certain roles, it's almost written in that (the character I play) uses her sexuality in some way to get something."

### RUMOUR CORNER EMILY BLUNT REFUSED TO WATCH MARRY POPPINS

**London:** Actress Emily Blunt says she would not watch *Marry Poppins* when she was filming *Mary Poppins Returns*. "Ultimately, I didn't end up watching (the original). I had seen it as a child, so that image was sort of emblazoned in my memory but I never watched the film during the process - I just read the books," Blunt told *Heat* magazine. She added: "So however people view it, it's my version of her. I hope people like it. I took her from the books and she is batty, eccentric and incredibly vain."

## Ranveer's aim

**Mumbai:** Bringing versatility with every film has been Ranveer Singh's aim from the beginning as the actor believes in always surprising the audience with his work. For the 32-year-old actor, it is essential to be a versatile performer and growing up, he has aspired to have a "chameleon-like quality". "You watch one film of an actor and then the other one and you can't believe it is the same person... I used to find that very fascinating. Actors who have that chameleon-like quality, they are able to be anything. I have always aspired to be like that," Ranveer said.

This outlook somehow reflects in the choice of films the actor makes. Within a year, in 2013, Ranveer played a doe-eyed conman in *Lootera* and did a complete switch as a larger-than-life passionate lover in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's *Goliyon Ki Raasleela: Ram-Leela*. Two years later, the actor was seen playing a rich happy-go-lucky brat in *Dil Dhadakne Do* and embraced the armour of a fearless Maratha warrior in *Bajirao Mastani*.

His roles in upcoming films are as stark as they come - he has turned rapper for Zoya Akhtar's *Gully Boy* and a cop in the Rohit Shetty-directed *Simmba*. "For me, it is important to keep switching it off drastically for myself and for my audience. I want audience to expect the unexpected. As an audience, it is very exciting to have this thought that what will this performer do next." "That is something I aspire to have for myself. It is a constant endeavour to be a versatile performer," he says. This year, Ranveer's box office report card boasts of the blockbuster *Padmaavat* and the actor says, both good content and commercial success matter to him. The actor says he is glad that he is considered a "good actor", who is a part of some "memorable films". IANS



## SONAM GUARDS HER PERSONAL LIFE

**New Delhi:** Actress Sonam Kapoor, who is all set to tie the knot with her long-time Delhi-based businessman boyfriend Anand Ahuja, says she is an extremely private person and is very protective about her personal life. The *Khoobsurat* actress has always maintained silence about her relationship with Anand and is even tight-lipped about her wedding. The families of the couple confirmed last week that they will tie the knot May 8.

Soon after her wedding, the actress will be seen on the silver screen in the film *Veere Di Wedding* and she says that it's a "very commercial film". "It's a genuine film about four women and there is no lead role. I am really excited to work with Kareena Kapoor Khan, Swara Bhaskar and Shikha Talsania. They are all wonderfully talented women and actors," she added.

So far the films being made are specifically for women, with related themes. When asked, why do women-oriented films have to be hard-hitting for them to make an impact, she says, "Veere Di Wedding is a film for women and their men too." A week after her D-day, Sonam will be seen at the 71st Cannes Film Festival red carpet to fulfil her commitment as a L'Oréal Paris brand ambassador May 14 and May 15. "I enjoy everything the festival has to offer, without the pressure. Also, this year, I am looking forward to the entire L'Oréal Paris #SummerEscape experience - the beach, the Riviera, lounging by the sea and, of course, meeting the other L'Oréal Paris ambassadors!" Sonam said. IANS

brand ambassador May 14 and May 15. "I enjoy everything the festival has to offer, without the pressure. Also, this year, I am looking forward to the entire L'Oréal Paris #SummerEscape experience - the beach, the Riviera, lounging by the sea and, of course, meeting the other L'Oréal Paris ambassadors!" Sonam said. IANS



## Manisha feels honoured



**Mumbai:** Manisha Koirala says she feels honoured to play the role of Sanjay Dutt's mother and late actress Nargis Dutt in Rajkumar Hirani's upcoming film *Sanju*. Manisha interacted with the media on the sidelines of Yusuf Merchant's book 'Happyness - Life Lessons From A Creative Addict' here Saturday.

On being a part of *Sanju*, Manisha said: "I am really honoured to have played Nargis Duttji in the film. It's like any actress' dream role. Though I have a very small role in the film... It's a special appearance, but I am really excited to know an audience reaction about my role and the film."

*Sanju*, a biographical film based on the life of Sanjay Dutt, is directed and written by Rajkumar Hirani and produced by Vidhu Vinod Chopra. The film stars Ranbir Kapoor as Sanjay Dutt in various stages of his life. It has an ensemble cast which includes Anushka Sharma, Sonam Kapoor, Paresh Rawal, Manisha Koirala, Jim Sarbh, Vicky Kaushal, Boman Irani, Dia Mirza and Karishma Tanna. The film is set to be released June 29. At the book reading session, Manisha said she was mentally disturbed at a certain point in her life but survived through it and came out stronger. IANS

## CINE BITS

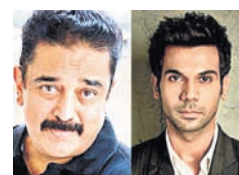
### Alia is fortunate, says Soni Razdan

**Mumbai:** Veteran actor Soni Razdan is proud of her daughter Alia Bhatt's career choices, which are not governed by the not the "star" persona she has earned in her six-year-long Hini film career. When it comes to picking up projects, the 61-year-old actor says Alia, 25, completely relies on her instincts. "I'm quite impressed by the way she has managed to choose her films correctly. She has done everything very instinctively. She has very strong instincts and she relies on them. The quality I really admire in her is, if she wants to do something she will do it with all heart. If not, she won't," Razdan said.



### Haasan, Rajkumar lend voice to Amoli...

**New Delhi:** Film celebrities Kamal Haasan, Vidya Balan, Puneeth Rajkumar, Jisshu Sengupta and Rajkumar Rao have lent their voice to *Amoli: Priceless*, a digital documentary on commercial sexual exploitation of children. Produced by Culture Machine, the documentary on the deep-seated and well-organised criminal industry will release Monday in seven languages on YouTube and Facebook. It spotlights different forms of exploitation and the constant need that feeds the demand for this business. The film is narrated in four chapters - Mol (price), Maya (illusion), Manthan (internal conflict) and Mukti (liberation).



### Rajat Kapoor gives up smoking

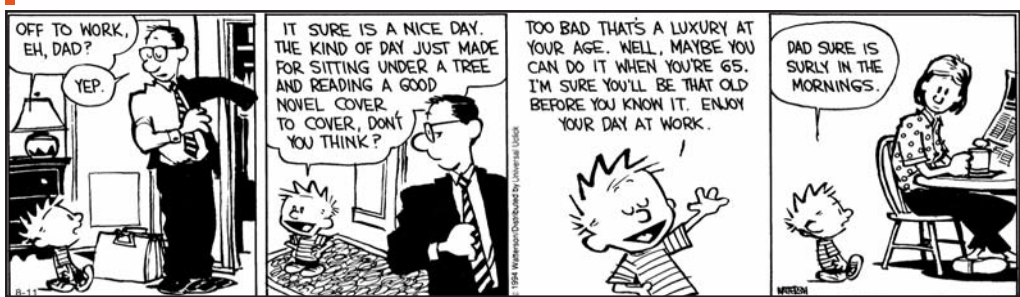
**Mumbai:** Filmmaker and actor Rajat Kapoor has quit smoking. An excited Rajat Friday took to Twitter and wrote: "chhoot gayi (left it), chhoot gayi (left it), cigarette chhoot gayi (left cigarette)". This is not the first time he has given up smoking, having previously done so in 2014. On the work front, Rajat was last seen on the silver screen in *Pari*. The horror film, which also stars Anushka Sharma and Parambrata Chatterjee, was directed by Prosit Roy.



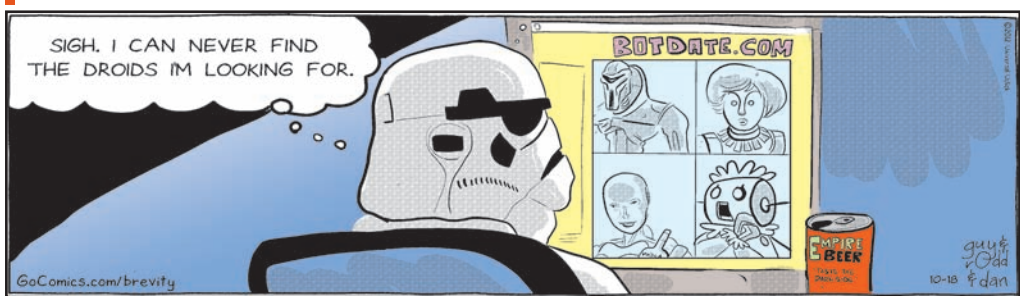
### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

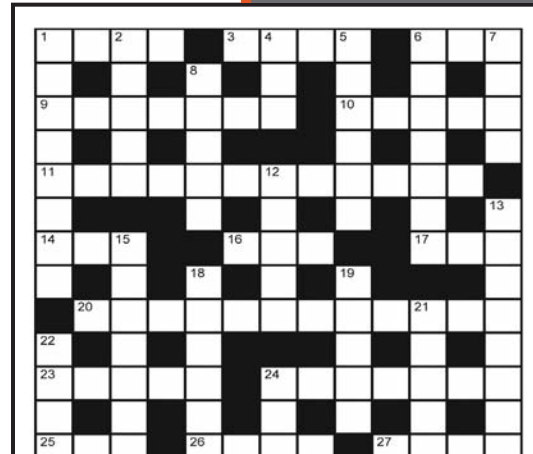


### BREVITY



## FUN post

### CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Smudge
  - 3 Venus de Milo's lack
  - 6 Washout
  - 9 Mature person
  - 10 Surmise
  - 11 Largest city of Haiti (4-2-6)
  - 14 Insolence
  - 16 Barley bristle
  - 17 Be in the red
  - 20 Inexpensive transportation?
- Down**
- 1 New York City, affectionately (3,5)
  - 2 Bouquet
  - 4 Graveyard initials.
  - 5 Ghost
  - 6 In reality; actual (2,5)
  - 7 Blowgun missile
  - 8 Like draft beer (2,3)
  - 12 Before cord or grid
  - 13 Diamond or ruby, e.g.
  - 15 Oracle
  - 18 Sidestepped
  - 19 Cousin of a giraffe
  - 21 Princess topper
  - 22 Tall story
  - 24 Reserved

### SUDOKU

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

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

### SOLUTIONS

**CROSSWORD**

C	H	O	R	E	A	G	A	T	E
S	A	E	P	H	A	O			
A	D	V	I	S	O	R	A	G	L
R	E	O	I	N	I	L			
C	A	N	A	L	S	W	A	M	P
A	V	M	O	P					
S	Y	S	T	E	M				
M	O	S	A						
M									
M									
E	E	E	E	A	O	H			
M	O	L	A	R	E	S	Q	I	R
U	C	G	K	U	R	S			
S	H	R	E	L	N	E	W	E	L

**SUDOKU**

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

## of the day quote

Leaders follow the churning at the ground level. As of now I can say that 70 per cent of Dalits in Bihar are with the RJD. The leaders coming to us have their ears to the ground



MANOJ JHA | RJD SPOKESPERSON AND RAJYA SABHA MP

We expected a dignified language from him (Modi). But what he spoke was the BJP's language and not the one of a civilised person. He spoke at a very low level...this is not the language of the Prime Minister



SIDDARAMAIAH | CM KARNATAKA

It will take unanimous and cumulative efforts by all to achieve required progress in judicial reforms. We need radical reforms and a strong will and commitment to truly make a difference. But I doubt this will happen. Whether Indian judiciary? No one can say, but the scenario is not encouraging



MARKANDEY KATJU | FORMER SUPREME COURT JUDGE

## SHORT TAKES

### Man kills father, brother over property

**Saharsa:** A man allegedly shot dead his father and younger brother over alleged inequal distribution of land in Saharsa district of Bihar Sunday, police said. His sister-in-law and nephew were also injured in the incident. The incident occurred at Situaah Dih village when the man identified as Mantu Yadav alias Vinod Yadav shot dead his father Hardeo Yadav (80) and his younger brother Ashok Yadav (45).

### Cop killed, civilian injured in Naxal attack

**Rajnandgaon:** A 39-year-old police constable was killed and a civilian sustained injuries when suspected Naxals opened fire at them in Chhattisgarh's Rajnandgaon district, the police said Sunday. The incident occurred late Saturday night in Sadak Banajari village where the police jawan, identified as Ganeshwar Singh Uike alias Ravi, had gone to attend the marriage of his cousin brother.

### Maliwal for fast track courts for rape cases

**New Delhi:** DCW Chief Swati Maliwal has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to set up a special task force to create a plan in the next 15 days for establishing fast track courts and deploying additional police resources in the next three months for handling rape cases. She also expressed deep anguish and pain at the growing incidents of "communalisation of rapes".

### Moderate quake jolts parts of J-K

**Bhaderwah (JK):** A moderate intensity earthquake Sunday shook parts of Jammu and Kashmir, causing panic among the residents of Chenab valley. The 4.6 magnitude tremor was felt in Kishtwar, Doda and Ramban districts along the Chenab valley around 01:17 pm, an official of local seismology centre informed. A senior police officer said there were no reports of any damage. The epicenter was 11 km east of Bhaderwah town in Doda district. March 17, the 4.7 magnitude quake with its epicenter 16 km north-west of Bhaderwah, was recorded in entire Chenab Valley.

### Engine driver falls from train, dies

**Mumbai:** In a freak accident, an assistant loco pilot aboard a Mumbai-bound train Sunday fell off and died while checking the train after its locomotive engine caught fire, an official said. The incident took place around 5 p.m. when the 12810 Howrah-Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus was nearly 700 km from Mumbai. There was a minor fire which erupted inside the locomotive but it was quickly extinguished later by the engine drivers using a fire extinguisher. However, SK Vishwakarma, 32, the assistant loco pilot, fell from the running train while he was examining the train as part of normal operating procedures after the incident.

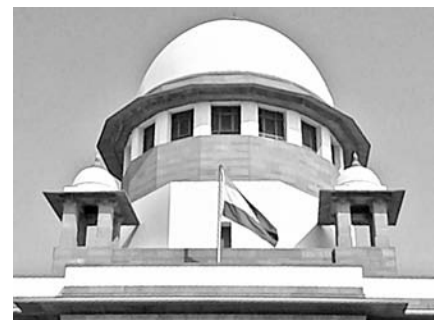


If you are a Muslim and want Jinnah's portrait on your walls, then this is a huge insult of your forefathers who had rejected his ideology. You are an Indian today because of them

VK SINGH | UNION MINISTER

## KATHUA CASE TRANSFER TO CBI: SC LIKELY TO DECIDE TODAY

The Supreme Court is likely to hear Monday the Kathua gangrape-and-murder case along with the petitions seeking shifting of the trial to Chandigarh and handing over the investigation to the CBI



# 'CONG A DEAL PARTY; NO ONE CAN SAVE IT'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chitradurga/Raichur (Karnataka), May 6:** Firing a barrage of barbs at the Congress, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday labelled it as a "deal party" that was being uprooted from all over the country and said no one can save it now.

Taking the BJP's campaign in poll-bound Karnataka to full throttle, he also accused the Congress of "distorting history" as part of a conspiracy to divide the society.

At poll rallies in Chitradurga and Raichur, he flayed the Congress government led by Siddaramaiah for celebrating the "jayantis of sultans" (birth anniversaries of Muslim rulers) for the sake of "vote bank politics". He was apparently referring to the Siddaramaiah government's controversial decision of celebrating "Tipu Jayanti" every year on November 10, commemorating Tipu Sultan, the legendary 18th century ruler of Mysore.

Modi accused the Congress of protecting the corrupt, adopting a divide-and-rule policy, making false



From morning till evening they just say Modi, Modi, Modi. Other than this is there any agenda for the Congress?

promises and having no agenda other than "abusing Modi."

Listing out a string of electoral defeats of the Congress, including those in Maharashtra and Tripura, he said, "From every corner of the country, the Congress has gone".

"...And in Karnataka?" he asked the crowd, which said the Congress will be ousted from power in the southern state as well.

"Now they cannot survive. No one can save the Congress now. For 70 years they have misled and befooled the people," Modi said, as he continued his campaign blitz across Karnataka where the party is heavily banking on him.

The state goes to polls May 12. The counting of votes will take place May 15.

At his rally in Chitradurga, Modi, while referring to corruption charges against a minister without naming him, said, "The Congress is a party that neither has dil (heart) nor is it pro-Dalit. It is a deal party".

Targeting Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, the Prime Minister said he always keeps character certificates ready in his suitcase. "Whenever an allegation of corruption against a minister is made, he immediately takes out a character certificate, writes the name and tells the people he is honest."

"The time has come to bid farewell to the Congress party that is not interested in your welfare. Make it a clean sweep for the BJP and send this chief minister home as he only goes around giving clean chits," Modi told the crowd.

## BJP MLA blames ban on child marriage for 'love jihad'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Agar Malwa (MP), May 6:** A BJP legislator has termed the women's legal marriageable age of 18 years as a "disease", and claimed it was the reason behind cases of 'love jihad' and elopement.

Addressing a women's event in the district Saturday, Agar Malwa MLA Gopal Parmar said that earlier families used to fix marriages of girls in their childhood and that such relationships used to "last long."

He asked parents of young girls to guard against 'love jihad' to prevent their families from being ruined. "Ever since the government started the disease of 18 years, girls started running away (eloping) from their homes," Parmar said. He said the "love jihad fever" has now been catching up.

## Over 5 women raped daily in Delhi in first quarter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 6:** More than five women were raped every day in the national capital in the first three and a half months this year, according to the Delhi Police statistics.

The police claimed that in 96.63 per cent of the rape cases reported last year, the accused was known to the victim.

According to the data, 578 rape cases were reported to the police till April 15 this year as against 563 in 2017 during the same period.

The police attribute the rise in numbers to the speedy registration of cases. In 2017, as many as 944 cases of assault on women were reported till April 15, while 883 cases were reported this year during the same period, according to the data. In 2017, 2,049 rape cases were reported as opposed to 2,064 in 2016.

# I am sorry if I hurt you, said Prof in last call to father

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Srinagar, May 6:** It was the first call of the day that Fayaz Ahmed Bhat received from his sociologist son — and the last ever. The sociologist, a university professor, had recently joined the militant outfit Hizbul.

Senior Bhat was still bleary-eyed at his residence in Chundana in Ganderbal when his mobile phone rang early this morning, he told the police later. It was his son Mohammed Rafi Bhat calling to bid farewell.

"I am sorry if I have hurt you," Rafi told his father before he was gunned down in an encounter with security forces at Shopian in South Kashmir Sunday.

Rafi had left home Friday last week and joined the Hizbul

Mujahideen terror group, the police said. The Jammu and Kashmir police, which was monitoring all calls from the encounter site, quickly got cracking and sent a police team to Bhat asking him to convince his son to surrender.

The father, accompanied by his mother, sister and wife, started their journey from their home to the encounter site. But barely after reaching Bota Kadal, 14km from their home, they heard the news about Rafi's end. The family returned home to prepare for his funeral.

The senior Bhat told the police about his last conversation with his son and indicated he was convinced Rafi would not be there to hear their pleas, asking him to surrender.

"I am sorry if I have hurt you and



this is my last call," Rafi told his father, who recounted the conversation to the police.

Mohammad Rafi Bhat, a 33-year-old professor on contract with the Kashmir University's Sociology department, had left the varsity premises Friday and had been missing since then. Reports had suggested he had joined the terror group but his father had repeat-

## ED no on sharing info on Modi, Choksi's assets

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 6:** The Enforcement Directorate has refused to disclose under the RTI Act the assets of Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi seized during its probe into the over \$2 billion scam in the Punjab National Bank.

However, it had earlier made public on Twitter that assets worth Rs 7,664 crore had been attached in connection with the cases involving the uncle-nephew duo of Modi and Choksi.

The central agency has also refused to disclose expenses incurred on attempts to bring back the two billionaire diamondaires who had fled the country in the first week of January days before the PNB approached the CBI reporting the biggest scam in the banking industry in India.

Modi was last seen in a group photograph of CEOs with the Prime Minister in Davos which was issued by the Press Information

Bureau in January. The immunity given to the Enforcement Directorate under Section 24 of the RTI Act does not cover information pertaining to alleged corruption.

The CBI has booked Choksi and Modi on corruption and fraud charges. Vihar Dhurve, a Pune-based activist, had sought information from the ED on its officials' travel expenses, lawyers' consultation fee paid in India and abroad to bring back Choksi and Modi. Dhurve had also sought details of the scam allegedly perpetrated

under this sub-section."

However, the ED had, in a public statement posted on Twitter March 24, said that it had seized assets worth Rs 7,664 crore during the probe involving the cases of Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi. The Delhi High Court had also underlined in a separate case related to the CBI and the IB, both exempt from the RTI Act like the ED, that the information pertaining to allegations of corruption and human rights violation is not excluded from the purview.

"The only conclusion that can be drawn is that — if the information sought pertains to allegations of corruption and human rights violations, it would be exempt from the exclusion clause, irrespective of the fact that the information pertains to the exempt intelligence and security organisations or not, or pertains to an officer of the Intelligence Bureau or not," the bench had said in the order.

The Section 24 of the RTI Act reads: "Nothing contained in this Act shall apply to the intelligence and security organisations specified in the second schedule, being organisations established by the central government or any information furnished by such organisations to that government; provided that the information pertaining to the allegations of corruption and human rights violations shall not be excluded

## PNB FRAUD



Bureau in January.

The immunity given to the Enforcement Directorate under Section 24 of the RTI Act does not cover information pertaining to alleged corruption.

The CBI has booked Choksi and Modi on corruption and fraud charges. Vihar Dhurve, a Pune-based activist, had sought information from the ED on its officials' travel expenses, lawyers' consultation fee paid in India and abroad to bring back Choksi and Modi. Dhurve had also sought details of the scam allegedly perpetrated

## MALWA UTSAV



Folk artists perform during Malwa Utsav 2018 in Indore late Saturday. Artists from different parts of the country charm the cities of Indore and Ujjain from May 2 to May 8 during the five-day festival. PTI PHOTO

# MP facing a fresh farmers' stir in poll year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhopal, May 6:** A year after a massive farmers' agitation roiled western Madhya Pradesh with six people getting killed in police firing in Mandsaur, the Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led government is bracing up for a fresh stir.

It could be all the more challenging for the BJP government to handle, as Assembly elections are due this year.

A country-wide call for "Gram Bandh" (village shutdown) between June 1 and 10 is set to be centred on Mandsaur district of the state, the epicentre of last year's agitation.

Loan waiver and higher prices for farm produce are the main demands of agitators, represented by the Rashtriya Kisan Mahasangh, a federation of farmers' bodies.

June 6 will be observed as "Vishwas-ghat Diwas" (Day of Betrayal) in memory of the farmers who lost their lives in police firing in Mandsaur on this day last year. Shivkumar Sharma 'Kakkaji',

convener of the Mahasangh, said, "We have given a call for 'Gram Bandh' across the country between June 1 and June 10. June 6, the day when six farmers were killed in police firing, representatives of farmers' organisations would gather at the firing site in Mandsaur to pay homage to deceased farmers."

The Mahasangh claims to have the support of 170 farmers' organisations across the country. Chief Minister Chouhan "manipulated" last year's protest, Sharma alleged.

"Chouhan held a meeting with BJP's favourite farmers' organisations at Ujjain on June 5 and announced that the agitation had been called off. But six farmers were killed in firing the next day. The CM cheated the farmers. So we are observing a 'Vishwas-ghat Diwas' June 6," he said.

Between June 1 to 10, farmers would 'take holiday' by staying put in villages and stopping the supply of milk, food grains and vegetables to the cities, he said.

## Gujjars to revive stir from May 15

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jaipur, May 6:** Members of the Gujjar community in Rajasthan today decided to revive their agitation from May 15 to press for their demand of five per cent reservation from within OBC quota.

The spokesperson of Gujjar Sangharsh Samiti, Himmat Singh, said that the decision was taken at a meeting in Bayana of Bharatpur district.

"The decision to revive the agitation was taken today in the meeting headed by Kirori Singh Bainsla. All the leaders of the community along with its members have been asked to assemble for a sit-in at Pilu ka pura May 15 to demand reservation," he said.

Singh said that Gujjars are getting one per cent reservation under Most Backward Classes (MBC) and the demand is for bifurcation of OBC quota to provide five per cent reservation to Gujjars and other communities.

# Documentary brings alive India's most famous tiger

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 6:** The fascinating story of Machli, the tiger queen of Ranthambhore National Park who lived to an extraordinary age of 20 years and won the hearts of tiger fans like no other feline did, has been captured on celluloid.

"Meet Machli: World's Most Famous Tiger", directed by National Award-winning filmmaker S Nallamuthu and produced by Natural History Unit India for National Geographic channel, is a homage to the legendary tigress who was known for her fierce determination, bravery and confidence.

The 60-minute documentary, which was recently screened in the national capital, has exclusive footage of never-captured sequences. Nallamuthu filmed Machli for more than nine years. And all these years, he was able to capture some priceless moments like



Machli catching her prey, how she established herself as the ruler of Ranthambhore, how she gradually lost her say to her daughters and sons, and also her final moments.

The filmmaker has his own way of promoting conservation through his films. "These have had great impact. But I feel a different kind of impact when people actually see tigers as sentient, mindful beings and bond with them. That is why I show people why you should save tigers by creating a human connect," he says.

Nallamuthu says he has been making films with own funding, many a times borrowing.

## encounter with security forces in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir Sunday

Bhat's involvement with militancy began sometime late afternoon Friday and ended after he was trapped in a security forces cordon at Badigam in Shopian late Saturday night, making him an ultra with possibly the shortest active time in militancy in the state.

He spoke to his mother the last time before leaving home Friday without giving any hint about his short-lived future plans.

Several youth, who joined the militant ranks in a wave following killing of Hizbul Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani in 2016, have had a short life with some of them getting killed within a fortnight.

Bhat's family informed university authorities about his disap-

pearance Saturday morning, following which protests rocked the varsity campus over his disappearance. The university's vice-chancellor had met the protesting students and assured them that all efforts would be made to trace the missing professor.

He had also written to the Director General of Police, requesting him that all efforts be made to trace Bhat's whereabouts.

However, Sunday morning saw Bhat among the militants trapped in an encounter in Badigam village in Zainapora area of south Kashmir's Shopian district.

The encounter broke out after a cordon and search operation was launched by security forces following specific information about the presence of militants in the area.



We are determined to block Iran's aggression against us even if this means a struggle. Better now than later  
**BENJAMIN NETANYAHU** | ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER

## NEW TECH PURIFIES WATER USING SUNLIGHT

Scientists have developed a new technology that uses the sunlight to purify water with near-perfect efficiency. The idea of using energy from the sun to evaporate and purify water was reportedly described by Greek philosopher Aristotle over 2,000 years ago



## of the day quote

We don't wait for the one person to save us. We voted for Barack Obama and he didn't end racism

**MICHELLE OBAMA** | FORMER FIRST LADY OF THE US



On so many of the world's foreign policy challenges the UK and US are in lockstep

**BORIS JOHNSON** | BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY



I want Theresa May to say now to Brandon Lewis, who congratulated those councillors, first of all to apologise and suspend that councillor again. It's unacceptable.

**JOHN MCDONNELL** | BRITISH POLITICIAN



## SHORT TAKES

### Hafiz Saeed begins campaigning for MML

**Lahore:** Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed has kicked off campaigning for the Milli Muslim League, the political front of the JuD, with an eye on the general elections in Pakistan this year. The US last month designated the Milli Muslim League (MML) as a foreign terrorist organisation, saying the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) members make up MML's leadership and the so-called party openly displays Saeed's likeness in its election banners and literature. The MML has not been yet registered by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

### Lebanese vote in first election in 9 years

**Beirut:** Voters queued at polling stations across Lebanon Sunday to take part in its first general election in nine years - an event seen as important for economic stability but unlikely to upset the overall balance of power. Cars and mopeds were decked out with the flags of the main parties, loudspeakers blared songs in support of candidates near their electoral strongholds and young people wore T-shirts bearing the faces of political leaders.

### Nearly 200 dead horses found

**Washington:** Nearly 200 feral horses have been found dead in a stock pond in Arizona, according to Native American leaders, who attributed the death to ongoing drought and famine, the media reported. Some of the horses were found thigh- to neck-deep in the mud at the stock pond in Gray Mountain located in an area owned by the Navajo tribe, CNN reported Saturday "in the process, they unfortunately burrowed themselves into the mud and couldn't escape because they were so weak," Navajo Nation Vice President Jonathan Nez said.

### Navalny released

**Moscow:** Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny was released from police custody Sunday after being detained for several hours the day before on charges of organising an unauthorised demonstration in Moscow against President Vladimir Putin. Navalny posted on his Twitter account that he was released before his trial and that he left the Russian capital's police headquarters after midnight, reports Efe news.

# PEACE TALK NOT RESULT OF US PRESSURE: N KOREA

REUTERS

**Seoul, May 6:** North Korea said Sunday its intention to denuclearise, unveiled at a historic inter-Korean summit, was not the result of US-led sanctions and pressure, warning the United States not to mislead public opinion. Impoverished North Korea has been hit by a series of UN and US sanctions in recent years in a bid to rein in its nuclear and missile programmes.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in vowed "complete denuclearisation" of the Korean peninsula in the first inter-Korean summit in more than a decade April 27, but the declaration did not include concrete steps to reach that goal. The North's official KCNA news agency said Washington was "misleading public opinion" by claiming the denuclearisation pledge was the result of sanctions and other pressure. The United States should not "deliberately pro-

voke" the North by moving to deploy strategic assets in South Korea and raising human rights issues, KCNA said, citing a foreign ministry spokesman. "This act cannot be construed otherwise than a dangerous attempt to ruin the hard-won atmosphere of dialogue and bring the situation back to square one," the spokesman was quoted as saying. It would not be conducive to resolving the issue of denuclearisation if Washington miscalculated North Korea's "peace-loving intention" as a sign of weakness and continued to pursue its pressure

and military threats, KCNA said. US President Donald Trump, who plans to meet Kim over the next few weeks, has said he will maintain sanctions and pressure on the North and "not repeat the mistakes of past administrations" and has said his tough stance had led to the breakthrough. Trump told the National Rifle Association's annual convention in Dallas Friday that he had toned down his rhetoric in anticipation of the talks after labelling Kim "Little Rocket Man" last year and threatening him with "fire and fury".



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in vowed "complete denuclearisation" of the Korean peninsula in the inter-Korean summit.

## 23 killed as coal mines collapse in Pakistan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Islamabad, May 6:** Two neighbouring coal mines collapsed after gas explosions in Pakistan's southwestern Balochistan province, killing 23 people, officials said Sunday.

The first accident occurred in Marwarh, 45 kilometres east of provincial capital Quetta, due to a gas explosion Saturday. The roof caved in following the blast triggered by the accumulation of methane gas, killing 16 miners, Deputy Commissioner Farrukh Atique said. "We have recovered all the 16 bodies from the rubble caused by the collapse in the coal mine," Atique said. There were 30 labourers inside the mine when the explosion occurred. All the injured miners were rescued and taken to the hospital.

Rescue officials said a dozen of the dead miners belonged to Shangla district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. "The collapse apparently took place because of a gas explosion and the miners working at that time were trapped inside. Some died on the spot, while others who were badly in-

jured breathed their last under the rubble," Atique said. Chief of Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Muhammad Tariq also confirmed that 16 miners had been killed.

Hours later, another coal mine collapsed in Sooranj area, in which seven miners were killed, Geo TV reported. Two workers were rescued in an unconscious state, while bodies of two miners were recovered Saturday night, an official said. The rescue operation resumed this morning and bodies of remaining five labourers were recovered. Mining is considered highly dangerous in Pakistan where dozens of miners are killed each year due to lack of modern mining facilities, training and equipment.

According to the Pakistan Central Mines Labour Federation (PCMLF), about 100 to 200 labourers die on average in coal mine accidents every year. Last month, at least 11 miners were killed in two separate mining incidents in Darra Adam Khel area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Jhelum district of Punjab.

## Dozens of casualties in Afghan blast

**Kabul:** An explosion at a mosque used as a voter centre in the eastern Afghan province of Khost Sunday killed at least 17 people and wounded 34, local officials said, in the latest attack on preparations for long-delayed parliamentary elections. Basir Bina, spokesman for the provincial police, said people were gathered after afternoon prayers in the mosque, which was also being used as a voter registration centre for parliamentary elections due in October. He said the blast appeared to have been caused by explosives left in the mosque rather than by a suicide bomber. Habib Shah Ansari, head of the health department in Khost, a mountainous region on the border with Pakistan, said 17 were confirmed dead from the blast with 34 injured. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the explosion, which adds to a series of attacks on voter centres since the registration process began in April. The Taliban, which has warned people against taking part in the election process, issued a statement denying any involvement. Medical aid group Medecins Sans Frontieres said it had donated emergency supplies to the Khost provincial hospital where many of the wounded were taken.

## Iran warns US it would regret quitting N-deal

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Tehran, May 6:** Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said Sunday that if the United States quits the nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers then Washington would regret it "like never before".

US President Donald Trump has threatened to withdraw from the agreement when it comes up for renewal May 12, demanding his country's European allies fix the terrible flaws or he will re-impose sanctions. "If the United States leaves the nuclear agreement, you will soon see that they will regret it like never before in history," reformist Rouhani said in a televised speech in northwestern Iran. "Trump must know that our people are united, the Zionist regime (Israel) must know that our people are united," Rouhani said. "Today all (Iran's) political factions, whether they be from the right, the left, the conservatives, reformers and moderates are united," he added. The nuclear deal was struck in 2015 between Iran and Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia



IRANIAN PRESIDENT HASSAN ROUHANI

and the United States, then led by Barack Obama. Under the pact, sanctions were eased in return for a commitment not to pursue a nuclear bomb, but Iran says it is not reaping the rewards despite complying with the deal. Trump has consistently complained about the agreement, citing perceived flaws including "sunset" provisions lifting some nuclear restrictions from 2025. In an attempt to salvage the deal, French President Emmanuel Macron has recently pushed to extend its scope to address this issue, as well as the absence of any limits on Iran's conventional missile capabilities and Tehran's role in the region.

## Pak minister fired at, injured

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Islamabad, May 6:** Pakistan's Interior Minister Ahsan Iqbal was injured Sunday in an assassination attempt when an unidentified man opened fire at him in Punjab province after he addressed a political rally, police said.

The incident took place when the US-educated leader was leaving the rally in his native Narowal district, about 150 kms from here. The minister was initially rushed to a nearby hospital in Narowal, but arrangements were being made to airlift him to Lahore for further medical treatment, family sources said. An initial report



issued by the police said that Iqbal's bone was fractured in the attack. Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi condemned the attack and called for an immediate report into the incident from top police officials of Punjab province.

## Trump floats 'closing country for a while'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Washington, May 6:** US President Donald Trump has floated a new idea about border security, saying that people might "have to think about closing up the country", the media reported. "They don't want the wall but we're going to get the wall, even if we have to think about closing up the country for a while," CNN quoted Trump.

"We're going to get the wall. We have no choice. We have absolutely no choice. And we're going to get tremendous security in our country. And we may have to close up our country to get this straight, because we either have a country or we don't. And you can't allow people to pour into our country the way they're doing," he added.

## STORMY MAKES CAMEO ON SNL

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Los Angeles, May 6:** Porn star Stormy Daniels made a surprise cameo on American TV show *Saturday Night Live* (SNL) where she mocked US President Donald Trump over their alleged affair, the media reported.



Daniels made the cameo during the star-studded cold open for Saturday's episode, which featured actor Donald Glover as both the evening's host and performer, reports *USA Today*. Besides Daniels, the skit included actor Alec Baldwin playing Trump, Ben Stiller playing Trump's embattled lawyer Michael Cohen, Martin Short as the President's personal physician Harold Bornstein and Aidy Bryant as White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders.

## CARTOON CORNER



## Bangla proposes India's induction as OIC observer

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dhaka, May 6:** Bangladesh has proposed restructuring of the charter of the Organisation of Islamic Conference to pave way for inclusion of non-Muslim countries like India as an "observer state".

The OIC is a 57-member grouping of Muslim majority nations. "A number of countries - not OIC members, have large number of Muslims as their citizens... There is a need to build bridges with those non-OIC countries," Bangladesh's foreign minister Mahmud Ali said as his counterparts in the group joined in their annual council called Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) in Dhaka. He said the induction was needed so that a large number of Muslim



"A number of countries - not OIC members, have many Muslims as their citizens. There is a need to build bridges with those non-OIC countries"

population "do not remain untouched by the good work of OIC and "that is why, reforms and restructuring is critical for OIC".

The Muslims may be minority in those countries, but in terms of number - they often exceed the total population of many OIC member countries, Ali told the CFM after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina opened the meet Saturday. Officials and analysts said the proposal was meant mainly for India where

Islam is the second largest religion with Muslims constituting some 10 per cent of the global adherents of the faith.

Several OIC states countries and the secretary general of the grouping appreciated the proposal but experts said it could see opposition from Pakistan which had earlier opposed India's induction. India, however, has fairly robust relations with most OIC member states.

## NEWS SNIPPETS

### Giraffe kills filmmaker at wildlife facility

**Johannesburg:** A giraffe killed a South African filmmaker who was on an assignment at a wildlife facility northwest of Johannesburg. Filming agency CallaCrew says Carlos Carvalho was filming a feature Wednesday at the Glen Afric farm in Broederstroom when he "had a fatal run-in with a giraffe on set". The agency says Carvalho was flown to a Johannesburg hospital and died there of injuries. South African media say Carvalho was near the giraffe when it swung its neck and knocked him over. The Glen Afric website promises tourists that "you can get up close and personal to a number of our resident wildlife". The British television series *Wild at Heart* was filmed at Glen Afric.



### 1,500 junior doctors' job offers withdrawn

**London:** In a major goof up, up to 1,500 junior doctors in the UK who were offered posts as registrars have had their job offers withdrawn, with authorities blaming human error for the mistake that has left many emotionally and financially stressed. Last week, the Royal College of Physicians (RCP) discovered a significant number of candidates were credited with the wrong score, because of an error transferring data from one computer programme to another - and may therefore have received an incorrect job offer. The RCP, which oversaw the recruitment, has apologised, blaming human error. In a statement, the British Medical Association said it was "appalled". "We cannot express how unacceptable we find this situation," adding: "This has caused extreme anxiety for trainees." The junior doctors were alerted to the error Friday. Fellow doctors described juniors as being in tears.



### Indians among favoured migrants in London

**London:** Indian migrants have a more positive image in the UK as compared to other South Asian communities, according to a recent opinion poll. In comparison, Pakistanis and Bangladeshis were in the negative territory. The YouGov poll, conducted last month among 1,668 British citizens, asked a series of questions about the kind of contribution immigrants from various parts of the world make to British life. Immigrants from India received a strong figure of +25 on the question about making a positive contribution to British life. In comparison, other South Asian counterparts were in negative territory. Pakistanis scored a negative figure of -4 and Bangladeshis -3. Net figures are calculated by taking away the figure for "negative contribution" from the figure for "positive contribution".



### Saudi detains 'thousands' for months without trial

**Dubai:** Saudi Arabia has detained thousands of people for up to a decade without trial, Human Rights Watch said Sunday, slamming the country's powerful crown prince for the "arbitrary detentions". Official data from the interior ministry, analysed by HRW, showed that authorities had detained 2,305 people for more than six months -- some for over a decade -- without referring them to court. The ultraconservative kingdom, an absolute monarchy, has introduced a string of reform in past months, spearheaded by the country's unchallenged Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, dubbed "MBS", who was appointed heir to the throne in June 2017. Yet arbitrary detention appears to have "increased dramatically in recent years", according to HRW.



### Cambodia's 'last independent' newspaper sold

**Phnom Penh:** A newspaper hailed as Cambodia's last independent English daily has been sold to a Malaysian investor with apparent business links to premier Hun Sen, rattling a journalist community that has been battered by the strongman ahead of elections. Bill Clough, the Australian publisher of the 26-year-old *Phnom Penh Post*, said in a statement Saturday that the paper had been purchased by a Malaysian investor identified solely as "Sivakumar G". The announcement did not disclose the price of the sale or any information on the new owner's other ventures. But a person close to the matter confirmed to AFP that the buyer is the head of Asia PR, a public relations firm based in Kuala Lumpur whose website describes its CEO "Siva Kumar G" as a journalist by training. The website lists as a former client Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, whose government stands accused of a sweeping crackdown on independent media, NGOs and rival politicians ahead of July polls.





**“If the manufacturing sector does not grow and we only depend on the service sector I think we are living in a cloud and need to come on mother earth”**  
V K SINGH | MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## FPI OUTFLOW HITS 16-MONTH HIGH

Foreign investors have pulled out over ₹15,500 crore from the Indian capital market in April, making it the steepest outflow in 16 months, due to surge in global crude prices and rise in yields of government securities



## of the day quote

While Dish TV would look to enhance penetration in south India, where Videocon d2h has a strong presence, the latter would look to do the same in east India



ANIL DUA | CEO, DISH TV GROUP

TRAI is in the midst of consulting various international agencies and experts and hopes to finalise its recommendation on spectrum auction soon



R S SHARMA | CHAIRMAN, TRAI

We will invest about \$2-3 million in tech or product companies working on eyecare solutions, be it an innovative eye examination machine or some kind of lens technology



PEVUSH BANSAL | FOUNDER AND CEO, LENSKART

## SCRUTINY NOTICES SLAPPED FOR MISMATCH IN GST RETURNS

34 per cent of businesses have paid ₹8.16 lakh crore to the exchequer whereas analysis shows their tax liability should have been ₹8.50 lakh crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 6: GST officers have started sending scrutiny notices to companies whose tax payment did not match the final sales return, after revenue authorities detected underpayment of GST by about 34 per cent, a source said.

Besides, companies whose final sales return GSTR-1 did not match GSTR-2A, which is a purchase return auto-generated by system from his seller's return, have also received scrutiny notices.

As per an analysis done by the revenue department in March, 34 per cent of businesses paid ₹34,400 crore less tax between July-December while filing initial summary return (GSTR-3B).

These 34 per cent of the businesses have paid ₹8.16 lakh crore to the exchequer by filing GSTR-



3B, whereas analysis of their GSTR-1 data show that their tax liability should have been ₹8.50 lakh crore. In one notice issued by Gujarat GST commissionerate May 4, taxpayers have been asked to explain the reason for "discrepancies" in return GSTR-3B and GSTR-1 for October-December period by May 14.

"If no explanation is received by the aforesaid date, it will be pre-

sumed that you have nothing to say in the matter and proceedings in accordance with law may be initiated against you without making any further reference to you in this regard," the notice said.

Tax experts said that GST law provides for 30 days time to be given to taxpayers for replying to scrutiny notices, however, in the said case only 10 days time has been granted.

AMRG & Associates Partner Rajat Mohan said: "The government should issue strict guidelines for the officers to be reasonable and rational in disposing off the notice after giving the full opportunity of being heard to the taxpayers. In one of such notice tax officer has given 10 days (out of which four days weekly off) against a maximum 30 day period allowed in rules".

## Big defaulters owe PNB ₹15,172 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 6: Big wilful defaulters owed ₹15,171.91 crore in loans to Punjab National Bank at the end of March this year.

The data from the bank relates to those wilful defaulters who have taken loans of ₹25 lakh and above but did not repay despite the ability to do so.

The liability on such defaulters rose by 1.8 per cent from ₹14,904.65 crore in February. The public sector lender has been putting out the names of wilful defaulters and firms since June 2017.

Within 10 months, these defaults have grown by 28 per cent, from ₹11,879.74 crore.

The major wilful defaulters include chemical manufacturer Kudos Chemie Ltd - ₹1,301.82 crore; Kingfisher Airlines - ₹597.44 crore; VMC Systems Ltd - ₹296.08 crore; Arvind Remedies - ₹158.16 crore and Indu Projects Ltd - ₹102.83 crore.

All these companies were provided loans by PNB as part of consortium lending.

## Tanishq's customer outreach a success

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, May 6: Tanishq, the leading jewellery brand from the house of Tata, eyes to inform 500 customers about the latest offerings and interact personally with existing customers. The jeweller plans to organise an event featuring a fashion show to entertain customers.

"To commemorate the success of last year's event we planned to conduct a customer meet every year. We are hopeful to see 500 customers Sunday as against 300 to 350 customers in last year's event," said Rajan Amba, General Manager and Retail Head of Tanishq, adding that the 2017 event had received sound response.

The single-day event will witness a fashion show together with the launch of Rivaah, a wedding sub-brand collection. Amba also said Rivaah contains nine categories in which the Odia bride is one.

"The Odia bride comes within a low weight collection starting



(L to R) Manik Hans, Papu Hans and Rajan Amba showcase the Rivaah collection at an event at Swosti Premium in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

from 50 grams. It also offers a wide range of bangles and customary earrings. It also has an assortment of contemporary jewellery pieces that are an ode to the modern Odia bride," he said.

Together with ornate creations in gold, diamond, Kundan and Polka, Rivaah has products that have been crafted in sync with Indian customs and traditions.

Tanishq also announced the opening of two to three stores in the state by the end of this fiscal.

## SHORT TAKES

### Govt likely to notify 8.55% interest on PF

New Delhi: The labour ministry is likely to notify this week the 5-year low 8.55 per cent interest on PF for 2017-18, paving the way for retirement fund body EPFO to credit returns into the accounts of around 5 crore subscribers. The finance ministry has ratified 8.55 per cent rate of interest on PF for last fiscal. "The labour ministry has sought the Election Commission's approval to notify rate of interest for crediting the same into members' accounts by the EPFO in view of model code of conduct for Karnataka elections. The nod is expected anytime this week to provide 8.55 per cent rate of interest to the EPFO subscribers," a source said.

### 'NTP's \$100 billion estimate conservative'

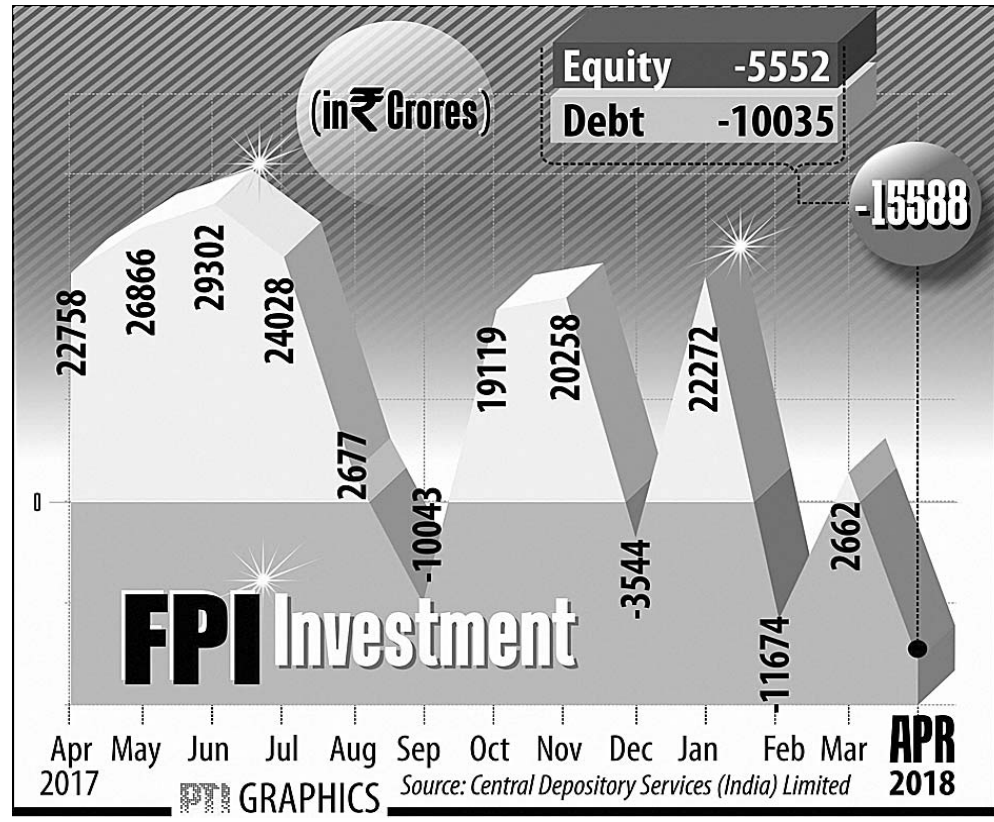
New Delhi: The government's plan to attract \$100 billion (about ₹6.5 lakh crore) investment in the telecom sector by 2022 is conservative, industry body COAI has said. Just two telecom operators, Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio, have committed to invest ₹74,000 crore this year alone, which is more than 10 per cent of the total government estimate, COAI Director General Rajan S Mathews said. "Telecom operators are investing \$10 billion. Half of investment is expected to come from just these two players," he said. The government draft of the new telecom policy aims to create 40 lakh new jobs by 2022, attract \$100 billion investment in the sector and ensure broadband coverage at 50 mbps for every citizen.

### Ministry to decide on Idea's 100% FDI

New Delhi: The telecom ministry is the competent authority to take the final call on Idea Cellular Ltd's proposal for infusing 100 per cent foreign direct investment in the company, Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu has said. The Department of Telecom has put some condition while seeking views of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion on the proposal. "The matter is completely in the domain of the line ministry. We have already clarified. No need of our approval," Prabhu said.

### IBA draws up plan to measure PSU reforms

New Delhi: The Indian Banks' Association has drawn a plan for measuring implementation of 'reforms agenda' by public sector banks on six specified parameters, which include customer responsiveness, credit off-take and digitalisation. This assumes significance as the capital infusion in the state-owned banks is directly linked to their performance on reforms front. The government in October last year had unveiled a huge ₹2.11 lakh crore two-year road map for strengthening NPA-hit government owned banks, which includes recapitalisation bonds, budgetary support, and equity dilution.



## Diesel at doorstep Manipal sweetens bid for Fortis

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 6: After IOC, state-owned Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) has launched home-delivery of diesel in Mumbai and has plans to expand doorstep delivery of the fuel to other parts of the country.

'HP Fuel Connect' will "deliver diesel to select customers having fixed equipment, heavy machinery in their premises in surrounding areas

of Uran, Raigad in Maharashtra," a HPCL press statement said.

Indian Oil Corp (IOC) had in March launched home-delivery of diesel in Pune.

Like IOC, HPCL too has mounted a diesel dispenser, similar to the one seen at petrol pumps, on a mid-sized truck along with a storage tank for delivering the fuel at customers' doorsteps in Pune.

Initially, the company is targeting 'static customers' like shopping malls and commercial establishments that use diesel in gensets for producing electricity,

and transport companies with large diesel consumption.

"This facility will immensely help those customers who were hitherto taking diesel in barrels from petrol pumps," the statement said. "The facility will help customers avoid time loss, additional costs, fuel losses and ensure hassle free safe delivery of diesel at their premises."

Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan had in April last year stated that the gov-

ernment was looking at options to home deliver petrol and diesel to fuel stations and give consumers an option.

But, for home delivery of fuel, a clearance from PESO is required as both petrol and diesel are highly inflammable fuels and require adequate safety precautions.

So far, PESO has given approval for doorstep delivery of diesel only on a trial basis.

India currently has 61,983 petrol pumps with state owned firms operating 90 per cent of them. The country consumed 194.6 million tonne of fuel in 2016-17, nearly 40 per cent of which was diesel.

AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 6: India's privately-held Manipal Hospitals sweetened its bid for rival Fortis Healthcare Ltd Sunday, offering to inject ₹21 billion (\$314 million) to help the ailing hospital operator meet its immediate cash needs.

Manipal and its consortium partner TPG Capital are offering ₹160 per share for the acquisition, according to a letter from Manipal posted by Fortis on the stock exchange feed.

Manipal, which plans to merge its business with that of its rival, said its offer values Fortis at ₹83.58 billion (\$1.25 billion). In its previous offer, Manipal had offered to buy Fortis' hospitals for ₹63.22 billion.

Fortis has been the target of five companies and investment groups, who are vying for control of its 30-odd hospitals across India. The country's private healthcare market is expected to enjoy strong growth with the introduction of a new government insurance plan that is expected to make private healthcare more affordable for millions of poor

### Manipal is offering to inject \$314 million to help the ailing hospital operator meet its immediate cash needs

families. Fortis has set up an advisory committee to evaluate the binding offers. Its board plans to meet May 10 to consider the recommendations.

Manipal has proposed to provide ₹21 billion through preferential allotment of equity shares by Fortis, which needs funding to repay its existing loans and other commitments, the letter said.

Earlier this month, Malaysia's IHH Healthcare Bhd lifted its offer to ₹175 a share, while Indian businessmen Sunil Munjal and Anand Burman increased their combined offer to invest in the company to ₹18 billion. Both these bidders are vying for partial equity stakes in the company.

Radiant Life Care, backed by



private equity firm KKR & Co, has also made a binding offer to acquire Fortis' Mumbai-based Mulund Hospital for an enterprise value of ₹12 billion and a separate non-binding offer involving spin-off of diagnostic services arm SRL.

China's Fosun International, the only one to have not revised its initial offer, had made a non-binding offer last month to invest up to \$350 million subject to due diligence for a stake that would be less than 25 per cent.

Some investors are unhappy that the Manipal-led consortium has been given more time than rivals to match or top the rival bids and say they plan to vote against the group if it is selected as the winning bidder.

## e-commerce market sees deals worth \$2.1 bn in 2017

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 6: As much as \$2.1 billion worth of M&A (merger and acquisition) transactions were inked in 2017 in the booming Indian e-commerce industry, which may soon witness its largest-ever deal - the proposed Flipkart-Walmart nuptial.

According to data from Grant Thornton, 21 deals worth \$2,112 million were seen in 2017 with participation from players like Paytm and Flipkart.

This, however, was lower compared to 2016 which saw deals worth \$2,224 million (18 transactions) being inked, as per the global

audit and advisory firm.

In the January-April 2018 period, six transactions worth \$226 million were seen, according to data. If the Walmart-Flipkart deal indeed goes through, it would be the largest so far in the Indian e-commerce market that is forecast to grow to \$200 billion by 2026 (Morgan Stanley estimate).

"The Indian e-commerce market is here to stay and grow. The frequency of purchases will increase," Vidhya Shankar, Executive Director, Grant Thornton India, said.

On the planned Flipkart-Walmart deal that has already set the e-commerce space on fire, Shankar said the US-retail giant, flush with



cash reserves, has a record of entering into areas and markets through acquisitions.

He cited the example of

### If the Walmart-Flipkart deal indeed goes through, it would be the largest in the Indian e-commerce market that is forecast to grow to \$200 billion by 2026

Walmart's 2016 acquisition of e-commerce start up Jet.com to fight Amazon, as a case in point.

"India is a long-term player and

it is therefore important to get a foothold in the online segment," Shankar noted.

According to sources, Walmart will pump in about \$15 billion along with Google's parent Alphabet to pick up majority stake in the company, valuing the Indian e-tailer at a whopping \$20 billion.

While the US retail giant has been in discussions with Flipkart for months now, the deal is likely to be announced in the coming days.

Such a partnership will not only help the Bentonville-headquartered company strengthen its position in the Indian market but also take on global rival Amazon more aggressively.

## India' growth rate 'amazingly fast': ADB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Manila, May 6: India's projected GDP growth of over 7 per cent for the current fiscal is "amazingly fast" and if this momentum is maintained the size of the economy can double within a decade, Asian Development Bank (ADB) chief economist Yasuyuki Sawada has said.

### If a 7 per cent growth continues for 10 years, then that economy's size doubles, said ADB chief economist

The country shouldn't worry about not achieving 8 per cent growth but focus on increasing domestic demand by reducing the income inequality, he said.

Growth is driven more by domestic consumption than exports, he added.

The bank has projected India to remain the fastest growing Asian nation with 7.3 per cent growth in 2018-19, and 7.6 per cent in 2019-20.

The Indian economy is forecast to grow at 6.6 per cent in the 2017-18 fiscal ended March 31, slower than 7.1 per cent in 2016-17.

"7 per cent growth is amazingly fast. If a 7 per cent growth continues for 10 years, then that economy's size doubles," Sawada said in an interview.

"So that's super fast growing growth rate. And being one of the largest economies in the region, achieving this 7.3 per cent this fiscal and next year, 7.6 per cent, is really amazing," he added.

At \$2.5 trillion, India's economy is the sixth largest in the world. Economic Affairs Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg had said that India is on track to doubling the size of its economy.



Talks about airport privatisation have been around for a while now. Given the growth in air traffic and economic benefits that airport infrastructure creates, now is the opportune time to privatise airports to generate capital to develop new infrastructure

## AIRPORT BIZ MODEL KEY TO GROWTH

Global infrastructure investors would have taken note of news that the Airports Authority of India may privatise some of its profitable airports. Airport infrastructure in India has the potential to yield significant returns and is critical for a growing, consumption-driven economy.

However, developing and growing airport assets in the country will require investors to make some critical decisions around business models to ensure profitability.

Firstly, for each airport, it will be crucial to decide whether the primary revenue driver will be aeronautical revenues or non-aeronautical revenues. Aeronautical revenues are those that the airport operator derives from terminal rents, landing fees and other services provided to the airlines. Non-aeronautical revenues are from activities such as retail, parking, hotels and business parks.

In Indian airports, given low per capita incomes, the passenger-driven non-aeronautical revenues such as retail will be relatively low and will pick up only as incomes rise. Also, some of the airports under the proposed privatisation will cater primarily to domestic demand, thereby leading to a lower retail spend per passenger.

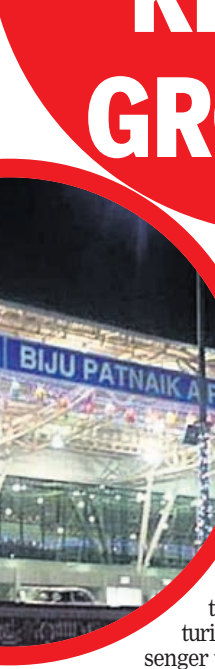
Therefore, for investors, the asset returns will be based on generating aeronautical revenues and maximising non-passenger, non-aeronautical revenues. For certain airports, real estate development to create a critical mass of non-aero revenue assets will be crucial to

make them profitable. Therefore, the decision regarding the business model will be a crucial because the most important commodity is the land available.

Building significant non-aero revenue-generating assets would mean that if passenger growth were to pick up in the years to come, then there would be less land available for terminal and runway expansion. On the other hand, not building non-aero assets would imply more land available for the future but also a lower revenue stream. In a dynamic economy such as India, passenger growth predictions coupled with exceptional real estate asset management will be critical to delivering optimum returns.

Secondly, investors will also have to take a call on the type of airport that is of interest to them. On the one hand, there are those in which passenger traffic is at over-capacity, and on the other are those that are growing, with the catchment area still being determined.

The trade-off the investor faces is a critical one. Airports operating at over-capacity will need capital expenditure to grow the asset, there-



fore requiring development work. Such expenditure can result in high growth through capturing higher passenger traffic, but is also a riskier investment proposition. On the other hand, acquiring one that is still operating at under-capacity is more of a yield play. Utilising the existing assets to increase business will be the key focus.

Given that investors tend to approach assets using their past experiences, if airport privatisation goes through, it will be interesting to see the investor pool at play.

Thirdly, as the privatisation discussions pick up, potential investors will be keyed in on the revenue model that the government proposes for the airports. Investors would be looking for policy clarity on whether all airports will be privatised using the "hybrid till" policy. In common parlance, "hybrid till" is where 30 per cent of non-aero-

naval revenues are used to cross-subsidise aeronautical charges. As opposed to this is a "single till" mechanism, in which all non-aeronautical revenue is used to subsidise aeronautical charges, while in a "dual till" there is no subsidy.

Policy-makers must walk a fine line between lowest charges per passenger under "single till" versus the other end of the spectrum in a "dual till" that generates the best revenue profile for the airports. It is important to note that if airports need to make significant expansions and hence incur substantial capital expenditure, a hybrid or a dual till model is a better solution.

Eventually, airports, airlines and regulators must decide on which revenue mechanism works best. It is imperative to ensure consistency in policy and keep in mind economic returns. However, each asset must get due attention because an airport with over-capacity will have significantly different dynamics from one which is still growing and relatively under-utilised.

Talks about airport privatisation have been around for a while now. Given the growth in air traffic and economic benefits that airport infrastructure creates, now is the opportune time to privatise airports to generate capital to develop new infrastructure. For investors, airports are an asset class that deserves attention for those bullish on the Indian growth story over the next few decades.

## Artha Group to spread wings

At a time when the steel industry in the state is going through a phase of stability, the Artha Group eyes to enhance steel production to 1 million tonne by 2022. In conversation with Debasish Acharya, Amit Gupta, executive director of Narbheram Power and Steel, Artha Group, spoke about future production targets and business strategies of the group.

Excerpts from an interview:

**Why is Artha Group so named and what are the different verticals of the group?**

Artha has been named after the founding members of the company. The company thought of maintaining the sanctity of the founding members instead of choosing some other name. Currently we are producing sponge iron, billet and generate power meant for consumption.

**How is Narbheram Power and Steel associated with Artha Group?**

Artha group operates a sponge iron and steel manufacturing facility through Narbheram Power and Steel Private Limited. The company is operating with a total capacity of 0.45 tonne per annum with 0.10 tonne per annum as the capacity under utilisation. It also has the

capacity of 0.768 tonne per annum.

**What is the company's strategy to meet production target?**

We aim to be the number one player in the state by producing about one million tonne as secondary steel producer by 2022. The target set will be met on the back of expansion of our existing facility as well as through various acquisitions. We also plan to start rolled steel so as to meet increasing demand in the

**“ We aim to be the number one player in the state by producing about one million tonne of steel as a secondary producer by 2022. The target will be met on the back of expansion of existing facility as well as through various acquisitions**

state as well as in the neighbouring states.

**Has work for achieving the target set for secondary steel production already started?**

We have started mapping for acquisitions by initiating dialogues with various consultants as well as bankers who will help us determine the value of assets likely to be acquired. We will also expand our existing facility in Denkanhal which is planned to be under three phases. In the first phase there will be some minor enhancement and later two expansion phases have been planned.

**What will be the expenditure to meet the target?**

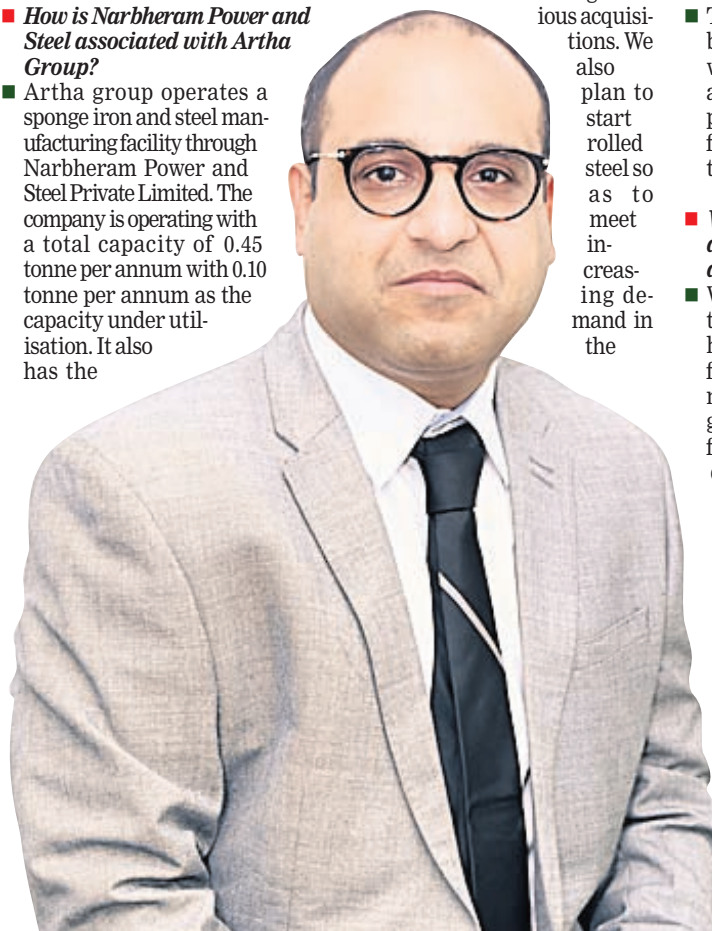
Total investment is scheduled to be around Rs 4,000 crore which will be spent both on expansion as well as acquisitions. The expenditure will be in different phases and will reach the target by 2022.

**Will you procure raw materials and power to meet the production target?**

We will expand power generation to meet company needs and we have a mining asset. So we won't face problems in accessing raw materials. However, due to logistical costs we may procure from local miners, but this again depends on price effectiveness.

**Do you plan to spend on renewable energy generation in the state?**

No, we do not have any plans to spend on renewable energy generation in the state. The renewable business has seen many ups and downs, so to invest in a state with power surplus will be a risky step. However, increasing industrialisation in future may create an opportunity for investors in the renewable segment and we are waiting for that opportunity.



## High-speed train project still remains on paper

The much trumpeted dream project of high-speed rail of the Modi government to reduce travel time between metro cities drastically has so far been confined in the study stage and is yet to come on the drawing board.

While the proposed Mumbai-Ahmedabad rail corridor is facing serious issues related to land acquisition and compensation to farmers, the government has joined hands with China, Spain and Germany to conduct feasibility studies of sections of the Diamond Quadrilateral network.

In the Rail Budget 2014-15, the study for setting up the Diamond Quadrilateral network of high-speed rail connecting major metros and growth centres of the country was announced. Feasibility studies were planned for network of trains linking Delhi-Mumbai, Mumbai-Chennai, Chennai-Kolkata, Kolkata-Delhi and both the diagonals -Delhi-Chennai and Mumbai-Kolkata.

The government has assigned the Delhi-Mumbai high speed rail corridor to ITRSD, a Chinese conglomerate, for a feasibility study of the proposed route for running trains at a maximum speed of 300 km per hour.

The study is expected to be completed this year, said a senior Railway Ministry official involved with the project said.

China is also involved on the Delhi-Nagpur route, which is part of the Delhi-Chennai high-speed corridor, for carrying out feasibility study of



**The government has joined hands with China, Spain and Germany to conduct feasibility studies of sections of the Diamond Quadrilateral network**

the section. The study is likely to be completed in January 2019.

While the Mumbai-Chennai corridor has been given to Systra, a French consultant, the Delhi-Kolkata route has gone to a Spanish consultant for carrying out a detailed study for running bullet trains. Both the studies are slated to be completed this year.

Spain has been given another section -Mumbai-Nagpur route, which is part of the Mumbai-Kolkata high-speed corridor, besides Delhi-Kolkata for conducting study. These are slated to be completed this year.

The Chennai-Bangalore-Mysore high-speed study is being done by Germany and is scheduled to also be completed in 2018.

The high-speed rail project under the National High Speed Rail Corp is estimated to cost about Rs 2 lakh crore. It is akin to the Golden Quadrilateral, which is a roadway project which connects four metros by expressways and falls under the National Highways Development Project.

The Diamond Quadrilateral railway project is to develop high-speed rail network across several metros of India. This quadrilateral rail network connects major metros: Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Kolkata and Hyderabad.

On June 9, 2014, then President Pranab Mukherjee announced that a government project led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch a diamond quadrilateral project and fulfill the demand of high-speed trains connecting metro cities.

## BUSINESS FRONTIERS

### Syndicate Bank names new regional heads

**Bhubaneswar:** Syndicate Bank announced Friday that KC Tudu and K Venkateswarlu have joined as new regional heads of Bhubaneswar Region-1 and Bhubaneswar Region -2, respectively. Prior to this, Tudu was working as chief manager, Janakpuri branch, New Delhi. Tudu had started his career in Syndicate Bank in 1985 and served the bank in various capacities in different branches of Jharkhand, Assam, New Delhi and has gained vast experience, the bank said in a release. Out of his 33 years of service, he has worked in different branches of the bank. At present the region has 62 branches and six more branches are likely to be opened in the current financial year, the release said. Venkateswarlu was earlier chief manager in Morbi branch, Gujarat. He had started his career in 1986 and served the bank in different capacities in different places of Andhra Pradesh, New Delhi and Chennai. He also has experience as a trainer in the training centre of the bank. At present the region has 46 branches.



### Jharsuguda on air map from June 14

**Bhubaneswar:** After much wait, flight services to and from the newly-licensed Jharsuguda airport will begin June 14 on the auspicious occasion of Pahlili Raja. Air Odisha will launch the flight under the Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN) scheme.



Officials said the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) granted licence to Jharsuguda airport, one of the five airports in the state chosen for regional flight connectivity under the UDAN scheme. To start with, the flights will link Jharsuguda with Raipur and Ranchi. The first flight to Jharsuguda will take off from the Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar at 5.50am, June 14, and reach Jharsuguda 6.40am. "All preparations are made to launch the flight services. We will be using 18-seater twin-engine aircraft," said head of operations of Air Odisha, Santosh Kumar Pani. The tickets from Bhubaneswar to Jharsuguda have been priced at Rs 1,750. Similarly, tickets from Jharsuguda to Raipur and Ranchi will cost Rs 1,670 each. Soon, the scheme will cover more airports including Utkela in Kalahandi, Jeypore in Koraput and Rourkela in Sundargarh.

### Life insurance penetration at 2.24% in state

**Bhubaneswar:** Life insurance penetration in Odisha is 2.24 per cent with the number of policies per lakh population reaching 2,240.95, a top LIC official in the state said. The number of agents per lakh population is 88.56 per cent while the share of number of policies per agent is 25 per cent. The Bhubaneswar division has surpassed its target in the number of



policies with an achievement of 100.72 per cent. The divisional office has also realised 20 per cent growth in the number of policies in FY18 when compared with the figures of same period last fiscal. "We have realised 100.72 per cent of the budget last fiscal by making 1,95,100 policies in FY18 as against 1,63,666 policies in FY 17. We also ranked first among other divisional offices in terms of single premium achievement and total fast premium income (TFPI) under the achievement to budget parameter," LP Das, senior divisional manager, Bhubaneswar division, LIC, told Orissa POST. He said the division has been consistently achieving its TFPI budget since the last five years. At the national level, it has occupied seventh position in the number of policies in achievement to budget ratio.

### V-Guard launches air coolers

**Bhubaneswar:** Leading consumer electrical and electronics major V-Guard Friday launched its air coolers in the state. The coolers will be available in three categories: desert, personal, and window.

The air coolers have an aerodynamically balanced body for better stability and a tetra airflow cooling system for efficient air circulation. Along with these, the corrosion resistant fan blades and un-drip water flow distribution increases the life span of the product, an official said. "We are excited to launch air coolers in the state, which also marks our entry into this category. The air cooler category comprises industrial and residential segment with the latter commanding a 90 per cent share. The market for branded air cooler is growing rapidly because of new residential townships and housing projects across the state," Mithun Chittilappilly, managing director, V-Guard Industries Ltd, said. The air cooler market in the country has been growing at a faster pace, he said, adding, "With Odisha being an important market for us, we will continue to expand more in this region."





**Atletico Madrid coach Diego Simeone has asked UEFA to change the away-goal rule because sides playing in the second leg have an unfair advantage. "Away goal is considered as two goals, the home side does not have such an advantage, so it must be altered," Simeone said**

**NEYMAR BACK IN BUSINESS**

Brazilian forward Neymar Jr has resumed rehabilitation work at PSG's training facilities and could play for the Ligue 1 side in their last match of the season, May 19 to get some match time. "@neymarjr is back at work at the Ooredoo Training Centre," the club tweeted Saturday



**SHORT TAKES**

**'Child sexual abuse, an epidemic in USA'**

**Los Angeles:** Former star athletes who were sexually abused by one-time sports doctor Larry Nassar condemned an 'epidemic' of pedophilia in the United States, calling for a 'nationwide sweep' and greater accountability. Jeanette Antolin, who was on the US national gymnastics team from 1995-2000, said that one out of every three girls and one out of every five boys will be a victim of sexual abuse before his or her 18th birthday. "The reason why child sexual abuse is such an epidemic is because kids are being silenced," she said Saturday while speaking at the two-day United State of Women Summit here. Olympic gold medalist Aly Raisman who was also abused by Nassar said, "More and more women are being heard and believed when they come forward, but we still have a long way to go."

**Khade finishes 2nd best at Nigerian tennis meet**

**New Delhi:** India's Arjun Kadhe has ended as a runner-up at the ITF Futures event at Abuja, Nigeria after losing the final in straight sets to Brazil's Joao Menezes. Playing in his fourth final on the ITF circuit this season, the 397th-ranked Kadhe lost 3-6, 1-6 to his opponent, placed three places above him in the ranking chart. "First set was pretty close and he played really well. It was tough for me to break him. In second set, I lost the first few games which I should have won on deuce," Kadhe said Sunday. It was third runner-up finish for the 24-year old from Pune after similar results in Kolkata and Trivandrum early this year. His only ITF title came at Bhubaneswar, earlier this year.

**Ramit stuns top seed to win Abu Dhabi title**

**Abu Dhabi:** India's Ramit Tandon topped Sunday No.1 seed Omar Abdel Meguid of Egypt to win the Abu Dhabi Open squash tournament. This is Tandon's third title on the Professional Squash Association (PSA) tour. The third seed beat the Egyptian 11-6, 6-11, 11-3, 11-2 in an exciting one-hour final. The World No.65 Indian played a patient match to outwit his World No.41 ranked rival. It was their first meeting on the PSA tour.

**China continue to reign supreme in women's TT**

**Halmstad (Sweden):** China's women's team won their fourth consecutive title, beating Japan 3-1 at the World Team Table Tennis Championships here, Saturday. However, it was Japan who made a strong start as Mima Ito beat Liu Shiwen 11-9, 8-11, 5-11, 11-8, 12-10 in the opener. However, China were back on track quickly thanks to Ding Ning's 11-6, 12-10, 13-11 victory over Mi Hiran and World No.2 Zhu Yuling's comfortable 11-4, 11-7, 11-8 win over third-ranked Kasumi Ishikawa. They wrapped up the tie when Liu playing the first of the reverse singles beat Hiran 11-6, 11-6, 12-10. This incidentally was the 21st time China have won the women's singles title.

**Xavi postpones plans to retire by 6 months**

**Doha:** Legendary former Barcelona and Spain midfielder Xavi Hernandez has upset his own plans to retire and announced Sunday he will extend his career until at least the end of this year. Widely expected to end his illustrious playing career at the end of this season, the World Cup champion and four-time Champions League winner said that he feels fit enough to 'continue playing a little longer'. "I have decided to continue at least six months more," said the 38-year-old, who now plays for Qatari club Al Sadd. Asked why he was playing on, he replied: "Because it depends on my physical condition. Maybe in December I decide whether to continue." Xavi, who won 133 caps for Spain, had been expected to take the reins as coach at Al Sadd from next season and has been tipped to be the Qatar manager in 2022 when the Gulf state hosts the World Cup.

**Career boost for Goyat**

**New Delhi:** Indian boxer Neeraj Goyat, who holds the WBC Asia-Pacific welterweight title, would be gunning for a second yet-to-be-announced belt next month after signing up with Canada's Lee Baxter Promotions for two years. So far the boxer has won nine of his 13 professional bouts. "I cannot reveal the financial details of the contract but it is a good deal that I have got. I guess I am the first Indian boxer to sign up with a Canadian promoter. I hope it will take my professional career in the right direction," Neeraj said Sunday. AGENCIES

**PREPARATIONS FOR 2019 AFC ASIAN CUP AT UAE**

**Skipper Chhetri wants away games against strong rivals**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Gurgaon, May 6:** Captain of the Indian football team Sunil Chhetri said here Sunday that India will need to play away matches against strong opposition on a consistent basis if they are to do well in the AFC Asian Cup tournament at UAE next year. India have been clubbed with Thailand, hosts UAE and Bahrain. "What I'm looking forward is winning games outside the country which is very important. Our home record is good but outside we have really struggled. I just hope in the next six months we get more away games against much better opponents so that we can test ourselves. What we will face (in Asian Cup) are the best teams in Asia," Chhetri said on the sidelines of a promotional event here. Chhetri, who turns 34 this August, also did not agree with the view that India have got an easier group this time as com-

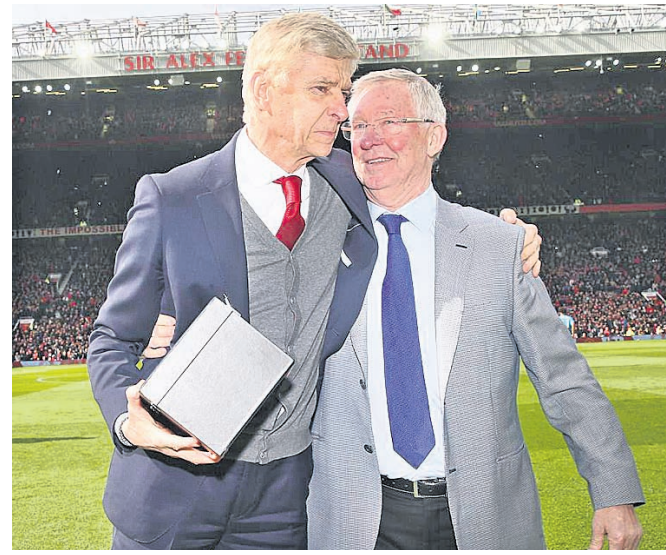
**Playing away against stronger opponents will give us the chance to judge ourselves and assess where we stand**

SUNIL CHHETRI

pared to the 2011 edition when the country were clubbed with Asian powerhouses Australia, South Korea and Bahrain. "If you say our job is easier because we are playing well, it can be a valid point," said India's highest goal-getter. "But then Thailand, UAE and Bahrain are not easy teams. All are very tough. As hosts UAE are far ahead of us. Thailand are the most improved team in Asia in the last six years. But if we have to do well in the tournament we have to beat Thailand in the first match," added Chhetri. The Indian skipper also asserted that the impressive run in the Asian Cup qualifying campaign, during which India had a

13-match unbeaten run, will count for nothing in the main round. "I am happy with the kind of performance we have put into. What we have to deal with is a much bigger stage and it will not help by what we have done before," he pointed out. Chhetri will be the only Indian to have played in two editions of the continental showpiece. He scored two goals out of three by his team in the 2011 edition in Doha. Also he is expected to play his 100th game for India during the four-team Intercontinental Cup starting, June 1 in Mumbai. The other participating teams are South Africa, New Zealand and Chinese Taipei. "It has been an unbelievable ride. Whatever I have achieved is something I never dreamt of. I am living a dream and am really happy about it. I could not have asked for anything more," said the man who has donned national colours 97 times.

**LEGENDARY MANAGER UNDERGOES EMERGENCY BRAIN SURGERY  
FERGUSON FIGHTING FOR LIFE**



Sir Alex Ferguson (R) was present at the Old Trafford last Sunday to honour one-time foe Arsene Wenger

AGENCIES

**London, May 6:** Alex Ferguson, the most successful manager in Manchester United's history, underwent emergency surgery Saturday for a brain haemorrhage, the club said. "The procedure has gone very

well but he needs a period of intensive care to optimise his recovery," a statement said. "His family request privacy in this matter." Manchester United captain for the current season Michael Carrick tweeted: "Absolutely devastated to hear about Sir Alex being unwell

in hospital. All my thoughts and prayers are with him and his family. Be strong boss." The 76-year-old was Man United's manager from 1986 to 2013, winning the Champions League twice, the Premier League 13 times and five FA Cups. He was knighted in 1999, the year United achieved a treble by winning those three trophies in one season. Ferguson made his managerial reputation in his native Scotland with Aberdeen, winning three Scottish League titles and the European Cup Winners' Cup. After taking Scotland to the 1986 World Cup following the death of Jock Stein, Ferguson joined United in November 1986 after Ron Atkinson was sacked. It took three and a half years to achieve his first success with them, the FA Cup title in 1990. Ferguson retired from his Man U managerial role in 2013. However, he remained a regular visitor to Old Trafford and was there last Sunday to make a presentation to old rival

Arsene Wenger on the Arsenal manager's last appearance at the ground before he leaves the London club. Arch rivals Manchester City were quick to tweet: "Everyone at Manchester City wishes Sir Alex Ferguson a full and speedy recovery after his surgery." Managers Sam Allardyce of Everton and Southampton's Mark Hughes, a former United player under the Scot, also added their best wishes following the first Premier League game after the news

broke. Others who wished the legendary Fergie were his former students David Beckham and Cristiano Ronaldo. Both tweeted wishing Ferguson a speedy recovery. Beckham said, "Keep fighting Boss. Sending prayers and love to Cathy (Ferguson's and the whole family)." Ronaldo who is expected to play a key role in the Clasico said: "My thoughts and prayers are with you my dear friend. Be strong, Boss!"

**Replacing Warner is impossible: Kane**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Hyderabad, May 6:** Named captain of Sunrisers Hyderabad after the banned David Warner was ruled out of the IPL-XI, Kane Williamson Sunday said it's impossible to be a replacement for the explosive Australian opener in the T20 franchise's setup. "I don't think it's a matter of replacing David Warner. I think that's probably an impossible thing to do. He is one of the best T20 batters in the world and for this franchise in the last few years," Williamson said. Warner was slapped with a one-year ban by Cricket Australia owing to his involvement in ball tampering during a Test in South Africa in March. Sunrisers overcame the loss of Warner in style, savouring more success than failures, to claim the top spot in the pecking order along with Chennai Super Kings. "It's nice to be on top of the table. But at the same time, I mentioned a number of times that we want to keep seeing those improvements, keep adapting to the different surfaces that we would be faced with in every game," Williamson said during a media interaction. SRH would like to take each game as it comes, he said. Williamson said he is focused on contributing his best for the team.

**Halep, Wozniacki sail through**



Simona Halep was at her fluent best during her first round demolition of Ekaterina Makarova at the Madrid Open, Saturday

AGENCIES

**Madrid, May 6:** World No.1 Romanian Simona Halep kicked off her French Open preparations in style with a 6-1, 6-0 demolition of Ekaterina Makarova at the WTA Madrid Open tennis tournament here, Sunday. The top-seeded Romanian was brilliant with her ground strokes as she eased through to the next round conceding just 22 points to her opponent in the match. Also advancing was second seed Caroline Wozniacki, a 6-3, 6-1 winner against Aussie Daria Gavrilova in a match that lasted 71 minutes. "I think I was in my rhythm in the second set and I struggled a bit

initially in the first," the Dane said after her win. Meanwhile in matches played Saturday, French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko's preparations in the run-up to the clay court Major hit the skids in the first round as she was beaten 3-6, 3-6 by unseeded Romanian Irina-Camelia Begu. If the 20-year-old Ostapenko harbours any hopes of repeating that run in Paris later this month, she will have to make a vast improvement on Saturday's error-filled performance. Joining her at the exit was American Venus Williams, a runner-up in Madrid in 2010. She was beaten 6-3, 3-6, 2-6 by Estonian Anett Kontaveit.

**INDIA MUST SWELL MEDALS TALLY TO HOST 2032 GAMES**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 6:** Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president Narinder Batra said Saturday night here that the country should aim to have a 'double digit' medals tally at the Tokyo Olympics and around 40 at the 2024 Paris Games. This would then help the IOA gain public support in its bid to host the 2032 Summer Games. Batra had recently told IOC chief Thomas Bach - when he visited the country last month - that India would bid for 2032 Olympics, 2026 Youth Olympics and 2030 Asian Games. "Our target should be to win

medals in double digits in 2020 Tokyo Olympics and around 40 medals at the 2024 Paris Olympics. This we need as we want to bid for 2032 Olympics. It is difficult to win public support (to bid for Olympics) if we do not do well and win medals in the Olympics itself," Batra said. "We have to plan for 2020 and 2024 Olympics and we have to find the talent in the country. We have to do this together with the national federations (NSFs) as well as the government," he added while talking at a programme organised by the Badminton Association of India (BAI).

**JUVE INCH CLOSER TO 7TH SUCCESSIVE SERIE A TITLE**

**Costa charisma revives Juventus**



Paulo Dybala (L) celebrates with Douglas Costa after the former's goal against Bologna, Sunday

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Milan, May 6:** Douglas Costa sparked an emphatic comeback as Juventus closed in on a seventh successive Serie A title by recovering from a goal down to beat Bologna 3-1 here, Saturday. Juventus entered the game in Turin with a four-point lead over chasing Napoli and just three matches of the season to play, but the hosts fell behind to a first half penalty from Bologna's Simone Verdi. However, an own goal from visiting defender Sebastien De Maio on 52 minutes allowed Juventus to draw level before Costa supplied Sami Khedira and then Paulo Dybala for two quick goals to seal the victory. Juve's six-year reign in Italy looked under threat a fortnight ago when Napoli snatched a dramatic 1-0 win over Massimiliano Allegri's side, but last week's late heroics here left the Turin giants once again in charge of the title race. After Juventus threatened

through Gonzalo Higuain and Alex Sandro, the visitors grabbed a surprise lead when Lorenzo Crisetig pounced on a sloppy pass from Gianluigi Buffon and was fouled in the area by Daniele Rugani. Italy striker Verdi made no mistake from the spot. The introduction of Brazilian Costa for Blaise Matuidi at half time triggered an electrifying response from the home team and Juventus hit back when De Maio sliced an attempted clearance into his own net. In the 63rd minute Costa's deep cross floated over a flapping Mirante and was stroked home at the far post by Khedira. Another surging Costa run down the left produced his side's third goal six minutes later when his low cross was brilliantly dispatched first-time by Dybala for his 22nd goal of the season. Juventus can clinch the title Sunday if Napoli lose to mid-table Torino, otherwise victory in one of their final two matches - away to Roma and at home to relegated Verona - would also be enough.

**TODAY'S MATCH**  
SRH vs RCB  
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IPL 2018  
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SURYAKUMAR, HARDIK FASHION CONVINCING VICTORY

# MI slay Knights, stay alive

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, May 6:** Suryakumar Yadav's successive half century and an all-round performance from Hardik Pandya powered Mumbai Indians (MI) to a 13-run win over Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), keeping them in play-offs contention in the IPL-XI here Sunday.

Yadav (59, 39b, 7x4, 2x6) continued his rich run with a fourth fifty of the tournament before Pandya (35 n o, 20b, 4x4, 1x6) plundered the KKR attack to nudge the hosts to 181 for four. Yadav's opening partner Evin Lewis (45, 28b, 5x4, 2x6) too made a valuable contribution in the 91-run stand.

KKR skipper Dinesh Karthik (36 n o, 26b, 5x4, 1x6) tried his best to get his team over the line but was unable to do so after the visitors needed 60 runs off the last 30 balls. By the final over, KKR needed 23 runs and Krunal Pandya (1/29) defended them comfortably with the innings ending at 168 for six. Robin Uthappa's (54, 35b, 6x4, 3x6) first fifty



**ALL-ROUND SHOW:** Hardik Pandya plays an attacking shot against Kolkata Knight Riders at Mumbai, Sunday

plus score of the competition also went in vain.

It was another much needed win for slow starters Mumbai, who had beaten KXIP Friday. They remain in fifth spot in the standings with eight points, having

earned their fourth win in 10 games. KKR, on the other hand, remain in the top-four with 10 points after their fifth loss in 10 matches.

Chasing a stiff 182, KKR lost both the openers Chris Lynn (17) and Shubman Gill (7) quickly,

**Brief scores**

**MI 181/4**  
(Suryakumar Yadav 59, Evin Lewis 43; Andre Russell 2/12) beat  
**KKR 168/6**  
(Robin Uthappa 54, Dinesh Karthik 36 n o; Hardik Pandya 2/19) by 13 runs.

leaving them at 28 for two. Then Nitish Rana (31) and Uthappa resurrected the innings with an 84-run stand. After Uthappa's and Rana's dismissal, the asking rate went up steeply and the target proved to be too much. For Mumbai Hardik (2/19) was the pick of the bowlers while Markande, Bumrah, Krunal and Mitchell McClenaghan picked up a wicket each.

Earlier, Mumbai openers Yadav and Lewis set the platform for a challenging total with a 82 runs stand for the first wicket. A late cameo by Hardik helped the three-time champions cross the 180-run mark. Andre Russell (2/12) and Sunil Narine (2/35) were the pick of the bowlers for KKR.

# Rahul seals KXIP win

AGENCIES

**Indore, May 6:** Kings XI Punjab (KXIP) rode on a brilliant unbeaten half century by KL Rahul (84 n o, 54b, 7x4, 3x6) to beat Rajasthan Royals (RR) by six wickets in an IPL-XI encounter here, Sunday.

Earlier young Afghan off-spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman (3/27) led an impressive bowling display as KXIP restricted struggling Royals to a modest 152 for nine.

Asked to bat, Rajasthan did not have a great start as they lost opener D'Arcy Short (two) continuing his bad form and skipper Ajinkya Rahane (five) early before Jos Buttler (51, 39b, 7x4) and Sanju Samson (28) stitched 49 runs for the third wicket to stabilise the innings. Besides, Buttler and Samson none of the batsmen could really make an effect to the Royals innings as all of them failed to capitalize on the starts they got. Towards the end, Shreyas Gopal (24) also played a good cameo but

it was not enough to take Rajasthan to a good total. Krishnappa Gowtham (five) also had a bad day. Rahul Tripathy also couldn't count much scoring only eleven runs.

Meanwhile, Mujeeb struck in the first two deliveries of the 15th over, first removing dangerous-looking Buttler and then Jofra Archer (zero) to stand in with a chance of registering a hat-trick. New man Archer was deceived

with a googly but he bowled a wide delivery in his hat-trick ball to lament the chance. His exploits were enough to keep Rajasthan in check as they kept on losing wickets at regular intervals.

Besides Mujeeb, Andrew Tye (2/24), Axar Patel (1/21), skipper Ravichandran Ashwin (1/30) and Ankit Rajpoot (1/37) were the other wicket-takers for KXIP. Mujeeb also accounted for dangerous Ben Stokes (12) who was brilliantly caught by a joint effort from Mayank Aggarwal and Manoj Tiwary at the long-off boundary.

## SHORT TAKES

### Bhullar finishes second

**Seongnam:** Gaganjeet Bhullar was edged out in a four-way playoff for the GS Caltex Maekyung Open Golf Championship as Korea's Sanghyun Park won the event for the second time in three years with a par at the third playoff hole here Sunday. Park, who won the event in 2016, had to go the extra distance to lift his sixth professional title after he carded an even-par-71 in the final round to force his way into a play-off with compatriots Yikeun Chang (69), Junggon Hwang (70) and Bhullar (70). It was Bhullar's best result since his win in Macao last October. He is the first Asian to win eight times before the age of 30.

### Medals galore

**Colombo:** India's junior athletes added nine more gold medals to the country's tally before the curtains came down at the 11th South Asian Junior Athletics Championships here Sunday. India finished on top in the seven-nation competition with 20 gold, 22 silver and eight bronze medals. Hosts Sri Lanka bagged rest of the 12 gold medals in the competition along with 10 silver and 19 bronze while Pakistan won one silver and a bronze to settle for the third place. The Indian junior athletes also registered five new meet records (NMR) on the final day of the championships.

### Minerva blank Sudeva

**Kolkata:** Minerva Punjab FC posted a convincing 5-0 win over Sudeva FC in the first semifinal of the ongoing U-13 Youth League played at the Barasat Stadium here Sunday. Minerva Punjab, who scored through Longjam Swami Singh (24th), Naoba Sanabam Meitei (36th), Tongbam Maheron Singh (38th, 52nd) and Kamalesh Singh Bisht (61th), produced a commanding performance to book their place in the final of the competition. Looking to stamp their authority, Minerva had the Sudeva defence under all kinds of pressure. Minerva will face the winner of the second semifinal between Mohammedan Sporting Club and SAI East Zone in the title clash.

## Goalless draw spoils Pep's party

AGENCIES

**Manchester, May 6:** Champions Manchester City will have to wait to break the Premier League points record after they were held to a 0-0 draw by Huddersfield Town at the Etihad Stadium here Sunday.

City, who lifted the Premier League trophy in front of their fans after the match, mustered only two shots on target all through the game, as relegation-threatened Huddersfield dug in for a vital point.

City coach Pep Guardiola introduced Benjamin Mendy, Ilkay Gundogan and Bernardo Silva from the bench, yet their 79 per cent possession tally continued to yield little by way of opportunities.

Indeed, Huddersfield arguably had the better chances in the first 45 minutes, particularly

when Florent Hadergjonaj shot straight at Ederson from inside the penalty area.

The result means City are still two goals, two points and one victory short of Premier League records, with games to come against Brighton and Hove Albion and Southampton, but the draw proved crucial for Huddersfield as they moved three points clear of bottom three ahead of their midweek trip to Chelsea.

Meanwhile, Cardiff City secured promotion to the Premier League after a goalless draw at home with Reading which helped them to clinch the second place in the second tier Championship on the final day of the campaign.

Cardiff finished with 90 points, two points ahead of Fulham but nine adrift of champions Wolverhampton Wanderers.

## GANGPUR TEAMS FINISH THIRD

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 6:** Hockey Gangpur men's and women's teams had to be satisfied with bronze medals as they finished third after beating their respective opponents in the third-fourth play-off matches of the VIIIth Junior National Championship (Division A) at Bhopal, Sunday. While the Gangpur eves edged out Uttar Pradesh Hockey 2-1, their male counterparts thumped Hockey Odisha 6-1.

Gangpur women scored both their goals in the first half to secure a 2-0 lead at the half-time break. Janhavi Pradhan drew the first blood in the 24th minute before skipper Jiwan Kishori Toppo doubled the lead nine minutes later to give them the upper hand. However, UP came back strongly

in the second half and tried to make an impact creating a flurry of chances. Mumtaz Khan pulled one goal back in the 40th minute but that was all as Gangpur players held their nerves in the closing stages of the game to avert any danger.

Gangpur men rode on hat-trick from skipper Pratap Lakra to thrash their state opponents. Pratap (27th, 59th, 63rd), Sanjay Xalxo (24th, 35th) and Sudeep Chirmako (32nd) scored for Gangpur while the only consolation goal for Odisha was scored by Dibesh Jojo (16th).

**Double crown**  
Cuttack Sadar emerged champions both in the boys' and the girls' segments of the 11th State Junior Netball Championships at the Mudupur Stadium in Jagatsinghpur, Sunday. In the boys'



Cuttack Sadar girls' team players pose with the winners' trophy along with guests Sunday

category Cuttack Sadar defeated Jagatsinghpur while in the girls' segment they got the better of Cuttack district.

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