



## OVERCOMING ADDICTION

Hina said Monday that she 'temporarily' overcame her addiction during the shooting of 'Bigg Boss' **GLITTERATI P10**



## DEFAMATION NOTICE

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has asked PM Narendra Modi to apologise or face a Rs 100 crore defamation notice **NATIONAL P9**



## NO PINK BALL TEST

BCCI has informed Cricket Australia that India will not play any pink ball D/N Test during their tour Down Under **SPORTS P16**

## SHORT TAKES

### SC diktat to WB SEC over candidates' complaints

**Kolkata:** The Calcutta High Court asked Monday, the state election commission (SEC) in West Bengal to produce the details of complaints it has received from intending candidates over not being able to file nominations for the panchayat election by Monday night. A division bench of justices Biswanath Somadder and A Mukherjee concluded its hearing on opposition CPIM's appeal to allow filing of nominations by candidates, who were unable to do so for various reasons, through e-mail. The bench said it would pass the order on the appeal Tuesday. The bench said if it found that the SEC had not taken into account the court's observations, it would have to consider action against the poll panel.

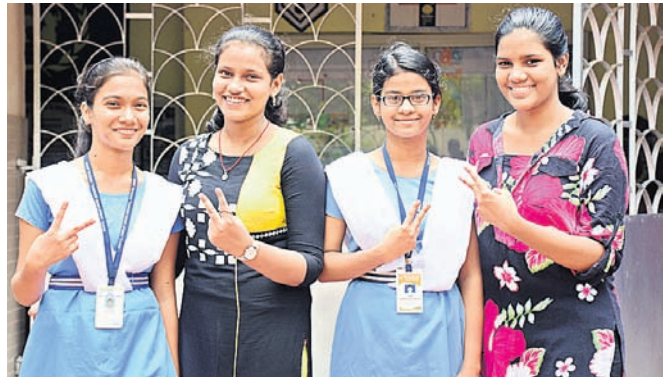
### Biggest ever gold seizure at Bhubaneswar airport

**Bhubaneswar:** In the biggest ever seizure of smuggled yellow metal, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) impounded late Sunday night more than five kilograms gold worth approximately ₹1.88 crore from three passengers of Indian origin at the Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) here. Earlier, the Air Intelligence Unit of the Customs department had seized Thursday last, gold worth ₹9,00,000 at the BPIA. Following a tip-off, the DRI officials intercepted the three passengers who had arrived from Kuala Lumpur by Air Asia flight AK-31 at 11pm. Police nabbed the carriers at the parking area of the T2 terminal. During a search of their belongings, the sleuths found six gold biscuits concealed inside the shoes of the passengers. **P4**

### Putin sworn in as Prez for 4th successive term

**Moscow:** Vladimir Putin was sworn in as Russia's President for a fourth term at a ceremony Monday in the Kremlin which extended his almost two-decade rule by another six years. "I consider it my duty and my life's aim to do everything possible for Russia, for its present and for its future," Putin said, with his hand on the Russian constitution. Putin, in power since 1999, was predictably re-elected in Russia's March presidential election with 76.7 per cent of votes. **P12**

# GIRLS OUTSHINE BOYS AS HSC PASS RATE FALLS



**SMILES OF SUCCESS:** Students of Unit-IX Government Girls' High School flash the 'V' sign after emerging successful in the HSC exams, the results of which were announced, Monday **OP PHOTO**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, May 7:** The Board of Secondary Education (BSE) announced Monday, the results of the 2018 High School Certificate (HSC) examinations.

The pass percentage this year is 76.23 per cent, announced school and mass education minister Badri Narayan Patra while interacting with reporters here at the board office. In 2017, the success rate of students had been 85.28 per cent while in 2016, it was 83.32%.

According to information provided, 1,715 students have passed out in A1 grade, 15,689 in A2, 39,252

## STARK FACTS

Pass percentage has dipped to **76.23% in comparison to 85.28 in 2017**

There were **36 schools** that registered **zero per cent success rate** with not a single student passing

HSC supplementary exams for unsuccessful students to **start June 22**, entrance for form fill up, **May 25 to May 31**

in B1 and 68,009 in B2 categories. Patra also said that 1,24,665 students have scored above 60 per

cent. Balasore district had the highest pass percentage while Malkangiri, the lowest.

The girls have once more outshined the boys like they did last year. A total of 2,22,043 girls have passed out in 2018 in comparison to 2,16,305 boys who have been successful.

Four hundred and twenty nine schools have registered 100 per cent success rate. However, there were 36 schools from which not a single student could pass out informed the minister. He also stated that 5,67,294 candidates from 8,855 schools had filled up examination registration forms out of which

5,54,339 appeared for the exams.

The minister also said that 1,247 cases of malpractices were detected this year and appropriate action had been taken against the offending students.

Guru Nigam Das of Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir at Unit-VIII in Bhubaneswar is definitely among the toppers with a score of 96.5%. The student was the first to admit Monday that he had expected a score in the vicinity of 95%. "I am definitely very happy," said Guru, who wants to pursue a career in archeology "The questions were easier in comparison to those last year," added Guru.

# Panda Infra axed

FINALLY STATE GOVERNMENT ACTS AFTER KILLER FLYOVER CLAIMS 2ND LIFE

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 7:** Finally wise counsel has prevailed after the under-construction Bomkhal flyover claimed a second life, May 4. The state government Monday axed contractor (Panda Infra Project Ltd) from executing the pending work of the incomplete bridge.

Speaking to reporters at the Secretariat here, works secretary Nalini Kanta Pradhan said, "The recent mishap at the under construction Bomkhal flyover site in which one labourer was killed is an inexcusable crime. The concerned company is at fault as no preventive measures were implemented after the first mishap took place, September 10, 2017."

Pradhan added: "The contractor will be barred from completing the work. We don't want to give another chance to the company as it has failed to implement proper safety measures after the first mishap."

However, Pradhan remained evasive when asked as to why Panda Infra Project Ltd was not barred after the first accident. "We are not showing any sympathy to-

## ILL-FATED BRIDGE



The Bomkhal flyover site where the railings came off to claim one life last week **OP PHOTO**

**The contractor will be barred from completing the work. We don't want to give another chance to the company as it has failed to implement proper safety measures after the first mishap**

**NALINI KANTA PRADHAN | WORKS SECRETARY**

wards the contractor, he was blacklisted after the first incident," informed Pradhan.

Stating that work to the tune of nearly rupees four to five crore is still pending, the secretary said a fresh tender will be floated to appoint another company to finish the project. In case no companies are interested in completing the project, the Works Department will

take upon itself the responsibility of executing the remainder of the work.

Pradhan also informed that efforts will be taken to inaugurate the bridge within the next two to three months from the date of awarding the new contract.

"Every component including safety of the bridge and quality of the work will be checked by a

## PIL FILED FOR CBI ENQUIRY

**Cuttack:** A public interest litigation (PIL) was filed in the Orissa High Court here Monday seeking an independent probe by the CBI into the Bomkhal over-bridge collapse. "The repeated collapse of the under-construction bridge has exposed the nexus between the state government and Panda Infra Projects," alleged social activist and advocate Achyutananda Swain who has filed the petition in the HC. "The state government has shown undue favour to the blacklisted firm. There must be a big conspiracy behind it. I have appealed to the HC to order an independent probe into the collapse of the over-bridge," Swain cited in his petition. **P3**

third party prior to the inauguration of the bridge," Pradhan asserted.

In a separate development Labour Minister Sushant Singh stated that a departmental enquiry will be undertaken to find out the circumstances under which the labourer had died and the report will be placed before CM Naveen Patnaik for appropriate action.

## REJECTION OF CJI IMPEACHMENT NOTICE

# 5-judge SC bench to hear Cong plea

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 7:** A five-judge Constitution Bench was constituted Monday in the Supreme Court to hear Tuesday the petition moved by two Congress MPs challenging the rejection of the impeachment notice against Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dipak Misra by Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu.

The list of business for the Supreme Court showed that the petition, which was mentioned Monday, would be heard by a bench comprising Justices AK Sikri, SA Bobde, NV Ramana, Arun Mishra and AK Goel.

While Justice Sikri, who will head the bench, is number six in the seniority list, others follow him in the sequence of seniority.

Earlier Monday, Rajya Sabha MPs Partap Singh Bajwa from Punjab and Ameer Harshadray Yajnik from Gujarat had moved the apex court to challenge the rejection of the impeachment notice on the ground that there was 'no proved misbehaviour'.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal,



Venkaiah Naidu rejected the notice given by Opposition for impeachment of the CJI, April 23

who is also one of the signatories of the impeachment notice, mentioned the matter for urgent listing before a bench headed by Justice J Chelameswar. The bench, also comprising Justice SK Kaul, asked Sibal and advocate Prashant Bhushan to mention the matter before the CJI for urgent listing, citing a Constitution Bench judgment on powers of master of roster.

Sibal said he was aware of the Constitution Bench judgment on master of roster, and added that since the impeachment notice concerns the CJI the senior-most judge of the apex court can order for listing.

"I am aware of the procedure but it can't be mentioned anywhere else. A person cannot be a judge in his own cause. I am just asking for urgent listing and not seeking any interim relief," Sibal told the bench.

## MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	35208.14 ↑ 292.76
NIFTY	10715.50 ↑ 97.25
DOLLAR	67.13 ↓ ₹0.27
EURO	79.99 ↓ ₹0.11
GOLD	₹31,270 ↑ ₹156
SILVER	₹39,094 ↑ ₹216

## WEATHER

BHUBANESWAR		CTK
TEMP	MAX 35.4°C	35.2°C
	MIN 28.1°C	26.4°C
Humidity	92%	85%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Partially cloudy sky	

## QUICK READS

### Picasso muse goes under the hammer

**London:** Spanish artist Pablo Picasso's 1932 portrait of his mistress Marie Therese will go under the hammer at Sotheby's 'Impressionist and Modern Art Evening Sale' here, June 19. Painted during Picasso's 'Year of Wonders', the 'Buste de femme de profil Femme écrivain', a monumental, yet remarkably tender and intimate painting of Therese absorbed in the act of writing, will be unveiled in public for the first time in two decades. The estimated price of the artwork is 'in the region of \$45 million' (Rs 30.2 crores approx). Picasso first met Therese when she was 17.

### Police nab errant Nazi 'Grandma'

**Berlin:** German authorities said Monday they've apprehended the notorious neo-Nazi Ursula Haverbeck, 89 and have taken her to prison to begin serving her sentence for Holocaust denial. Police and prosecutors said Haverbeck, dubbed 'Nazi-Oma' (Nazi Grandma) by the German media was picked up at her home in Woltho, central Germany. Haverbeck was convicted of incitement last year in Verden state court and sentenced to two years in prison for denying the Holocaust, a crime in Germany. She was supposed to report to prison last week but had vanished, prompting a search for her.

# Naveen gives land to homeless

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Chhatrapur (Ganjam), May 7:** In a historic development, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched Monday the ambitious slum-title deeds project which aims at according land rights to urban slum dwellers. He also distributed patas (land certificates) to 2,000 slum dwellers. The event was conducted at the local stadium here. Later, the CM also unveiled the Odisha Liveable Habitat Mission which would benefit 10 lakh people.

Attending the state-level land rights distribution ceremony with the CM was Tata Trusts chairman, Ratan N Tata. The state government had signed an MoU with Tata Trusts to undertake a field sur-



CM Naveen Patnaik hands over patas to beneficiaries as Tata Trusts chairman Ratan N Tata (R) looks on at Chhatrapur, Monday **OP PHOTO**

vey for providing land to slum dwellers. As a first step, the government has identified about 2.5 lakh urban slum dwellers with the help of Tata Trusts.

The Chief Minister said, "Today, Odisha has created history and emerged as a model state for oth-

ers in according land rights to urban slum dwellers. Keeping in view the interests of poor slum dwellers, I have taken such a decision. This will empower the poor and help them lead a dignified life."

In his address, Tata said, "The Odisha government is undertaking a special initiative of giving entitlements to over one million slum dwellers. I welcome such an historic step taken by CM Naveen Patnaik. This is a far-reaching scheme."

Among others present were British architect Norman Robert Foster and his wife, along with Housing and Urban Development minister Niranjan Pujari, Food Supplies Minister Surya Narayan Patro and senior government officials.

## NGT relief for Odisha Govt in Mahanadi dispute

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 7:** In a major relief for Odisha in the Mahanadi water sharing dispute, the principal bench of National Green Tribunal (NGT) served notice Monday to the Chhattisgarh government for allegedly violating the earlier order of the Kolkata bench of the body to stop work on projects that have not been commissioned in the river upstream.

The NGT's order came during the principal bench's hearing on this matter Monday in which it accepted the appeal for penalty on Chhattisgarh government for violating the order of NGT Kolkata Bench, September 10, 2017.

The matter was heard in the court of Justice Jawad Rahim and expert panel member Satyawan Singh Garbyal.

The Advocate General of the Chhattisgarh government JK Gilda pleaded for the state, while advocate Mohan Kataria appeared on behalf of the Odisha government and lawyer Ritwik Dutta pleaded for original applicant Sudarsan Das.

The tribunal had earlier put a stay on construction of barges on the Mahanadi till its next hearing. In another development, the Calcutta High Court last year had also asked Chhattisgarh to withdraw the writ petition challenging the order of Kolkata bench of NGT to halt construction of 31 projects undertaken by the state.

# Centre's apathy may close down Swavalamban scheme for Divyangs

MANISH KUMAR, OP

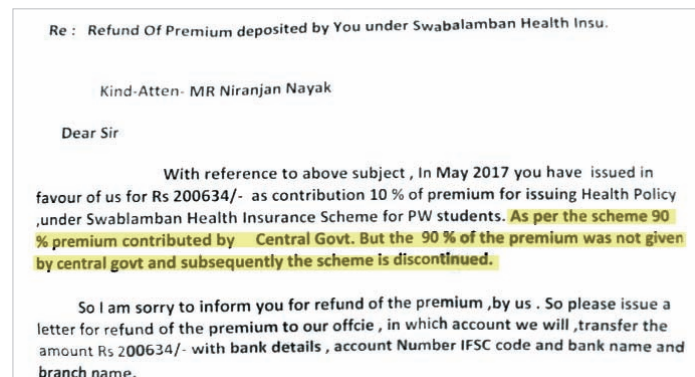
**Bhubaneswar, May 7:** A health scheme named 'Swavalamban' meant for insurance of the health of physically-challenged population in Odisha is facing premature death as the Union Government has allegedly failed to provide their share of the funds.

The scheme was launched in 2015 by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for persons with disabilities. The object was to provide affordable health insurances to persons with blindness, low vision, hearing-impairment, loco-motor disability, mental retardation, mental illness and for those who suffer the after ef-

fects even after being cured from leprosy. The policy was launched to improve the general health conditions and quality of life for disabled persons.

However with no funds available from the Centre, the insurance company running the project has already written to the District Social Security Officials (DSSO) in some districts to discontinue the scheme. In the very near future it will also write to reaminder of the DSSOs.

One such letter with Orissa POST, written by the insurance company to a DSSO read, "In May 2017, we received the 10% premium for the scheme from your side. As per the scheme, 90 per cent premium is to be



contributed by the Centre. But the 90 per cent premium has not been given by the Centre and subsequently the scheme is discontinued."

The state department of Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEDP) confirmed to Orissa POST about re-

**The insurance company involved in the Swavalamban scheme has already written to a number of DSSOs to discontinue the scheme because of the paucity of funds. The central government has not provided its share**

ceiving similar letters at the DSSO level, but refrained from giving much information. According to sources, the Union

government is now mulling to merge the health insurance meant for the Divyangs with other upcoming insurance schemes of the government and thus has shunned the 'Swavalamban' scheme, making the beneficiaries vulnerable.

Under the scheme, the physically-challenged beneficiary and their family were covered to the tune of ₹2,00,000 on family floater for a period of 12 months for people in the age group of birth-65 years. It was available for persons with an annual income of ₹3,00,000 and below on declaration basis in proposal form.

Repeated phone calls and emails to the joint secretary of the Ministry of Social Justice for her reactions went unanswered.



## CHILD PRODIGY

Google boy Kautilya Pandit was felicitated at a hotel in Bhubaneswar after an interactive session with the child prodigy, Monday.

## SUMMER CAMP

Children participate in a yoga session, as part of a summer camp, organised at Adarsh International School, Angul, Monday.



## FORTUNE FORECAST



**ARIES**  
Today is just another busy day. You may remain hassled sorting out problems at office and then at home. Your bosses may allow you certain concessions and this will ease things to some extent. Ganesha says you will gain valuable guidance from elderly people.

**TAURUS**  
This day, you can't afford to take chances with your health, says Ganesha. If there is the least sign or symptom of illness, go consult a doctor straight away. As you are going to be unusually prone to injuries and infections, it is advisable that you stay at home.

**GEMINI**  
You will meet all kinds of people in matters related to work. You will need to understand their demands and needs and will have to strive to fulfill them. Your courteous nature will endear you to people. You will receive praise for your intelligence as well, says Ganesha.

**CANCER**  
Chances are that your inquisitive nature will put in a difficulty. Others will be angry with you for keeping a secret a vital information. Ganesha counsels you to strengthen ties with friends and give up present attitude.

**LEO**  
You will accomplish all your tasks with courage today. As a result of which, the efforts you have made in the last few months will now bear fruit. You need to make a schedule of the tasks you need to tackle today. You need to guard against over-stressing yourself, otherwise your health could suffer, says Ganesha.

**VIRGO**  
You will find your banal day-to-day routine work to be very irritating today, says Ganesha. Avoid the tendency to exaggerate things out of proportion. You will not, however, let anything impact on your enthusiasm to work. You will do something novel to win the appreciation of people.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesha says your uniqueness will be the focus of attention and praise today. Your understanding of various tough tasks and completing them today will showcase your business acumen. You will show your inclination to the finer arts like music and dance.

**SCORPIO**  
It's business time and shock your competitors with the launch of the new product. However, stars are not aligned in a favourable way, which indicates that you may come across some hurdles. Take your time, sort out the troubles and go ahead with your launch with much fanfare and celebrations.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
You have the knack of cut those troubles into small slices and gobble it up. You are the one who would not run away from problems, but face it. Good news from far away land may please you and make your day!

**CAPRICORN**  
For you everything is fair in love and war, and you utilize every possible means to achieve your targets. You have a strong sixth sense and it will direct you while making the right decisions, feels Ganesha. You are a soft hearted person and it makes you sad to see others in sadness and trouble.

**AQUARIUS**  
Your communication skills will work wonders today. Your eloquence will win you precious brownie points, and may prove highly beneficial in meetings. In fact, all your arguments will sound very persuasive. The trick is not to get ruffled, says Ganesha, when people don't agree with you.

**PISCES**  
You will delay taking important decisions in the office or regarding business. You will take you time to come to a conclusion and put in all the required thought and this will grant you clarity on all the issues at hand.

# VISUALLY-IMPAIRED EXCEL IN CLASS X

Bhima Bhoi School for the Blind in Bhubaneswar scores 100 per cent results in class X board exams

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar:** The Odisha Board of Secondary Education Monday announced the results of Class X board examinations held in February. About 2, 16, 305 boys cleared Class X board examination while 2, 22,043 girls passed the test with flying colours.

Unfortunately, 36 schools have reported zero results. But, the Bhima Bhoi School for the Blind scored 100 per cent results in the board examinations.

All the 13 students of Bhima Bhoi School had taken the exam and have succeeded.

Speaking to **Orissa POST**, headmaster Gauranga Charan Patra said, "Out of 13 examinees, six secured A2, four students B1 grade, two secured B2 and one obtained grade D."

"The results are far better than previous year's. However, six students would have made it to A1 had they done better in social stud-



A teacher of Saraswati Sishu Vidyamandir distributing sweets to students who passed Class X, Monday

ies. Anyway, it is a proud moment for us as all our 13 students have cleared the examinations with good percentage. The results will certainly encourage the upcoming students to put in their best for the examinations," Patra added.

Soumya Sweta Behera has become the school topper this year by securing 533 marks out of 600. Soumya who was elated over her results thanked her teachers for their selfless support. "I am visually impaired, but I never con-

sider my vision as my weakness. Hard work and my teachers' support helped me score well," Behera said.

Two students - Om Prakash Mohapatra and Sudam Chandra Sahoo - have scored 525 each.



In the wake of announcement of Class X examination results under the Board of Secondary Education, Odisha, Monday morning, **Orissa POST** interacted with a few school toppers to elicit how they would like to turn this success into greater achievement in future. Excerpts:

## Aakankshya eyes research, Sipra medical

I have done well and wish to study Plus II science as I want to become a research scholar on living beings. Though my parents and teachers are happy, I feel that I could have done better. I worked for 12 a day. Hard work paid off.



**AAKANKSHYA PRIYADARSHINI (93.3%)** | UNIT IX, GOVERNMENT GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL.

I am sure my hard work will take me to the best of medical entrance after Plus II science.



**SIPRA NAYAK (92%)** | UNIT IX GOVT HIGH SCHOOL, BHUBANESWAR

I was expecting 95 per cent marks. I think scores in Geography and History had cut overall percentage this examination. I think HSCCE marks do not count much in future studies. I will prepare for admission to medical colleges through NEET. Good matriculation results help find a good college



**SWARAJ KUMAR BARIK (92.17%)**, SARASWATI SISHU VIDYA MANDIR, UNIT III, BHUBANESWAR

Ten hours' of study everyday has helped me to achieve the result. I want to pursue medical science as it is my parents' ambition.



**PREETI PARAMITA SAGARIKA PAL (91%)**, UNIT IX, GOVERNMENT GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL

Got less marks in History an MIL. I was expecting more than 94 per cent. My aim is to prepare for astro-physics. Although my father wants me to prepare for IAS, these marks help me take admission in a good college



**SOUMYASHREE PRIYADARSHINEE (92%)** SARASWATI SISHU VIDYA MANDIR, UNIT III, BHUBANESWAR

## FOLK FEST



Artistes performing a dance staged by Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan and Infosys Foundation in Bhubaneswar, Monday

# Walking ramp for cancer awareness

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar:** This is a walk with a difference. Or, for a cause. About 300 people, including cancer survivors, cine stars and eminent social figures, walked the ramp at Ekamra Haat in Bhubaneswar, Sunday, to raise awareness among people about cancer.

Organised by Umeedin, the main purpose of the walk is to save many valuable lives through awareness and convey a message to the public that cancer is beatable. The show was also aimed at boosting the morale of those who are fighting the dreaded disease.

The organisers gave a memorandum to Latika Pradhan, Orissa Welfare Society commissioner, in which they asked the government to make bus service for poor cancer patients free.

Umeedin members said that they have found in a survey they conducted in the village area of the city that



there are many myths and misconceptions about cancer. Such ignorance

is leading to late detection of cancer among people. Many patients visit the doctor at an advanced stage of the disease where it is impossible to save the person's life. The common cause of death in the state is oral, breast and cervical cancer.

On the occasion, many celebrities such as Odissi dancer Saswat Joshi, veteran actor Mihir Das, actress Pinky Pradhan and social activists Namrata Chadha, Sadhana Mishra, Rina Routray, Latika Pradhan and others walked the ramp along with cancer survivors. Namrat Chadha said that awareness about the disease is necessary.

The group at present is working in 17 villages of Nimapara area where they facilitate treatment for under privileged cancer patients. "We are planning to prepare a survey report of the cancer patients in the state and will submit it to the government," the group said.

## READING HABIT DISAPPEARING

**Superhero movies such as 'Avengers: Infinity Wars' released recently have generated a huge following among children much to the disadvantage of comic books.**

**Bhubaneswar:** The popularity of comic movies such as *Avengers*, *Iron Man*, *Superman*, and *Batman* is based on comic books leading to the production of big budgeted film franchise. But the source material, the comic books, do not have too many takers in the city.

Comics characters and the traditional image of comic heroes do not excite today's children as much as such movies.

**Orissa POST** talked to a few book lovers in the city, book store

owners, parents and children themselves whether the charm and attraction of the comic books still entice them.

Swarna Pati, a parent of class III child Akhil, said entertainment streams such cartoon TV shows and movies are entertaining versions of comic books. This has reduced readership of comic books. Popular comics book characters can be watched on cartoon shows. Kids are more interested in cartoon movies than books.

A bookstore keeper in the city said comic books are not much in demand in the city. Comic books such as *DC* and *Marvel* which are published abroad are very expensive. Their Indian versions such as *Chhota Bheem* are available in cartoon shows and hence such comic books are not much in demand.

Sangram Mohanty of Bhubaneswar book store said the profit margin of comic books is less than 20 per cent. "Initially,

kids cannot decide what to read and hence the parents have a greater role in creating interest in children for the comics."

He said a country with a long history of storytellers and soulful illustrators, we have many interesting stories to narrate. "We have grown up reading classics like *Amar Chitra Katha*, *Champak*, *Nandan* and *Tinkle* and local comic

books such as *Diamond Comics* had made our childhood special."

Ramani Ranjan Barik, parent of Sai Suman and Shraddha Suman, said, "As kids, we used to read a lot of comics such as *Tenali Raman*, *Chacha Chaudhary*, *Naagraj* and *Dhruv* in our school library. But, nowadays schools do not have those facilities. The live

visuals arouse more interest than the colourful comics. Also, graphic comics these days have adult content and not suit-

student, said novels like *Harry Potter* and *The BIG Giant* have generated more readership than the comics. The mindset of the youth has changed recently and they are attracted towards other things.

Akshaya Routray of Walking Book Fair said the price of comic books such as *DC* and *Marvel* is a factor as they cost around ₹2000 per piece. Today's readers are attracted towards reading graphic style of comics which have become very popular among the youth.

Thanks to Internet and the digital age, websites such as *Comixology* have drawn the attention of avid comic enthusiasts at the click of a mouse, he added. Deepak Das, an employee of Fun Toy Shop at Pal Heights in the city said more than comic books, the Superhero merchandise such as bags and toys have great demand in the market.



A boy browsing through a comic book at a book store in Bhubaneswar



able for the teenagers," he opined. "As a parent, I encouraged kids to read home grown comics printed in the newspapers," he added. Swetalana Mohanty, a Class X

# downtown



## CARELESS ACT

Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar littered with garbage after various outfits organised demonstrations to press for their demands, Monday

## VILLAGERS' STIR

A group of people stages a sit-in near Barang block office in Cuttack district, Monday, seeking appointment to vacant posts



## Bomikhal bridge collapse: HC moved for CBI investigation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, May 7: A public interest litigation (PIL) was filed in the Orissa High Court Monday seeking an independent probe by Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into the Bomikhal over-bridge collapse.

"The repeated collapse of the under-construction bridge has exposed the nexus between the state government and Panda Infra Projects," alleged social activist and advocate Achyutananda Swain, the petitioner.

"The state government has showed undue favour to the black-listed firm. There must be a big conspiracy behind it. I appealed to the HC to order an independent probe into the collapse of the over-bridge," Swain cited in his petition. "Many bigwigs have secret links with Panda Infra. If a CBI probe is ordered, it would expose the nexus and the mystery behind the undue favour being shown to the firm," the petitioner said.

The petitioner further urged the court to file cases under Sections 302, 420, 406 and 379 of IPC against the senior and junior engineers of the Public Works department, Panda Infra MD and other executives. He prayed to the court for stringent punishment for them.

An expert team should be formed by the CBI to examine as to why and how the over-bridge has collapsed. The team should be supervised by a sitting HC judge," the petitioner said.

# 1,292 DROWNING DEATHS IN 3 YRS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 7: Around 1,292 persons drowned in various parts of the state during 2015-16 to 2017-18 financial years, Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Bishnupada Sethi said here Monday.

While 246 people died in 2015-16, 428 died in 2016-17 and 618 in the last financial year. Total number of deaths reported due to different disasters during the last three years, 2015-16 to 2017-18, was 4,689. Out of this, number of deaths due to drowning, being second highest after snakebite, accounts for about 28 per cent of total number of disaster deaths, Sethi added.

Interestingly, no drowning death was reported in Boudh district while the death toll was more than 129 in Balasore, 118 in Bhadrak and 103 in Jajpur. The other districts which reported more than 50

**SRC DATA**

**A**bout 61 per cent of the total deaths occurred during July to November

**W**hile 246 people died in 2015-16, 428 died in 2016-17 and 618 in the last fiscal

**N**o drowning death was reported in Boudh district while the death toll was more than 129 in Balasore, 118 in Bhadrak and 103 in Jajpur

The other districts which reported more than 50 deaths are Keonjhar (98), Mayurbhanj (97), Kendrapara (89), Sambalpur (82), Ganjam (71), Koraput (65) and Nabarangpur (54)

In the September (197) followed by August (192), October (150), November (127) and July (117). This shows that increase in the deaths due to drowning is interlinked with the monsoon syndrome, the source said.

Notably, the state government has declared drowning (other than during floods) as a 'state specific disaster' with effect from April 1, 2015. From then onwards, Collectors have been reporting cases of death due to drowning to the SRC.

## Stink bug scare grips residents in capital

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 7: Residents of Lumbini Vihar and its nearby areas in the Capital City are facing an uphill task to get rid of stink bugs that migrated to human settlements from Bharatpur reserve forests.



The brown bugs are causing trouble for people residing in multi-storied buildings in Lumbini Vihar area. Some locals have already left their houses temporarily to avoid the stink bugs.

It is learnt that Chandaka forest division officials had tried to kill the bugs by fire but the effort did not produce the required result. "The stink bugs have been causing trouble for a week. They are even

entering multi-storey buildings. We are facing a tough task to keep our household goods and utensils free from the bugs. The Forest department should take immediate steps to check the bug menace," said Pratap Satpathy, a resident of Lumbini Vihar.

Sources said authorities of Chandaka forest division urged experts from Orissa University of Agriculture Technology (OUAT) to study the bug menace and suggest suitable measures to deal with it.

Subsequently, a 15-member team from OUAT led by Forestry College associate professor Nirakar Bhol visited Lumbini Vihar area.

Bhol, meanwhile, blamed the blooming spiny bamboo groves inside Bhratpura forests for the bug menace. According to him, thousands of stink bugs have gathered at Bharatpura forests to eat the bamboo seeds. "Spiny bamboos are in full bloom after a gap of 35 years. The reproductive power of stink bugs has gone up due to the consumption of bamboo seeds. Moreover, the recent unseasonal rains have also helped increase the population of stink bugs in Bharatpura forests," Bhol claimed.

The OUAT expert has advised people to spray bleaching powder around their houses to keep the bugs at bay.

Khurda district honorary wildlife caretaker Suvendu Mallick, meanwhile, asked people to kill stink bugs by using pesticides. "People should burn the dead bugs to prevent birds from feeding on them," he said.

## Open school, Madhyama results announced

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, May 7: The Board of Secondary Education (BSE) here Monday announced the results of State Open School Certificate Examination-2018(1st) and Madhyama examination.

According to BSE sources, 41.93 per cent students who took up the Open School Certificate Examination came up with flying colours, while the Madhyama examination recorded 92.47 pass percentages.

Of the 13,387 examinees who took up the open school certificate examinations, 380 were booked for malpractice and results were declared for 13,007 students. Of the 5,454 successful examinees, 97 secured B1 grade, 824 got B2, 2,096 obtained C grade, 2,049 got D and E grade was awarded to 388 students. However, none could secure A1 or A2 grades and 7,418 students took up the examination unsuccessfully, said a senior BSE official.

Likewise, out of the 3,181 successful Madhyama examinees, 175 were compartment candidates. As many as 24 students secured A2 grade, 493 got B1, B2 grade was awarded to 959 students, 759 students secured C grade, 761 got D grade and 10 bagged E grades. However, no one was awarded A1. Similarly, 259 examinees made an unsuccessful attempt, while 35 were booked for malpractices. While 3,959 students filled forms for Madhyama examination, 3,475 students wrote the examination and 484 were absent, the sources said.

**Indian Overseas Bank**  
(A Govt. of India undertaking)  
Regional Office, B/2 West, Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007, Ph.: 0674-2540032, E-mail: 0815law@ioib.in, 0815ro@ioibnet.co.in

**POSSESSION NOTICE**

(Under Section 13(4) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 for Immovable/Movable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Overseas Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notice calling upon the Borrowers/ Guarantors in the loan accounts mentioned below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice with further interest, charges etc till date realization within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

Whereas the Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Mortgagees and the public in general that the undersigned has taken the possession of the property described here-in below in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules.

The Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagees in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property on him/her any dealing with the said property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Overseas Bank for an amount stated herein below with charges etc. from the aforesaid date mentioned in the demand notice till date of payment less repayments, if any, made after issuance of Demand Notice.

**The borrower's attention is hereby invited to provisions of sub-section(8) of the section 13 of SARFAESI the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.**

Sl. No.	BRANCH Name & Address of Borrower / Guarantors / Mortgagees	Liabilities due on the specified date as per demand Notice	Date of Demand / Possession Notice	Description of the Immovable/Movable Properties
1.	<b>BHUBANESWAR MAIN BRANCH /</b> Borrowers/Partners/Guarantors: M/s. Shri Krupalu Steel & Castings, 1) Sri Niranjan Sahoo, 2) Smt. Nibedita Sahoo, At: Umapada, Unit-II, Niladri Vihar, P.O.: Jajpur Road, Dist.: Jajpur, Odisha, PIN-755019	₹4,69,99,049.46 as on 02.05.2018 + interest, cost & expenses, charges thereon	17.11.2017 / 02.05.2018	1) Equitable Mortgage of Factory Land and Building situated at Khata No.: 179, Plot No.: 2429, 2432, Area: Ac.0.26 dec. & Ac.0.43 dec. respectively, Khata No.: 80, Plot No.: 2430, Area: Ac.0.06 dec., Khata No.: 87, Plot No.: 2431, Area: Ac.0.08 dec., Khata No.: 141, Plot No.: 2433, Area: Ac.0.26 dec., Plot No.: 2439, Area: Ac.0.10 dec., Plot No.: 2440, Area: Ac.0.07 dec., Plot No.: 2438, Area: Ac.0.09 dec., Four Plots Measuring Area: Ac.0.52 dec., Khata No.: 313, Plot No.: 2434, Area: Ac.0.22 dec., Plot No.: 2436, Area: Ac.0.14 dec., Two Plots Measuring Area: Ac.0.36 dec., Total Area: Ac.1.710 dec., Ten Plots, 5 Khata, Kisan: Gharabari under one Mouza: Dhanapur, SRO: Dolipur, P.S.: Panikoli, Dist.: Jajpur in the name of Smt. Nibedita Sahoo along with the Plant & Machineries hypothecated to the bank. 2) Equitable Mortgage of Land & Building situated at Mouza: Padampur, Tahasil: Vyasanagar, Jajpur Road, SRO: Dolipur, Dist.: Jajpur, Khata No.: 677, Plot No.: 122(p), north western portion corresponding to Major settlement not final Khata No.: 340/KA, Plot No.: 785/1647, Area: Ac.0.15 dec., Kisan: Gharabari in Mouza: Umapada in the name of Mr. Niranjan Sahoo
2.	<b>NAYAGARH BRANCH /</b> Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor: M/s. Durga Madhab Enterprises, Prop.: Manas Ranjan Mohapatra, S/o: Late Dinamani Mohapatra, At: Gobindapur, P.O.: Gobindaprasad, Itamali, Dist.: Nayagarh, PIN-752068 / Mortgagor/Guarantor: Smt. Sujata Mohapatra, W/o: Late Dinamani Mohapatra, Plot No.: 222, At/P.O.: Dianibandhu Sahi, Ward No.: 02, Near Hospital, Dist.: Nayagarh, Odisha-752069	₹41,30,231.08 as on 09.01.2018 + interest, cost & expenses, charges thereon	09.01.2018 / 04.05.2018	All that part & parcel of Land & Building situated at Mouza: Sinduria, Thana: Nayagarh, Dist.: Nayagarh, Plot No.: 988/488, Khata No.: 1374/3687 & 1374/4433, Area: Ac.0.08 dec., Bounded by East: Basudev Ratha, West: Basudev Ratha, North: Basudev Ratha, South: Anjali Pattanayak, property recorded in the name of Smt. Sujata Mohapatra & Sri Manas Ranjan Mohapatra
3.	<b>NAYAGARH BRANCH /</b> Borrower: M/s. Ahalya Traders, Prop.: Kamal Charan Sahoo, At: Room No.: 115, Amarendra Bazar, Nayagarh, PIN-752069 / Mortgagor/Guarantor: Sri Trinath Sahoo / Guarantor: Sri Dilip Ranjan Swain, At/P.O.: Khunthabandha, Dist.: Nayagarh, Odisha	₹17,23,603.86 as on 09.01.2018 + interest, cost & expenses, charges thereon	12.01.2018 / 04.05.2018	All that part & parcel of Land & Building situated at Mouza: Khunthabandha, Dist.: Nayagarh, Plot No.: 641 & 642, Khata No.: 282, Area: Ac.0.145 dec., Bounded by East: Sridhar Jena, West: Nimai Moahaptra, North: Vacant Land, South: Concrete Road, Property recorded in the name of Trinath Sahoo
4.	<b>NAYAGARH BRANCH /</b> Borrower: M/s. Jena Tyre House, Prop.: Prasanta Kumar Jena, S/o: Sudarsan Jena, At/P.O.: Bus Stand Road, Nayagarh, PIN-752069, Odisha / Mortgagor/Guarantor: Smt. Bidulata Jena, W/o: Sudarsan Jena, At/P.O.: Chhayapath Lane, Nayagarh, PIN-752069, Odisha	₹20,28,985.06 as on 09.01.2018 + interest, cost & expenses, charges thereon	09.01.2018 / 04.05.2018	All that part & parcel of Land & Building situated at Mouza: Nayagarh, Near Indian Bank, Dist.: Nayagarh, Plot No.: 1350, Khata No.: 1219/138, Area: Ac.0.14 dec., Bounded by East: Road, West: Land & Building of Others, North: Vacant Land, South: Vacant Land, Property recorded in the name of Smt. Bidulata Jena
5.	<b>NAYAGARH BRANCH /</b> Borrower: Sri Laxmidhar Penthei, S/o: Subrata Kumar Penthei / Mortgagors/Guarantors: 1) Ullasha Penthei, 2) Darpeni Penthei, All are At: Chandibashta, P.O.: Simili Sahi, Mahipur, G.P.: Bhatasahi, Nayagarh, PIN-752094, Odisha	₹3,27,136.44 as on 09.01.2018 + interest, cost & expenses, charges thereon	09.01.2018 / 04.05.2018	All that part & parcel of Land & Building situated at Mouza: Chandibashta, P.O.: Similiasahi, Dist.: Nayagarh, Plot No.: 309, Khata No.: 88, Area: Ac.0.11 dec., Bounded by East: Nilakanthesar Thakur, West: Road, North: Bankanidhi Sahoo & Magi Sahoo, South: Balunkeswar Sahoo, Property recorded in the name of Darpeni Penthei & Ullasha Penthei
6.	<b>NAYAGARH BRANCH /</b> Borrower/Guarantor: M/s. Maa Mangala Sabji Bhandar, Prop.: Murali Dhar Swain, S/o: Late Nilakantha Swain / Mortgagor/Guarantor: Smt. Hulas Swain, Both are At: Godiali, P.O.: Jamu Sahi, Dist.: Nayagarh, PIN-752079, Odisha	₹18,50,307/- as on 09.01.2018 + interest, cost & expenses, charges thereon	09.01.2018 / 04.05.2018	All that part & parcel of Land & Building situated at Mouza: Godiali, Thana: Nayagarh, Dist.: Nayagarh, Plot No.: 972/2083, Khata No.: 468/226 & 1374/4433, Area: Ac.0.08 dec., Bounded by East: Road, West: Ladu Rout, North: Raghunath Parida, South: Bhikari Parida, Property recorded in the name of Smt. Hulas Swain
7.	<b>NAYAGARH BRANCH /</b> Borrower: Shri Prashant Kumar Sutar, S/o: Bharat Sutar, At: Debottar Colony, P.O./Dist.: Nayagarh, Odisha / Mortgagors /Guarantors: 1) Shri Ananda Chandra Maharana, 2) Shri Bhagaban Maharana, S/o: Arttibandhu Maharana, At/P.O.: Baunsagadia, Dist.: Nayagarh-752080	₹2,97,778/- as on 17.08.2017 + interest, cost & expenses, charges thereon	17.08.2017 / 04.05.2018	All that part & parcel of the property consisting of Land & Building situated at 1) Mouza: Baunsagadia, Thana, Odagang Dist.: Nayagarh, Odisha, Khata No.: 305/159, Plot No.: 617, Area: Ac.0.09 dec., Bounded by North: Plot No.: 528, East: Ramesh Chandra Tripathy, West: Mrutyunjaya Maharana, South: Road, 2) Khata No.: 305/159, Plot No.: 528, Area: Ac.0.03 dec., Bounded by North: Village Tank, East: Ramesh Chandra Tripathy, West: Mrutyunjaya Maharana, South: Plot No.: 617, Property recorded in the Joint name of Sri Ananda Chandra Maharana & Bhagaban Maharana
8.	<b>NAYAGARH BRANCH /</b> Borrower: M/s. Indian Enterprises, Prop.: Shri Narendra Kumar Swain, At: Amarendra Bazar, P.O./Dist.: Nayagarh, Odisha / Mortgagor/Guarantor: Smt. Banita Pattnaik, W/o: Bipin Bihari Swain, At: Jadumani Nagar, P.O./Dist.: Nayagarh, Odisha / Guarantor: Sri Manikesh Swain, S/o: Bipin Bihari Swain, At: Jadumani Nagar, P.O./Dist.: Nayagarh, Odisha	₹41,80,438.54 as on 06.10.2017 + interest, cost & expenses, charges thereon	06.10.2017 / 04.05.2018	All that part & parcel of the property consisting of Land & Building situated at Mouza: Nayagarh, Thana/ Dist.: Nayagarh, Khata No.: 1219/166 & 1219/1702, Plot No.: 2010/3442 & 2010/4533, Area: Ac.0.03 dec. & Ac.0.04 dec., Bounded by North: Bijaya Kumar Sahoo, East: NAC Road, West: Tuku Pattnaik, South: Braja Kishore Jena, Property recorded in the name of Smt. Banita Pattnaik
9.	<b>NALCO NAGAR BRANCH /</b> Borrower: M/S. Omm Fly Ash Bricks, Prop. Mrs. Biswajini Sahu (Borrower), W/o: Rudra Pratap Sahu / Guarantor: Sri Rudra Pratap Sahu, S/o: Judhistir Sahu / Mortgagor/Guarantor: Smt. Manorama Sahoo, W/o: Judhistir Sahu, At/P.O.: Balaram Prasad, Nalco, Dist.: Angul-759128, Odisha	₹16,74,513 as on 09.01.2018 + interest, cost & expenses, charges thereon	09.01.2018 / 05.05.2018	All that part & parcel of the property consisting of Land & Building situated at Mouza: Balaram Prasad, Thana: Nalco Nagar, P.O.: Balaram Prasad, Dist: Angul, Plot No.: 9107, Khata No.: 1653/1621, Area: Ac.0.02dec., Plot No.: 9108/11202, Khata No.: 1653/374, Area: Ac.0.03dec., Plot No.: 9108, Khata No.: 1653/463, Area: Ac.0.04dec. Bounded by East: Adhikari Sahu, West: Vacant Land, North: Vacant Land, South: Nakafodi Sahu. Property recorded in the name of Smt. Manorama Sahu.

Place : Bhubaneswar, Date : 07.05.2018

Sd/- Authorised Officer, Indian Overseas Bank

**ANDHRA BANK**  
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

**SALE NOTICE (30 DAYS NOTICE)**  
(Rule 8(6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002)

**DHAMRA BRANCH, Dhamra, Dist.: Bhadrak (Odisha), Ph. No.: 06786-222786 (Branch)/ 0674-2537903 (Zonal Office)**

To,	Name & Address of Borrower / Co-obligant / Mortgagor / Guarantor	Description of Properties	Date of Demand Notice / Possession Notice	Reserve Price
Borrower: M/s. Maa Tarini Rasan Bhandar, Prop.: Mr. Sukumar Das, At/P.O.: Kaitihakhola, Via: Dhamra, Dist.: Bhadrak / Mortgagor/Guarantor: Mr. Basudev Das, S/o: Mr. Abanti Das, At/P.O.: Kuamara, Dist.: Bhadrak	All that part and parcel of Land & Building at Plot No.: 309, Measuring Area: Ac.0.18dec., Khata No.: 125, Survey No.: 138, Vill: Kuamara, Mouza: Kuamara, P.S.: Bansada, Dist.: Bhadrak (Odisha), Belonging to Mr. Basudev Das, Bounded (as per record) by North: Gobinda Maity, South: Bipini Mandal, East: Durgaprasad Das, West: Panchayati Road	27.12.2016 / 16.02.2018	₹15,83,000/-	
Borrower: Mr. Chinmaya Kumar Mohalik, S/o: Mr. Niranjan Mohalik / Mortgagor/Co-obligant: Mr. Niranjan Mohalik, S/o: Purnanada Mohalik, Both are At: Bideipur Gadi, P.O.: Bideipur, Via: Naikanidhi, Dist.: Bhadrak	All that part and parcel of Property Land Measuring Area: Ac.0.06dec. in Khata No.: 235/246, Plot No.: 107/2022, Land Measuring Area: Ac.0.07dec. in Khata No.: 235/246, Plot No.: 107/2023 (Total Area: Ac.0.13dec.) and Building thereon situated in Mouza: Brajanandapur, P.S./Tahasil: Basudevpur, Dist.: Bhadrak, Odisha, Belonging to Mr. Niranjan Mohalik, Bounded by North: Kelei Mohalik, South: Srikant Mishra, East: Kelei Mohalik, West: Road.	14.07.2015 / 16.02.2018	₹17,12,000/-	

**Sub: Sale of properties belonging to aforesaid borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors for realization of amount due to Andhra Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act (Act 54 of 2002)**

Whereas you have defaulted to pay the amount due from you in spite of demand made by me/Bank through Demand Notice U/s. 13(2) dates mentioned above.

The Authorized Officer, in exercise of the powers conferred under the above Act, took possession of the above mentioned properties on the dates mentioned in above column.

Even after taking possession of the properties, you have not paid the amount due from you to Andhra Bank. As such, it has become necessary to sell the above mentioned properties whose reserve prices mentioned above by e-auction after 30 days from the date of this notice.

The date and time of auction and the details of the service provider shall be informed through a Sale Notice which shall be issued separately and the property would be sold to the person who offers highest price.

Since, the properties may be sold by Private Sale also or obtaining quotations from the persons also, subject to terms and conditions acceptable to the Bank. If you have any such proposal of selling the property to any person by private sale or by getting quotation, the same may be communicated to me/Bank within 7 days from date of receipt of this Notice/Publication. Failing which it will be construed that you have no such proposal and I/Bank will proceed forthwith, with sale of properties through e-auction.

Further, Please take notice that if you pay the amount due as specified in the Demand Notices with subsequent interest thereon along with cost and expenses incurred by the bank till date before the date of publication of notice for auction or inviting quotations or private treaty for transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale of secured assets, no further action shall be taken for sale of the properties mentioned in the schedule. **{Right of redemption is available as per section 13 (8) of the Act.}**

Place: Dhamra  
Date: 08.05.2018

Sd/- Authorized Officer & Chief Manager  
Andhra Bank

Minor girl raped

**Bhubaneswar:** In yet another incident of sexual assault against minors, a minor girl was allegedly raped at Arisala village in Jatni police limits of Khurda district Sunday. What is more horrific is that the girl alleged that she was raped by a minor boy of the same village. The matter came to the fore after the victim narrated her ordeal to her parents who lodged a complaint at the local police station. Based on the complaint filed by the girl's father, police registered a case and detained the minor boy while further investigation into the incident is on.



Activists of OPCC Dalit cell stage a demonstration near Raj Bhawan in Bhubaneswar Monday condemning atrocities on ST/SCs in the BJP-ruled Madhya Pradesh.

Congress slays 'casteist' BJP

**Bhubaneswar:** Following the nationwide outrage that followed the incident of police aspirants in BJP-ruled Madhya Pradesh having caste categories written on their bare chests, the Opposition Congress in the state Monday staged an agitation in front of Raj Bhawan terming the incident as reflective of the "casteist attitude" of the saffron party. The agitating Congress members presented a memorandum to Governor Satyapal Malik addressing it to the President of India and sought action against the BJP government in MP. OPCC member Niranjan Patnaik, Congress SC cell head and MLA Krishna Chandra Sagaria, and other party leaders were present during the protest in front of Raj Bhawan. Calling the incident "shameful", Sagaria said it was an attack on the Constitution and violates the rights of the SC/ST communities. "The incident has exposed the casteist attitude of the saffron party," he alleged. On the other hand, the party also convened the executive body meeting of its SC cell at Congress Bhawan here where the BJP government was slammed for remaining a mute spectator in the case. Meanwhile, both BJP and Congress rubbished the allegations of the Congress leaders.

MONDAY'S SEIZURE WAS 15TH IN THE LAST 2 MONTHS

DRI SEIZES 5.8 KG GOLD WORTH ₹2 CR AT BPIA

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 7:** In the biggest ever seizure of smuggled gold, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) Monday seized more than 5 kg of yellow metal worth around Rs 1.88 crore from three Indian origin passengers at the Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) here.

Earlier, the Air Intelligence Unit of the Customs department had seized gold worth Rs 9 lakh at BPIA in the intervening night of May 3 and 4.

Following a tip-off, the DRI officials intercepted three passengers who arrived at the BPIA from Kuala Lumpur by Air Asia flight AK-31 at 11pm Sunday. Police nabbed the carriers at the parking area of T2 of BPIA. During the search of their baggage and other belongings, the sleuths found six foreign marked gold biscuits wrapped in cello tape and concealed in the soles of their shoes. Later, they confessed before the officials that a Thai man had given them the contraband in Bangkok and asked them to hand over the items to a person who would be waiting outside the BPIA. They were told that a person would call them

EASY TRADE ROUTE



DRI officials intercepted three passengers who arrived at the BPIA from Kuala Lumpur by Air Asia flight AK-31 at 11pm Sunday

The accused confessed before the officials that a Thai man had given them the contraband in Bangkok and asked them to hand over the items to a person who would be waiting outside the BPIA

The DRI sleuths found six foreign marked gold biscuits wrapped in cello tape and concealed in the soles of their shoes

No power cuts this summer: Minister

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 7:** Informing the media that there won't be any scheduled power cuts this summer, Energy Minister Sushant Singh said as the current production and availability of power is enough to meet the requirement of state, no instruction has been forwarded for power cut this summer.

"As the summer has one and half more months left to go, given the present availability of power we expect that there won't be any shortage of power till June," Singh said, adding, "During the peak hours, the average requirement is about 4,395 mega watts and we have that much to supply."

Singh, however, clarified that power outages sometimes occur due to sudden increase



Power outages sometimes occur due to sudden increase in undeclared load, maintenance work, and system breakdown at certain places due to heavy wind and lightning

in undeclared load, maintenance work, and system breakdown at certain places due to heavy wind and lightning.

To overcome this breakdown, he said, the government has taken several improvement works in the last two years. To check overload situations, power is supplied to places where there is shortage and equilibrium is maintained.

To ensure quality supply of power to consumers and overcome load shedding, he said the Energy department has decided to set up around 550 grid sub-stations out of which 178

have already been functional and the remaining will be installed in a phased manner shortly.

According to sources, the present power demand of the state during peak hours which was around 4,000 MW in April has shot up to over 4,300 MW. Officials said to meet this demand at peak hours, which will continue in the coming days till June, the Energy department is making all-out efforts to plug the demand-supply gap through power banking.

The state at present is producing 1,230 MW from six hydro stations, 780 MW from state thermal power stations, 1,212 MW from central sector, 245 MW from Independent Power Producers (IPPs), 40 MW from renewable energy sources and about 450 MW from other sources.



One of the passengers taking out wrappings

upon their arrival at the airport.

The gold bars weighing 5,822.93 gram had foreign markings. Their total value was estimated to be Rs 1, 88, 66,291. The gold was seized as per the rules of Customs Act, 1962 and further probe is going on.

Although International operations started at BPIA in 2015, commercial flights to international destinations really began with an Air Asia flight April 27, 2017. Since then, BPIA has become another point for gold smuggling into the country. According to data, Monday seizure was 15th in the last two months. A senior Customs official told Orissa POST that the smugglers have been targeting the BPIA to find out lacunae in security at the airport as international operations started a few years ago. The carriers have been found using strange methods to smuggle in gold items. Among their methods are making a paste of gold items, stuffing laptop chargers with gold, hiding in body crevices and underneath the shoes.

The sleuths keep an eye on passengers who belong to other states and use BPIA despite having airports with international operations in their own states.

**CITY SHOWS**

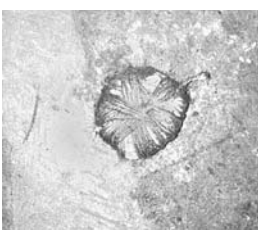
**AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR (HINDI - 3D)**  
BHUBANESWAR INOX  
09:00 AM 03:20 PM  
MAHARAJA HALL  
08:30 AM 11:20 AM  
02:10 PM 05:00 PM  
07:50 PM 10:40 PM  
KESHARI  
12:00 PM 03:00 PM  
06:00 PM 09:00 PM  
**OMERTA - HINGLISH**  
BHUBANESWAR INOX  
11:25 AM 08:20 PM  
**102 NOT OUT - HINDI**  
BHUBANESWAR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

Two bombs hurled in Raghunathpur

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Barang, May 7:** Unidentified miscreants allegedly dropped two bombs at the house of Antaryami Rout at Raghunathpur here in Nandankanan police limits late Sunday night.

While one bomb went off, another remained unexploded. Sources said the bombs fell on the balcony of Rout's two-storey building. While no one was hurt in the explosion, a car parked outside his house suffered minor damage. Upon being informed, Nandankanan police rushed to the house and recovered the live bomb. Rout said his family members woke up to a loud noise Sunday night after the bombs were hurled.



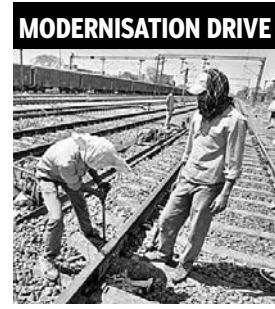
"We saw a bike a few metres away from our house. We do not have any enmity with anyone. My son had a commotion with a man during Holi this year and we had intimidated the police about it," he added. Inspector-in-charge Rabindra Meher said the bombing is suspected to be fallout of a family dispute. "We are examining footage of CCTV cameras installed in nearby areas and inquiry is underway," he said.

Rlys cancels, short-terminates trains

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 7:** Indian Railways officials Monday decided to cancel and short-terminate a few trains from May 7 to 15, 2018, due to safety related modernisation work—commissioning of track doubling work between Dungripali and Barpali railway stations—and construction of Limited Height Subways (LHS) between Loisinga-Bolangir and Titlagarh-Sikiri Railway Stations in Sambalpur-Titlagarh Railway Section.

Accordingly, Sambalpur-Rayagada-Sambalpur Inter City Express (18301/18302) will remain cancelled from May 7 to 15, 2018 from both the directions. Slip Coach Service (Coach S-10) between Puri and Rayagada via Sambalpur-Titlagarh in Tapaswini Express (18452)



14, 2018 will also remain cancelled from both the directions between Sambalpur and Rayagada. Sambalpur-Junagarh Road-Sambalpur passenger (58303/58304) will remain cancelled from May 7 to 9, 2018. Titlagarh-Raipur-Titlagarh Passenger (58217/58218) leaving Titlagarh from May 9 to 15, 2018 and from Raipur from May 9 to 16, 2018 will also remain cancelled. Bhubaneswar-Bolangir

Summer special

**Bhubaneswar:** With a view to clearing additional rush of passengers during this summer, Railways has decided to run special summer trains between Kolkata and Puri by creating additional berths. Accordingly, Kolkata-Puri Special (03101) will leave Kolkata at 11:55pm every Sunday from May 13 to June 24, 2018 and reach Puri at 10am the next day. In the return direction, Puri-Kolkata Special (03102) will leave Puri at 11:30pm o-n every Monday from May 14 to June 25, 2018 and reach Kolkata at 10:20 am.

Inter City Express (12893), leaving Bhubaneswar will run upto Sambalpur from May 7 to 11, 2018 whereas Bolangir-Bhubaneswar Inter City Express (12894) will originate from Sambalpur

instead of Bolangir. Thus, between May 7 and 11, 2018 services of Bhubaneswar-Bolangir-Bhubaneswar Inter City Express (12893/12894) will remain cancelled between Sambalpur and Bolangir from both the directions.

Likewise, Bilaspur-Titlagarh passenger (58214) via Jharsuguda and Sambalpur leaving Bilaspur will run up to Sambalpur and Titlagarh-Bilaspur Passenger (58213) via Sambalpur & Jharsuguda will originate from Sambalpur instead of Titlagarh from May 9 to 15, 2018. Accordingly, services of Bilaspur-Titlagarh-Bilaspur Passenger (58214/58213) via Jharsuguda and Sambalpur will remain cancelled between Sambalpur and Titlagarh from both the directions during the period.

Biker killed in road mishap

**Balianta:** A 29-year-old biker died after his two-wheeler ramed into a heavy vehicle near a culvert on Cuttack-Bhubaneswar road near Pahala square Monday morning. The deceased was identified as Pen Kumar Rout of Bankul village under Sahid Nagar police limits in Bhubaneswar. While his motorcycle was burnt in the fire triggered by the collision, four wheels of the Haiwa were also reduced to ashes. According to police, a chips-laden heavy vehicle was on its way to Cuttack. Meanwhile, the biker ramed the vehicle after he lost his balance. Rout was thrown onto the highway and died on the spot. Pahala police recovered the body and sent it for post-mortem. A case was registered and a probe was on, sources said.

**AUTOMOBILE SALE**  
Innova- 2008, Mahindra Bolero- 2016, Pajero- 2005, Pajero Sports- 2013, Maruti A star- 2013, Skoda- 2009 automatic. 7381091234, 9861194627.

**REAL ESTATE SALE**  
Ggarabari plot Rs. 700/- boundary, Bank finance at Sunderpada, Bhubaneswar. 7978632259.

**TO LET**  
Fully furnished 1200 sqft. 2nd floor space for office on the Main Road of Ekamra Villa Square, Jayadev Vihar, Bhubaneswar on rent. 9437267037, 8895704207.

**BUSINESS**  
SaiBaba Variety Store deals with Snacks, Cold-Beverages and Tiffin. AIRPORT ROAD Contact@9090071530.

**AFFIDAVIT**  
By virtue of an affidavit, Talcher, I have changed my name from Anita Sahoo to Smt. Subhashree Pradhan. Henceforth I am the same person to be identified as Smt. Subhashree Pradhan and Anita Sahoo, W/o- Rohita Ku. Sahoo.

**HEALTH CARE**  
Rejuvenate and ayurvedic full body massage by smart therapist. 9114402304.  
Fully refreshed/ relaxed body massage by expert therapist, Shastrinagar. 7377984773.

**HEALTH CARE**  
We provide ayurvedic full body massage for ladies and gents. A family spa. 06742597822, 9337178378.  
Newly opening ayurvedic body massage smart therapist, Shree Herbal. 7750020754.  
Monalisa Club full body massage with hipofile by smart lady air-condition rooms available. Hurry up! 9708545108.  
Ashribad Spa is reputed ayurvedic clinic provided all type herbal body massage by well trained ladies therapist. Contact: 9040050502.  
Physiotherapy and herbal massage by trained ladies/gents therapy: 7008773793.

'Land won't be given for other purposes'

IDCO ASKED TO DEVELOP KALINGA STUDIO IN THE LINE OF RK STUDIO AND GEMINI STUDIOS

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 7:** In a bid to put an end to the controversy over setting up of sports complex on of Kalinga Studio premises, MSME Minister Prafulla Samal Monday said no land would be allotted for any other purpose at the studio.

"So much importance shouldn't be given to inter-departmental communications unless it is from the Chief Minister. As per my knowledge, the state government has sanctioned about Rs 2 crore for revival of Kalinga Studio. Idco has been entrusted with



revive of the defunct studio," Samal told media persons here. When asked if the government will provide land for sports complex, the minister

said, "We have already asked Idco to develop Kalinga studio in the line of famous RK Studio and Gemini Studios so that producers from other states

can use the facility here. How can its land be handed over to someone else?"

The government doesn't have any intention to shut down Kalinga Studio for development of sports; he clarified, adding, "We can earmark vacant land in other areas for developing sports infrastructure. State government, at any cost, would not handover the Kalinga Studio for any other purpose."

Notably, a recent letter of Sports Secretary Vishal Kumar Dev to General Administration department seeking land in the premises of Kalinga Studio to build a Sports Complex had created controversy.

**CLASSIFIED BOOKING STATION**  
Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemanager-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-977682449, Sushree fashion- Jaggmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

SHORT TAKES

Summer assistance

**Bhubaneswar:** Like last year, the state government will distribute summer aid of ₹100 per beneficiary under National Social Security Scheme and Madhu Babu Pension Yojana. All the beneficiaries including widows, senior citizens and differently-abled will be given ₹100 each in addition to their monthly pension for purchasing umbrella under both the schemes. The assistance will be provided to the beneficiaries May 15 on the occasion of public service day, source said.

Godown for Srimandir

**Puri:** The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) has planned to set up a godown on a piece of Srimandir land at Matitota here. A few officials of the temple administration Monday conducted a survey for the proposed godown. Sources said the temple administration has planned to store surplus logs at Rath Yard, wheels and other parts of dismantled chariots in the godown. Notably, the SJTA had decided to store the wheels and other parts of dismantled chariots for selling them to interested parties.

WOMAN MOVES DGP OFFICE SEEKING JUSTICE

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, May 7:** Baishali Behera, a woman from Jagatsinghpur is struggling to release her husband and father-in-law from jail who were allegedly implicated in false case.

Alleging police inaction, Behera along with her family members submitted a fresh complaint with the Director General of Police's (DGP) grievance cell here Monday. In her letter, the family has also warned to stage a protest in front of the DGP's office next Monday, if police fail to do a proper enquiry.

Earlier, Behera had filed a written complaint with the grievance cell of DGP April 9, and the DGP had also sought the case details from Jagatsinghpur superintendent of police (SP). However, a month has passed since the woman was assured of an impartial probe into the incident.

Behera, in her complaint has stated that her husband Jagannath Behera and her father-in-law have been arrested intentionally, as Jagannath had earlier recorded a video of two police constables of Hatabazaar outpost, while the latter were torturing an innocent man. The policemen duo was also suspended after the clip went viral on social networking sites which eventually irked them. And, in order to vent out their anger the constables along with another policeman, attacked Jagannath February 5. But when Jagannath moved the police station to register a complaint, the cops instead of hearing his plea, registered a false case and arrested him. This apart, the cops also beat up and arrested Jagannath's father, who had gone to the police outpost to rescue his son.

SAFEX MD GETS 3-YEAR RI; CO TO COUGH UP ₹12 CR

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 7:** A special CBI court Monday awarded three year's rigorous imprisonment to Feroz Khan, Managing Director of Safex Infra India Pvt Ltd and slapped a penalty of ₹15,000 on Khan in the multi-crore chit fund



Feroz Khan

■ Sahid Nagar police arrested Khan from a hideout in Jayadev Vihar March 20, 2016

■ Khan allegedly collected around ₹25 crore from depositors by promising them lucrative returns over their investments

■ A designated court in Cuttack had ordered the auction of the immovable properties of Safex Infra worth ₹1.55 crore and distribute the sales proceeds among the victims

scam. He has to undergo additional imprisonment of six months if fails to pay the penalty. The court also directed Safex Infra India, the chit fund firm, to pay ₹12 crore as fine which will be dis-

BJP FIRES WOMEN SECURITY SALVO

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 7:** Accusing the state government of miserably failing to ensure security for women, particularly minor girls, activists of the state Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Mahila Morcha took out a rally from the party headquarters to Lower PMG here Monday.

Holding placards and banners, the women workers of the saffron party shouted slogans against the state government, and later a delegate of the BJP submitted a memorandum to the governor in this regard.

If the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) government doesn't come with a stern method to curb crimes against women by May 15, the BJP will launch Mahila Surakshya Abhiyan (save women campaign) May 17 that will continue till May 27, said Mahila Morcha president Pravati Parida.

tributed among the unpaid depositors. Earlier, Khan had pleaded guilty for the crime before the court Saturday.

The convict's lawyer requested the court to show leniency towards Khan in view of his 'socio-economic condition' and health condition as well as the period of detention in jail.

Sahid Nagar police arrested Khan from a hideout in Jayadev Vihar March 20, 2016. Later, police handed over Khan to the central agency. He allegedly collected around ₹25 crore from depositors by promising them lucrative returns over their investments.

Notably, when he was on the run, a designated court at Cuttack had ordered the auction of the immovable properties of Safex Infra limited worth ₹1.55 crore. The court had directed the state government to distribute the sales proceeds among the duped investors. However, the auction could not proceed as no bidder came forward to buy around 12 acre land of the company reportedly in Ganjam district.

It is also to be noted here that the central agency had raided around 14 places across the state where Safex Infra had its offices. It also raided the houses of the directors of the company including Khan during the probe.

Keeping in view the gravity of the offences and the manner in which it was committed and its impact on the society, this court is not inclined to permit relaxation of punishment in the case.

Wi-fi facility at Ravenshaw soon

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, May 7:** Authorities of Ravenshaw University here have planned to make the campus wi-fi by spending around ₹1.52 crore.

The university authorities have engaged public sector telecom operator BSNL for the wi-fi project.

Moreover, the university management has decided to renovate all hostels on its premises ahead of the coming academic session. "We have asked all boarders to vacate their hostel rooms by May 28," said Vice-Chancellor Ishan Kumar Patra.

It is learnt that the university authorities have initiated the process to regularise several self-financing courses. "All self-financing courses that have completed five years are likely to become regular departments. The coordinators of self-



Srimandir deities enjoying a boat ride at Narendra tank in Puri Monday.

op photo

Spl recruitment drive for SCs & STs

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 7:** In yet another move that could give an edge to the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) in wooing Dalits and Tribals in Odisha ahead of next year's elections, the state government Monday decided to launch a special drive to fill up various posts reserved for people belonging to Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, while reviewing the status of recruitment to various government posts in the state, asked all de-

partments concerned to place their proposals before various recruitment agencies such as OPSC, OSSC and OSSSC by June this year to roll out the special drive.

The drive will be completed within six months to fill the vacancies reserved for SCs and STs. The Chief Minister ordered the SC/ST Development department to review the progress of the drive at regular interval.

During the meeting, Patnaik also asked all departments to place proposals before recruitment bodies for filling up of 7,500 more posts in various departments and also

The CM ordered the SC/ST Development department to review progress of the drive at regular interval

instructed them to expedite the ongoing process of recruitment to around 19,000 departmental posts.

The Chief Minister instructed the General Administration department to complete the Odisha

Public Service examinations for 2017 at the earliest and issue notification on Odisha Public Service examinations 2018 by May end.

While the meeting focused on expediting the recruitment drive, the decision to launch a special drive for filling up of vacancies reserved for people from scheduled categories is seen as a well worked out plan of the ruling BJD to checkmate its political rivals - Congress and BJP - who have already indulged in a blame game over rights of SCs/STs ahead of 2019 elections.

16-YR-OLD GIRL'S STRUGGLE TO EDUCATE MINOR SIBLING

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Junagarh, May 7:** This might sound like the storyline of a Bollywood potboiler, but no, this is the real-life story of a 16-year-old girl who is battling odds to educate her 11-year-old sister after the death of their parents.

Ten years back, the girls' father Bana Bag died. The elder girl was just a six-year-old and the younger one a newborn.

After five years, their mother Sumani too passed away making the two girls orphans. Life turned upside down for the two, who had very little of exposure to the outside world.

Rinky Bag, now 16, of Chamrabandh Pada in Junagarh-Ward 8 of Kalahandi district and her minor sister Pinky, now 11, took courage in their hands and carried forward. Rinky took upon herself the responsibility of not only sustaining the life of her little sister but also educating her. She has been doing odd jobs to run the family and meet the other needs of Pinky. Rinky was 11 when her

Parents dead



Rinky Bag with her sister

OP PHOTO

mother passed away. The girl washed utensils at her neighbours' homes and did odd jobs to take care of her sister. Most of the time, the two sisters starved their days and nights out. No help was forthcoming from the relatives. What the girls have is a thatched mud house and they avail 10kg of ration under the NFSA Act.

No other government benefit came the way of the two girls. "We cannot pay bribes to officials to get government benefits. So, we get nothing," Rinky said. Locals sympathised with the plight of the two girls and urged the administration to extend basic facilities to enable the girls lead a normal life.

STIR FOR COMPENSATION



Farmers of the Indravati south canal ayacut area staging a sit-in demanding compensation for 2017-18 rabi crop loss outside the chief engineer's office at Mukhiguda in Kalahandi, Monday.

MATRIC RESULTS

Grocer's daughter tops in dist



Sparshamani with her parents

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kendrapara, May 7:** There is no substitute for hard work. This has been re-established once again by Sparshamani Sahoo, a 14-year-old girl, the daughter of a grocery shop owner, who secured the highest mark in Matric examination in Kendrapara district.

The result published Monday revealed that the daughter of Mamatamanjari and Pradeep Kumar Sahoo of Choudakulat under Pattamuindai block has got 578 out of 600 (96.33 per cent) marks and secured A1 grade in the examination. "There is no shortcut to success.

If you have got strong will power nothing can stop you", said Sparshamani dedicating her success to the Almighty, the family members and the teachers of Jagannath Vidyapitha. She had to work for about 10 hours a day before appearing the examination, she further said.

Sparshamani now aims to become an IAS officer to serve the country with honesty, it was learnt.

"We are proud of Sparshamani as she has now become an example for several rural students," said Rina Mallick, the headmistress of the school.

**FIRST CORRIGENDUM**  
for 'e' PROCUREMENT NOTICE  
REFERENCE NO- E.E. (A) C/Z-02/2018-19

Name of the work :- Installation of Cluster Bore Well and Cluster Shallow Tube Well Projects along with Energisation

Estimated cost :- Ranging from Rs. 14,08,566.00 to (Approximately) Rs. 17,50,145.00 (Including G.S.T)

All other details as mentpioned with 'e' procurement notice no - E.E. (A) C/Z-02/2018-19 is unaltered.

Sd./- Executive Engineer (Agril.)  
Central Zone, Bhubaneswar

01032/11/0006/1819

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Sambalpur (R&B) Division No.1, Sambalpur

**e-Procurement Notice**  
Bid Identification No. : EE/R&B/SBP/02/2018-19  
E-mail : exeengsbp@rediffmail.com,  
Phone / Fax - 0663-2548013

No. 2085 Dated : 01.05.2018

1. The executive Engineer, Sambalpur (R&B) Division No.1, Sambalpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites Percentage Rate bids in Single cover system in ONLINE MODE for construction of Roads / Building Works as detailed in the DTCN from the eligible Class of Contractors.

2. No. of Works : 06 (Six)

3. Tender Cost : Rs. 6,000/- (On line)

4. Class of Contractor : "B" Class & "A" Class and "C" Class & "B" Class

5. Date and time available in website & receipt of Bids : 12.00 Hrs 17.05.2018 to 13.00 Hrs of 26.05.2018

6. Date of Opening of tender : 28.05.2018 at 11.30 Hrs.

7. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website.

8. Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in only.

Sd./- Executive Engineer,  
Sambalpur (R&B) Division No.1

34042/11/0005/1819

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, NABARANGPUR IRRIGATION DIVISION  
NABARANGPUR, DIST.- NABARANGPUR (ODISHA)

No. 581 Dtd. 05.05.2018

**NOTICE INVITATION FOR BIDS (NIFB)**  
e-Procurement Notice No. EE-NID-01/2018-19 (01-03)

1. Nature of the work - Construction works

2. Total No. of works - 03 (Three) Nos.

3. Tender cost of the works - Rs.35.50 lakhs

4. Bid security - 1% of the amount put to tender

5. Class of Contractor - 'C' & 'B'

6. Period of completion - 03 (three) months

7. Other details as follows -

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of bid online		Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	Date & time & place of opening of tender
		From	To		
Executive Engineer, Nabarangpur Irrigation Division, Nabarangpur	EE, NID - 01/2018-19 (01-03)	10.05.2018 (10.00 AM)	19.05.2018 (upto 05.00 PM)	17.05.2018	Dt. 21.05.2018 at 11.00 AM in the office of the Executive Engineer, Nabarangpur Irrigation Division, Nabarangpur

Further details can be seen from the Government website www.tendersodisha.gov.in  
323611/11/0002/1819 Sd./- Executive Engineer, Nabarangpur Irrigation Division, Nabarangpur

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION-I, MALKANGIRI

**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement**  
Identification No. Online Tender 02/MKG/2018-19

1. Name of the work : Bridge works (Detailed in Annexure)

2. Total Number of Works : 02 (Two) Numbers

3. Tender Cost : From Rs. 63.11 Lakhs to 86.95 Lakhs

4. Class of Contractor : 'B' and 'A' class contractors

5. Period of Completion : 09 (Nine) Calendar months (Detailed in Annexure)

6. Other Details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	No. of Works	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date and time of opening of tender	
			From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division-I, Malkangiri	Online Tender /02 / RWD-I, MKG/ 2018-19	02 (Two) Nos. of Bridge Works	10.05.2018 from 11.00 AM	22.05.2018 upto 5.00 PM	21.05.2018 upto 5.00 PM	28.05.2018 at 11.30 AM	05.06.2018 at 11.00 AM

Further details can be seen from the Website www.tenderorissa.gov.in  
25058/11/0002/1819 Executive Engineer, R.W. Division-I, Malkangiri

# state

## SHORT TAKES

### Kalahandi Bar Asso election held

**Bhawanipatna:** Santosh Kumar Panda was elected the president of the Kalahandi Bar Association, while Ashok Kumar Pattnaik was elected the secretary in elections held here Monday. Advocates Subhranshu Sekhar Sahu, Sanju Balan and Mahesh Prasad Mohapatra were unanimously elected vice-president, assistant secretary and treasurer respectively. In addition, advocates Jeetendra Kumar Mohanty, Sailesh Kumar Behera, Abdul Sajid, Manoj Kumar Tandi, Kishore Kumar Panda, Baikuntha Harijan and Jashobanti Dei were elected members of the bar association executive body. Advocate Dillip Praharaj conducted the elections as the returning officer.

### Elephants on rampage

**Joda:** A herd of elephants are on a rampage in various parts of Champua range in Keonjhar district since the last 10 days. The pachyderms emerged from the Baitarani reserve forest and damaged a house, besides eating paddy and rice at Dadhuan late Sunday night. The animals also attempted to damage some other houses, but villagers scared them away. The villagers alleged that the forest department does not have not adequate personnel to drive away the animals from locality. Joda forester Peon Nayak said that 22 elephants are moving in the area. Forest officials are keeping a close watch on the animals, he added.

## MOTHER, SON STILL DEPRIVED OF GOVT WELFARE SCHEMES

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jajpur, May 7:** Notwithstanding the series of development projects launched by the state government and the Centre for the benefit of the poor, many needy in this district are still deprived of the benefits from these schemes. This is primarily due to the apathy and negligence of government officials coupled with lack of interest on the part of the local people's representatives.

### Krushna Chandra Swain is struggling to make both ends meet despite the presence of a host of welfare schemes

For instance, casual labourer Krushna Chandra Swain is struggling to make both ends meet despite the presence of a host of welfare schemes at Shyamsundar village under Dharماسala block.

Krushna is over 50 years, but has not married yet.

He works as a daily wagger and a major part of his income is spent on the treatment of his ailing 80-year-old mother.

Krushna and his mother still do not have ration cards or own a pucca house. They have not been included in any of the government housing schemes.

Krushna's mother receives a paltry sum of ₹300 per month as old-age pension. The family lives in a shanty and moves to the verandah of their neighbours when it rains. Krushna does not have the means to build a pucca house.

Villagers have urged the district administration and block officials to provide government assistance to Krushna and his mother.

## Man assaulted by nephew dies

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Loingsingha (Bolangir), May 7:** An elderly man who was assaulted by his nephew Sachin Nanda (22) died Sunday after battling for life for over 22 days at the government hospital here. The deceased was identified as Ganeshwar Nanda (45) of Pesara village here.

Deceased Nanda led a lonely life as he had no family and lived in the verandah of a church after his thatched house collapsed due to heavy rains. He survived with whatever he got from a school's mid-day meal (MDM) scheme.

According to the police, Sachin attacked Ganeshwar with a rod resulting in grave head injuries. However, the reason for the attack is still not clear.

Ganeshwar was admitted to the government hospital, but his condition worsened. He was shifted to VIMSAR in Burla. He had returned after a little improvement in his health condition. However, he died due to complications from the injuries he received in the assault, police said. Police have sent the body for post-mortem.



## RALLY AGAINST NESCO

Beneficiaries of Rajib Jyoti Yojana from 47 panchayats under Remuna block of Balasore take out a rally to the collectorate against NESCO for unfair collection of bills.

## ANNUAL DAY

Girls perform at the annual day celebration of Fine Art Academy in Rourkela



# Girl alleges HM raped her

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Daringbadi, May 7:** In a new twist to the case related to the molestation of a Class VIII girl by a high school headmaster in this block of Kandhamal district, the victim Monday refuted reports of molestation and accused the headmaster of raping her.

Seeking the intervention of the district superintendent of police in arresting the accused, the girl approached the SP personally and revealed the entire matter before the media at the SP's office in Phulbani.

In her complaint, the victim accused the Daringbadi police of shielding the accused and not arresting him even after a week of the crime.

However, after learning the 'truth' from the victim, SP Pratik Singh assured her of immediate

## Seeking the intervention of the district superintendent of police in arresting the accused, the girl approached the SP personally

action against the accused HM. According to the victim, she was studying in Class VIII and resided in the school hostel. On the fateful day, the HM called all the girl inmates and asked them to work in the school garden. Later, he called the victim along with two of her friends to clean utensils at his resident.

After sometime, he sent her friends away and asked the girl to stay on the pretext of more work. While the victim was busy cleaning the house, the accused bolted

the door and held her captive. When the girl shouted for help, he gagged her and put her on his bed forcing himself upon her.

"I cried and pleaded with him to leave me, but to no avail. He had turned into a monster and kept raping me," the girl stated. Later, he threatened to kill her if she revealed the incident to anyone.

Soon after this, the girl fled the school hostel and took a bus to her village. She was afraid of revealing the incident to her parents, and so approached her sister and narrated her ordeal.

Later, the girl's father lodged a written complaint with Daringbadi police. Although a week has passed since then, police are yet to arrest the HM.

When contacted, the investigating officer Chandrika Swain said that a probe was on and the HM would be arrested soon.



Kids practicing yoga at a summer camp on the premises of Adarsh International School in Angul.

## SUMMER CAMP

# KUDUMIS OBSERVE 6-HR BANDH FOR ST TAG

SEC 144 CLAMPED AT SAHID SMRUTI BHAWAN; 100 KUDUMIS ARRESTED AS PREVENTIVE MEASURE

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Baripada, May 7:** Normal life was hit across Mayurbhanj district Monday following a six-hour bandh called by the Kudumi community to press for their demand for being declared a Scheduled Tribe community.

The bandh passed off peacefully, but vehicular movement came to a standstill in the district between 6 am and 12 noon.

According to reports, following a directive from SDPO Abhimanyu Nayak, police arrested over 100 Kudumi activists, who were set free after the bandh. On the other hand, Kudumi Sena president Jaimuni Mohant was forced to walk about half-a-kilometer to get into a police van parked near the municipality office during the bandh.

Thousands of members of the Kudumi community from various parts of Keonjhar, Sundargarh, Jajpur, Dhenkanal, Angul, Deogarh,



Sambalpur and Balasore districts took part in the bandh. Life came to a standstill in these areas as all shops, business establishments, educational institutions, government and private offices along with the local courts remained closed for the duration of the bandh.

Sena activists staged road block-

ades at Palabani Golei and Murgabadi Golei by burning tyres. They also squatted on the railway tracks and main roads disrupting train and bus services. The activists burned tyres on National Highway-16, halting movement of vehicles, leading to a prolonged road blockade. Normalcy returned after noon.

During the bandh, Kudumi activists exchanged heated words with the police and administrative officials, leading to tension in some areas.

Meanwhile, the local administration had planned a programme at Sahid Smruti Bhawan here at 11 am to distribute land pattas to slum dwellers, but the agitators, including women, did not allow officials to enter the programme venue, leading to a confrontation with the officials.

Sub-collector Mohammed Abdul Akhtar tied to pacify them, but to no avail. Finally, the sub-collector clamped prohibitory orders under Section 144 of IPC at the site.

While the Constitution covers the community under OBC category, the Kudumis have, for many decades, been seeking tribal status and the benefits thereof.

They alleged that the government took no step to address their demand despite repeated reminders.

## Daughters run snack shop for father's treatment

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhadrak, May 7:** While their father is affected by neurological problem and is bed-ridden for the last 25 years, three daughters at Padmapur under Basudevpur block in Bhadrak have been running a snack shop to make a living as well as bear the treatment expenses of their ailing father. Indeed, the three siblings have set an example for others.

Despite the fact that they are struggling to meet the medical cost of their father Amulya Biswal (60), family expenses and cost of their studies, his elder daughter Mamata was married off.

Another daughter Mita has studied Plus-II, while the third daughter Urbasi and son Manas are pursuing their studies despite facing acute financial difficulties.

The kids recalled the days when the family faced severe crisis after their father and the main breadwinner of the family could not fell sick and failed to go out for



work. He has been suffering from gout. Faced with pecuniary problems, the family found it difficult to arrange two square meals daily, leave alone meeting Biswal's medical expenses. At this juncture of life, the three siblings started a snack shop at the local market about 25 years ago and they are still in business. Two girls have left studies, leaving their father a worried man. Biswal says every month his medical expense is to the tune of ₹4,000, apart from expenses for running the family and the children's education.

On an average, his daughters earn ₹300 to 400 daily. Aside from this, Biswal receives a monthly pension of ₹300.

## Man tries to 'burn' minor daughter alive

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Balasore, May 7:** A villager named Shatruijit Mohanty allegedly thrashed his minor daughter and tried to set her on fire Sunday evening after she expressed doubts about obtaining good marks in her examinations. The incident took place at Jambhudiha village.

Fortunately, the girl's neighbours alerted the police, who came and rescued her on time. According to the first information report (FIR), Mohanty reached home after work and questioned his daughter about her performance in the exams. She said she was not sure of getting first grade as she found some questions were tough to answer.

"In a fit of rage, he began thrashing her. He allegedly locked the girl in a room and sprinkled kerosene oil on her. The girl's grandfather Anam Mohanty tried to stop him, but in vain," the locals said. No police complaint has been lodged in this connection yet.

## LOAN DEFAULT

# Bank to put cold store under hammer

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhograi (Balasore), May 7:** The Oriental Bank of Commerce has sealed the Hiranmayee cold store at the Jalsoria Pan market here Sunday after the owners defaulted on a loan and the principal and interest amount accumulated to over ₹5.5 crore. Now, the bank is mulling to put the property under the hammer.

The three proprietors of the cold store, Ashok Bhuyan, Santosh Bhuyan and Tanushree Bhuyan of Kalikakhali in Midnapore district of West Bengal, had taken a loan of ₹4 crore to run the cold storage facility.

However, they failed to make the cold store operational for years; as a result it now resembles a

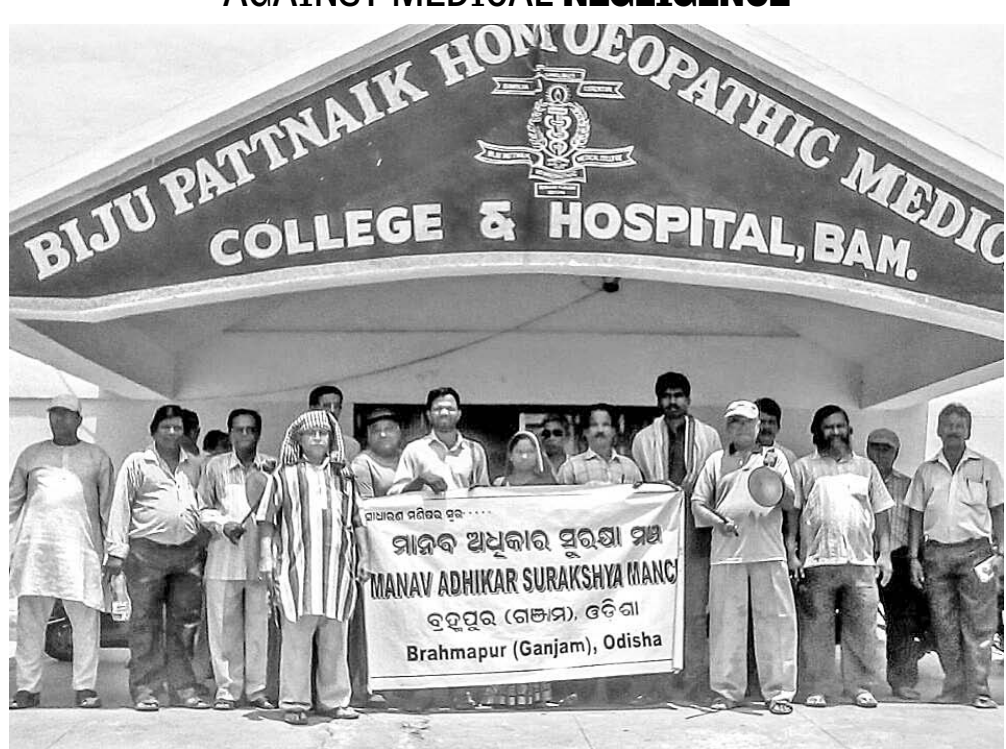
haunted house.

The cold store has a capacity of 5,000 tonnes and was built with the aim of conserving vegetables and potatoes produced by farmers in north Balasore. A trader from Chouki village had set up the facility, but he later sold it to traders from West Bengal.

As the loan instalments could not be cleared for a long time, the bank served a notice to the owners. Despite the notice, the current owners showed no interest to repay the loan amount or the interest which accumulated to ₹5.5 crore.

Subsequently, the bank filed a case at the magistrate's court here, seeking its permission to take possession of the movable and immovable assets of the cold store. Based on the court's approval, the district Collector has issued an order to this effect.

## AGAINST MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE



Activists of Manav Adhikar Surakhya Manch stage protest near Biju Pattnaik Homeopathic Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur over the death of an elderly woman due to the alleged negligence of a doctor.

# Rural health care needs attention in western Odisha

ABSENCE OF A COMPREHENSIVE RURAL HEALTH POLICY HAS MADE MATTERS WORSE, AS MORE AND MORE VILLAGERS ARE FALLING VICTIMS TO VARIOUS DISEASES

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sambalpur, May 7:** The overall health services in rural areas of western Odisha are not up to expectation owing to the absence of a comprehensive rural health policy. On the other hand, urban health services are somewhat better as a result of the recently-introduced health schemes in the government hospitals in the region. However, these benefits do not percolate to the grassroots level.

There is a spurt in the number of rural patients suffering from cancer, tuberculosis, fluorosis, critical skin infections and breathing problems due to the increasing levels of pollutions in almost all spheres of life these days. Earlier, ailments among rural patients were confined to common cold, cough, fever, upset bladder, gen-

eral skin infections and pregnancy-related problems.

As per a study undertaken by DFID, 90.6 per cent of rural people and 81.0 per cent of urban population depend on government hospitals for their health care needs in Odisha.

It has been found that public sector health care facilities are relatively better in the urban pockets even though more rural people depend on government hospital for their health care needs.

The primary health centres (PHC) of the state government in rural pockets are mostly in poor conditions. Most of them either lack doctors or pharmacists. There are some health centres in the remote rural pockets where both doctors and pharmacists are not available. Amazingly, these centres are run by the Class IV em-

## The primary health centres (PHC) of the state government in rural pockets are mostly in poor conditions. Most of them either lack doctors or pharmacists

ployees. Rural folk are also deprived of the improvised private health care services available in urban locations. As a result, government hospitals are the only hope for them, if at all they are spared from the clutches of quacks that prevail in almost all villages.

There used to be a research centre on sickle cell anemia at Veer Surendra Sai Institute of Medical Science and Research (VIMSAR)

as it has been found that the ailment prevails among some identified communities in some districts of western Odisha. Moreover, VIMSAR is the only referral hospital in the entire region.

It is unfortunate that the research centre was shifted to Bhubaneswar allegedly for a political reason and without any justification. Such a decision has only helped to widen the regional imbalance promoting large-scale resentment against the state government.

Curative as well as preventive measures are yet to be exercised effectively even though bone deformities is a persisting ailment in the region due to excessive presence of fluorides in underground water found in Kalahandi, Nuapada and some adjoining villages in Bargarh district. Sinking of tube-

well is less expensive than organising surface water resources to provide potable water in the remote rural pockets. But none cared to check the quality of the underground water before undertaking such an exercise. Consequently, some of the tube-wells in the region have already been declared abandoned.

Providing surface water could be an effective alternative measure to prevent the further spread of fluoride-related problems through drinking water, but there is hardly any initiative for it. Thus, those rural people are destined to suffer silently in negligence.

It is claimed that leprosy has been totally eliminated from Odisha, but leprosy patients are still found in some districts of western Odisha. If this sounds incredible, a visit to Sambalpur on

any Saturday will reveal several leper groups begging for alms from door to door. There is no sustained rehabilitation programme for such people despite tall claims.

Iodine deficiency is another health problem in the region. A joint venture of World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF and ICCIDD in Bargarh district from 1996 to 1999 undertook a study among primary school students to identify cases of iodine deficiency.

It was found that 3,621 out of 3,988 primary school students, roughly 90.8 per cent, suffered from iodine deficiency. This condition leads to malfunctioning of the thyroid gland and thyroid is known as lifestyle ailment that is hardly curable. Similar situations prevail in other districts of the region too.

SHORT TAKES

**Woman dies of sunstroke**  
Jagannathprasad: A woman allegedly died of sunstroke while collecting firewood here in Ganjam district Monday. The deceased was identified as Kama Nayak (52), wife of Siba Nayak, a visually impaired, of Agyanprasad village under Jagannathprasad police limits. Police registered the body for post-mortem and seized a case, IIC Aniruddh Muduli said. Police said the woman left home to collect firewood from the nearby jungles Sunday morning. Her husband grew apprehensive after she failed to reach home by evening and sought the help of the villagers to trace her. Villagers traced her body lying at a canal near a temple and informed the police Monday.

**Girl ends life over poor HSC results**  
Duburi: A girl committed suicide by hanging at Kainjira village under Sukinda block in Jajpur district after she failed to clear the matriculation examinations the results of which were published Monday. The deceased was identified as Lakshmi Priya Mohanta, daughter of Gourahari Mohanta, and a student of Satyanarayan Memorial High School at Sansaile. Family members rushed her to a hospital where doctors pronounced her brought dead. She had appeared for the examinations from Jagannath High School in Sukinda. She is believed to have taken the extreme step over her disappointing results. Sukinda police registered a case and sent the body for post-mortem.

**Man, son clear HSC exam with same grade**  
Jaleswar: With HSC results out, 58-year-old Arun Kumar Bej (vice-president of the district unit of BJP) and his youngest son Biswajit Bej (30) have passed with B-2 grade, both securing 342 marks. The father-son duo had enrolled themselves to the state open learning school run on the premises of Sri Chaitanya High School at Bagunji under Jaleswar block in Balasore district.

**14-day judicial custody for Punjilal**  
POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, May 7: Punjilal Meher, the mastermind of the sensational Patnagarh parcel bomb case, was sent on a 14-day judicial custody Monday after completion of his second phase of remand. He was remanded in the Patnagarh sub-jail after the sub-divisional judicial magistrate (SDJM) court rejected his bail plea. Punjilal's lawyer stated that the order will be challenged at the district and sessions court. The Crime Branch SIT returned from Raipur Sunday along with Punjilal after a reconstruction of the crime plot. The accused gave a live demonstration of his bomb making skills in presence of experts after his arrival in Odisha. "After his remand period, the CB produced him in SDJM court. The court sent him to judicial custody. We will now challenge the order at district and sessions court," said Punjilal's lawyer. The purpose of reconstructing the crime scene was to ensure the entire case is prosecuted without any error, senior CB officials said. The SIT also visited Kantabanji railway station and questioned the contractor of the vehicle parking area there. It was where Punjilal had parked his vehicle before leaving for Raipur.

**Cops hit by couple while on helmet-checking, 20 people booked**  
POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, May 7: Two policemen faced the wrath of an angry couple after the men in uniform questioned them in allegedly provocative police language for riding a two-wheeler without helmet. Police registered a case against 20 people involved in the brawl. Police said the angry couple beat the two up in full public glare at Anji Bazaar under Soro police limits in this district Sunday night. The entire episode was recorded by passersby. The cops were Sarat Chandra Dhal, ASI of Saud police outpost and constable Gangadhar Behera, while the couple was Kasiruddin Shah and his wife. When the cops waved the couple to a halt and questioned them for not wearing helmet, and sought a fine, it turned into a wordy duel. The style of police questioning, in which abusive words were allegedly hurled, was too provocative for the couple to bear. An angry Shah and his wife manhandled them in full public glare. The cops were allegedly slapped by the couple with their slippers. The incident took place in one of the busiest markets of the town, but none bothered to intervene. Based on a complaint by the two cops, police launched a probe.

GHAZAL DELIGHT



Vocalist Nazia Alam performs at a state-level ghazal programme at Sahid Smruti Bhawan in Baripada.

OP PHOTO

Saline ingress hits Chandbali farmers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Aradi, May 7: Rivers like Salandi and Baitarani flow in Chandbali block of Bhadrak district, but sea water gushes through these two rivers and finds its way into farmlands in scores of low-lying villages during tidal waves. Saline ingress is a serious problem for farmers who allege that in the absence of embankments along the rivers at some places, they are incurring huge losses. Reports said on full moon days and new moon days, saline ingress hits Shitalpur, Sanapanka, Batola, Singipur, Mutha, Santara of Aradi panchayat; Palatpur, Bhuinpur, Nandapur, Bankamuhan of Nandapur panchayat; and Olaga, Bodak and Sathibankuda panchayats. Locals said as there was not sufficient rainfall in the current year, the river water has become more salty. In the early part



Unprotected banks of Salandi.

OP PHOTO

of April, saline water had inundated vast patches of farmlands in the area, affecting rabi crops. Farmers said the saline water also entered the farmlands where saplings for summer paddy were grown. The damaged saplings will affect paddy yield, they added.

In 2004, the government had decided to lay saline embankments along the rivers. Such bunds have been built along Baitarani till Tinitar. Saline embankment to the east of Salandi has been built while the western side of its banks has not been protected by bunds. People of

riparian villages expressed their displeasure over the persistent problem. Former MLAs Manmohan Samal and Bijay Nayak and sitting MLA Byomkesh Ray had assured the locals of building saline embankments. Even funds were sanctioned and some contractors had visited the sites. Surprisingly, no initiative was undertaken for the embankments later. The farmers demanded immediate steps to lay saline embankments and warned of an agitation if no measure was taken in this direction. Ramakant Bhoi, a farmer of Palatpur, said, "We are sitting pretty due to saline ingress in this direction. Ramakant Bhoi, a farmer of Palatpur, said, "We are sitting pretty due to saline ingress in this direction. Swadesh Panda, samiti member of Nandapur panchayat, accused the MLA of taking no steps in this direction. He said that the MLA has no interest in laying saline embankment on the western side of Salandi.

Fossils of ancient animal unearthed in Jajpur dist

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, May 7: In what might be a major archaeological breakthrough, fossils of an ancient animal dating back to several lakh years were found at Radhanagar village, a Buddhist site under Dharmasala police limits in Jajpur district, Monday. Locals reported the sighting near a pond in the village and informed the officials. Later, a team of officials arrived at the village and launched a study. Researcher and founder of Gajaraj Museum in Dharmasala, Nrusingha Charan Sahoo, also rushed to the site and took a look at the fossils. He said the fossils might be several lakh years old and is the first of its kind discovery in the district. This will



unfurl a new chapter in the history of Radhanagar, Sahoo said while speaking to reporters. It has become pertinent to protect the ancient artefacts and discoveries of Radhanagar from the evil eyes of unscrupulous persons, he added. The animal apparently existed lakhs of years ago, as per preliminary observations. The fossils were found during digging of soil for the repair work on an embankment.

A village sans temple & cremation ground

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, May 7: Here is a village without the usual presence of a temple, a presiding deity and a cremation ground. There is no image of a deity in the households either. The unique village is Udiapada in Kaupada gram panchayat under Derabish block. Some 35 families with a population of around 250 reside in the village. The village was like any other over a century ago. Then, a time came when the inhabitants embraced the Mahima cult. According to local Dhruva Charan Behera, it was in 1882 that the villagers embraced Mahima dharma from one Baman Chandra, a Mahima Alekha monk. They stopped worshipping at the temples in the village. While the



A follower of the Mahima cult of Udiapada village.

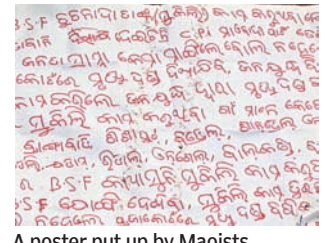
worship of numerous gods and goddesses is common among the Hindus, the Mahima Dharma, like the Upanishads, has the unique distinction of preaching the all-pervading ultimate reality. The Mahima cult opposes the caste system and idol worship. As per Mahima practice, its followers will take no food and water after sunset. "We worship the Supreme Lord of indescribable grace, Alekha," said Pramod Behera, a local teacher. The village also does not have a cremation ground as the adherents of the cult bury the body of the dead, instead of cremating it. On the direction of the monk Baman, the villagers set up an 'Alekha tungi' in the village. The monks of Mahima cult take rest there, said Dhanurdhar Pradhan, a resident. The women of the village do not observe Hindu festivals or rites. "They prepare cakes and sweets a day before important festivities like Sambadashami and Prathamaasthami, and distribute them to their near and dear ones. They do not take prasad or light up the hearth after sunset. They would have their dinner before sunset as per the norm of Mahima dharma," said octogenarian woman of the village, Swarnalata Nayak. "Since the villagers have embraced Mahima dharma, one can find positive changes in their lives," claimed Bishubhusan Mohapatra, a learned man of the locality.

MASSIVE POSTER CAMPAIGN

MAOISTS WARN OF DEATH PENALTY FOR BSF INFORMERS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput/Ankadei, May 7: Launching a massive campaign, members of several naxal outfits put up posters and banners Sunday night at various places of Ankadei panchayat in Koraput district and Khairaput block of Malkangiri district warning death penalty for BSF informers. The left wing extremists are trying to make their presence felt in Ankadei panchayat of Lamtaput block after creating terror in Boipariguda area, said some locals. According to reports, more than 50 Maoists entered several villages including Bangrabadi, Shishaput, Badel, Shandrel, Balkand, Ongel, Ridal, Dalidam of Ankadei and asked the people not to cooperate with the BSF personnel.



A poster put up by Maoists.

They put up posters at various locations in this regard. People living in these villages often disclose before the BSF about the movement of the rebels which help the security force. Therefore, the people found involved in informing the BSF about Maoists activities would be given capital punishment in Praja courts, the ultras threatened in the posters. As the jawans have intensified

Equipment torched  
Malkangiri: To make their presence felt, Maoists have resumed violent activities and are threatening the people in Malkangiri district. Reports said a mixer and a roller machine engaged in road construction at Kartanpali panchayat under Mathili block in Malkangiri district was set on fire by Maoists. A handwritten poster was recovered from the spot, warning the contractor against undertaking the work. According to sources, armed ultras reached the construction site where work for the Sanagumma-Luler-Durkaguda road was going on under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. In a jiffy, they set the equipment on fire. They also damaged a water spraying machine before fleeing the spot. A sum of 4 crore had been sanctioned for the road project a couple of years back. However, the contractor started the work only last week amid repeated threats from the ultras. Police intensified combing operations after the incident.

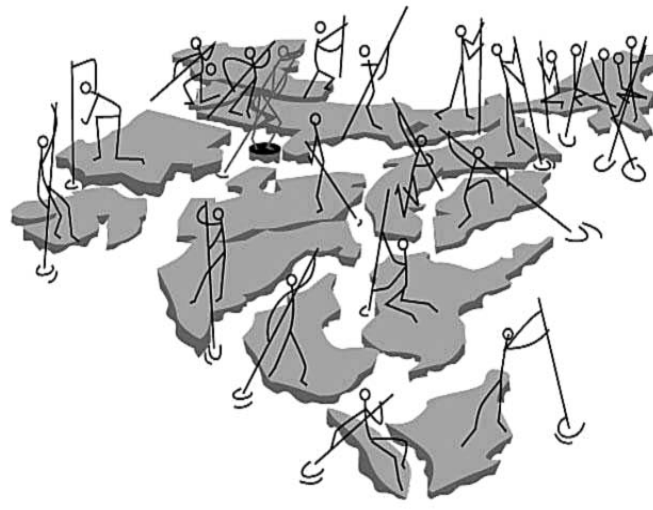
their combing operations in Chhattisgarh, some rebel leaders are learnt to have escaped into the border region forests to gain support of the local people. A few Maoist leaders were seen roaming around in Ramgiri and Gupteswar forests of Boipariguda block a few days back, a report said. Some of them remained present in border villages of Ankadei panchayat and put up posters to bias the locals in their favour; it was learnt.

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FOCUS GOVERNANCE

# FISSURES IN FEDERALISM



**What need to remain with the Centre are only national issues like defence, foreign policy and nationwide infrastructure. In recent times, what we see is encroachment of the Union into the states' list, i.e. the Centre playing an increasing role in discharging duties and making policies which are in the domain of the states**

to 42 per cent. This was in the spirit of cooperative federalism. Give more resources to the states, and let them decide their priorities. The FC has a constitutional responsibility of recommending a vertical split between the Centre and states, and then a further horizontal split between various states. This is the split of the net tax proceeds exclusive of the states' share of GST which anyway remains with them.

But lest this sounds as if the power balance is shifting to the states, look again. We find now that the Centre is increasingly involved in areas which were earmarked for the states as per the seventh schedule. This may be called 'centre's creep' of governance. So now areas like employment, food security, education and even health insurance have a substantial provision by the Centre. These are respectively through the national rural employment guarantee scheme, the food security act, the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan and now the national health protection scheme. All of these will require more resources, and hence put an upper limit on how much more can be devolved to the states by the FC.

The FC is simply an arbiter of the balance of power (resources) between the Centre and states. Its recommendations are supposed to be based on fiscal needs of governments net of their own capacity to raise resources. If poorer states get more allocation, it is because they have bigger funding gaps. In the age of GST and increasing role of the Centre in the States' list, it implies lesser leeway for the states. The 15FC has already run into some rough weather, with the southern states demanding a change in the Terms of Reference, which mandate the use of 2011 census as the basis for population. This however is an inter-state issue rather than Centre state issue.

Irrespective of the issue of population basis, the 15FC has its task cut out in restoring the right balance between the Centre and states. These flows and ebbs in the Centre state tides of relationship are the sign of a robust federal democracy.

*The writer is an economist and senior fellow at Takshashila Institution  
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The Constitution of India laid out clearly in its seventh schedule which legislative and policy areas would be with the Centre and which would be with the States. There are three lists in the seventh schedule, called the Union list, the States list and the Concurrent list. This demarcates not only the responsibilities but also their "powers". Two more schedules were added (eleventh and twelfth) to the constitution after the 73rd and 74th amendments which gave constitutional status to village councils (panchayats) and urban local bodies. These schedules too specified the power, authority and responsibilities of the local governments in rural and urban areas.

India is a Union of States, but the states themselves are a creation of the Union. They did not voluntarily come together to form a United States of India. So from the beginning, the balance of power was always tilted toward the Central government. But the Constitution recognised the immense diversity and sheer size of the nation state, and hence we have a federal polity.

The empowerment of the states (and lower tier local governments) is a work in progress. Economic liberalisation also calls for further decentralisation of powers to lower tiers of government. What need to remain with the Centre are only national issues like defence, foreign policy and nationwide infrastructure. In recent times, what we see is encroachment of the Union into the states' list, i.e. the Centre playing an increasing role in discharging duties and making policies which are the domain of the states.

This past week saw the passing away of Marxist doyen Ashok Mitra, who became Finance Minister of Bengal in 1977. He played an important and effective role in pushing for more devolution of power, autonomy and resources to the states, which led to the formation of the Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State relations in 1983. That resulted in the historic formation of the Inter-State Council in 1990. The Council is not a permanent one and has to be reconstituted from time to time. Unfortunately, in the past 28 years, it has met less than a dozen times. The Council is a forum to discuss

not just Centre-state issues but also inter-state issues like the sharing of river waters.

The economic reforms of 1991 implicitly granted more powers to the states. Since industrial licensing was discontinued, the Centre gave up its "permission" power. States started competing in attracting investments in terms of tax holidays (now not possible under GST), and on quality of infrastructure, ease of doing business and land allocation. The rollout of the nationwide goods and services tax (GST) signals that the pendulum is swinging back to more centralisation. This is because the states have given up their taxing powers (to collect VAT). In exchange, the Centre has given up its taxing power of excise and service taxes. Henceforth, all indirect tax policy and rates will be decided by the national body – the GST Council. But in this Council, the Centre has more powers.

While the unified, one nation one tax has advantages like creation of a seamless national economic market, it does imply lower



Ajit Ranade

**THE EBB AND FLOW IN THE CENTRE-STATE TIDES OF RELATIONSHIP IS A SIGN OF A ROBUST FEDERAL DEMOCRACY**

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THE MOTHER

## Voter Is King

The poll process in Karnataka is, most likely, making everyone involved bite their nails now. The talk that it is heading for a hung assembly may not be correct. Campaigning is winding up and the heat and pressure are increasing. Recent examples of state elections have proven that voters, when and if they desire a change or put forth their views through the ballot box, are unequivocal. The Voter is definitely The King. And (s)he is behaving in that manner too. If they want something, they are demanding it clearly, loudly and in one voice.

The Congress, that seemed invincible at the very start, is less optimistic at about the close of the campaign a day hence, while at the same time it is proving to be no cakewalk for the main rival, the BJP. The Janata Dal (S) of Deve Gowda and son Kumaraswamy is likely to emerge as the dark horse in the event of the two principal parties failing to muster a majority. On the surface, there is no anti-incumbency factor at play, but chances are that the ruling Congress headed by Siddaramaiah may not be altogether impervious to it.

The final phase of the campaign saw the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Damodardas Modi, but Karnataka is neither Gujarat nor Uttar Pradesh. The South has its local satraps who are mostly not only well-entrenched in each of the five states and even the Union Territory of Pondicherry, but also the perception about the new BJP, and especially Modi, being a North Indian Hindi biased party is not going down well in this part of the country thereby leaving less room for outsiders to come in and sway public mood. All the same, the BJP has ruled over Karnataka in the past.

Modi may have a fan-following in Karnataka but apparently not enough to swing the chances prominently to his side by his rhetoric. Large parts of Karnataka cannot understand, assimilate or accept Hindi, and this too might stand in the way of the PM's campaign blitzkrieg. An exception in the past was the Nehru family that had a reach cutting across boundaries; that might still be partially true of Rahul or Sonia Gandhi.

Caste and community interests play a dominant role in Karnataka politics. Siddaramaiah has taken full advantage of this proposition by actions aimed at directly appealing to his Kuruba and other backward community interests during his five-year-rule. This may have a great impact considering that the backward castes form an overwhelming majority of the voters. There however is no guarantee that in the event of the Congress returning to power on its own or in an alliance with the JDS, Siddaramaiah can return as CM. Rumors are that he would be made to bite the dust in one of the two constituencies he is contesting or he might even be humbled in both.

The socially powerful Lingayats are somewhat solidly with the BJP, but they form no more than 12 per cent of the population and cannot do much to ensure victory of their leader BS Yeddyurappa or his party. Somewhat similar is the situation for Vokkaliga-backed Deve Gowda and his son HD Kumaraswamy. Each of the three contending forces claims it will sweep the polls. To the Congress' advantage is also the strong support of the minorities specifically to defeat the BJP. Moslems are numerically strong in the coastal belts and Christians in the southern districts. BJP's efforts during the campaign, therefore, was to force a Hindu consolidation against the Congress; reason why PM Modi has raised the issue of the state government finding virtue in Tipu Sultan, or of his special reference to the surgical strikes which makes him look like he has nothing more to take credit for.

The BJP has made abundant display of money power in the polls, and it might be at play even after the results are out in the form of horse-trading in the event of a hung assembly. The Congress, the corrupt practices of the past notwithstanding, has been of no match to the BJP when it came to spending money and organising the campaign in energetic ways. A land-force of over 50,000 trained volunteers anchoring their works at booth levels across the state might help the BJP strongly push its case. A silent job is what the JD-S does, and it is still bound to have a crop of seats. The more seats it wins, the chances of a defeat for the Congress and the BJP increase. The failure on the part of PM Modi and CM Siddaramaiah to create a wave in this polls is perhaps guarantee to the fact that the voter is no more swayed by flags and festoons any more. They know what they want. The media pundits, psephological experts and great political wizards are the ones who are bound to bite the dust. The Voter is obviously the only King.

**Piate**  
Tathagata Satpathy

### WISDOM CORNER

- “The person who says it cannot be done should not interrupt the person who is doing it.” **CHINESE PROVERB**
- “There are no traffic jams along the extra mile.” **ROGER STAUBACH**
- “It is never too late to be what you might have been.” **GEORGE ELIOT**

### WORDSWORTH

#### Copacetic

It's possible that this word – meaning that something is in excellent order or satisfactory – has created more column inches of speculation in the USA than any other apart from OK. It's rare to the point of invisibility outside North America. People mostly become aware of it in the sixties as a result of the US space programme. But even in the USA it doesn't have the circulation it did 30 years ago. Dictionaries are cautious about attributing a source for it, reasonably so, as there are at least five competing explanations, with no very good evidence for any of them. One suggestion that's commonly put forward is that it was originally a word of the African-American community in the USA. The name of Bill “Bojangles” Robinson, a famous black tap-dancer, singer and actor of the period round the turn of the 20th century is commonly linked to this belief about its origin. Indeed, he claimed to have invented it as a shoeshine boy in Richmond. But other blacks, especially Southerners, said later that they had heard it earlier than Robinson's day. But he certainly did a lot to popularise the word.

#### Crimping

We all think we know what crimping means, but the usual idea of compressing something into small folds has nothing to do with this process – or at least so far as we know, since it is of uncertain origin. Crimping means impressing men into the army, navy or merchant marine. It was like press-ganging, but done on a freelance basis by men acting as agents or go-betweens. That reflects the relevant sense of crimp for a man who crimped. It's recorded from around the middle of the 18th century.

#### Muliebrious

This rare word – meaning effeminate – can be found in S M Stirling's book *The Sky People*, though he spells it slightly differently: “The muliebrous features could have been man or woman or creature from the stories his grandmother had told.” His spelling has been used by others but mine is that in the Oxford English Dictionary, which has just one example, from 1652. It's not quite that rare, though one has to search around for instances. Its companion adjective is muliebral, characteristic of women or womanhood, which lacks the other's negative implications. Both derive from the classical Latin ‘muliebris’, womanly, which is from ‘mulier’, a woman. The latter is also the source of the even rarer and long obsolete legal term mulier that describes a child born in wedlock and so legitimate, and of the rather more common muliebrity, womanhood or femininity.

### SPECTRUM KASHMIR

# Death of a Kashmiri professor

He had a doctoral degree, a contractual job in the university and a bright future ahead in academics. He was married to a girl barely 20 years of age and was respected as a teacher. “Soft spoken, humble and always ready to help,” was how he was described by his students in the department of sociology who said he never missed a class during his 18-month stint in the college.

So how does a man like him go over to the dark side? That's the question that sociologists and politicians in Jammu and Kashmir are grappling with. The death of 33-year-old assistant professor Muhammad Rafi Bhat in a gunfight between holed-up militants and security forces in Shopian district in Jammu and Kashmir Sunday defies logic.

Kashmir has seen any number of local youth being swayed by the cycle of violence. “But this is the case of a social scientist who is supposed to fully understand the dynamics of the society he lives in,” said a sociologist who did not want to be named.

When something like this hap-



pens, it points to something seriously wrong with the society that we live in, the sociologist added. Bhat came from a poor family in north Kashmir's Chunduna village and going through his studies and getting a doctorate did not come easy to him. He served as a Class IV employee in the state's Sheep Development Department to collect money for the books and journals he needed to complete his doctoral research.

Some 18 years ago he had made an attempt to join the militants, but was prevented by the security forces from doing so. That must have been when he was a

Kashmir has seen any number of local youth being swayed by the cycle of violence. But this is the case of a social scientist who is supposed to fully understand the dynamics of the society he lives in. When something like this happens, it points to something seriously wrong with the society we live in

struggling teenager without too much of a direction in life. But what made him re-visit the folly of his younger days?

“A social scientist is the doctor to whom you take students and others to rationalise societal strains so that logical explanations are found to keep society in good health,” says Naeem Akhtar, senior ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP) leader and minister: “Yet, if such a man chooses to end his life the way Bhat did, “we all need to understand where we are headed”, he added.

Bhat disappeared last Friday and was killed within less than two days of joining the militant ranks.

Just a few days before going over he had sold his car. In his last phone call to his mother

Friday afternoon, he told her he would be home and also asked her if she needed anything from the city. He also told her not to worry if he reached home late.

The last call he made was to his father when the gunfight was raging in the Badigam village of Shopian district where he was trapped inside with Hizbul commander Sadam Paddar and three other militants.

“Forgive me if I have hurt you. I am going to meet Allah,” he said and the conversation between Bhat and his father ended.

His death has brought Kashmir face to face with a reality which is both intriguing and worrying. No easy answers seem to be coming forth.

## Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

#### 'Freak' storm

Sir: Nature's fury has no real boundary and from earthquakes to tornadoes it can set in a host of disasters. The dust storm and thunderstorm that took six states of India unawares May 2, typifies the wrath of nature. Though not an uncommon pre-monsoon event, the scale of the storm numbed the people and scientists though some weather experts have termed the storm a “freak happening”. In a dust and thunderstorm, loose sands and dirt from the dry earth surface were plucked by the speedy winds and carried hundreds of miles away. The downburst causes dust particles to vibrate and leap to hit the ground repeatedly and then rebound to form a suspension merging with the atmosphere to follow with a thunderstorm. All along, heightened moisture, surge in temperature and an unstable atmosphere accompany the wind. Most of India is sizzling but the regions that were hit are simmering with temperatures hovering around 45 degrees Celsius. Hot temperature moves the dust upward. The easterly wind from the Bay of Bengal looks to have brought in the moisture; in the absence of moisture, dust storm can wither out and fail to cause a thunderstorm. Apparently, exposed sands need to be available for winds to become dust storms. Dry land farming, drought and deforestation often lead to desertification laying bare the sand and dust. That said, many states had put in some preventive mechanism anticipating the worst though the trail of destruction left by the storm was unmitigated. That the disaster occurred at night could have reduced the number of casualties as many were indoors but it also reduced visibility through power outages.

Ganapathi Bhat, EMAIL

#### Vehicular pollution

Sir: There has been a sharp increase in the number of vehicles running on roads in Bhubaneswar. In order to achieve a better lifestyle, people buy more cars than they require. It is a matter of social stature these days. Nobody spares a thought to the consequences of their actions on the environment. Roads cannot accommodate the growing number of vehicles and that is the reason why it takes an hour or so to reach places that earlier we could easily reach in about 20-30 minutes because of heavy traffic. Government authorities should implement laws like “buy car if you have parking space” which will help in reducing air pollution. Also, frequent use of public transport should be encouraged. Government authorities must see that public transportation is properly maintained and are decent enough for people to use daily.

K Ravi, BHUBANESWAR





For the first time after Independence, the ministry will construct schools, colleges, ITIs, skill development centres, multi-purpose community centres, hunar (skill) hubs, hospitals, business centres, etc., on waqf properties across the country under the PMJVK, which will be a game-changer

MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI | UNION MINISTER

## NO PAPER ADMIT CARD FOR CIVIL SERVICES PRELIMS THIS YEAR

Candidates appearing for the preliminary examination of the civil services June 3 will not be issued a physical copy of their admit card but will have to download it and carry a printout with them, the UPSC said Monday



### of the day quote

An announcement on an alliance between the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) in Uttar Pradesh will be made once the two parties figure out a seat sharing arrangement

MAYAWATI | BSP SUPREMO



The tragedy in which five civilians were killed is very painful. I appeal to Government of the country (Centre) to find a way for ending this bloodshed

MEHBOOBA MUFTI | J&K CM



Before coming to power four years ago, it (BJP) had promised that ₹15 lakh will be deposited in everyone's bank account. The government has even failed to release the list of black money holders

MANIK SARKAR | FORMER TRIPURA CM



### SHORT TAKES

#### 19 schoolchildren injured in collision

**Jaipur:** Nineteen students of a private school were injured when their school bus was hit by another bus on the Jaipur-Delhi National Highway Monday morning, police said. The school bus overturned after the collision, leaving 19 students, both boys and girls, injured. Sub inspector of Kotputali Police Station Rajesh Kumar said. He said the children have been admitted to a local hospital.

#### BSF trooper kills self in Kashmir

**Srinagar:** A Border Security Force (BSF) trooper shot himself dead in Humhama area of Jammu and Kashmir's Badgam district. Police said Awdish Singh, who was a driver constable in BSF's 82 battalion, took the extreme step Sunday evening. "He was shifted to a hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. Investigation is on to know the reasons why he did this," a police officer said.

#### Train hits cement pole, disaster averted

**Lucknow:** A disaster was averted Monday when the driver of a train in Uttar Pradesh applied emergency brakes after bumping into a cement pole lying on the tracks, officials said. The incident took place between Fatehpur and Kurasti Kalan railway stations around 3.15 a.m. when the Poorva Express was passing, the officials said. The four-foot pole was later sent to Allahabad for inspection. An official said the object could have derailed the train.

#### Brawl over songs ends in murder

**New Delhi:** A 30-year-old gym owner, partying with friends, was stabbed to death and his female friend hit on the head with a beer bottle allegedly by a disc jockey after a quarrel over their persistent demand to play only Punjabi songs at a night club here, police said Monday. The accused was arrested Monday from Sant Nagar in Burari when he was trying to escape to his native place in Uttarakhand. The knife used in the crime was recovered from his possession, police said. The incident occurred around midnight when Vijaydeep Singh was celebrating with nine friends at the 'Rafatar' Bar in Punjabi Bagh in west Delhi. They were celebrating common friend Ishmeet's birthday party.

#### Tourist succumbs in Srinagar hospital

**Srinagar:** A tourist from Chennai, injured in stone pelt on Srinagar-Gulmarg road Monday, succumbed to critical injuries in a hospital here, police said. The tourist, identified as R. Thirumani, 22, son of Rajwali, of Chennai was injured when stone pelters attacked a tourist vehicle in Narbal area on Srinagar-Gulmarg road. "He was shifted to Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura here but succumbed to critical injuries this evening," a police source said.

## SC TRANSFERS KATHUA CASE TO PATHANKOT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 7:** The Supreme Court Monday ordered that the trial in the sensational gangrape and murder of an eight-year-old girl in Kathua be shifted out of Jammu and Kashmir to neighbouring Punjab, holding fair trial was "sacrosanct" and cannot be allowed to "co-exist" with fear.

Directing day-to-day "in-camera" trial, the apex court asked the district and sessions judge at Pathankot to personally under-

take the trial proceedings. The order came on a petition by the victim's father seeking transfer of the case to Chandigarh on the ground that the family was receiving death threats and that they feared for their lives.

Vacating the stay granted by the top court on the trial in Kathua, a bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra refrained from handing over the probe to the CBI and directed that the trial be fast-tracked to ensure there was no delay as the investigation has been con-

ducted and charge sheet filed.

The state police's Crime Branch, which probed the case, has filed the main charge sheet against seven persons and a separate charge sheet against a juvenile in a court in Kathua district last week. The apex court bench, also comprising Justices D Y Chandrachud and Indu Malhotra, allowed the J and K government to appoint a special public prosecutor (SPP) to conduct the trial and ordered continuation of security provided to the victim's family members, a family friend and

the lawyer representing them.

The top court also said that the trial would be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Rambr Penal Code, which is applicable in J and K, and asked the state to get statements of witnesses and records of the case translated from Urdu to English.

The victim, who belonged to a minority nomadic community, had disappeared from near her home in a village close to Kathua in the Jammu region on January 10. Her body was found in the same area

a week later. The girl's father welcomed the Court decision and said he has full faith in the judiciary.

"We only want justice... I have full faith in the judiciary and the government," the father said in Jammu over phone from Ramban district where he is camping along with other members of his family. J&K Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti said the court decision would boost the morale of the state police, which, she said had left "no stone unturned" to ensure that the victim's family gets justice.

## MORE STORMS TILL MAY 11

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, May 7:** The weather office here Monday warned that thunderstorms, squalls and gusty winds are likely to hit many parts of India, including Delhi, till Friday even as the mountains of Himachal Pradesh received fresh snowfall.

In a weather warning bulletin, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said the states likely to be affected by thunderstorms and gusty winds are Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Sikkim, Odisha, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Karnataka and Kerala.

Thunderstorms and squalls are "very, very likely at isolated places in Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi", the weather office said. It also warned of dust storm in Rajasthan while heavy rain is expected in six northeast states. The bulletin also warned of heat wave conditions in "one or two pockets in Vidarbha" in Maharashtra.

## Normal life comes to standstill in Kashmir

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Srinagar, May 7:** Normal life came to a standstill in Kashmir Monday on a call for shutdown by separatists to protest the deaths of five civilians near an encounter site in Shopian district Sunday.

Joint Resistance Leadership (JRL), an amalgam of separatist

Schools, colleges and other educational institutions have been closed as a precautionary measure to prevent any law and order situation, officials said



Schools, colleges and other educational institutions have been closed as a precautionary measure to prevent any law and order situation, officials said. The Kashmir University has cancelled all academic activity for two days and postponed the exams scheduled to be held today.

Shops and other business establishments remained closed while public transport remained off the roads due to the strike call. The authorities have imposed restrictions on the movement of people in seven police station areas of the city -- Maharajgunj, Rainawari, Khanyar, Nowhtatta, Safa Kadal, Maisuma and Kralakhud -- as a precautionary measure. Restrictions have also been imposed in Pulwama and Shopian districts of south Kashmir while security forces have been deployed in strength across the Valley for maintaining law and order, a police official said. The official said the situation across the Valley is peaceful so far. Train services from Banihal to Baramulla have been suspended while Internet services in mobile devices continued to remain suspended for the third day Monday.

groups, spearheaded by Syed Ali Shah Geelani, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Mohammad Yasin Malik, called for a complete strike to protest against the deaths of the civilians during clashes with security forces following an encounter in which five militants, including an assistant professor from the Kashmir University, were killed.

The separatists have called for a sit-in against the deaths outside the Civil Secretariat, which opened Monday as part of the traditional Darbar Move practice, here. While Geelani and Mirwaiz have been placed under house arrest, Malik has been taken into preventive custody since Saturday

## Stung by barbs, K'taka CM sends legal notice

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bangalore, May 7:** Stung by a volley of barbs against him by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP chief Amit Shah over alleged corruption, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah Monday sent legal notices to them warning he would file criminal and civil defamation cases.

Taking his running battle against Modi to a new level, Siddaramaiah also sent a notice to the BJP's chief ministerial candidate B S Yeddyurappa, whom the Congress has repeatedly accused of corruption. The notice asked them to tender unconditional apology or face a defamation suit for ₹100 crore.

Modi has repeatedly attacked Siddaramaiah over alleged corruption, calling his government "seedha rupaiya sarkar" (government that takes bribe for every work) and "10 per cent commission government."

During his campaign blitz, Modi has also alleged that while his government talked about ease of doing business, Siddaramaiah government was facilitating "ease of doing murders", referring to the killing of Hindu activists.

In his notices, Siddaramaiah has sought 'unconditional public apology' immediately from the prime minister and others through electronic, print and social media failing which they would face legal action.

In his notices sent through his lawyer and Congress MLC, V S

Taking his running battle against Modi to a new level, Siddaramaiah also sent a notice to the BJP's chief ministerial candidate Yeddyurappa, whom the Congress has repeatedly accused of corruption



ffects his party viz the Indian National Congress," the notice said.

Ugrappa, Siddaramaiah said all the parties had jointly and severally committed libel and offences punishable under various IPC sections. "You are called upon to cease and desist from making such statements forthwith and give an unconditional public apology immediately through electronic, print and social media in which the statements and advertisements have appeared," Ugrappa said in the notice released to the media.

"In the event you fail to do so, please note that you have rendered yourself liable to civil and criminal action and payment of exemplary damages of ₹100 crore," it said. Ugrappa said his client (Siddaramaiah), whose political career spanned 50 years, has always maintained personal and political integrity and honesty.

"Any imputation of irregular dealings and dishonesty not only affects my client's reputation in the eyes of public and his peers but also adversely af-

## SC orders cops to protect woman

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 7:** The Supreme Court Monday came to the rescue of a Karnataka politician's 26-year-old daughter, who has been married off by her family allegedly without her consent, and asked the state police to provide her security, after she claimed there was a threat to her life from her kin.

The woman, a computer engineer who was named Ms 'X' in the plea, appeared before a bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra and submitted that her marriage be set aside as she did not consent to it and that she be granted protection as she wanted to pursue further studies and job in Bengaluru.

The bench, also comprising justices A M Khanwilkar and D



Y Chandrachud, said that it has already made clear that it will not deal with the constitutionality of the provisions of the Hindu Marriage Act and validity of her "forced marriage".

The bench, however, considered the plea of woman for grant of security and asked the Karnataka police to provide it to her at Bengaluru where she

would be residing for work and further studies. "You (woman) are a major. You are independent to go wherever you want to go," the bench said, adding that nobody, including her family members and the husband, can force or coerce her.

It considered the submissions of senior advocate Indra Jaising, appearing for the woman, who had requested that the her identity and that of her family not be disclosed, that her parents be asked to give back the documents like educational certificates, Aadhaar card and passport.

Jaising, who initially sought setting aside of marriage on the grounds of lack of consent, later said that the woman would be pursuing the remedy for dissolution of marriage at an appropriate forum.

### WOONG VOTERS



Congress president Rahul Gandhi takes a bullock cart ride during his roadshow at Malur in Kolar district, Monday

## BJP to walk extra mile for Kairana, Noorpur victory

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Lucknow, May 7:** The BJP will walk the extra mile to retain both Kairana Lok Sabha and Noorpur Assembly seats to send a message to voters, cadres as well as the opposition that the drubbing in the Gorakhpur and Phulpur bypolls was a thing of the past, a party leader said Monday.

"We have pulled up our socks. We will go the extra mile to ensure victory of our candidates. The confusion arising out of opposition's political manipulations will lead to its defeat and the BJP will emerge victorious with people's support," state BJP general secretary Vijay Bahadur Pathak, in

charge of party affairs in western Uttar Pradesh, said.

Both the bypolls later this month are crucial for the ruling BJP as well as opposition parties as they may set the tone for the 2019 parliamentary elections. Opposition parties, especially the Samajwadi Party, Rashtriya Lok Dal and the Congress, are perceiving this as another opportunity to send a signal to the voters that the saffron fortress had been breached.

RLD has fielded Tabassum Begam, who is likely to emerge as a joint candidate of the opposition, to take on the BJP in Kairana. A former BSP MP from Kairana, Begum (47), who later joined the



SP is a popular face in the Jat-dominated constituency, around 100

kilometers from New Delhi. Drumming up support for the

BJP in Kairana, UP minister Suresh Rana today claimed that people in Kairana are experiencing an "atmosphere of peace" thanks to the improvement in the law and order situation after Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath assumed office.

"The biggest problem, which areas like Kairana and Noorpur witnessed in the last 15 years, was law and order. Girls had stopped going to the schools. Everyday instances of molestation, rape, extortion and other crimes were reported. And owing to these, there was an exodus of people in large number from Kairana," Rana said.

The main reason for the exodus was the patronage provided by the then government to the criminal elements, he claimed. "However, I would like to congratulate the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh, which, in a span of 13 months was able to provide an atmosphere of peace to Kairana which was facing exodus due to the activities of criminals," Rana said.

The minister said that some families which had fled Kairana had come back and some, which had businesses in the area, have expressed a desire to return. Citing an example, the UP minister claimed that today even at 2 AM people can roam around freely without having the slightest worry of being attacked by any criminal.

# glitterati



TWEET SPOT >>

**Ketaki Mategaonkar** | Black is the most slimming and simple of all colors, but Black is the most flattering because simplicity is the ultimate form of sophistication



**Sapna Chaudhary** | I always happy to see my fan's



**Divya Khosla Kumar** | We try to hide our feelings, but we forget that our eyes speak



## STORIES TOP

### WILLIAMS SUFFERED FROM DEMENTIA IN HIS FINAL DAYS

**Los Angeles:** A new book has claimed that late actor Robin Williams struggled to remember his lines as he unknowingly suffered from a brain disorder. According to the New York Post, Dave Itzkoff's new biography "Robin" seeks to answer the lingering puzzle over Williams' chaotic life and sudden death, reports [dailymail.co.uk](http://dailymail.co.uk). It reveals his final days from the eyes of some of his closest family and friends and admirers in Hollywood. According to the book, while the Oscar-winning actor was filming "Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb", the third movie in the franchise, he was unable to remember his lines.



### MARTIN FREEMAN JOINS SPY THRILLER THE OPERATIVE

**Los Angeles:** Actor Martin Freeman is set to star opposite Diane Kruger in The Operative, an international espionage thriller. The film is written and is being directed by Yuval Adler. Freeman will play Thomas, a former handler to Kruger's character Rachel, recruited by Israeli intelligence agency Mossad to go undercover in Tehran, reports [hollywoodreporter.com](http://hollywoodreporter.com). The Operative was adapted from the Israeli book "The English Teacher", written by former Israeli intelligence officer Yiftach Reicher Atir and based on real-life stories of Mossad operatives.



### FRIENDSHIP WITH TATUM WILL NEVER CHANGE, SAYS DEWAN

**Los Angeles:** Actress Jenna Dewan says she and her former husband Channing Tatum have been "great friends", and that will never change despite their split. In an interview to Vegas magazine, Dewan has opened up about her split from Tatum after almost nine years of marriage, reported [elle.com](http://elle.com). "We started out as friends, and I would say it was an instant recognition. When we met (on the set of 'Step Up' in 2005), it felt like we had known each other for many years. Ultimately, no matter what Chan and I are doing, we're really great friends. I think that will never change, no matter what," Dewan said.



### ADELE CELEBRATES 'DIRTY 30' WITH TITANIC-THEMED PARTY

**Los Angeles:** Singer Adele celebrated her 30th birthday in style with a Titanic-themed party that she described as "the best night of my life". Adele, who turned 30 May 5, shared three photographs on her Instagram page. She was dressed in a glittering gown with her hair curled into tight ringlets, reminiscent of actress Kate Winslet's character Rose in the epic 1997 romance-disaster film, reports [billboard.com](http://billboard.com). "Dirty 30! I'm not sure what I'm going to do for the next 30 years as I've been blessed beyond words in my life so far," Adele wrote with the post.



### SYLVESTER STALLONE TO MAKE RAMBO 5

**Los Angeles:** Hollywood star Sylvester Stallone is working on the fifth installment of Rambo. The 71-year-old actor first played the Vietnam veteran in 1982. He is said to be working on a script for the new movie with his Expendables collaborator Avi Lerner on board as a producer, reports [deadline.com](http://deadline.com). Lerner's Millennium Films is launching sales on the project in Cannes with a tentative shoot date set for September of this year.



## Hina temporarily overcame her addiction



**New Delhi:** Actress Hina Khan says people, including her, are addicted to phones, but she was able to "temporarily" overcome her addiction during her stay in the Bigg Boss house. Hina was locked in the Bigg Boss house in the last quarter of 2017 and emerged as the first runner-up of the Salman Khan hosted show "Bigg Boss" in January this year. "Technology is a boon and has made the entire world a smaller place. I think we are all addicted to our phones, and social media has made the addiction worse. But yes, I survived for over three months inside the (Bigg Boss) house without a phone. Hence, I feel it's an addiction that I was able to overcome even though it was temporary," Hina said.

Her love for technology doesn't end with phones. She will soon make her debut in the digital space with a short film titled "SmartPhone".

"It's a simple film in which I am playing a village girl. But that's the catch. You will get to see what a village girl can do." She also has some kind words for her co-star Kunal Roy Kapur.

"He is very funny and a cooperative actor. He loves food. I am a complete foodie. So, we kind of connected on the first day of shooting. We ordered pasta in the evening and ate it all. It was a pleasure working with him," said Hina.

Before all this, she was known to the audience as Akshara of the long-running TV show "Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata".

"I knew that I wouldn't be doing the show forever. 'Yeh Rishta...' gave me my biggest break and I only expected to keep working hard after that. The results of hard work can't be predicted," she said.

IANS

## 'Ranbir, Varun good for Ram Lakhani remake'

**Mumbai:** Filmmaker Subhash Ghai says there are many good actors today, like Ranbir Kapoor and Varun Dhawan, who can take star in the remake of his 1989 film "Ram Lakhani".

Rohit Shetty was earlier supposed to helm the "Ram Lakhani" remake, to be produced by Karan Johar. It has been currently put on hold. Shetty had said young stars were insecure to do a two-hero film and most of them wanted to play the flamboyant Lakhani (essayed by Anil Kapoor) than portray the righteous Ram (played by Jackie Shroff). Asked about the delay in the remake, Ghai said every-

one has their reasons as each one wants to put their best foot forward.

"Anyone who wants to remake, has to make it better than the original. Karan Johar, Rohit Shetty are responsible people and are counted as among great directors of today. They're taking their time. I'm happy. I know whenever they'll make the film, they'll make it well," Ghai told reporters at the re-premiere of "Ram Lakhani" here Sunday evening.

He said the plot of the film is such that even if Shetty remakes it with a fresh cast, it will become a hit. "If Rohit Shetty makes 'Ram Lakhani' with newcomers,

even then it'll run. When I had started 'Ram Lakhani', both these actors (Shroff, Kapoor) were coming from five flops each. But I took them because in this film, characters are stronger than the stars," he said.

Asked who among the younger stars he thinks can feature in the modern take of "Ram Lakhani", Ghai said, "There are many brilliant actors today. Ranbir Kapoor is a great. Varun Dhawan is a great actor. There are so many who are good."



## KHER WANTS TO DO BETTER INTERNATIONALLY

**Mumbai:** Veteran actor Anupam Kher says whenever he takes up an international film or series, he feels a sense of responsibility about representing India. So while he says he focuses on "good work" in India, he wants to do "better" outside.

The actor, 65, Sunday had tweeted that he was travelling to Belfast, Ireland for the shoot of Mrs Wilson.

In an accompanying video, he said: "Have reached London and from here I got to Belfast for a series for BBC titled 'Mrs Wilson'. It is a good role. Whenever I work for an international series or movie, then from within I feel I am representing India and I have to give my best. I have to do good work in India but outside, I want to do better."

Anupam further wrote: "Whenever I am doing an international film or series, in my mind I feel I am officially representing my country and I have to give my best. I get a sense of extra responsibility. Desh ki bhi izzat ka sawaal hota hai (it's a matter of my country's prestige too)! Looking forward to a great experience. 515th project."

The Indian actor, who has earlier featured in a slew of foreign projects, will also be seen in an upcoming series titled "New Amsterdam", a medical drama.

Besides this, he has been nominated for the Virgin TV British Academy Television Awards in 2018 for his work in the adaptation of Satnam Sanghera's memoir The Boy with the Topknot, a TV movie.

"I have been nominated for Bafta on May 13 for the film 'Boy With The Top Knot'. please pray for that. I will be happy if we win, but if not then I would be happy with the nominations only," Anupam urged his fans via his video.



## CINE BITS

### Ranveer Singh to lend voice for Deadpool in Hindi

**Mumbai:** Actor Ranveer Singh will be the voice of superhero Deadpool in the Hindi version of the much-awaited film's sequel. The Fox Star Studios movie, which features Ryan Reynolds in the titular role, is set to hit the screens in India May 18.



The film and the Hindi Deadpool aka Wade Wilson possesses a superhero healing power derived from that of the mutant Wolverine that allows him to regenerate damaged or destroyed areas of his cellular structure at a rate far greater than that of an ordinary human. David Leitch has directed Deadpool 2.

### Sara Khan to share screen space with sister

**Mumbai:** Actress Sara Khan and her sister Ayra Khan will work together in a show titled "Bitchy Bee".



"I'm going make my debut with my sister Sara. What more can be lucky for me? I'm enjoying working with my sister for her show. The show will release soon and hopefully people will love us. The most exciting part about it is that we are going to play ourselves," Ayra said in a statement. Sara finds working with her sibling fun.

### I was scared of working with Rahul Roy: Muskan

**Mumbai:** Actress Muskan Sethi, who made her acting debut with the 2017 Telugu film "Paisa Vasool", is set to feature in her first Bollywood movie with Rahul Roy. She says she was initially "scared" of working with the "Junoon" actor.

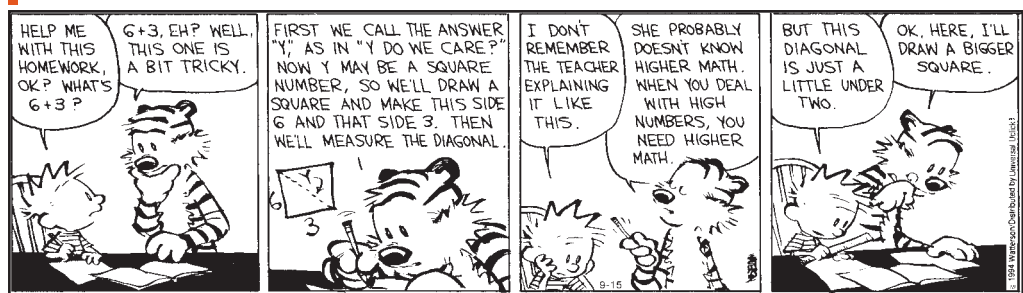


The upcoming film titled "Sayonme" will also feature actress Upasana Singh and actor Yograj Singh. "It has a stellar cast and it feels good to be a part of such a film. I have grown up watching 'Aashiqui' but I was also scared of working with Rahul Roy since as a child, 'Junoon' gave me the chills. Working with him was a great experience and I got to learn a lot... not only from him but also from Yograj Sir," Muskan said in a statement. The film has been shot in Russia.

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

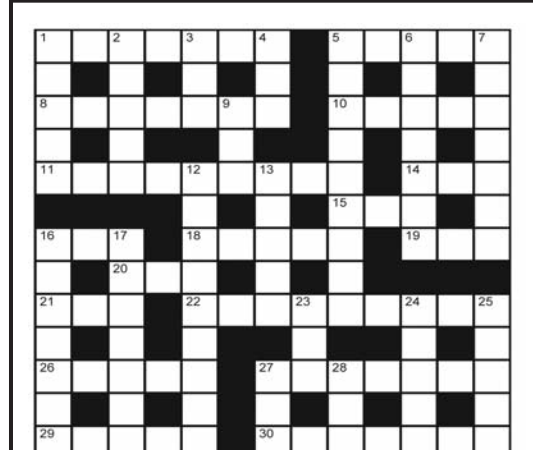


### BREVITY



## FUN POST

### CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 The sound of music?
  - 5 Capital of East Flanders
  - 8 Hanging Gardens site
  - 10 Lay to rest
  - 11 Method
  - 14 Female sheep
  - 15 High spirits
  - 16 Open carriage
  - 18 Forest clearing
  - 19 German resort
  - 20 Arena shout
  - 21 Bearded antelope
  - 22 Vacation destination (5,4)
  - 26 Leg bone
  - 27 Faux pas
  - 29 Narrow ridge
  - 30 Venice transport
  - 4 Strong desire
  - 5 King Arthur's bride
  - 6 Radical
  - 7 Objectives
  - 9 Sapporo sash
  - 12 Sleep interrupter
  - 13 Earth tremor
  - 16 Sports meeting
  - 17 Complain
  - 23 Bag thickness
  - 24 Part of a TV feed
  - 25 Destiny
  - 27 Annoy
  - 28 Samovar

### SUDOKU

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

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

### SOLUTIONS

**CROSSWORD**

BLITZ ARMS DUD  
IDOLIPEREA  
GROWNUPINFER  
AUTPRINCE  
PORTAUPRINCE  
PPOTITG  
LITP AWN OWE  
ERREEREM  
ROLLERSKATES  
YPUAAT  
APHIDSOPRANO  
REHEITERN  
NET DAVIS CLARK

**SUDOKU**

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



India is a Republic governed by a Constitution and neither Khattar nor anyone else has the right to dictate where people should or should not hold prayers  
AMARINDER SINGH | PUNJAB CM

UNSEASONAL SNOWFALL IN JK

The high-altitude areas of Chenab valley in Jammu and Kashmir experienced unseasonal snowfall Monday, engulfing the region in wintry conditions. The snowfall started in the higher reaches of Chenab region Monday morning, officials said. The snowfall followed torrential rains



of the day quote

While we speak about unemployment, there is no data to identify the particular category of unemployment. We also don't have the data about the manpower at our disposal or the available vacancies in the state  
ROHAN KHAUNTE | GOA MINISTER

We have pulled up our socks. We will go the extra mile to ensure victory of our candidates. The confusion arising out of opposition's political manipulations will lead to its defeat and the BJP will emerge victorious with people's support  
VIJAY BHADUR PATHAK | UP BJP GENERAL SECRETARY

Such a growth trajectory has never been witnessed since the inception of the state  
PEMA KHANDU | CM ARUNACHAL PRADESH

SC strikes down law allowing ex-UP CMs to retain govt bungalows

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 7: Former Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh cannot retain government accommodation after demitting office, the Supreme Court held Monday, saying a Chief Minister was at par with a common man once his or her term ends. Observing that a Chief Minister cannot continue to occupy public property like government bungalows which belong to people of the country, a bench headed by Justice Ranjan Gogoi struck down an amendment in a state legislation allowing them to retain government accommodation even after demitting office.

The bench said the provision, which was struck down, has the effect of creating a separate class of citizens for conferment of benefits by way of distribution of public property on the basis of the previous public office held by them. "Natural resources, public lands and the public goods like government bungalows/ official residence are public property that belongs to the people of the country. The 'Doctrine of Equality' which emerges from the concepts of justice, fairness must guide the State in the distribution/allocation of the same," the bench, which also comprised Justice R Banumathi said.

"The Chief Minister, once he/she demits the office, is at par with the common citizen, though by virtue of the office held, he/she may be entitled to security and other protocols. But allotment of government bungalow, to be occupied during his/her lifetime, would not be guided by the constitutional principle of equality," the bench observed. The top court was hearing a petition filed by an NGO Lok Prahari challenging the amendments made by the erstwhile Akhilesh Yadav government to the UP Ministers (Salaries, Allowances and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1981. The court, in its 29-page order, said once such persons demit public office held by them, there is nothing to distinguish them from the common man.



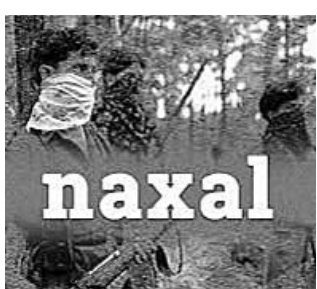
The apex court also said it was a legislative exercise based on irrelevant and legally unacceptable considerations, unsupported by any constitutional sanctity. "The public office held by them becomes a matter of history and, therefore, cannot form the basis of a reasonable classification to categorise previous holders of public office as a special category of persons entitled to the benefit of special privileges. The test of reasonable classification, therefore, has to fail," the bench said. The apex court also said in a democratic republican government, public servants, entrusted with duties of public nature, must act in a manner that reflects that the ultimate authority is vested in the citizens and it is to the citizens, that the holders of all public offices are eventually accountable. "Such a situation would only be possible within a framework of equality and when all privileges, rights and benefits conferred on

holders of public office are reasonable, rational and proportionate," the bench said. The Uttar Pradesh government said the writ petition filed under Article 32 of the Constitution was not a direct infringement of the fundamental rights of the petitioner. The apex court did not accept the submission that the power to issue writ (direction) should only be exercised in cases relating to violation of fundamental rights of citizens and said that after the advent of PIL jurisdiction, the court can deal with a plethora of issues concerning common citizens. The court had April 19 reserved its verdict in the matter.

MULTI-DISCIPLINARY GROUP TO CHOKE NAXAL FUNDS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 7: Government has set up a multi-disciplinary group to initiate action to choke funding sources of Naxals and to seize assets of their leaders, officials said Monday. The group comprises officers from various central agencies and the state police departments, a home ministry official said.



It is headed by an additional secretary and has representatives from the Intelligence Bureau, Enforcement Directorate, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, NIA and the CBDT (Central Board of Direct Taxes) and the CBI, as also state intelligence departments and CID, the official added. The home ministry has also initiated the process for creating a separate vertical in the NIA (National Intelligence Agency) for investigating important cases pertaining to the Left Wing Extremism (LWE). The move follows information about a large part of extortion money allegedly collected by Naxals getting diverted towards personal wealth of their leaders, the officials said. It has been often alleged that the Naxal leaders' children avail best of education and their families live in comfort, while they mislead cadres toiling away in jungles. According to officials, the LWE movement in the country is financed through a large network of dubious activities, which include illegal levy collected from private contractors including those involved in execution of government works and schemes, mining contractors, transporters and owners of small and medium industries. Similarly, funds are said to be

garnered through collections from illegal stone crushing and distribution of Naxal ideology papers. Investigations have revealed that one Pradyuman Sharma, member of Bihar-Jharkhand special area committee of the CPI (Maoists) paid ₹22 lakh towards fees for admission of his niece in a private medical college last year. Another member of the CPI (Maoists), Sandeep Yadav, gave ₹15 lakh for exchange during the demonetisation, officials said. Yadav's daughter studied in a reputed private institute and son is studying in a private engineering college, another official said. Similarly, another senior leader Arvind Yadav paid ₹12 lakh towards fees for his brother to study in a private engineering college. The ED has registered cases against these four individuals under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, attached properties worth ₹1.5 crore and 32 acres land, seized ₹2.45 crore in cash, including ₹1 crore during demonetisation, the official said.

IN AMMA'S MEMORY



Tamil Nadu CM K Palaniswami with his deputy O Panneerselvam and others pays tribute to former CM J Jayalalithaa after the foundation stone laying ceremony of a memorial for her in Chennai Monday

FIR ordered against AAP leader for remarks against Gandhi, Nehru

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 7: A city court Monday directed the Delhi Police to register an FIR against Aam Aadmi Party leader Ashutosh for allegedly making vulgar statements against Mahatma Gandhi and former Prime Ministers Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Jawaharlal Nehru in a blog in 2016. The court's direction came on a complaint seeking lodging of an FIR against Ashutosh for writing a blog with serious allegations against the former leaders to defend an ex-AAP MLA, whose name had cropped up in a sex scandal. "Easy for attention seeker to stand and point finger towards Mahatma, difficult even for patriotic preacher to rise and achieve greatness like Mahatma," Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Ekta Gauba observed. The magistrate said that journalist-turned-politician Ashutosh was trying to gain public attention by demeaning the image of Mahatma Gandhi and corrupting the mind of the youngsters. "Ashutosh Kumar has tried to gain public attention by tarnishing the revered image of Mahatma Gandhi thereby demeaning his respect in the minds of the people to settle the political scores and made allegations, which tend to corrupt the mind of the readers including the younger generation, which in my view are cognisable offences. "Thus, I found that in the present case, prima facie there are sufficient grounds for the registration of FIR in the cognisable offences under sections 292 and 293 of the IPC. Hence, SHO, Begumpur is directed to register an FIR against respondent Ashutosh Kumar and to investigate the matter under the relevant provisions of law," the court said. The complaint lodged by one Yogender has sought an FIR against him under sections 292 (writing or drawing figure shall be deemed to be obscene if it is lascivious or appeals to the prurient interest or if its effect tend to deprave and corrupt persons, who are likely to read, see or hear the matter) and 293 (selling, distribution or circulation of obscene object to person under twenty years of age) of the IPC. In 2016, in a blog Ashutosh had



defended a sacked AAP minister who was expelled from the party on charges of rape. Ashutosh had referred to the reported relationships of Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru with women to defend Sandeep Kumar over an objectionable CD showing him in a compromising position with a woman. The court, while allowing the complaint, said, "Ashutosh Kumar has made specific and heinous imputations against Mahatma Gandhi. Not only are the allegations vulgar and obscene but are to the extent of imputing incest." It said the most heinous imputation of incest would "not only injure the reputation of the great man" but would also tend to corrupt the minds of the people, besides degrading the moral standards of all readers of the said article. It further said that the act of the AAP leader cannot be covered under freedom of speech and expression. "It also falls within the provisions of Article 19(2) of the Constitution which bars the liberty of freedom of speech and expression on the ground of morality and hence, the speech/article given by Ashutosh could not be covered under article 19(1) (a) of the Constitution i.e. freedom of speech and expression," it said.

Working seriously on idea: Sitharaman

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 7: Defence Minister Nirmalita Sitharaman Monday said the government was working "seriously" to have women in combat uniforms -- a vow which, if fulfilled, will bring gender parity in the Indian armed forces and enable women to be deployed on-board submarines of the Navy and tanks of the Army. "Women are keen to join armed forces in uniform. The Indian Air Force has already inducted women fighter pilots. About commissioning of women in the Army and related forces, several cases are being fought in various courts. In the Navy, women are not allowed in the sea, but we are working seriously towards opening up defence forces for women," Sitharaman said.



of Commerce and Industry. Women in combat roles in the armed forces has been a long pending demand. Then President Pranab Mukherjee in February 2016 announced that women will be allowed to take up combat roles to remove gender disparity in one of the world's most male-dominated professions. The Indian Air Force in July last year inducted three women - Mohana Singh, Avani Chaturvedi and Bhawana Kanth - as the first female fighter pilots. The Indian Navy has also offered permanent commission to women officers. In 2016, it started with a modest group of seven and vowed to expand the numbers.

WOMEN IN COMBAT ROLES

She was speaking at an event to release a Gender Parity Index for the year 2017-18, a special study commissioned by FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO), the women business wing of the Federation of Indian Chambers

₹3 crore groundnut gutted in warehouse

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rajkot: A fire broke out at a warehouse near the Shapar industrial area here, gutting a huge stock of groundnut worth about ₹3 crore, officials said Monday. The blaze erupted late Sunday night in the rented warehouse and was still raging, a police officer said. This is the second major incident of fire at a groundnut warehouse in Rajkot district in three months. Gujarat agriculture minister RC Faldu ordered a high-level probe into the incident. In February, groundnut worth ₹28 crore was gutted in fire at a godown in the district's Gondal taluka.

60 Chinese varsities to hold expo in Kolkata

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata: A total of 60 universities from several provinces and municipalities of China would hold the first education expo in the city from May 10 to May 11. The expo would be held against the backdrop of China deciding to open up more to other countries, both in the fields of education and business exchanges, consul general of PRC in Kolkata, Ma Zhanwu said.

PMO justified in denying information: CIC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 7: The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) was justified in denying information pertaining to the printing of currency notes post demonetisation citing exemption clauses related to national and economic security in the RTI Act, Chief Information Commissioner RK Mather said. RTI applicant RL Kain had November 15, 2016 filed an appeal seeking information on the printing of currency notes and other matters after the government had announced its decision of demonetisation. The PMO had denied him information citing Section 8(1)(a) of the RTI Act. Mather dismissed a complaint filed by Kain, saying the demonetisation process was on when the application and the first appeal was filed -- November 15, 2016 and December 24, 2016 respectively -- and it justified invoking Section 8(1)(a) of the RTI Act. "The commission is of the view that in the interest of the then ongoing process of demonetisation and the then prevailing situation in the country, the CPIO was justified in the stand taken by him," he said. The commission cannot take any position on the disclosure of information now as the petitioner had filed the complaint under the RTI Act, according to which "only a penalty can be imposed if the allegations of malafide denial are substantiated", he said. Kain's application had said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had in November, 2016 stated at election meetings that new denomination notes were "under printing for the last three to six months", Mather noted. "He (the applicant) stated that if notes were under printing for the last

DEMONETISATION



The PMO had said that "sharing of any information pertaining to the matter may have jeopardized the entire process of demonetisation" three to six months, then how the proposal of the RBI was received at 6 pm November 08, 2016, cabinet decision taken at 7 pm and notes were demonetised at 8 pm the same day," Mather said in his order. The applicant had also said Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in

his various TV programmes had stated that the notes were under printing for the last many months at six government printing presses, he noted. "The appellant stated that the statements of the PM and the finance minister are contradictory," Mather pointed out. Kain had also said that as per Section 24 of the RBI Act, 1934, there is no series of denomination of ₹2,000 and any additions or subtractions require amendments by Parliament, the Chief Information Commissioner's order read. "However, in the instant case, no executive orders or statutory orders were issued and printing of ₹2000 was commenced without any amendment in the statute," Kain had said.

Cop dies as assailants open fire in court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh: Assailants opened fire inside a court complex in Bhiwani district Monday during a failed bid to free a kidnapping accused, killing a Haryana police head constable, police said. Head constable Bhagirth sustained a bullet injury and died in the incident. Police nabbed two assailants while two others managed to escape. Superintendent of Police, Bhiwani, Ganga Ram Punia said over phone. The senior police official said that three to four armed persons barged into the court complex in Siwani town and opened fire as soon as the kidnapping accused, Jai Kumar alias Bhadar, and one more accused, Sunil, were about to board a prison van after being produced in court.

of the day **quote**

**Mr Trump has been a frequent critic - describing Iran nuclear deal as the "worst deal ever" - and says the US will withdraw unless its shortcomings are fixed**




**BORIS JOHNSON** | UK FOREIGN SECRETARY

**Israel was determined to block Iran's aggression against us even if this means a struggle**



**BENJAMIN NETANYAHU** | ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER

**While impressive strides have been made in achieving universal primary education, we have a learning crisis in South Asia with only about half of primary-aged children receiving education with minimum learning standards**



**JEAN GOUGH** | REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR UNICEF SOUTH ASIA

**SHORT TAKES**

**Nepal FM oversees security, preparations**

**Kathmandu:** Nepal's Minister for Foreign Affairs Pradeep Gyawali and Indian Ambassador Manjiv Singh Puri Monday visited Janakpur to study security and other issues ahead of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit starting May 11. Modi will be given a civic reception at the Bahrabighaha's Rangabhoomi ground. He will offer special prayers at the Janaki Mandir in Janakpur. Gyawali said Modi's visit will prove to be a milestone for Nepal's development. Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and Modi will jointly initiate two projects -- the Ayodhya bus service and the Ramayana circuit project -- from the temple premises.

**US embassy road signs go up in Jerusalem**

**Jerusalem:** At least three US Embassy road signs went up in Jerusalem Monday ahead of next week's opening of the mission in accordance with President Donald Trump's recognition of the city as Israel's capital. A Reuters witness saw workmen installing the signs, in English, Hebrew and Arabic, near the south Jerusalem location of a US consulate building that will be repurposed as the embassy when it is officially relocated from Tel Aviv May 14.

**Hezbollah allies gain in Lebanon vote**

**Beirut:** Hezbollah and its political allies have won just over half the seats in Lebanon's parliamentary elections, unofficial results show, boosting an Iranian-backed movement fiercely opposed to Israel and underlining Tehran's growing regional influence. If confirmed, the preliminary results cited by politicians and media might also add to the risks facing Lebanon, reliant on US military help and hoping to secure billions of dollars in international aid and loans to revive its stagnant economy.

**Trump's CIA Director pick to withdraw**

**Washington:** Gina Haspel, President Donald Trump's pick to head the CIA, has offered to withdraw her nomination after some White House officials raised concerns about her ability to get confirmed, the media reported. Haspel told the White House she was interested in stepping aside if it avoided the spectacle of a brutal confirmation hearing Wednesday and potential damage to the Central Intelligence Agency's reputation and her own, reports said.

**Hawaii volcano destroys 31 homes**

**Pahoehoe (US):** The number of homes destroyed by Hawaii's Kilauea volcano jumped to 31 as scientists reported lava spewing more than 200 feet (61 meters) into the air. Some of the more than 1,700 people who evacuated prepared for the possibility they may not return for quite some time. Hawaii officials said the decimated homes were in the Leilani Estates subdivision, where molten rock, toxic gas and steam have been bursting through openings in the ground created by the volcano. Officials updated the number of lost homes after an aerial survey of the subdivision.

**TRUMP-KIM SUMMIT LIKELY IN SINGAPORE**

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Seoul, May 7:** US President Donald Trump and North Korea's Kim Jong Un are likely to meet in Singapore next month, reports said Monday, as anticipation builds for unprecedented talks between the mercurial leaders.

Trump said at the weekend that the two sides had settled on a date and location for the summit -- the first between a sitting US President and a North Korean leader -- without providing details. "We'll be announcing it soon," Trump told reporters. The landmark summit will take place in "mid-June", South Korea's *Chosun Ilbo* daily reported Monday, citing diplomatic sources who quoted Trump's National Security Advisor John Bolton.

The newspaper suggested that the possibility of Singapore hosting the landmark meeting had "increased greatly", after a decision by Trump to host South Korean President Moon Jae-in at the White House later this month, without giving further explanation.

Bolton met his South Korean counterpart Chung Eui-yong in Washington late last week to discuss plans for both locations, according to local media reports. A similar report on the weekend from South Korea's *Yonhap* news



agency also said Singapore was firming as the favoured location for the summit. Trump had previously suggested that the demilitarised zone between the two Koreas -- the site of a recent summit between Kim and Moon -- could also be an appropriate venue for his meeting with the North's leader.

Other possible sites reportedly included Mongolia and Switzerland.

Preparations for the landmark meeting have gained momentum since the Korean summit late last month, which saw Pyongyang and Seoul promise to pursue the complete denuclearisation of the peninsula and a formal peace treaty to end the 1950-53 Korean War.

North Korea has offered to close its nuclear test site this month -- and invited US experts to verify the move.

Other less dramatic but notable signs of rapprochement have emerged almost daily, including North Korea moving its clocks forward by 30 minutes early Saturday to match time with the South.

**QUICK READS**

**VR gear to test members' loyalty in China**

**Beijing:** China's ruling Communist party is using a unique virtual reality test to check the loyalty of its members and determine whether they possess qualities required for the party membership, the official media here reported Monday. Members of the CPC in Qingyang town, Binzhou city, in East China's Shandong Province appear to be the first to be required to take loyalty tests using VR gear, state-run *Global Times* quoted a report by the news website, *binzhou.com*. The test of dangxing, literally meaning party spirit, refers to the qualifications a party member must have, including loyalty to the CPC, willingness to contribute to the people and the Party, and being a role model.

**Pak minister is 'out of danger'**

**Lahore:** Pakistan's Interior Minister Ahsan Iqbal was stable as he underwent two surgeries Monday after being shot in an assassination bid by a religious fanatic in Punjab province weeks ahead of the general election, as a second suspect has been arrested in the incident. Iqbal, 59, a senior Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader, was hit by a bullet on his right shoulder in the attack Sunday after he addressed an election rally in his constituency Narowal. An official at the Services Hospital here said that the surgery was successful and Iqbal is recovering well. "Iqbal is out of danger and recovering fast," he added. Iqbal underwent two consecutive surgeries and has now been shifted to the Intensive Care Unit of the hospital.

**45 KILLED IN NIGERIA'S VILLAGE ATTACK**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Lagos, May 7:** At least 45 people have been confirmed dead and others wounded during an attack in Nigeria's Kaduna state, media reports said Sunday.

The victims were killed Saturday afternoon when scores of suspected bandits raided Gwaska village, in Birnin-Gwari area of Kaduna state, *Xinhua* reported.

The group, Birnin-Gwari Vanguards for Security and Good Governance, said 45 bodies were recovered by vigilantes and volunteers with the assistance of soldiers Sunday afternoon.

**The attack came barely a week after the killing of 14 miners at a mining site at Janruwa area of the same state**

The attack came barely a week after the killing of 14 miners at a mining site at Janruwa area of the same state. The bandits, on motorbikes, stormed the Gwaska village via Zamfara state, said Bala Abdulahi, a member of the vigilante group. The bandits shot sporadically and killed anybody in sight, Abdulahi said. Confirming the incident, the state government said a battalion of the Nigerian Army would be permanently stationed in the area to halt the killings.



**If there is anything that Trump communicates in a way that I'm uncomfortable with, I tell him that. And I think that's something that he deserves from me**

**NIKKI HALEY** | UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**PORTABLE 3D SKIN PRINTER CAN HEAL WOUNDS IN MINUTES**

In a first, researchers have developed a portable 3D skin printer that deposits even layers of tissue to cover and heal deep wounds within minutes



**Efforts on to free abducted Indians**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kabul, May 7:** Authorities in Afghanistan are working with tribal elders to trace and free the seven Indian engineers abducted by Taliban gunmen in the restive northern Baghlan province. Swaraj, during a telephonic conversation with her Afghan counterpart Salahuddin Rabbani, conveyed India's concerns about the abducted Indians and requested him for help in tracing and freeing them, official sources said. They said the Afghan Foreign Minister assured Swaraj that his government would make all possible efforts to rescue the abducted Indian engineers. "Rabbani, in the conversation, assured the Indian External Affairs Minister that the Afghan security forces would not spare any efforts in rescuing and ensuring the safety and safety of the engineers," the Afghan Foreign Ministry said.

**Swaraj seeks Afghan govt's help**

**Kabul:** External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj has requested the Afghan government to provide all possible help in freeing the seven Indian engineers abducted by Taliban militants in the restive northern Baghlan province. Swaraj, during a telephonic conversation with her Afghan counterpart Salahuddin Rabbani, conveyed India's concerns about the abducted Indians and requested him for help in tracing and freeing them, official sources said. They said the Afghan Foreign Minister assured Swaraj that his government would make all possible efforts to rescue the abducted Indian engineers. "Rabbani, in the conversation, assured the Indian External Affairs Minister that the Afghan security forces would not spare any efforts in rescuing and ensuring the safety and safety of the engineers," the Afghan Foreign Ministry said.

curity officials in the province said efforts are underway by the Afghan forces and the government officials as well as the local tribal elders for the release of the Indian engineers. An eyewitness, who wished anonymity, told *Pajhwok Afghan News* that he saw a number of armed men stopping a white coloured car on the Pul-i-Khumri-

Mazar-i-Sharif highway. The eyewitness did not know how many people were in the car, but said the militants took the Indian nationals to their mini bus type vehicle and sped towards areas under their control. Provincial governor Abdul Nemati said the security forces and the local officials are busy tracking the missing engineers and their driver.

**TWO WHEEL CIRCUS**



A participant in the Tweed Run cycle ride pulls away from an ice cream van in London.

**Israel warns it will 'eliminate' Bashar Assad**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jerusalem, May 7:** Amid heightening tensions, Israel Monday warned that it will "eliminate" Syrian President Bashar Assad if he continues to let Iran operate from his country's territory.



Israel considers Iran to be its most dangerous foe, and has repeatedly vowed to block it from building a nuclear bomb or establishing a permanent presence in Syria, where it is helping to prop up government forces. "If (Syrian President Bashar) Assad continues allowing the Iranians to operate out of Syria, Israel will eliminate him and topple his regime," Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz told news portal *Ynet* in an interview.

"If Assad allows Iran to turn Syria into a forward operating base against us...to attack us from Syrian soil, he should know that will spell his end," Steinitz, a close aide to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, said. "It's unacceptable that Assad sits quietly in his palace and rebuilds his regime while allowing Syria to be turned into a base for attacks on Israel," he asserted.

Israel has been bracing for the possibility of an Iranian "revenge" attack from Syria in the near future in the form of rocket and missile launches on its northern border.

**Rohingya an 'ethnic cleansing': OIC**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Dhaka, May 7:** A grouping of Islamic countries said Myanmar's treatment of Rohingya Muslims is a "serious and blatant violation of international law" and is calling for international support in solving the crisis.

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation issued a joint statement Sunday at the end of a two-day conference in Bangladesh, which has taken in more than



700,000 Rohingya who have fled violence in Myanmar since August.

The statement said the grouping will continue to work the UN and other global platforms to address the rights violations taking place

in Myanmar. The grouping echoed previous international statements saying ethnic cleansing is taking place in Myanmar. Bangladesh foreign minister AH Mahmood Ali said delegates pledged solidarity with his country "in the face of the huge Rohingya influx with its humanitarian and security consequences." Security forces in Buddhist-majority Myanmar launched a scorched-earth campaign in late August in response to attacks by a Rohingya insurgent

group. Thousands of people are believed to have been killed in the crackdown, which many rights activists believe was a calculated attempt to drive Rohingya from the country. Rohingya are denied citizenship in Myanmar, where they have long faced persecution. Many in Myanmar see them as illegal migrants from Bangladesh, and deride them as "Bengalis." Most have long lived in poverty in Myanmar's Rakhine state, next to Bangladesh.

**Germany, France vow to stick to Iran deal if US pulls out**

REUTERS

**Berlin, May 7:** Germany and France Monday vowed to stand by the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers even if the United States pulls out, with the German foreign minister saying the world would be less safe without it.

US President Donald Trump has threatened to retreat from the deal by not extending sanctions waivers when they expire May 12, unless European signatories of the accord fix what he calls its "flaws". German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said it was clear that the agreement made the world safer and there was a risk of es-

calation were it to be cancelled. "We don't think there is any justifiable reason to pull out of this agreement and we continue to make the case for it to our American friends," Maas said during a joint news conference with visiting French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian. "We'll deal with the (US) decision but like Jean-Yves said, we want to adhere to this agreement," Maas added. Le Drian said France, Britain and Germany would keep to the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran irrespective of the United States' decision later this week because it is the best way to avoid nuclear proliferation. "We are determined to save this deal because this

accord safeguards against nuclear proliferation and is the right way to stop Iran getting a nuclear weapon," Le Drian said.

France, Germany and Britain have for weeks been campaigning to keep the deal alive and have been negotiating since January with the US to find ways to convince Trump to keep to the accord. Maas said "good proposals" had been made in recent weeks.

In an effort to keep Washington in the deal, the three EU states have been discussing how to tackle Iran's ballistic missile programme, its nuclear activities beyond 2025 - when key provisions of the deal expire - and its role in the wars in Syria and Yemen.

**HOW WILL VLADIMIR PUTIN RULE AFTER 2024?**

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Moscow, May 7:** Vladimir Putin was sworn in as Russia's President for a fourth term Monday, extending his almost two-decade rule by another six years at a time of high tension with his Western rivals.

But with no successor and no political competition, what are the possible scenarios when his term ends in 2024? Without constitutional reform, Putin will not be able to run for a fifth time - Russian law forbids serving more than two consecutive terms. Putin, who will turn 72 in 2024, could decide to leave the Kremlin after 24 years in power, making way for a successor.

Russian politics is now dominated by fighting between rival clans of technocrats and the "siloviki" - representatives of the security services and the army. "There is already a fight for influence," said political analyst Nikolai Petrov. "Nobody will wait passively, each group will try to promote its interests," he added. In a March interview to American TV channel *NBC*, Putin said he had been thinking of a potential successor since 2000.

"There is no harm in thinking about it but at the end of the day it will be the Russian people who decide." But in making sure no one can compete with him, no



politician is currently popular enough to succeed the Kremlin chief. Many analysts say Putin leaving power in six years is unlikely. One way Putin could continue ruling Russia after 2024 is to stay in power in a different role. The Russian strongman could revisit

**Facebook accused of connecting ISIS 'friends'**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**London, May 7:** Facebook has been accused of putting thousands of Islamic State (ISIS) supporters in contact with one another via the social networking giant's "suggested friends" tool, report said.

The Mark Zuckerberg-led company is facing a severe crisis of credibility ever since the news broke out that it improperly shared personal data of its about 87 million users, mostly in the US, with the UK-based political consulting firm Cambridge Analytica, which used it for political purposes. In a study to be published later this month by

the Counter Extremism Project (CEP), an American non-profit organisation, researchers studied the online activities of 1,000 ISIS supporters in 96 countries and observed that radical Islamists were routinely introduced to each other. It sets out to reveal the extent to which the social media algorithm has helped the ISIS terrorist network. Critics say that the feature, designed to match Facebook users based on common interests, actively helps terrorists regroup and build networks. Many of the extremists were recommended to the CEP's own researchers as friends after they viewed some of the extremist profiles.

from Putin to Putin in some other role," said Petrov. But memories of mass protests in Moscow when Putin and Medvedev swapped back and Putin returned to the Kremlin may put the Russian leader off this option. Putin's age also makes this scenario problematic. Putin will be 78 in 2030, when he is constitutionally allowed to run for another term.

Konstantin Kalachev, head of the Political Expert Group think tank in Moscow, said Putin knows his successor will have to introduce unpopular economic reforms and wants to "go down in history as the man who did not lose at anything".

# business



I am of the view that Shreebhumi Construction's Ltd engaged in fund mobilising activity from the public, through the offer of redeemable preference shares and has contravened the provisions of the Companies Act.

MADHABI PURI BUCH | SEBI WHOLE TIME MEMBER

## HEROMOTOCORP SACKS 30 EMPLOYEES

The country's largest two-wheeler maker Hero MotoCorp has sacked around 30 employees for violation of the company's code of conduct by fudging travel expense bills and accepting personal favours



### of the day quote

"The total capital that will be deployed in these 1,500 rooms will about ₹1,700 crore. Of this roughly half of it has already been deployed and another half of it will be deployed near completion by FY21. All the 1,500 rooms are available by FY 21."



"It is good that we ended the fiscal on a higher generation note. With a commitment to increase our generation output by 40-50 per cent by 2025 through green and clean source of energy, we have developed a well charted growth strategy to fulfill it."



"Chinese companies have been making their presence felt in Asia and have set up offices in major markets including India. Even though, leasing is still largely driven by the US and EU based companies in India, Chinese companies are fast setting up base to take advantage of the market size and the accelerated growth of the economy."



### SHORT TAKES

#### Prabhu convenes meet to boost exports

**New Delhi:** Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu has called a meeting of various departments, including finance and textiles, here tomorrow to discuss ways to promote exports. "The meeting would deliberate upon ways on sectoral export promotion strategy," a ministry official said. The meeting assumes significance as India's exports dipped after a gap of four months in March. Exports contracted by 0.66 per cent to USD 29.11 billion due to negative growth in several key sectors. Petroleum products, carpet, jute items, readymade garments, gems and jewellery, iron, ore, meat, dairy and poultry products, oil meals and oil seeds were among the products that witnessed a decline in March.



#### India, WB ink loan deal for nutrition mission

**New Delhi:** The World Bank will provide a USD 200 million loan to help the government achieve its goal of reducing stunting in children 0-6 years of age from 38.4 per cent to 25 per cent by the year 2022, a finance ministry statement said. "The Government of India signed a loan deal worth USD 200 million with the World Bank today for the National Nutrition Mission (POSHAN Abhiyaan)," it said. The POSHAN Abhiyaan, an overarching scheme for holistic nourishment, was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in March this year at Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan. A large component of POSHAN Abhiyaan involves gradual scaling-up of the interventions supported by the ongoing World Bank assisted Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Systems Strengthening and Nutrition Improvement Project (ISSNIP) to all districts in the country over a 3-year period.

#### ArcelorMittal gets EC nod to acquire Ilva

**New Delhi:** Global steel giant ArcelorMittal Monday said it has received a go-ahead from the European Commission (EC) to acquire Italian steelmaker Ilva. The approval is a significant milestone in the transaction to acquire loss-making Ilva and represents a major step towards closing the deal, which is now expected to occur as soon as possible, the company said in a statement. "ArcelorMittal announces that it has been granted merger clearance by the EC for AM Investco Italy Srl (AM Investco)'s proposed acquisition of Ilva S p A (Ilva)," it said. EC's merger clearance follows the conclusion of the Commission's Phase II investigation into the proposed acquisition, it added.

## PRIVATE ENTITIES TO PROBE GST FRAUD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 7:** GST Network has invited bids from private entities for "360-degree" profiling of taxpayers for early detection of fraud as it seeks to transform into an end-to-end platform for checking GST evasion, from being just a tax collection portal.

The analytics company to be roped in will have the mandate for designing and developing a Fraud Analytics System.

GST Network has however barred Infosys from bidding for the project to avoid conflict of interest.

The system will take about a year to be operational and leverage existing data pertaining to GST registration, return filing and e-way bill, along with the information from other external sources such as Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), banks and state tax



The interested bidder will need to have a turnover of ₹300 crore and should have posted profit in the past three financial years

departments. According to the eligibility criteria, the interested bidder will need to have a turnover of ₹300 crore and should have posted profit in the past three financial years. Also, it should have experience in implementing Advanced Analytics, the GSTN said in the Request For Proposal (RFP).

The fraud analytics company would be tasked with establishment of taxpayer's identity. "Based on information available within GSTN as well as third party in-

### REINING IN EVASION

GST Network has barred Infosys from bidding for the project to avoid conflict of interest

The system will take about a year to be operational and leverage existing data pertaining to GST registration

formation, it is expected to reliably establish the identity/360 degree view of the taxpayer and key members of its management," said the RFP.

It would also establish taxpayer's risk profile by analysing information on purchasers and sellers as part of returns data, whether the taxpayer deals with sensitive or evasion prone commodities, history of the owner of the company as well as rapid change of promoters, among others.

The company, to be appointed for

## Google, Niti join hands to expand AI ecosystem

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 7:** Tech giant Google Monday said it has collaborated with Niti Aayog to focus on fostering growth for India's nascent artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) ecosystem.

The two parties will work together on various initiatives, including organising training for relevant government functionaries to introduce them to open source AI tools to enable more effective governance, Google said in a statement.

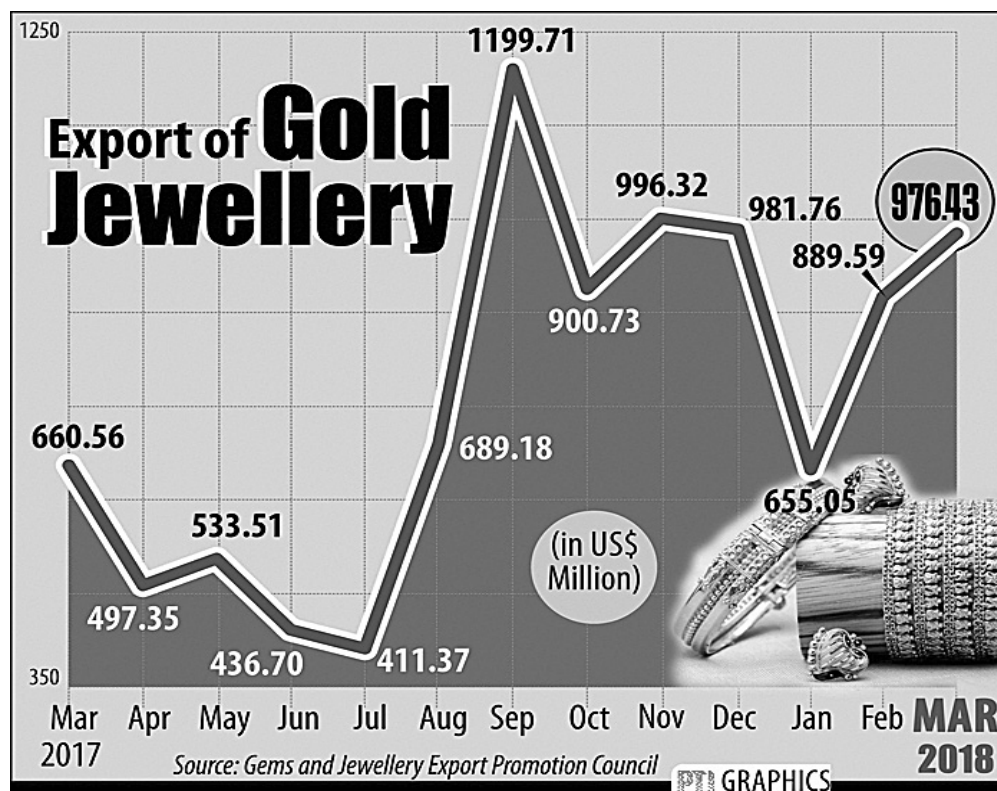
Besides, they will award grants and scholarships to researchers, scholars and university faculty conducting cutting-edge research in the field of AI/ML in India.

The parties will also organise AI/ML study jams for students and developers based on Google's Machine Learning Crash Course (MLCC) while a hackathon focused on using AI/ML and open data sets will also be organised aimed at solving key challenges within agriculture, education, healthcare, etc in India, the statement said. "AI is going to disrupt the way business is done and India, in particular, is uniquely poised in utilising AI to innovate for social and inclusive good... Niti's partnership with Google will unlock massive training initiatives, support start-ups and encourage AI research through PhD scholarships, all of which contributes to the larger idea of a technologically-empowered New India," Amitabh Kant, CEO of Niti Aayog, said.

Rajan Anandam, Vice President (India and South East Asia) at Google, said AI will help tackle huge challenges like healthcare, environmental protection and other social and developmental problems, while also spur innovation for businesses and developers.

Under the aegis of this programme, Google will train and incubate Indian AI start-ups in an accelerator programme.

These start-ups will be mentored and coached by Google and its affiliates to enable them to better leverage AI in their respective business models.



## Audi A5 forays into capital city market

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 7:** Audi Bhubaneswar has unveiled the second edition of the Audi A5. The new generation is a Sportback and appeared in the Odisha market after adopting a lot of features



got more space than its predecessor," an official associated with the sales and marketing said. He also said the new car will be available within three months of waiting period with a price band of ₹54.02 lakh (Bhubaneswar showroom price) for the non-convertible variant and ₹67.51 lakh for the convertible variant.

The second generation A5 will be available only in diesel engine option, with seven colour variants as Daytona Grey pearl effect, Moonlight Blue Metallic, Matador Red metallic, Gotland Green Metallic, Navarra Blue Metallic, Floret Silver Metallic and Argus Brown Metallic, the official added.

"The 2 litre TDI engine churns out 140KW that is 190 hp of power available with seven speed S tronic dual clutch transmission," the official added. The interior of the car is comes with ambient lighting with three colours and 30 combinations and has 480 litres of boot capacity to make the second generation car edge past its predecessor, the official added.

both from a sedan as well as from a sports car. The predecessor of the car was launched seven years back and was highly appreciated because of its features and while rechristening the German automaker has made the new generation car 15 kg lighter than its forerunner.

"We have already started receiving the second generation of A5 series which has come in a new avatar as the sportback gives it an extraordinary look. The newly engineered Audi A5 has

got more space than its predecessor," an official associated with the sales and marketing said.

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POST NEWS NETWORK

## Aakash felicitates ex-students

**Bhubaneswar, May 7:** Leading coaching provider for medical as well as engineering entrance examinations Aakash Institute, Bhubaneswar felicitated two of its students who excelled in the Indian Administrative Examinations.

Two students - Subhankar Mohapatra a student of the two-year programme of the 2006 batch and Abinash Mishra, student of a one-year programme of the 2009 batch - said the guidance they received from the institute has enabled them to achieve success in the IAS examination.

"I am happy to congratulate Subhankar Mohapatra and Abinash Mishra, our ex-students, who tasted success in the IAS exam and proved that financial constraints cannot hinder the emergence of hidden talents. We at our institute offer scholarships for meritorious students so that they can appear for medical and engineering examinations," A B Singh, Director of Aakash Institute Bhubaneswar, said during the felicitation ceremony.

## ICICI group net plunges 45 pc

BANK BOARD MEET SKIPS LOAN CONTROVERSY



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, May 7:** Private sector lender ICICI Bank Monday reported a steep 45 per cent plunge in March quarter net at ₹1,142 crore, driven down by a ₹10,000-crore of fresh slippages due to the changes in asset classification norms.

On a standalone basis, the bank, currently grappling with allegations of conflicts of interest involving chief executive Chanda Kochhar, saw its net profit halving to ₹1,020 crore.

Asset quality worsened for the bank with the gross NPA ratio rose marginally to 8.84 per cent but net NPA moved down marginally to 4.77 per cent. But bank had to set aside almost three times more in provisions at ₹6,625 crore as slippages soared as against a low ₹2,898 crore. But that helped the bank improve its provision coverage ratio to 60.5 per cent from 53 per cent.

Kochhar cited the March 28 board statement rallying behind her, a day before the news on the allegations against her began to appear in the media and further reports that led to multi-agency probes, and said she has nothing to add on to the board statement.

"The board did not discuss the issue," she said, termed the board meeting slated for tomorrow as a "routine one" to discuss the growth strategy for the new fiscal year.

Kochhar also announced a new strategy revolving around "preserve, change and grow" with targets for March 2020 on various parameters.

For the reporting quarter, the bank added ₹15,737 crore to the gross non-performing assets list, including ₹9,968 crore coming in by way of an end to various regulatory dispensations February 12.

The bank's overall exposure to the 40 select accounts referred by the Reserve Bank to be resolved under bankruptcy laws is ₹15,229 crore and it has provided 50 per cent against it, she said.

The 'drilldown list' of assets in challenging sectors now stands at ₹4,728 crore, down from an opening balance of over ₹19,000 crore two years ago, Kochhar said.

The gross NPA ratio shot up to 8.84 per cent and the net NPA ratio jumped to 4.77 per cent. Kochhar said much of the stress from the changes in regulations is behind the bank and hinted at business as usual on NPA accretion front from here onwards.

## Aakash felicitates ex-students

POST NEWS NETWORK

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Subhankar Mohapatra with an all India rank of 46 said they had received the lesson of perseverance as well as courage from the institute. Abinash Mishra who bagged the 65th rank said the hard work of the tutors of the institute brought him success and he cracked the IIT and IAS examinations.

"Odisha has many such talented students who need ex-

## Aakash felicitates ex-students

posure. We at Aakash started initiatives like 'Zindagi or Adyant Super 30', a zero cost educational programme for the meritorious students who face financial constraints. We offer Plus 2 Science education in Adyant as well as 100 per cent free Aakash Medical and IIT coaching," he said adding that bright students are given free accommodation as well as free food.

## India to have talent surplus of 245 mn workers by 2030: Study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 7:** India is projected to have a skilled labour surplus of 245 million workers by 2030, mainly on the back of "vast supply of working age citizens", even as most of developed and developing economies are expected to grapple with talent crunch at that time, says a study.

Organisational consulting firm Korn Ferry said there is likely to be a "talent deficit of 85.2 million workers" by 2030 across the 20 major developed and developing economies that were covered in the study.

"This global skills shortage could result in USD 8.452 trillion in unrealised annual revenue by 2030 - equivalent to the combined

GDP of Germany and Japan," the study said.

According to the study, India is the only country expected to have a surplus of highly skilled financial and business services labour by 2030.

"India is projected to have a skilled-labour surplus of around 245.3 million workers by 2030, the only country in our study expected to have a surplus, owing mainly to its vast supply of working-age citizens and government programmes to boost workers' skills," it noted.

While noting that India is expected to overtake China to become the world's most populous country in the next six years, the study said India's median age is predicted to be just over 31 by

2030, meaning it has a vast supply of working-age citizens. The government has also been announcing programmes to boost workers' skills and capacities, it added.

"Industries where the talent surplus will be the most visible in India include the financial services with a surplus of 1.1 million,



technology, media, telecommunications (TMT) at 1.3 million and manufacturing at 2.44 million of extra manpower in 12 years," the study said.

It also noted that by 2030, all countries except India would be gripped by TMT talent deficits. Bhavna Sud, Client Partner at Korn Ferry India said that while India has a surplus of talent, the

twin challenges of employability and job creation should be dealt with.

"The government as well as industry have made significant efforts to address both issues through programmes like 'Skill India', but we will have to do more to create a competitive advantage of the surplus manpower we have. If left unchecked, the talent sur-

# THE YOGA WAY



**'YOGA WORKS LIKE MEDICINE WHEN MEDICINES FAIL,' SAYS SOUMYA DASH, A WELL-KNOWN YOGA INSTRUCTOR, WHO IS ALSO OFFERING LESSONS TO CHILDREN TO HELP THEM NAVIGATE LIFE'S CHALLENGES**



RASHMI REKHA DAS

For Soumya Dash, the excruciating pain during her irregular periods was once a nightmare. As she tried different solutions to deal with the problem, she found relief from menstrual pain through yoga. That got her deeply interested in yoga. She started practicing meditation and pranayama, and today Soumya is a well-known yoga instructor.

Many teenage girls have heavy bleeding and cramps when they have their periods. This can sometimes lead to other health issues. "Yoga can rescue you from the tension of heavy periods," says Soumya in a tete-a-tete with Orissa POST. "I used to have this problem and during the menstrual cycle, the pain was so unbearable that I could not even stand up. I would take the day off from school. Those days used to be the most physically and emotionally exhausting time of the month. With all the pain and discomfort, all I wanted to do was lie down, relax and wish the pain would just vanish. I even tried painkillers to get rid of the pain, but in vain. However, yoga came to my rescue."

Soumya, who is now a yoga instructor in Bhubaneswar, teaches regular

classes at her Blissful Yoga Centre. That apart, she provides some free classes, for children in particular. She trains them in Ashtanga Yoga and gives diet and lifestyle advice, trying to help them achieve their goals.

She says, "Children nowadays live in a rushed world of busy parents, pressure of studies, incessant tasks, video games, malls, and competitive sports. We usually do not think of these as stressful for our kids, but often they are. Yoga is no longer

for adults only. There was a time when elderly people used this practice to relieve stress, cope with depression, and main-

tain a healthy body. Is it really necessary to teach children yoga? Well, the answer is yes, if we consider the needs of our time. I have found that yoga can help counter many of today's tensions. When children learn techniques for relaxation and inner fulfillment, they can navigate life's challenges with a little more ease. Yoga at an early age encourages self-esteem and body awareness with a physical activity that's noncompetitive.

Fostering cooperation and compassion—instead of opposition—is a great gift to give our children. Besides, yoga makes them stay active and become more self-aware and better learners."

Soumya continues: "Parents send their kids for dance, music and abacus classes to make them all-rounders. In the process, kids have to keep up with the growing competition in schools, stay involved in extracurricular activities and meet the huge expectations of their parents and teachers. For a kid, this is a lot to handle. That's why yoga is a

must for them. And that's why I decided to provide free classes to kids. Apart from deaf and dumb children, I impart free yoga training to students of the Madhurmayee Sikhya Niketan where children of jail inmates study."

Soumya developed an interest in yoga during her schooldays. "When I was studying in Sri Aurobindo Purnango Sikhya Kendra, learning gymnastics was compulsory. This was the first school in the state those days which provided gymnastics classes. I found gymnastics interesting. My mother, Salala Dalai, used to follow Baba Ramdev's yoga demonstrations on TV. We both used to do pranayama every day. I gradually developed a strong bonding with yoga and went to Bangalore to be a professional yoga instructor," she says.

Though yoga is her passion, Soumya is also an Odissi dancer, a painter and a writer. "Dancing is my favourite pastime and I was an approved artiste of Doordarshan. Writing is another hobby because I find it easy to express my feelings and emotions. I have penned a few short stories which have been published in vernacular magazines. I also like gardening. I just can't sit idle."

Has yoga helped her clients get relief from major health issues? She says, "There are many clients who have thanked me for making them better. Adyashree Rout, librarian at Kamala Nehru Women's College, is one of them. When she came to me, she could barely keep her head upright. After doing yoga, she is getting better day by day. All I can say is yoga works like medicine when medicines fail."

The yoga guru attributes her success to her father Gourahari Dalai, a lyricist and her husband Shakti Ranjan Dash, businessman. "My father and my husband are my inspiration and whatever I am today is because of them."



### OFFBEAT PROFILE

- Nickname:** Pinky
- Favourite food:** Greens and any fresh food
- Favourite place:** Bali
- Inspiration:** Father and Hubby
- Yoga icon:** Baba Ramdev



With family

## Build fond memories with right family trips



Everyone needs rest to rejuvenate. Plan a family trip that suits the larger interest. From hitting the roads to exploring the mountains and beaches, here's a lowdown on the types of trips you can explore suggested by Raman Narula, Founder, Formula Group and Sunil Gupta, Founder and Director, ExportersIndia.com:

- **Religious tours:** Have you been contemplating a religious trip with your parents? Make use of the long weekend that lies ahead of you. Head to Rishikesh and take a tour of the holy shrines and witness the everyday evening ceremony of Ganga aarti. Rishikesh will definitely refresh your mind and rejuvenate your body. Even Ganpatipule, a town on the

Konkan Coast of western India can be an ideal holiday spot during the long weekend. Apart from visiting the wild sanctuary, children can wander around the lush tea plantations and also learn about tea extraction process.

- **Road trips:** Keen to avoid the crowd and escape to the country's quiet corners with your couple? Then book your choice of luxury car and enjoy the freedom of driving wherever you want, whenever you want, in style and luxury. For those who want to feel involved in the journey, the environment, and the view, it is ideal to take a road trip with your loved one and explore a new city or town.

If an offbeat destination is on your mind, then head to Chail, a hill station in Himachal Pradesh. Trek up to Kali Ka Tibba, relish hot pakodas on your way and dip your feet into cold water. If scenic beauty is on your mind, then set off to Puducherry. From beautiful flower beds and pruned trees, Puducherry is one of the best drives one can go for from Chennai.

- **Educational tours:** From the hills to the beaches in India, there are several student-friendly holiday destinations in India. For instance, Jaipur offers a lot of interesting things to do for young and studious one in a fun manner. From the forts, monuments, and zoos, Jaipur can be a fun-filled holiday spot for all.

the scorching heat experienced in the summer and offer breathtaking mist-filled and cloudy vistas of the beautiful landscape.

Take advantage of your long weekends and plan your trip to some of the monsoon destinations like Nelliampathy in Kerala; Coorg in Karnataka; Mahabaleshwar, Lonavala, Bhandardara, and Satara in Maharashtra; Bikaner in Rajasthan. Make use of the long weekend in August that comes on account of Independence Day.

- **Heritage tours:** India is a melting pot

of cultures with numerous complex tales defining its history and heritage. Choose one of your long weekends to walk down history lane and transform your travel into authentic experiences. India is dotted with forts, palaces, and monuments; uncover the history of these heritage sites and enrich your holiday experience. Pack your bags and head off to Neermrana fort at 122 km from Delhi and 150 km from Jaipur on the Delhi-Jaipur highway or the Capitol Complex, Chandigarh or the Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi, Madhya Pradesh.



## For you, dear Mom



SOYONG, OP

Mother is always special to all. As we grow up, we get so busy with our lives that often we are unable to spend quality time with our moms. Mother's Day is an opportunity to make her feel how special she has been for you — always.

Mother's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday of May every year. Orissa POST chatted with a few young women who plan to celebrate the occasion in a big way.

Shhitapragyan Nanda of Bhubaneswar, who works in Bangalore, says, "A mother's responsibility does not end with just delivering a baby. She has to bring us up until we learn to stand on our own. I wish we could celebrate every day as Mother's Day. This year, I have taken three days' leave to celebrate the occasion with my mother. I plan to surprise her on Sunday morning and then take her out for the day. My elder sister and I will take her out for lunch. After that, we plan to go shopping. Later, we will go for dinner to a popular hotel, before returning home. We want mom to take a break from household work that day."

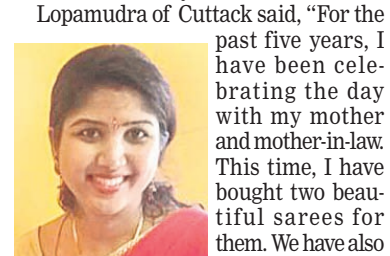
Lopamudra of Cuttack said, "For the past five years, I have been celebrating the day with my mother and mother-in-law. This time, I have bought two beautiful sarees for them. We have also arranged a small get-together at our home. Both families will have lunch together and we will cut

a cake in the evening. Although I cannot repay them for their many sacrifices, I will try my best to keep them happy the whole day."

Ankita Panigrahi of Bhubaneswar said, "Cleaning the house is a huge task for every mother. On this Mother's Day, I plan to do all the cleaning work before my mother starts her day. I will fix the things she always wanted to be repaired. I also plan to take her to a beauty parlour for a manicure and pedicure and a good haircut. I have tried to take her to a parlour several times, but she has always cried off. But, this Sunday, I want to take her to the best parlour in the city. Besides, I have created a family tree of photographs on a wall at home as a surprise for her, as she always wanted to do it but didn't have the time. To celebrate the day, we will also go out for dinner to a nearby restaurant."

Lucky Tiwari, 21, said: "Why do we glorify mother only on Mother's Day? I can do it every day with ease. She is the only one in this world I care about. Generally, she is a happy person, but when she is in a bad mood, I take a step back and plan things to cheer her up. Either I keep calling 'Mamma' in the sweetest possible way or I go and give her a hug. This always works, she says."

"On Mother's Day, I buy her favourite sweets. She doesn't like me to spend money on gifts. This Sunday, though, I plan to get her a music system as a gift. She loves music. So, it will be a nice surprise for her," Lucky added.





**Paris Saint Germain midfielder Marco Verratti feels his teammate Neymar can become world's best player in the next three-four years. "It is Cristiano and Messi now but you have to consider that Neymar is five years younger to them and despite that he is already a great player," Verratti said**

**GUERRERO RETURNS**

Peru football team captain Paolo Guerrero returned from a six-month doping ban Sunday as Flamengo defeated Internacional 2-0 in Brazil's Serie A championship. Guerrero was given a 12-month ban in December. "I feel like I deserve this after what I've been through in the last six months," Guerrero said



**STALEMATE WITH TORINO**

**Napoli assure Juve of 7th Serie A title**

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Milan, May 7:** Juventus are practically assured of winning a seventh successive Serie A title after second-placed Napoli were held 2-2 by Torino Sunday. Juventus have a six-point lead in Serie A with two games left to play. Both teams are equal in head-to-head clashes but Juventus are well ahead of their southern rivals on goal difference. The champions now need just one point to officially retain their crown with games to come against Roma in the Stadio Olimpico and already-relegated Verona in Turin. Torino twice battled back from a goal down to steal a point from Maurizio Sarri's side who had been bidding for a first title since the days of Argentina legend Diego Maradona in 1987 and 1990. Napoli's last win was against Juventus in Turin two weeks ago. Dries Mertens celebrated his 31st

birthday by putting Napoli ahead after 25 minutes after a shocking defensive error by Torino's Nicolas Burdisso, with captain Marek Hamsik coming off the bench to add a second for the hosts and his 100th in Serie A after 71 minutes. But Daniele Baselli pulled the visitors level 10 minutes into the second half with a dejected Sarri burying his head in his hands as Lorenzo De Silvestri headed in seven minutes from time to pull out a draw for Torino. "I got angry because I want to finish the season as well as possible," said the Napoli coach Sarri. "We must end the season on a high. These last two matches are very important because we can set a new all-time points record for this club," he added. Napoli and Juventus both won 1-0 away from home against each other this season, but the Turin giants (61) have a considerable edge over Napoli (45) in terms of goal difference.



**KILLER BLOW:** Napoli captain Marik Hamsik looks a dejected figure as Lorenzo De Silvestri (R) celebrates the late equaliser for Torino, Sunday

**INIESTA SIGNS OFF CLASICO WITH 2-2 STALEMATE**

**BARCA MAINTAIN UNBEATEN RUN**

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Barcelona, May 7:** Lionel Messi weaved his magic to keep 10-man Barcelona's unbeaten season alive as a 2-2 draw at the Camp Nou Sunday left Real Madrid sweating over an injury to Cristiano Ronaldo. Ronaldo was forced off at half time after appearing to hurt his ankle and Real will be hoping their star striker can now recover in time for the Champions League final against Liverpool May 26. The challenge from Gerard Pique had come as Ronaldo cancelled out Luis Suarez's opener before Sergi Roberto was sent off on the stroke of half time for an altercation with Real defender Marcelo. Barca, however, took the lead in the second half as Messi scored a brilliant individual goal only for Gareth Bale, who could earlier have been sent off, to have the last word in a thrilling Clasico, his emphatic strike earning Real a well-deserved draw. Ronaldo's injury, however, coupled with Barcelona avoiding defeat, despite playing a man down for the whole of the second half, will mean the Catalans depart the happier side. Ernesto Valverde's men, already crowned champions, are now three matches away from becoming the first team ever to finish a 38-game La Liga season unbeaten. Andres Iniesta overcame, or perhaps ignored, a nagging calf problem to play his 38th and final Clasico. Iniesta went off to a standing ovation in the second half. Barca exploded out of the blocks and they were ahead within 10



**DEADLY DUO:** Lionel Messi runs towards Luis Suarez for celebration after scoring Barcelona's second goal against Real Madrid at Camp Nou, Sunday

minutes. Suarez swept the ball out to the right where Sergi drove forward, ignored Messi's run to the near post, and returned the cross deep to Suarez who finished into the bottom corner with a wonderful volley. The lead, however, lasted four minutes. Just as Suarez initiated his goal, so did Ronaldo, a neat backheel freeing Toni Kroos, who found Karim Benzema at the back post. The Frenchman was cool

enough to head back into the six-yard box, where Ronaldo bundled home. Eight minutes into the second period, Suarez's blatant kick on Raphael Varane went unpunished and from there it was all about Messi. He skipped away first from Ramos, and then Casemiro, before firing into the bottom corner. Iniesta went off just before the hour and Messi could have put Barca out of sight soon after. He sped

away from Varane but his shot was parried away by Keylor Navas. Real's goal in the 72nd minute came out of the blue as Bale raced onto Asensio's pass and whipped the ball first-time into the top corner. Real should have had a late penalty when Alba cleared out Marcelo but referee Alejandro Jose Hernandez Hernandez somehow decided the challenge was clean. It was the final controversy of a surprisingly heated derby.

**CHELSEA SCRAPE PAST LIVERPOOL IN PREMIER LEAGUE**

**Rousing home farewell for Wenger as Arsenal win**

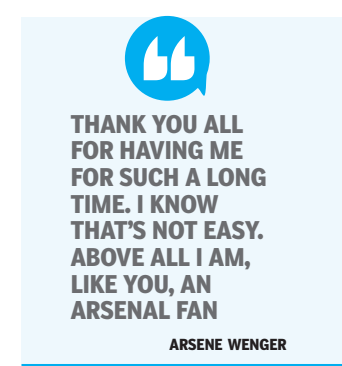
REUTERS



Arsenal striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang celebrates his goal against Burnley, Sunday

**London, May 7:** Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger signed off in style as the Gunners thrashed Burnley 5-0 in his last Premier League home game Sunday with the kind of dominant performance he would have wanted after 22 years in charge. Wenger was given a guard of honour from both teams and the match officials before kick-off, and received roars of support throughout the match from the home fans, most of whom had donned their complimentary red "Merci Arsene" T-shirts. Arsenal's January record signing, Gabon striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang (14th, 75th), opened the scoring at the Emirates stadium. Alexander Lacazette then doubled the lead for the Gunners just before half time. Later, second half strikes from Sead Kolacinac (54th),

Aubameyang again and Alex Iwobi (64th) put the game well beyond Burnley's reach. Burnley, who narrowly avoided relegation last season but are now preparing for their first season of European football since 1967, with qualification for the Europa League, had been hoping before the game to pull level on 57 points with Arsenal. Instead, the result means the Gunners will finish the season in sixth place, with Burnley one place behind them in seventh. After the game the Arsenal team and staff formed another guard of honour to say farewell to Wenger and captain Per Mertesacker, who will manage the club's academy next season. Former Arsenal and Scotland goalkeeper Bob Wilson then led the tributes to Wenger on the pitch, backed by huge letterboards spelling out "Merci Arsene".



**THANK YOU ALL FOR HAVING ME FOR SUCH A LONG TIME. I KNOW THAT'S NOT EASY. ABOVE ALL I AM, LIKE YOU, AN ARSENAL FAN**  
ARSENE WENGER



Arsene Wenger holds the gold trophy, his farewell gift, aloft at London, Sunday

**Shooter Heena confident ahead of ISSF World Cup**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, May 7:** After bagging a gold and silver in the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, pistol shooter Heena Sidhu is confident of doing well at the ISSF Shooting World Cup in Munich, May 22-29. Heena, 28, won a gold in the 25 metre pistol event setting up a Commonwealth Games record in April and a silver in the 10 metre air pistol event making it a grand double. "I will be training in Pforzheim from May 8 to 21 and will also play a practice match May 13. Then we have the World Cup at the end of this month," Heena said ahead of her departure to Germany. "My main focus is on being consistent. I did well at the Commonwealth Games and also the World Cup in Korea after that. In fact, if you look at the scores, there was an improvement from the Commonwealth Games but I could not get any medal in Korea."



Heena Sidhu is aiming for a medal at the ISSF Shooting World Cup

"I have noticed in my performance that I have been having one or two good series and then it is followed by a bad series. So I have to naturally work on my consistency. Shooting as a sport has changed now and now we shoot 7-8 days in a row so being focused and consistent is important," she added. Heena started her career in 10 metre pistol shooting but also took up 25 metre sport in 2017 and has since been training with coach-and-husband Ronak Pandit. "It is difficult doing three categories, 10m air pistol, 25m sport and team event and all of them require time and lot of focus. Earlier I had 2.3 day rest between my events but now I shoot almost all the days of the tournament," Heena stated.

**A DAY TO REMEMBER FOR JASON AT WELLS FARGO**

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Miami, May 7:** Australia's Jason Day birdied two of the last three holes Sunday to capture the Wells Fargo Golf Championship, collecting his 12th career US PGA title and second of the year. Day, the 2015 PGA Championship winner, held off Americans Aaron Wise and Nick Watney with a final-round two-under par 69 to finish 72 holes on 12-under 272 for a two-stroke victory at Quail Hollow golf course.

**Aditi impresses**

**Texas:** Young Indian golfer Aditi Ashok notched up her second successive top-10 finish by finishing Tied-sixth at the Volunteers of America LPGA Texas Classic here, Monday. The tournament, cut short to 36 holes because of rain and weather, had Aditi setting the clubhouse target as she played her second and final round in 5-under 66 to finish at 7-under 135.

The 30-year-old Aussie stumbled with back-to-back bogeys and fell level with Wise with four holes remaining but sank a 10-foot birdie



**MOMENT OF JOY:** Jason Day poses with the Wells Fargo Golf Championship winner's trophy at Miami, Sunday

putt at the par-4 16th and bounced his tee shot into the flagstick at the par-3 17th before a tap-in birdie. He sank a seven-footer for par at 18 to win by two. "This is probably one of the best wins I've ever had because of how hard everything was today (Monday)," Day said. American Bryson DeChambeau finished fourth on 276 while five-

time major winner Phil Mickelson on 277 with US compatriot Peter Uihlein and England's Paul Casey. Masters champion Patrick Reed was eighth on 278. Meanwhile, Tiger Woods a 14-time major champion struggled to fire a 3-over 74, his first birdie-less round since 2014, to finish on 286.

**Man U thankful of support for Fergie**

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**London, May 7:** Manchester United thanked well wishers from around the football world for showing their support for legendary former manager Alex Ferguson following an emergency surgery for brain haemorrhage.

Considered the most successful manager in the history of British football, the 76-year-old Fergie, as Ferguson popularly known as, won 38 major trophies in just over 26 years in charge of United, including 13 Premier League titles, two Champions League titles and five FA Cups before retiring in 2013. United have offered no update on Ferguson's condition since saying a procedure on the haemorrhage Saturday had gone very well but that a period of intensive care is needed to optimise his recovery. However, United thanked the many well wishers, including from the likes of rival managers Arsene Wenger, Pep Guardiola and Jurgen Klopp, who spoke of their admiration for Ferguson. "Manchester United would like



**Man U have offered no update on Ferguson's condition since saying a procedure on the haemorrhage Saturday had gone very well**

to thank its friends in the wider football world for the countless messages of support that have been conveyed following the news that Sir Alex Ferguson underwent emergency surgery on Saturday evening," United said in a statement. "As well as being uppermost in the thoughts of our own players, past and present, Sir Alex has been the subject of many warm and touching comments from other clubs, governing bodies and individuals in the beautiful game," the statement added.

**SHORT TAKES**

**Jeevan-Lopez finishes 2nd**

**New Delhi:** India's Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and his Spanish partner Enrique Lopez Perez settled for their second successive runners-up finish after losing the final of the Savannah Challenger tennis tournament to the pair of Luke Bambridge and Akira Santillan. The third seeded Indo-Spanish pair lost 2-6, 2-6 to the unseeded Briton-Australia pair in the summit clash of the USD 75000 event in Georgia, US. In the previous event at Tallahassee, Jeevan and Lopez Perez had lost the final to Robert Galloway and Denis Kudia.

**Halep leads rankings**

**Madrid:** Romania's Simona Halep maintained her top spot in the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) rankings released Monday, ahead of Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark. This week's ranking list saw no changes in the top 10, as Spaniard Garbine Muguruza stayed third, while Elina Svitolina of Ukraine followed in fourth. Latvian Jelena Ostapenko stood fifth while Karolina Pliskova of Czech Republic grabbed the sixth spot. French player Caroline Garcia, US players Venus Williams, Sloane Stephens and Petra Kvitova of Czech Republic grabbed the seventh to 10th positions respectively.

**Nadal remains on top**

**Madrid:** Spain's Rafael Nadal remained in the No.1 spot in the men's Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) world singles rankings released Monday with 8,770 points while Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov jumped to the fourth spot. Nadal kept his place atop the rankings after winning the Barcelona Open. Swiss legend Roger Federer stayed in second place, ahead of Alexander Zverev in third. After losing in the Istanbul Open round of 16 last week, Croatia's Marin Cilic fell to fifth place. Argentina's Juan Martin del Potro, Austrian Dominic Thiem, South African Kevin Anderson, John Isner of US and Belgian David Goffin grabbed sixth to 10th places respectively.

**Nuremberg promoted**

**Berlin:** Nuremberg wrapped up their promotion into the German football top division Bundesliga after grabbing a crucial 2-0 victory over Sandhausen at the 33rd round of Bundesliga's second division. Nuremberg got the promotion for the eighth time into the top flight, which is a new record, as their advantage atop the standings is sufficient to secure their first division status with one round to spare after the win Sunday. Nuremberg reaped a 2-0 victory away, as goals from Hanno Behrens and Tim Leibold were enough to edge out Sandhausen.

**Kenya replace SA**

**New Delhi:** Kenya was roped in Monday as a replacement for South Africa in the forthcoming Intercontinental Cup after the South African Football Federation expressed its inability to participate in the tournament. Apart from host India and Kenya from the CAF region, the Intercontinental Cup, which will kick-off at the Mumbai Football Arena June 1, will also have representation in the form of New Zealand from the Oceania region, and Chinese Taipei from the AFC region. The tournament is being organised to strengthen India's preparation for the AFC Asian Cup in UAE 2019.

**Maiden ATP title**

**Istanbul:** Japan's Taro Daniel grabbed his first ATP title after beating Tunisian Malek Jaziri 7-6(6-4), 6-4 in the Istanbul Open final here Sunday. Daniel, who entered the tournament ranked 114th, and Jaziri, ranked 78th, were both competing in their first ATP final. Enroute to the final Jaziri had defeated World No.4 Marin Cilic and started the match strongly and served for the first set with a score of 5-4 but his 25-year-old opponent stepped up to level the scores, eventually forcing a tiebreak and win the set.

**Zverev triumphs**

**Munich:** Mischa Zverev defended his title German Munich Open title after easing past Philipp Kohlschreiber 6-3, 6-3 in an all-German clash final here, Sunday. Kohlschreiber was chasing his fourth title from six finals but Zverev played too powerfully from the baseline to wrap up his first title of the year and the seventh ATP title of his career. Both players hold onto serve until the seventh game before Zverev utilised a break point to grab a 4-3 lead and the first set. Zverev continued his form in the second set too and hardly gave any chance to Kohlschreiber to smooth away to the title. AGENCIES

**TODAY'S MATCH**  
RR vs KXIP  
Time: 8pm  
Teletcast: Star Sports channels

**SHORT TAKES**

**Ronchi, McClenaghan in World XI squad**

Dubai: The New Zealand pair of Luke Ronchi and Mitchell McClenaghan complete the ICC World XI (WXI) line-up for the fund-raising T20I against the West Indies at Lords May 31, the ICC said Monday. Wicketkeeper-batsman Ronchi and fast bowler McClenaghan join a host of stars who have already confirmed their participation in the Lord's match, which is being organised to raise funds for stadia in the Caribbean which were damaged due to hurricanes last year. The team, to be led by England's limited over captain Eoin Morgan, includes Hardik Pandya and Dinesh Karthik (both India), Shahid Afridi and Shoaib Malik (both Pakistan), Shakib Al Hasan and Tamim Iqbal (both Bangladesh), Thisara Perera (Sri Lanka) and Rashid Khan (Afghanistan).

**AIFF eyes U-17 WC participation**

New Delhi: The All India Football Federation is trying to field India's U-16 team in a four-nation tournament in Japan, aiming to mould it into a battle-hardened outfit good enough to qualify for the FIFA U-17 World Cup in 2019. According to AIFF general secretary Kushal Das, the age-group tournament in Japan is being planned on the lines of the Intercontinental Cup for the senior team, which will take place in June in Mumbai. "The target is to do well in the AFC U-16 Championships, where the top four teams get direct tickets to the next U-17 World Cup. So, we are trying to build a strong team that can perform well at the AFC Championships," Das informed.

**Milorad to officiate Champions League final**

Nyon: Serb referee Milorad Mazic has been appointed to officiate the UEFA Champions League final pitting Real Madrid against Liverpool May 26 in Kiev, the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) announced Monday. Mazic, 45, has been an international referee since 2009, and this season was in charge of five Champions League and two Europa League matches. Mazic is among those appointed to referee the upcoming 2018 FIFA World Cup. He officiated the 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup final as well as three Euro 2016 games. Real Madrid have fond memories of Mazic from the last time he officiated a Los Blancos match, when they prevailed 3-2 over Sevilla in the Spain Super Cup.

**Marquez claims Spanish GP title**

Jerez (Spain): A masterful performance by Marc Marquez at the Circuito de Jerez-Angel Nieto earned him and the Repsol Honda Team a second consecutive win and leadership in both the Rider and Constructor Classifications in the MotoGP. This was the 63rd win of Marquez's career and his 37th in MotoGP (equalling Mike Hailwood's mark in the premier class), and success on a track where he has always struggled. On the other hand, a turn-six race incident on lap 18 prevented Dani Pedrosa from fighting for a podium finish that was clearly within his reach. The incident also involved Jorge Lorenzo and Andrea Dovizioso. Pedrosa escaped a heavy high-side without major injury, but he suffered a hard blow to his right hip.

**Breather for Bagan as club boss donates ₹1cr**

Kolkata: In a state of turmoil with their players not receiving salaries, Mohun Bagan got a breather Monday with their president Swapan Sadhan Bose promising to donate one crore rupees to clear the dues on urgent basis. The players have not received payments for the last three months, while the club is unable to decide on the squad for the upcoming season. To make matters worse there's been an internal squabbling among some office bearers. "We might have many differences but that should not affect the players who bring glory and laurels to our club," Bose wrote to general secretary Anjan Mitra in an email, which was circulated to the media.

**Harbhajan launches his weekly talk show**

Pune: Indian spinner Harbhajan Singh announced Monday the launch of 'Quick Heal Bhaji Blast with CSK', a weekly talk show featuring top cricketers from India and abroad. During the launch, Harbhajan fielded questions from journalists about this latest undertaking. The talk show will have Harbhajan in a candid conversation with his Chennai Super Kings (CSK) colleagues on subjects ranging from cricket to personal life and anecdotes. "Whenever interviewed, most cricketers stars appear very graceful and poised, but anyone who's been anywhere near a dressing room knows how far from reality that actually is," Harbhajan said. "Pranks and wisecracks are a part and parcel of their interactions with each other. This unseem fact is what I want to bring to Indian audiences through the show," he added.

**RAHANE TO LEAD IN HISTORIC TEST AGAINST AFGHANISTAN**



Shreyas Iyer may find a place in the Indian Test squad for his brilliant domestic form

**SHREYAS MAY REPLACE KOHLI FOR AFGHAN TEST**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, May 7: Virat Kohli's maiden county sojourn might pave the way for Shreyas Iyer's entry into the Indian squad for the one-off Test against Afghanistan starting June 14, when the national selection committee meets to pick a host of squads here Tuesday.

Kohli, who will be playing for Surrey for the entire month of June, will also miss the two T20 Internationals against Ireland in Dublin at the end of that month.

While Ajinkya Rahane is set to lead the Indian team for the Test match, Rohit Sharma is likely to be in-charge during the Ireland leg with Kohli taking over at the start of July, a BCCI official stated.

It is understood that barring Kohli, almost all the Test team regulars will be in action against Afghanistan. Cheteshwar Pujara and Ishant Sharma are expected to come back from England after Yorkshire's away game against Surrey at

the Oval from May 11-14.

"There was a bit of wrong communication in some sections of media. Pujara was always going to play the Test match against Afghanistan. Ditto for Ishant Sharma," the BCCI official said.

As far as Kohli's replacement is concerned, the pattern of selection by the current panel, led by MSK Prasad, indicates that Iyer could be in the running for his Test debut against Afghanistan.

"We have like for like replacements. For Kohli, it has been Iyer. For Jadeja, it is Axar Patel, for Hardik Pandya, it is Vijay Shankar. So you cannot miss the pattern," a selection committee member said.

The selectors had picked Iyer as Kohli's cover during the Dharamsala Test against Australia in 2017. Kohli had sustained a shoulder injury then. Iyer, however, didn't find a place in the playing XI as Kuldeep Yadav made his debut and had a successful outing.

However, with an aggregate of 3989 runs in 46 first-class matches at an average

of 53.90 means that Iyer could find a place in the squad. But with Murali Vijay, Shikhar Dhawan, KL Rahul, Cheteshwar Pujara and skipper Rahane being certainities in the playing XI, Iyer will have to fight for his place along with Rohit Sharma, who has had a mediocre Test record so far.

The selectors will also announce the squads for the limited-overs leg of the UK tour along with the India A tour of England, where a few Test specialists will be included for early acclimatisation.

For the two-match T20 series, most of the players of the Nidahas Trophy team are likely to be retained. Veteran Ambati Rayudu's current IPL form could also be up for discussion.

Youngsters Prithvi Shaw, Shubman Gill and Shivam Mavi are likely to find a place in the India A team coached by Rahul Dravid. The India A tour of England will begin with an ODI tri-series against England Lions (A team) and West Indies A, from June 22.

**BCCI CONFIRMATION**

**India will not play D/N Test in Australia**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 7: The BCCI has officially informed Cricket Australia (CA) that India will not play any day/night Test match on their tour Down Under at the end of this year.

While CA were insistent on having a pink ball Test match, which has been a convention for all touring teams for the past few years but the Indian board has made it clear that they will not deviate from the traditional red-ball matches.

With Indian team management, headed by chief coach Ravi Shastri, intimating the Committee of Administrators

(CoA) that the team will take at least 18 months to prepare for the D/N Test, acting secretary Amitabh Choudhary was told to pass on the message to CA chief executive James Sutherland.

CA wanted the opening Test at Adelaide from December 6-10 to be a pink ball Test match. "I am directed to say by the CoA that India would begin to play in the format only in about a year's time. Under the circumstances, I regret to say that the proposed D/N Test cannot be played and all Tests will have to have the conventional structure," Choudhary wrote in his e-mail to Sutherland.

Last week, Sutherland had told a radio station in Australia that India's reluctance to play the pink ball Test was primarily because of their urge to win the series. Australia have not lost a single Test match under lights

played at home.

On the other hand, among Indian players, only Cheteshwar Pujara and Murali Vijay have played D/N pink ball matches in Duleep Trophy.

**INDIA WOULD BEGIN TO PLAY IN THE FORMAT ONLY IN ABOUT A YEAR'S TIME. I REGRET TO SAY THAT THE PROPOSED D/N TEST CANNOT BE PLAYED AND ALL TESTS WILL HAVE TO HAVE THE CONVENTIONAL STRUCTURE**

**AMITABH CHOUDHARY | BCCI ACTING SECRETARY**

**Royals desperate to change fortune**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, May 7: Languishing at the bottom of the table, Rajasthan Royals (RR) need nothing less than a miracle to remain in contention for the IPL play-offs when they take on Kings XI Punjab (KXIP) in a do-or-die battle, here Tuesday.

Three consecutive defeats have more or less sealed their fate and for things to turn around for the Royals, every aspect of their game needs to improve and click for them. They are taking on third-placed Punjab just a day after losing to them by six wickets in Indore, where neither the bowlers nor the batsmen could do a convincing job.

The lackluster performance by their batsmen and bowlers have landed them in a position where they need to win all their remaining games and also pray for favourable results in order to qualify for the play-offs.

The hosts are back on their home turf, where they have recorded two of their three victories, but they need to start afresh.

Average performance by captain Ajinkya Rahane and below-par show of English all-rounder Ben Stokes and Rahul Tripathi has hurt them badly and the hosts need all these batsmen to fire.

West Indian bowler Jofra Archer, though, has been impressive and the only saving grace for them while expensive pacer Jaydev Unadkat has been a complete let-down.



MAN IN FORM: Pacer Jofra Archer will be key to Rajasthan Royals' bowling against Kings XI Punjab at Jaipur, Tuesday

On the other hand, the visitors are back to winning ways after an emphatic triumph over the Royals and would look to consolidate their position in the top-four.

Though they rely heavily on good partnerships between Chris Gayle and KL Rahul the likes of Mayank Agarwal and Karun Nair have been able to contribute handsomely. Their bowling too has the variety with old warhorse Ravi Ashwin, Axar Patel and the new sensation from Afghanistan Mujeeb Ur Rahman, proving more than handful for the opponent.

**Tye doesn't have ego issues on getting hit**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 7: For someone who has to deal with no less than Chris Gayle in the nets, Australian speedster Andrew Tye says it is best to keep the ego aside while bowling in the T20 format where even the best can be taken to cleaners on a regular basis.

"I bowl to Chris (Gayle) in the nets and that is challenging enough," the 31-year-old Kings XI Punjab speedster said in jest during an interaction.

“You will get hit for sixes in T20s, but you can't react emotionally. The nature of the format is like that. You can limit the damage by executing your plans well

ANDREW TYE

"You can't take things personally in this format. You will get hit for a six but you can't react emotionally. The nature of this format is such that you are always at risk of being hammered.

"You can limit the damage by executing your plans the best you can." Tye allowed a peek into his mindset before he goes onto bowl.

"Besides Gayle, you got so many dangerous players even in other teams. You got Kohli (Virat) and AB (de Villiers), Rohit (Sharma) and Suryakumar (Yadav). There are always different guys you have not seen and they can surprise you. And there are guys you have seen a lot of but they are so good that you can't get them out. It is always a challenge," he explained further.

**SRH pip RCB in thrilling tie**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, May 7: Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) put up a wonderful all-round performance to beat Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) by five runs in an IPL-XI encounter here, Monday.

Chasing a modest target of 147, RCB were restricted to 141/6 in their 20 overs. RCB skipper Virat Kohli (39) was the top scorer while Bangladeshi all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan (2/36) bowled for the hosts.

Earlier put into bat, SRH skipper Kane Williamson (56, 39b, 5x4, 2x6) struck a vital half century before pace duo of Mohammed Siraj (3/25) and Tim Southee (3/30) joined hands to help RCB bundle out the SRH for a modest 146.

SRH did not have the best of starts as they lost openers Alex Hales (five) and Shikhar Dhawan (13) early. To make matters worse for the hosts, Manish Pandey (five) too didn't last long, handing out a simple catch to Kohli off Yuzvendra Chahal (1/25) in the ninth over.

Thereafter, Williamson and Shakib (35, 32b, 5x4) stitched 64 runs for the fourth wicket to keep the hosts afloat. While Shakib played the second fiddle, Williamson showcased his class striking the balls to all parts of the ground without taking any undue risk.

Williamson brought up his fifth half century of the tournament in 35 balls. But just when it was time for Williamson to accelerate, the Kiwi departed, holding out to Mandeep Singh at deep midwicket square-leg off Umesh Yadav (1/36) in the 16th over.

Soon after Williamson's dismissal, it was left to a set Shakib to up the ante but the Bangladeshi all-rounder too departed an over



SRH skipper Kane Williamson plays a shot during his innings against RCB at Hyderabad, Monday

later caught by Yadav at deep-square leg off Southee's bowling.

Yusuf Pathan (12) then found the fence twice off Southee in the same over before perishing in the next over, cleaned up by Siraj. After being clobbered for a six by Wriddhiman Saha (six) in the same over, Siraj got his man when he went through the defence of the right-hander, who was trying for an unorthodox shot towards fine-leg leaving his all three stumps open, with

another quick delivery. If that was not enough, the final over from Southee accounted for three Sunrisers' wickets - two runs outs in the form of Rashid Khan and Bhuvneshwar Kumar and then a LBW dismissal of Sandeep Sharma from the final delivery of the innings.

**Brief scores:** SRH 146 (Kane Williamson 56; Mohammed Siraj 3/25, Tim Southee 3/30) bt RCB 141/6 (Virat Kohli 39; Shakib Al Hasan 2/36) by five runs.

**CONVINCING VICTORY**

**Maria books Kristina date**



Maria Sharapova in action against Irina-Camelia Begu at Madrid, Monday

AGENCIES

Madrid, May 7: Maria Sharapova looks to be coming into the form that took her to a Mutua Madrid Open title back in 2014, surging through a 7-5, 6-1 win over Irina-Camelia Begu to reach the round of 16 here Monday.

Battling through a tight opening set, Sharapova rallied from a break down and 3-1 deficit, completing the comeback with a thrilling set point that featured both combatants at their very best. The five-time Grand Slam champion only grew stronger from there, channeling that momentum into a decisive second set to win 20 of the final 22 points to secure a 92 minute victory on Court Manolo Santana.

Sharapova struck 21 winners to 24 unforced errors and converted five of 10 break points. While Begu could often match the Russian's power, she was less successful off the ground with six winners to 19 unforced errors.

The win over Begu has her tentatively rising back up to World No.46, with a return to the top 40 for the first time since 2016 possible should she reach the quarterfinals.

Standing between the unseeded Russian and a second WTA quarterfinal of 2018 is Kristina Mladenovic, finalist in Madrid last year. The Frenchwoman outlasted Zhang Shuai in three sets and defeated Sharapova in their last meeting at the 2017 Porsche Tennis Grand Prix.

Later on the day, former World No.1 Serbian Novak Djokovic, a two-time former champion, edged past Japanese Kei Nishikori to win 7-5, 6-4 in a men's first-round match. Djokovic took a big step in the right direction by hit 26 winners in long baseline rallies to improve to 12-2 lifetime against 2014 finalist Nishikori, who had reached the Madrid (or better) in each of the past five years. The 10th seed will next play Daniil Medvedev of Russia or Great Britain's Kyle Edmund, Wednesday.

**Odisha teams win in basketball meet**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, May 7: Odisha boys' and girls' teams registered comprehensive victories in their respective categories on the inaugural day of the 69th National Junior Basketball Championships at Ludhiana, Monday.

The boys' team overpowered Andhra Pradesh 54-36 in their campaign opener. They will face Jammu & Kashmir in their next round match, Tuesday. Meanwhile, the state sides defeated Uttarakhand 82-65 in their campaign opener and they will meet Telangana in their next round, Tuesday.

**Sailesh selected**

Sailesh Kumar Ivatory of Cuttack has been selected Monday for the National Open Taikwondo Championships in Pune, May 10-14. He is the only player from the Cuttack Taikwondo Sports Association (CTSA) to take part in the five-day meet. Besides Sailesh, Srikanta Parida is the only other member of the association to be part of the meet as Parida has been selected as an official.

**Warner, Bancroft may return to cricket in July**

AGENCIES



Cameron Bancroft (L) and David Warner

Sydney, May 7: Australia's banned cricketers David Warner and Cameron Bancroft could return to cricket as early as July as they are considering playing Top End's Strike League in Australia's Northern Territory.

After the trio of Steve Smith, Warner and Bancroft were caught in the ball-tampering scandal, Cricket Australia's sanctions prevented them from playing international and Australian domestic cricket, however, did not bar them from playing club cricket. While Bancroft is closer to playing in the league, NT cricket chief confirmed that they are in talks with Warner too.

NT Cricket chief executive Joel Morrison confirmed they've also had discussions with Warner to play in Northern Territory's version of the Big Bash. Morrison also added that the league, featuring both T20 and 50-over games, could be the perfect platform for

the banned players to begin their journey back to the top-flight cricket.

"Once the sanctions were handed down by Cricket Australia and the dust had settled, I reached out to Cricket Australia and then the players' managers to give them the opportunity to play some cricket over the winter," Morrison added.

"One of the great advantages we have up here is that we have a winter competition which provides playing opportunities year-round. We offered them the opportunity to help them get back and play if they wanted to pick up the bat sooner rather than later," Morrison signed off.