



ACTING IS TOUGH: ALIA

Alia says acting is a 'challenge' and she is 'not naturally gifted' at it

GLITTERATI P10



XI, KIM MEET AHEAD OF SUMMIT

President Xi Jinping and Kim Jong Un meet Tuesday in an unannounced visit by Kim ahead of summit with US President Trump

INTERNATIONAL P11



RAHANE TO LEAD INDIA

Ajinkya Rahane to lead India in the absence of Virat Kohli in the historic one-off Test against Afghanistan

SPORTS P16

SHORT TAKES

Kailash Mansarovar Yatra resumes

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj Tuesday said the Nathu La pass has been reopened for the annual Kailash Mansarovar Yatra. China had closed the Nathu La pass in Sikkim and denied entry of Kailash Mansarovar (in Tibet) pilgrims last year in the wake of the 73-day-long Doklam standoff. "I had told Chinese Foreign Ministry that relations between governments cannot prosper until people-to-people relations are improved when the Nathu La pass was closed during last yatra it came as a blow to people. I am happy to announce that it has now been opened for yatra," Swaraj said here during an event.

Mallya loses \$1.55 bn assets case in UK court

London: Embattled liquor tycoon Vijay Mallya, undergoing an extradition trial in a UK court over fraud and money laundering charges by Indian authorities, Tuesday lost a lawsuit filed by 13 Indian banks in the UK High Court seeking to collect from him more than \$1.55 billion. Judge Andrew Henshaw refused to overturn a worldwide order freezing Mallya's assets and upheld an Indian court's ruling that a consortium of 13 Indian banks were entitled to recover funds amounting to \$1.55 billion (1.145 billion pounds). The victory for the banks will enable them to enforce the Indian judgment against Mallya's assets in England and Wales. **P11**

3 killed in jumbo attacks in separate incidents

Dhenkanal/Nuapada: Three persons including a farmer were killed after being attacked by elephants in two incidents in Dhenkanal and Nuapada districts Tuesday morning. In the first incident, two mendicants were trampled to death by a herd of elephants at a riverbank near Khandanala Ashram near IGT Sarang under Dihadola forest section of Dhenkanal district. The deceased were identified as Manas Ranjan Sahu of Barihapur and Prahallad Behera of Andharikholia while another mendicant Satyananda Bhutia of Deulabeda managed to escape. The three victims from Khandanala ashram at Sarang had gone to take bath in a river when they came face to face with a herd of jumbos. **P6**

VIGILANCE GOES INTO JATNI FLYOVER 'BUNGLING'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jatni, May 8: In the wake of allegations of sub-standard work brought into focus in the execution of Jatni flyover last year, the Vigilance officials Tuesday began a probe into the "irregularities".

The Vigilance officials summoned complainant Sudarshan Sundarray, president of Jatni Traders' Association, to their Bhubaneswar office. Sundarray is reported to have handed over the hard disks of footage retrieved from CCTV cameras installed at the construction site.

Meanwhile, residents of the area demanded disengagement of Panda Infra Projects from the flyover work, which has also taken up the Bomikhal over-bridge project in Bhubaneswar that collapsed recently killing a labourer.

According to sources, the first mishap at Bomikhal flyover occurred September 10, 2017, after which allegations of sub-standard



An NIT team inspecting the project site at Jatni (A file photo)

works in the execution of Jatni over-bridge were made. Complainant Sudarshan Sundarray and others had submitted CCTV footage to the

concerned authorities as proof of substandard work. The complainants had moved several forums and demanded a vigilance

investigation into the irregularities. Subsequently, the vigilance began a probe into the matter while an expert team from the

National Institute of Technology, Rourkela, had inspected various technical aspects of the project. However, the probe process was abandoned due to various reasons.

After collecting the CCTV footage from Sundarray, the Vigilance sleuths examined the authenticity of the visuals in the presence of engineers. The hard disk will be sent to the state forensic sciences laboratory, sources at the Vigilance office said. Meanwhile, the Jatni Traders Association welcomed the vigilance initiative. The Association also alleged that Panda Infra had used substandard material in the construction of the flyover. The firm had faulted in piling of the flyover; they added. The Association demanded that some other engineers engaged in the project should be brought into the purview of investigation.

Sources said the NIT team had initiated their probe October 8 last year. However, the team is yet to submit its final report.

Amit Shah is a murder accused, says Rahul

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, May 8: Lashing out at BJP president Amit Shah, Congress president Rahul Gandhi Tuesday said people tend to forget that a man who talks about honesty and decency is a "murder accused".

Addressing media persons here, Gandhi said, "Amit Shah has been accused of murder, right? The Supreme Court has mentioned in the Loya case (Judge BH Loya). So, I don't think Amit Shah has much of credibility."

"People in India tend to forget that the Bharatiya Janata Party president is a murder accused. The party, which talks about honesty and decency, has a person who has been accused of murder as its president," said Gandhi.

Gandhi also questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision

to pick a "corrupt person" as the Chief Ministerial candidate (BS Yeddyurappa) in Karnataka.

He said: "We are asking the Prime Minister to please explain to the people of Karnataka why he has chosen a corrupt person with a record of being in jail as Chief Ministerial candidate. People of Karnataka want to know why Modi could not find a non-corrupt candidate."

He said people also wanted to know why Modi gave eight tickets to Reddy brothers, who had stolen ₹35,000 crore of public money.

Gandhi also tweeted: "It's a clear fight in Karnataka. Clean politics vs Dirty politics. Mafia vs People. With the BJP fielding the corrupt Reddy gang, we are trying a novel approach to fund our candidates. Support our candidate by making a contribution."

STAR WEDDING



Photo taken after actor Sonam Kapoor tied the knot with beau Anand Ahuja, a Delhi businessman, in a traditional ceremony at her aunt's bungalow in Bandra, Mumbai, Tuesday. **Report P10**

BOMIKHAL MISHAP

Govt to make probe findings public today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 8: A day after disengaging Panda Infra Projects Private Limited as the executing firm of the mishap-hit Bomikhal flyover, the state government Tuesday informed media details of the findings of the panel constituted to go into the mishap and their next course of action would be made public Wednesday.

Works Minister Prafulla Mallick told reporters the government has been expecting the probe report Tuesday evening. "We will inform you about the finding and our next course of action tomorrow."

The state government Monday terminated the tender contract of Panda Infra Projects Pvt Ltd for Bomikhal flyover work after a portion of the structure collapsed May 3 leaving one labourer dead.

Arup Patnaik is chief of Youth Welfare Board

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 8: Soon after joining the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD), retired IPS officer Arup Patnaik has been appointed as the executive chairman of State Youth Welfare Board. Chief Minister Naveen Patanik made this appointment Monday, officials said, adding the former Mumbai Police Commissioner will be in-charge of the Biju Yuva Bahini programmes of the state government.

The programme has been launched to deal with youth affairs for which the state has earmarked ₹450.49 crore for three years to set up Biju Yuva Bahini in panchayats and urban local bodies. It has 2.92 lakh youths as Yuva Bahini members to work as volunteers to take up community services.

Chennai tourist's body flown back home

STONE-PELTERS DRAW FLACK FOR ATTACK ON THIRUMANI ON SRINAGAR-GULMARG ROAD

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, May 8: The body of a 22-year old tourist from Chennai killed by stone-pelters here was flown home Tuesday as Kashmiris cutting across the political spectrum continued to condemn the cowardly act.

The grieving parents and sister of the slain R Thirumani, whose vehicle was among many attacked on the Srinagar-Gulmarg road Monday, accompanied the body on an Indigo flight, a tourism department official told reporters.

Thirumani was hit on the forehead and nose when the stone pelters targeted several vehicles with



rocks during protests called against the Sunday killings of five militants and six civilians in Shopian district.

Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti Tuesday reiterated her condemnation of the tourist's killing.

"I have no words strong enough to condemn this tragic incident

or even condole with the family," she said in a statement.

She described the incident as a blot on the cultural value system of Kashmir and an attempt to bulldoze its economy.

The Chief Minister, who went to meet the tourist's family at the hospital immediately after the killing, had said Monday: "My head hangs in shame."

Her predecessor and National Conference leader Omar Abdullah said: "We have killed a tourist by throwing stones at the vehicle he was travelling in. Let's try and wrap our heads around the fact that we stoned a tourist, a guest, to death while we glorify these

stone pelters and their methods."

Senior separatist leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq said: "Deeply saddened by the news of the death of a tourist due to stone pelting. I condemn such hooliganism and rowdiness. The common man in the valley is no less shocked. Those who earn from tourism are particularly shocked."

"What have we proved by doing this? We claim to be the most hospitable society and here we have a guest killed in stone pelting," said Zahoor Ahmad, 33, a taxi operator.

"What crime had the tourist committed? His only crime was that he trusted his life with us," Ahmad added.

Stories of boy victims get lost in the crowd

The minimum punishment for raping a boy is 10 years in jail, compared with 20 years for assaults on girls under 16

REUTERS

Mumbai, May 8: He was lured into a room near where he played cricket, a man then shut the door and window, and raped him. That's what a 14-year-old Mumbai boy told his mother from his hospital bed last July.

The boy died soon after, killed by the rat poison he consumed after the assault, according to details described to Reuters by his parents and police.

Inspector Balwant Deshmukh, the investigating officer, said police have all but given up hope of finding out who raped the boy. "We will revive the case if we get new clues, but as of now it's in cold storage," he told Reuters.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government last month introduced the death penalty for rape of girls below 12 and increased the minimum punishment for those whose victims were under 16, after the rapes of an eight-year-old girl and a young woman in two states ruled by his party led to public protests. But the emergency order, known as an ordinance, did not mention boys, although a government survey has showed that male minors were more likely to be victims than female minors.

The ordinance lapses in six months and the government has

SEX CRIMES



to introduce legislation to convert it into law. At that time, the government plans to broaden the statute to make it gender-neutral, said a senior government official who declined to be named.

"Whatever applies to girls will apply to boys," the official said. The government's chief spokesman did not respond to requests for comment.

In the meantime, the minimum punishment for raping a boy is 10 years in jail, compared with 20 years for assaults on girls under 16. "Why this discrimination?" asked the father of the boy who was raped, sitting in his tiny first floor home in a teeming settlement near Mumbai's international airport, largely populated by migrant worker families.

Continued on P5

Karnataka CM lauds Modi

New Delhi: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah Tuesday made a comical faux pas by inadvertently praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi - a clear indication that Modi was predominantly in his mind. Actually, the Congress leader was trying to appreciate the achievements of his party candidate Narendra Swamy and seeking votes for him when this slip of the tongue occurred. The Chief Minister said, "In every village, work on roads, drinking water and building houses is possible because of Narendra Modi and us..." He was immediately corrected by Swamy, who was with him looked sheepishly amused. Upon realising his folly, the CM corrected himself saying, "Sorry, Narendra Swamy...the important word is Narendra." He went on to add, "The Swamy is here, the Modi is there in Gujarat. Narendra Modi is fiction, Narendra Swamy is truth."



UP man carries wife's body on shoulder

Budaun: Another incident of medical apathy has come to the fore as a man was found carrying his wife's body on his shoulder in the absence of a hearse van in Uttar Pradesh's Budaun city. However, the hospital authorities refuted the allegations and stated that the hospital has two hearse vans, which are provided to whoever asks for it. The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) has ordered an inquiry into the matter. The Chief Medical Officer told reporters, "Got to know of it through media, it is condemnable, but we have two hearse vans, which are provided to whoever asks for it. I'll look into it and punish those at fault". The incident brings back memories of Dana Majhi, a tribal man who walked 16 kilometres with his wife's body in Kalahandi district in 2017. Uttar Pradesh's Barabanki saw a similar incident two months back when a differently-abled son and his sister were forced to carry the body of their father on a rickshaw after they were denied a hearse van.



2 Cong MPs withdraw plea in SC

New Delhi: Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra Tuesday got a relief after two Congress MPs, challenging Rajya Sabha chairman M Venkaiah Naidu's order rejecting the impeachment notice against him, withdrew their petitions from the Supreme Court. The top court expressed its reluctance to go into their contention questioning the setting up of a larger bench to hear the matter. A five-judge constitution bench headed by Justice A K Sikri declared the petitions moved by the two MPs as "dismissed as withdrawn" after senior advocate and party leader Kapil Sibal, appearing for the MPs, decided not to press the pleas realising that the judges were not inclined to accept his arguments. Sibal had sought to know who had ordered the listing of the matter before a larger bench and sought a copy of the order, saying this was necessary to enable them decide whether or not to challenge it. **P9**

CJI IMPEACHMENT





THALASSEMIA DAY

Guests attending the World Thalassaemia Day event organised by Thalassaemia and Sickle Cell Anemia Welfare Society at Rotary Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

CELEBRATING CHILDHOOD

Kids of Humara Bachpan celebrate the 5th foundation day of the organisation at Unit VIII community hall in Bhubaneswar



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

Are you a science and technology geek? Well, today you may have a chance to use your knowledge and zoom ahead of everyone! Ganesha says even students will excel in their studies. Housewives, try your own new recipe, the oven will not blast!



TAURUS

Today, passionate and possessive are the two words that will define your relationship with the people you love, predicts Ganesha. You may choose to take pains for the sake of others, which seems to be highly fulfilling. Your good spirit will sky-rocket by evening. Make sure to change your disadvantage into your advantage, says Ganesha.



GEMINI

If you are embroiled in a legal dispute, an out-of-court settlement is likely, predicts Ganesha. You are a courageous person and you'll need a lot of it today. Don't back down from your decisions. You may have to be stern with a few people. Your resilience will pay off.



CANCER

You will labour more to finish pending tasks. You will give priority to career compared to personal chores. So you will be caught up in your career and business riddles. By evening, however, you will have cheerful moments as Ganesha sees you having cherishing time with your beloved.



LEO

A mixed bag of fortunes, a bit-tersweet pill, call it what you will, but today brings with it a lot of things packed within its 24-hour period. Ganesha foresees a hectic morning, and an even more frantic afternoon. So, respite will be a luxury for you today. If this was the bitter end of the pill, then its sweet results will be like a balm on your frayed nerves, says Ganesha.



VIRGO

Your renewed enthusiasm for life will bring about a radical change in you. Ganesha says today is a good time to let others see how important and how brilliant you can be. Your intelligence will become very evident as you demonstrate how things should be done.



LIBRA

Ganesha says you will try to gain knowledge in new topics today. You will feel enthusiasm and a feeling of positivity today. You will show more interest when talking with friends and this will make you come closer to them. There will be benefits to you from your life partner.



SCORPIO

The ground beneath you seems a bit shaky; watch your steps. A time would come when your confidence would be shattered, however, don't let set-backs and failures affect you. Adapt the attitude of 'this too shall pass' and the rest would fall in place, says Ganesha.



SAGITTARIUS

A day full of cheer and joy is in store. You will probably enrol in a part-time course and sharpen your skills. But for those in police and legal professions, you will be the lions of the jungle! Roar and stamp your authority, says Ganesha.



CAPRICORN

You have been waiting to hear some good news for long, and today is the day when the wait will be finally over. With your eyes firmly set on your goal, you will develop likings for your work. This will help you make plans and take decisions for the future, feels Ganesha.



AQUARIUS

You may find your schedules running haywire today! Your workload may be daunting, especially if you're an administrator. However, Ganesha says your diligence and commitment will tide you through. And you are still ready to party in the evening. What energy!



PISCES

You will finally realize the worth of your resources today. You will take a decision to increase your savings and clamp down on unnecessary expenses. Your expenses are likely to increase temporarily.



Pre-Wedding photo shoots



THE IN-THING IN MARRIAGES

From invitation cards to photography, marriage ceremonies are undergoing a change in present times

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar: Since long, wedding photography has been an integral part of all marriage ceremonies as much as the various rituals involved in solemnising the union of two individuals. The latest trend is pre-nuptial photo shoots, as more and more couples are inclined to capture their moments of togetherness before tying the knot.

Pre-wedding photography is a growing trend where engaged couples decide to have professional photos taken in a special location before their wedding day. Interestingly, this trend has its origin in Asia and is now spreading fast across the globe. Since the last four years, pre-wedding photo shoots are also the in-thing for couple in Odisha with every second couple in the capital city opting for this new fad.

Such photo shoots also offer a chance for the couples to get together with their wedding photographer in the run up to the big day, usually at a venue of their choice, and to have some portrait photos taken. These days many wedding photographers include a pre-wedding photo shoot in their package in return for an additional payment.

Orissa POST interacted with some wedding photographers as well as newly-married couples, who hired pre-wedding photographers, to learn about their experience.

According

to Rahul Roy of Roy Photography, marriage is a very special moment for a person as it unites him/her with another person for life. "We offer couples pre-wedding photography packages as it helps us to capture important moments that we may sometime miss during wedding photography. During such photo shoots we create a space where couples can flaunt their love for each other," he explained.

"Based on the locales and the couple's demands, the budget for pre-wedding photography can often go beyond ₹1 lakh," Rahul said, adding, "The trend of pre-wedding is growing and this year I alone served more than 50 clients."

Elucidating on the details, Umakanta Jena of Photozone said, "Couples prefer beautiful locations for capturing their cherished moments for pre-wedding photography. We decide the location or set the location in a park or tourist spot in the city or even go to Puri beach for pre-wedding photography depending on the budget of the clients. Some couples even go to locales in New Delhi,

Hyderabad, Kolkata and Bangalore for the purpose."

Generally, pre-wedding photography is planned much in advance—often three to four months of the wedding, he added.

Another pre-wedding photographer in the capital city, Lipu Raj of Lens Rebel Photography said, "In pre-wedding photography we try to capture different moods and emotions of the couples such as their cheerfulness, intimacy, funny side etc. The couples come to use with various expectations and we always try to fulfill their expectation because these moments will never come in their life again. Besides, these are moments that they will cherish throughout their life," Lipu said.

Pre-wedding photo shoots are relatively new, as earlier people thought it to be unnecessary and even against the Indian culture. However, now families are more supportive
SUMAN ROUT

According to Subham Mishra of Mishra Photography, which also specialises in pre-wedding video shoots, "The world is changing. Even the new-age couples seem to be more excited about their pre-wedding photography than their wedding photographs."

Subham said couples must take an appointment two months in advance for their pre-wedding photo shoot. "We shoot the photos only after detailed discussions with the clients and deciding on the locale for the shoot. This takes a

lot of time." Suman Rout, who will soon tie the knot, has gone for pre-wedding photo shoots. According to her, pre-wedding photo shoots are relatively new, as earlier people thought it to be unnecessary and even against the Indian culture. However, now families are more supportive and allow couples to do what make them happy. Tapaswani Ray Patnaik too has done pre-wedding with her beau. She said that she decided to go for pre-wedding photography after watching a viral video of a Mumbai girl, who had done pre-wedding songs based on the popular number 'Shape of You'. "I had an arranged marriage and we both wanted to capture our moments of togetherness before marriage via pre-wedding photography," she said.



'Sashakt' campaign to empower the specially-abled from today



Volunteers of OSDN at Press Club of Odisha in the capital city

OP PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha State Disability Network (OSDN) has launched 'Sashakt Campaign' with a view to promote awareness about the existing laws and government schemes for specially-abled people as well as to include such people in these activities.

Usually, such people are subject to neglect and apathy of the society. But OSDN is keen to include them in the mainstream of the society as they have plenty to offer to the society.

The 'Sashakt Campaign' aims to create awareness on issues related to

the specially-abled people and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. The campaign will be conducted in four phases. In the first phase, organisers have planned a chariot campaign, which will pass through all the districts in the state. The campaign will be launched in Puri, May 9 and the first phase will conclude in Nayagarh June 13.

"Every individual in the state has lots to offer to our society, including the specially-abled people, who are often left behind. We aim to connect over one million such people through our campaign which will end November 30,

2019," OSDN convener and chairperson of Sashakt State Coordination Committee Sruti Mohapatra told the media at a press conference here.

The organisers pointed out that currently there are five laws for the benefit of specially-abled people – Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act, the National Trust Act, the Rehabilitation Council of India Act, Mental Healthcare Act and The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, and they aim to make the people aware of these.

The objective of the campaign is to create awareness among five lakh specially-abled people about the laws. "Legislation and policies are only the beginning, though they are very pivotal. However, in the long run, laws cannot themselves be agents of change. Justice can be achieved when the laws are enforced in the right perspective and people comprehend the laws and become aware of their rights," the organisers added.

Interestingly, the students of BJB College, KIIT, NIFT, Symbiosis and TISS have created the logo, designs and website of the campaign.

"The aim of Sashakt campaign is to build bridges of inclusion," Sashakt campaign's advisor Major General BK Mohapatra said.

CELEBRATING THEATRE



Apekha, a one-act Odia play, being staged at the Arpana Theatre Festival at Bhanjakala Mandap, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

AN EXCLUSIVE 'ANTI-AGEING CENTRE' FOR THE ELDERLY IN CITY IN 3 MONTHS

State working to increase happiness index of elderly

MANISH KUMAR, OP

Bhubaneswar, May 8: Over the past two decades, the positive psychology movement has contributed to psychological research with its science of happiness, human potential along with flourishing. More than just positive mood, happiness is a state of comfort which encompasses living a good life. In other words, it denotes living a life with a sense of meaning and deep satisfaction. Studies have shown shows that happiness is not the simply bouncing from one joy to the next; achieving happiness typically involves times of considerable discomfort.

Keeping this in view, Odisha government has been working on a project to ensure that the happiness index of the elderly in the state is amplified without shelling out any extra money.

The Department of Social Securities and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) is currently working on a project named 'anti-ageing centre for the elderly' with the aim to bring all their necessary services complemented with activity centres under one umbrella.

Officials involved in the project claim that works relating to the same has already commenced and the centre is slated to come up in



the state within the next three months.

According to plans, the proposed 'anti-ageing centre for the elderly'

will provide an array of services such as therapeutic, counseling, limited diagnostic services. While doctors will be made available at these cen-

tres for consultation and treatment, they will also offer rejuvenation services like library and seminar halls to the elderly.

Talking about the ambitious project, SSEPD secretary Niten Chandra told **Orissa POST**, "The project has already been approved and is currently in the execution phase. We are working on the set up now. We have planned to provide all necessary support to the elderly free of cost so that they can spend quality time at the centre, which will offer all supportive services at a single point."

The centre would, however, not serve as a residential premise, but as a hub where the elderly can visit

daily. Initially, the centre will have a capacity to cater to the needs of around 250 elderly persons daily. However, the government plans to increase the activity, interaction and supportive machinery of the centre gradually.

As per the 2011 Census, the state is home to 39,84,000 elderly persons (above 60 years), which comprise 9.5 per cent of the total population of Odisha. While the life expectancy at birth in the state stood at 63.8 and 65.9 for males and females respectively for the period between 2009 and 2013. According to the office of Registrar General of India, the old-age dependency ratio in Odisha stands at 15.4.

downtown



TEMPLE WORK

Workers remove iron scaffolding from the pinnacle of Srimandir in Puri, Tuesday

SAFETY DRIVE

Railway Protection Force personnel create awareness on the safety of women and children at Puri railway station, Tuesday



Looters target morning walkers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 8: The looters again started striking the morning walkers in Chandrasekharpur area after a brief lull of six months. The morning walkers especially the elderly people have been the easy targets for the chain snatchers in the area.

As per information, two such incidents in the recent past have again created panic among the residents of the area and moreover, police have failed to arrest the culprits even though four days have elapsed to the loot incident. Three bike-borne looters attacked a lady morning walker while she was plucking flowers near plot no 825, VIM colony in Shailashree Vihar around 4 am Friday. The looters followed the lady and dragged her on the road as she resisted their bid to decamp with all her gold jewelry.

They took away one gold ring, a gold chain and the gold bangles of the woman. The same day in afternoon, some miscreants stole a bicycle from a house in Shailashree Vihar area.

In another similar incident, the same gang of bike-borne chain snatchers attacked a morning walker in front of the CBSE office near DAV public school in Shailashree Vihar area around 6 am May 5. The victim was identified as Santosh Dhal. The looters first took away the gold ring and chain of Dhal and later again returned to rob around Rs 5,000 and one expensive mobile phone.

TARINIGADA FIRING

Choudwar circle jail superintendent to depose before HC

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, May 8: The Orissa High Court here Tuesday heard the bail petition of industrialist Mahimananda Mishra in connection with a firing case at Tarinigada in Paradip. As per earlier directives, the state government has submitted an affidavit to the court pertaining to the present status and conditions in which Mahimananda has been kept under jail custody. However, the court found some discrepancies in the report.

Justice DP Choudhury has asked the Choudwar circle jail superintendent to appear before him in the next proceeding and to help the court in presenting relevant evidences against the accused. The court has posted the hearing to May 15.

During the court proceedings an affidavit was also filed by Mahimananda, stating that the police have falsely implicated him in the case. Mahimananda's counsel urged the court to grant him bail citing health issues.

Notably, May 29, 2016, miscreants had opened fire on two youths at Tarinigada area after which both the victims sustained major injuries. Police have registered a case against Mahimananda alleging that the shootout was orchestrated at his behest. Earlier, Kujang JMFC court had also rejected the bail plea of Mahimananda in the same case.

75-year-old devotee dies in Holy City

Puri: A 75-year-old devotee Tuesday died after paying obeisance to Srimandir deities Tuesday. The deceased has been identified as Ajay Kumar Das of Kendrapara. Sources said Das along with his family visited the 12th century shrine around the noon. Das collapsed on the temple premises after having darshan of the presiding deities. A few employees of the temple administration rushed Das to the district headquarters hospital, where doctors declared him dead-on-arrival.

Mudslinging over skill development scheme

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 8: Odisha has effectively trained and ensured employment for a record 96,000 rural youths under Deen Dayal Upadhyay Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), said Panchayati Raj Minister Pradip Maharathy here Tuesday. He hailed Odisha Rural Development and Marketing Society's (ORMAS) efforts to implement the central scheme which helped the state to receive the Prime Minister's Award for best State in the country in skill development of rural youth,

for second year in a row. The minister added that the state government has set a target to train two lakh more youths over the next two years under this programme. Maharathy said Chief Minister has expressed pleasure and congratulated the Panchayati Raj department, ORMAS, other departments and agencies involved in making the programme in the state a success.

Firms and institutes such as Escorts, Tata's Westside, GMR Group, Sahi Exports, KIIT University, Care Hospital Group, Apollo Hospital and Gram Tarang, are keen to

work with ORMAS and absorb skilled youths from the state, the minister claimed. Meanwhile, Maharathy also took a jibe at Union Petroleum and Skill Development Minister Dharmendra Pradhan stating that while Pradhan is working for skill development of urban youths, Odisha government has worked for the skill development of youths in rural areas. "He is like Mahanadi and we are Kharasrota River. The water in Mahanadi could dry up but Kharasrota will keep flowing," Maharathy said sarcastically.

130 ponzi firms 'vanish' in state

Cuttack: Justice MM Das Commission, probing the multi-crore chit fund scam in the state, has written to the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Crime Branch seeking addresses of 130 dubious firms. Sources said identification of investors at district-level is going on in full swing following direction of the state government. The government has directed the all the district Collectors to expedite the identification process. On the other hand, the probe panel is contemplating as to how the deposits of the investors would be returned. After completion of fourth phase of verification of affidavits, the commission is currently carrying out its fifth phase verification during which the panel has identified depositors of 487 dubious firms and has issued notices to 347 of them asking them to present their stance on the small depositors. However, the commission could not trace the remaining 130 firms and wrote to the EOW to provide addresses of the firms.

ON LORD'S DUTY



Bhoi servitors of Srimandir carry a log for chariot construction at Rath Yard in Puri with the help of a specially-designed cart, Tuesday.

Atal Incubation grant for tech college

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 8: The NITI Aayog has selected the C V Raman College of Engineering from the state for grant-in-aid for scaling up the existing incubation centre under the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) among 72 Atal Incubation Centres (AICs) in the country.

In a release, the Aayog said, "We are pleased to announce that 10 existing incubation centres and 72 AICs have been shortlisted for grant-in-aid in two consecutive phases. The actual grant-in support from AIM will be subject to the compliance of the shortlisted applicants with a set of mandatory requirements and guidelines, including an onsite due diligence for full readiness of the commit-



According to the think tank of the Union govt, the incubation centres would provide the start-ups with necessary technical support

ted incubator space."

According to the Aayog, the first 31 of these 40 applicants who successfully comply with the norms, within 120 days of date of announcement of the shortlist, all the mandatory compliances requirements for grant-in considerations including an onsite due diligence of readiness of the applicants' facilities will be considered for

tranche-1 of the grant-in-aid disbursements.

According to the think tank of the Union government, the incubation centres would provide the start-ups with necessary guidance, tech support, infrastructure, access to investors, networking and facilitating a host of other resources that may be required for the startup to survive.

MeT predicts respite from heatwave; rainfall likely

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 8: The Met office here Tuesday stated that there is a possibility of sporadic rainfall from May 9 to 12, also saying this could bring the much-needed respite from intense heatwave conditions in the state.

There would be marginal fall in temperature during the period, says the weather office sources. The impact of the intense heatwave condition would fall in most parts of the state from May 14. In western Odisha, the temperature would hover around 40 degrees or below that during this period.

The Nor'wester, it said, would continue lashing the coastal areas and the adjoining districts of Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Jajpur, Ganjam, Gajapati, Rayagada, Kandhamal and Koraput.

Most areas in the western Odisha sizzled under blistering heat Tuesday as mercury soared to 40 degrees and above at 11 places. Titlagarh recorded the highest temperature of 44.8 degrees C.

Temperature crossed over 40 degrees in Sonepur (44), Jharsuguda (43.8), Bolangir (43.5), Sambalpur (43), Bhawanipatna (42.2), Hirakud (42.1), Sundargarh (42), Talcher (41.6), Angul (41.3) and Malkangiri (41.1).

Rape accused thrashes his lawyer

Bhubaneswar: An undertrial rape accused Tuesday went berserk and assaulted his own lawyer at the District and Sessions Judge Court complex here. The accused identified as Jitendra Biswal, was in the court for the hearing of his case, misbehaved with the visitors present there Tuesday afternoon. When he was warned by his lawyer for his unruly behaviour, an enraged Biswal started verbally abusing his lawyer and also assaulted him, it is alleged. Following the incident, Badagada police reached there and brought a rowdy Biswal down. The accused was later shifted to Jharpada jail. The lawyers present in the court also thrashed Biswal black and blue before the police reached the spot. The bar council members have expressed their resentment over the incident.

CM TAKES STOCK

NOW, REVIEW OF PRIVATE SCHOOL FEE STRUCTURE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 8: As part of completion of BJD government's fourth year in its fourth term this month, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday started reviewing the performance of government departments. The review comes amidst the state government's media blitz to highlight its achievements and success stories.

On the first day of the review, the CM closely reviewed the performance of the departments of School and Mass Education, Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) Development, Law, and Family and Welfare in the presence of ministers and secretaries of the departments concerned. The ministers were asked to apprise the CM of three major achievements and successes of their departments. After assessing the performance of all departments in a phased manner till May 17, the CM will issue a report card for all the departments. Related matters would be discussed at a meeting of the council of ministers and made public.

"The Chief Minister has been doing such performance review every year, and this is a welcome step," said School and Mass Education Minister Badri Narayan Patra.

Meanwhile, shortly after Chief Minister's review meeting, the School and Mass Education Minister and SC/ST Development Minister Ramesh



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik reviews the affairs of the SC&ST Development department at Secretariat, Tuesday.

Chandra Majhi addressed the media here to highlight the achievements of their departments in the last four years.

Patra said while 190 model schools have already been set up by the state government in 190 blocks, the remaining model schools will be set up in a phased manner within the next two years to achieve the target to open model schools in all blocks across the state. The minister said that the Chief Minister has asked the department to focus on construction of hostels in these model schools.

School and Mass Education Secretary PK Mohapatra said the state government, from the next academic session, will provide 'Mukhyamantri Medhabruti' scholarship to around 35,000 students where each qualified student will get a scholarship of Rs 5,000. The government will also introduce a chapter on road safety, he said.

The secretary said that government will also soon decide about the fee structure of private institutions after receiving the report from a departmentally formed committee in June. Minister Patra said that in view of zero results in Class X board examination in 36 schools, the government has decided to fix responsibility on teachers where the pass out rate is less than 30 per cent.

On the other hand, Minister of SC/ST Development, Minorities, Backward Classes Welfare Department Ramesh Chandra Majhi said that Odisha is a front runner in implementation of the Forest Rights Act in the country by providing forest rights to more than 4.15 lakh beneficiaries.

Majhi said that the CM has asked ministers and officials of the departments to implement the welfare measures of the state government on a time bound manner.

OrissaPOST

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Rose Valley chief granted interim bail

Cuttack: The Orissa High Court Tuesday granted interim bail to the Rose Valley Group chairman Gautam Kundu from May 11 to 14 to attend the death anniversary of his father. During the four-day relief Kundu will remain under the supervision of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Notably, the Enforcement Directorate had arrested Kundu from Kolkata in 2015. Later, the CBI took him on remand January 25, 2016 and shifted him to Odisha. The firm has been accused of duping investors of around Rs 450 crore in Odisha and the CBI has also filed a charge-sheet against the accused.

WASSUP TODAY

BHUBANESWAR

- 4th day of Summer Art Camp 'Fine Heart-2018', Odisha Modern Art Gallery, Forest Park, 8am to 10.30am
- 4th day of Art and Sculpture Exhibition, 'Parikrama', Lalit Kala Akademi regional centre, 11.30am to 7.30pm
- Basant Satpathy Memorial Lecture by Sikhyaandhan, Bhanjakala Mandap, 6.30pm
- Song programme by Pragati, Rabindra Mandap, 6.30pm

PURI

- Cold steam treatment, Paurasadan, 9am
- Mahodadhi Alati, Beach near Swargadwar, 6pm
- Traditional devotional song meet, Chandan Chakada, Narendra Pond, 6pm

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

FAKE TECH INSTITUTES MINT MONEY; ONE NABBED

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, May 8: Despite scores of uncertified IT education and training institutes in Jagatpur area minting money from students, most of whom remain jobless after completion of training, the administration has scant regard to the crucial issue, according to sources.

One such institute sans certification came to light recently after a student lodged a complaint against the institution. Acting on the complaint of the student, Anmol Samantray, a resident of Minabazar area of Dhenkanal, police swung into action arrested the director of the institute named TCIL Monday.

The arrested, identified as Ranjan Kumar Das, hails from Kacheripada village in Howrah

district of West Bengal.

"The college has not obtained the approval from the State Council of Technical Education and Vocational Training. The students passed out from the institute are under utter frustration as they neither got any job offer from reputed companies nor from the government-owned firms as the certificates issued by the institute are proved to be invalid," Anmol alleged.

The students passed out from the institute are under utter frustration as they neither got any job offer from reputed companies nor from the government-owned firms



On the basis of the complaint, police registered a case against the institute under Section 420 of IPC. According to the complaint, the college was set up in 2013 and 44 students took admission

in 2017-18 academic year. During the admission, the college authorities had given the assurance of placement to the students after completion of their courses.

In the meantime, some students learnt that the certificates issued by the institute are not valid to get a job. Later, they talked to the college authorities. However, the authorities could not come up

DUPING STUDENTS

- The uncertified institute came to light recently after Anmol Samantray, a student from Minabazar area of Dhenkanal, lodged a complaint against the institution
- TCIL director Ranjan Kumar Das, a resident of Kacheripada village in Howrah district of West Bengal, was arrested Monday
- Students alleged that the institute has pushed their career into darkness as despite paying around ₹60,000 they are still jobless

with any satisfactory answers. "The institute has pushed our career into darkness. The institute authorities have taken Rs 28,500 for admission and Rs 30,000 for training from us," some students alleged.

"Following the complaint of the student, we had written to the director of technical education and training (DTET) to know whether TCIL has government approval or not. The DTET authorities made it clear that the state government did not certify the institute," the police said.

"We had asked the director of TCIL to furnish necessary documents regarding the recognition of the institute. However, he failed to do so," the police said. Later, a team led by Badambadi inspector-in-charge Biranchi Narayan Pati nabbed the director.

FEE HIKE OPPOSED



Ravenshaw University students demonstrate near the varsity vice-chancellor's office in Cuttack Tuesday demanding fee hike revocation

OP PHOTO

Ravenshaw varsity closed sine die

Cuttack: Following protests by students in front of the vice-chancellor's office for over 11 hours, the Ravenshaw University authorities Tuesday declared that the institution will remain closed sine die. The varsity authorities have asked the students to vacate the campus and their hostels by 10am Wednesday. Following the sine die, the ongoing graduation and post-graduation examinations were cancelled for indefinite period. As the agitating students laid siege to the VC's office till late night, he was shifted to his quarters from his office under tight security by police. On the other hand, the agitating students said they would soon meet the Governor and stage dharna in front of the district collector's office protesting the sine die.

BDA opts for offline as e-BPAS goes cuckoo

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 8: Months after launching the electronic Building Plan Approval System (e-BPAS) for online building plan approval, the Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) has decided to resume its manual system till all the snags in the software are fixed. BDA has recently published a notification in this regard.

A source close to BDA said the decision came in the backdrop of failure of the e-BPAS software. "The software, which was developed by a private firm, had many bugs which created inconveniences for the public," the source pointed out, adding as a result only a few applications could be processed by the development authorities ever since the introduction of the online system. A private firm of New Delhi was entrusted with the task of developing and managing the e-BPAS software, the source added. Besides, a dedicated Citizen Service Centre was also put in place at the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) office near Samanta Vihar here. The arrangements were made in line with the Odisha Development Authority (Common Application Form) Rules 2016 notified by the Housing and



Urban Development department in October 2016.

According to a real-estate expert, the offline process to get a building plan approved would be time consuming unlike the online process. "By manual process, applicants will have to go through multiple agencies for obtaining no-objection certificates (NOCs). Only after that they can approach the development authorities for plan approval. The entire process would take several months," the expert said, adding that the online system, which was planned to bring down the period to a month, had so far failed to yield desired results.

In a bid to ensure transparency and hassle-free processing of applications for approval of building plan and addition/alteration in the existing structures, the development authorities had ended the manual mode of accepting applications and introduced the online platform from August 1, 2017.

CITY HORROR Murder whiff in minor drowning

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 8: A minor boy drowned in Kuakhai river while taking a bath along with his friends Tuesday. The deceased was identified as Nutan Mohanty of Rasulgah, a Class IX student.

Although Nutan was spotted by some fishermen and was rescued by them, he was declared brought dead after being rushed to Capital Hospital.



However, the victim's family members have alleged that he was pushed inside the water by his friends who were with him during the mishap. The victim's brother lodged a complaint with Mancheswar police Tuesday evening. He has alleged that some people had seen Nutan having a feud with his friends moments before the incident, and he also claimed that Nutan had fights with his friends earlier too.

Investigation report confirms fleecing at Puri Swargadwar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, May 8: People are being fleeced by the contractual employees of city's municipal body, priests and workers for performing the last rites of their near and dear ones at Swargadwar cremation ground here, said a probe report submitted to the district administration by the additional collector Bibhuti Bhusan Das recently.

The additional collector has also recommended the administration to introduce a number of steps to save people from unscrupulous elements operating at Swargadwar.

It is worth mentioning that the revenue divisional commissioner (central) had constituted a four-member committee led by the district additional collector to probe the allegations of mismanagement at Swargadwar.

The probe report claimed that



The additional collector has also recommended the administration to introduce a number of steps to save people from unscrupulous elements operating at Swargadwar

It was alleged that in the absence of civic body staff at Swargadwar, a few private individuals often extort people who bring the bodies of their relatives for cremation

the city's civic body has deployed three contractual staff to manage affairs at the cremation ground. However, the contractual staff usu-

ally bunk their work.

In the absence of civic body staff at Swargadwar, a few private individuals often extort people who bring the bodies of their relatives for cremation.

Moreover, the priests and workers engaged at the cremation ground usually charge high prices from people.

The additional collector has recommended the administration to opt for a single window system at Swargadwar to provide all services to the people. "The civic body counter at the cremation ground must be computerised. The municipality must provide identity cards to priests and workers at the ground. Besides, steps should be taken to install CCTV cameras at Swargadwar," said the probe report.

The report also pleaded for intensifying police patrolling in the locality and provision of drinking water, lavatory and rest room for people at the cremation ground.

PEACEFUL DEMO



Members of East Coast Railway Shramik Union stage a sit-in near Rail Sadan in Bhubaneswar Tuesday to press for their demands

OP PHOTO

Mentally-challenged 9-year-old raped

POST NEWS NETWORK

Brahmagiri, May 8: A nine-year-old mentally challenged girl was allegedly raped by a 55-year-old man at Kathuaresdi village here. Although the shocking incident took place Monday, it came to light the next day after the survivor's father lodged a complaint with Brahmagiri police. Acting on the complaint, the police regis-

tered a case and launched a probe.

According to sources, the accused, who hails from the same village, along with his family members was threshing paddy Monday when the minor girl went there. The wife of the accused asked him to drop the girl at her home and while the duo was on their way to the girl's residence, the accused raped her.



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SHORT TAKES

HC seeks status report

Cuttack: The Orissa High Court Tuesday directed Badabazaar inspector-in-charge to submit the status report of the criminal cases filed against Ramesh Chandra Jena, former MLA of Sanakhemudi in Ganjam district. According to the case details, Jena was arrested in 2016 for his alleged involvement in several criminal cases. It is worth mentioning here that earlier the HC had granted conditional bail to Jena in Jiten Gouda murder case in 2015.

HC hears AT boss plea

Cuttack: The Orissa High Court Tuesday heard a petition filed by Artha Tatwa Group managing director Pradeep Sethi to quash 55 cases filed against him. Justice Sanjay Kumar Mishra concluded the hearing and reserved the verdict. During the proceedings Sethi's counsel urged the court that police have intentionally registered cases against him. Notably, the HC had convicted Sethi in a ponzi case. Sethi had filed the plea to quash the case pending against him as he had been convicted in a case. However, the state government urged the court that the accused should not be granted bail, as investigation into the case is under way.

Youth stabbed



Bhubaneswar: Some miscreants stabbed a youth near Chintamaniswar temple here late Tuesday evening. The victim was identified as Kumra Rao of Mochi Sahi in Station Bazaar area under the Laxmisagar police station limits. His friends rushed him to Capital hospital from where he was later shifted to the SCB Medical College and Hospital at Cuttack. Rao was also attacked with sharp weapons earlier.

KUNDULI RAPE CASE

Home Secy, DGP appear before NCSC

Bhubaneswar, May 8: Home Secretary Asit Tripathy, the Director General of Police (DGP), R P Sharma and the Crime Branch IG Arun Bothra appeared before the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) in New Delhi Tuesday.



The Commission had summoned them to appear before it at its office in the national capital in connection with the alleged gang rape of a minor girl by four security men in October 10, 2017 in Kunduli village of Koraput district. The girl later ended her life January 22 this year. Earlier, the Koraput Collector and SP were also summoned by the Commission for personal appearance along with relevant documents for the hearing of the case. NCSC member Yogendra Paswan during his visit had asked the state government to initiate CBI inquiry into the matter February 12. Notably, the 14-year-old Class IX girl was gang-raped by four men in uniform October 10, 2017. Later, she committed suicide January 22, 2018 while her family members were away.

6 migrant workers kidnapped in AP

POST NEWS NETWORK

Phulbani, May 8: Six youths of Khajuripada block in Kandhamal district who had gone to work in Andhra Pradesh were reportedly abducted there by some local anti-socials over unknown reasons, reports said. The matter came to the light Tuesday after the abductees' families approached the District Collector, the Superintendent of Police (SP) and the District Labour Officer (DLO), seeking their intervention in the matter. Meanwhile, some relatives of the youths left for Andhra Pradesh after hearing the news. The kidnapped youths were identified as Babula Behera, Prasant Behera, Rohit Behera, Rasanand Behera, Tarani Behra and Varun Behera. According to sources, the six of Khaligudri village under Balakumpha panchayat had gone to work in a fish processing unit

in the neighbouring state. However, over some unknown reasons, the six were abducted from a railway station by some locals. The miscreants kept the youths at an undisclosed location and inflicted torture on them, the victim's family members said. "We received a phone call from the boys. The person at the other side of the phone threatened us and called us to Andhra, if we want the safety of our children," a victim's mother revealed adding that they were unaware of the reason and the motive behind the abduction. When contacted, the DLO Narendra Raika said that he had received the complaint. "However, we are not sure as to who have kidnapped the youths and the reason thereof. We will lodge a complaint with the railway station police from where the boys were kidnapped and take further steps for their rescue," Raika added.



A school constructed on government land sans permission being demolished by Bhubaneswar Development Authority at Patrapada in Bhubaneswar Tuesday

DEMOLITION DRIVE

FARMERS RESORT TO DISTRESS SALE

ABUNDANT PRODUCTION AND HARDLY ANY STORAGE FACILITY PUT GROWERS IN A CATCH-22 SITUATION

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, May 8: Come summer, people used to face scarcity of green vegetables in the market just a few years ago. Locally grown white gram and white pea varieties besides potato and onion were the only ones available. But this is no more the case at present, a report said.

Now, thanks to the diligent farmers, almost all green vegetables are available in the local market round the year. It is due to their sheer determination and hard work that these vegetables are coming to market despite harsh weather.

Some vegetables like cabbage, cauliflower, capsicum, carrot, beet-root, beans and jack fruit were rarely grown locally and usually brought from distant markets to cater to the exclusive customers. Just a few years ago, common man dare not buy these veggies fearing they may drill a hole in his pocket. Sharing his experiences, Biplab Panigrahi said that most of them are locally produced now. Such a luxury was a rarity a few years ago as only a handful of seasonal vegetables were available during summer.

However, he added that availability of plenty of vegetables was a good sign but if there was no storage facility for them it would lead to their distress sale. In the process, the farmers are exploited

SHARP DROP IN VEGETABLE PRICES



A file photo of farmers selling their produce at throwaway prices

by the middlemen. Ramlal, a vegetable vendor at Golbazar, said he had to sell cabbage at ₹10 per kg, whereas usually it used to fetch ₹40 per kg during summer in the past. Cauliflower is facing similar price drop these days.

Summer is the season for onion and the local farmers used to cater to the market needs by their local varieties during these times. For example, there are pockets in Bolangir and Kalahandi districts, where such local varieties of onion are grown in plenty.

The white onion of Titlagarh used to be an exclusive variety for summer needs. It is delectable with watered rice, locally known as 'pakhala'. It is also claimed that

these white onions have qualities to protect consumers from stroke.

Ramlal added that Sambalpur market used to depend on Nasik (Maharashtra) for its onion needs. It is sold in the retail market here at the rate of ₹14-Rs 16 per kg. But he could not describe why the Kalahandi farmers are compelled to sell their onion stocks at ₹300 per quintal that comes to ₹3 per kg only.

The reason is obvious: There is no facility to store onions for a longer duration. The local farmers are compelled to dispose of their stocks before the monsoon sets in. Otherwise, they are sure to be doomed. The farmers' urgent

need to dispose of their onion stocks, mainly because of lack of storage facilities and it being a perishable commodity is taken advantage of by the middlemen.

Potato has its place in food charts. But there are some exclusive local varieties that are available during summer and they go well with 'pakhala'.

A small red and white tuber known as Deogarh potato is exclusively grown in that district and its surrounding areas. But it has become a rarity these days here, as panicked local farmers have avoided growing it in bulk quantities this year.

What shocked many consumers Tuesday was a retail vendor was trying to sell his entire stock of green chilly at ₹10 per kg in Sambalpur vegetable market. It used to be sold in the market at ₹100 per kg the previous day. It's hard to imagine the plight of local farmers, who had sold his green chillies for a song.

Tomato is a household vegetable that is much in demand during summer. It is usually supplied to Sambalpur market from Bangalore and Hyderabad since its local variety is hardly available here during summer. The usual market price used to be not less than ₹40 per kg; but amazingly it sold at the rate ₹7 to ₹10 per kg and the credit goes to the local farmers. However, they are unable to get the real benefit of their hard work.

Tribals survive on contaminated water



POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, May 8: Even as temperatures keep on soaring, water crisis gripped Gopalpur Utrasahi under Ghatagaon block in Keonjhar. The tribal families living here have no access to safe drinking water while they have to consume the contaminated water which they collect from an abandoned well on a farmland.

Women carrying water in pitchers and buckets and staggering in precarious foot racks is a common sight here. "We have been suffering from acute water scarcity over the years. We have no option but to drink water from that abandoned well. The village needs a tube well, but the administration pays no heed to our pleas,"

rued Rala Munda, a resident. They said, "There is no protective wall around the well. Dirty rain water has free access to the well." The village has a host of other basic problems like lack of road. Though they have been living on the land for generations, the government has not yet provided them land pattas.

The village is near to NH-20, but an approach road is a necessity, the residents added.

"Crops and houses and other properties are damaged by elephants every year, but no compensation is paid for the loss," alleged Benjamin Munda.

The villagers demanded that the government should take immediate step to make provision of safe drinking water.

State sits idle on HC's consumer forum directive

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, May 8: The Orissa High Court while hearing a contempt of court case Tuesday directed the state government to apprise it of measures being taken to develop the infrastructure of consumer forums in the state. A division bench of Chief Justice Vineet Saran and Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi also directed the state to inform it about the status of implementation of its (HC's) earlier order.

According to sources, the Odisha

CONTEMPT OF COURT



Consumers' Association in 1995 had filed a petition in the HC seeking a direction to the government to construct consumer forum buildings in 30 districts, fill up vacant posts and constitute consumer

welfare funds. Taking up the petition for hearing, the HC gave directions in favour of the association but as the state government didn't abide by HC's order, the consumer association in 2001 again moved the HC and filed a contempt of court case.

Hearing the contempt case, the HC had directed the state to implement its order within eight weeks from the date of the ruling. However, the state government again gave a deaf ear to it and the consumer association again moved the court.

Continued from P1

Stories of boy ...

Between sobs, the mother recounted her horror at her son's condition in the hospital during his dying days.

"Please get us justice," she said as the interview came to an end. The boy's medical reports, which were reviewed by Reuters, said their son had been "sodomised".

Hostility, ridicule Insiya Dariwala, who runs a foundation that raises awareness about child sexual abuse, said police generally lack the sensitivity to deal with cases of assaults on boys.

"I have interacted with adult male survivors and social workers who have cited police hostility, ridicule and even lack of trust when it comes to believing that a boy was sexually abused," she said. "The most common perception dished out to male survivors is that they may have enjoyed it."

The Mumbai police investigating the boy's rape, however, said officers are regularly trained on how to handle sexual abuse of children of both genders. The federal government is also running workshops for police that cover all children, said Stuti Kacker, head of the government's National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, which advises on child-related policies. Some activists working for the safety of children say outrage over the gruesome gang rape and subsequent death of a young woman in New Delhi in 2012 succeeded in raising awareness about sexual violence against women in India, but far less attention is paid when the victims are male.

A 2007 survey by the ministry of women and child development, which sampled 12,447 children in families, schools, at work and living on the street, found that more than half had faced sexual abuse, and 53 per cent of victims were boys. For the capital Delhi, the figure was 60 per cent.

ADDING SMILES



Sweets being distributed to inmates of Utkal Balashram at Khapuria in Cuttack on World Red Cross Day

OP PHOTO

Corrigendum
Order No. 1522 Date: 07.05.2018
The last date of selling and receipt of tender invited vide NIT No. 01/2018-19 is extended to 11.05.2018 upto 1 P.M. The tender will be opened on 14.05.2018 at 11 A.M.
Following correction has been made in the DTCN.
Additional Performance Security shall be deposited by the successful bidder only when the bid amount is less than the estimated cost put to tender. In such an event, the bidders who have quoted less bid price/rates than the estimated cost put to tender shall have to furnish the exact amount of differential cost i.e. estimated cost put to tender minus the quoted amount as additional performance deposit (APSD) in shape of post office saving bank account/ NSC/ KVP/ Post office TDR/ Deposit receipt of Scheduled Bank. Duly pledged in favour of the BDO, Bhawanipatna, Kalahandi, within 7 days from declaration of L1 Bidder as per 3.5.5(v) of Note-II of OPWD Code Vol-I.
Sd./- Block Development Officer
Bhawanipatna Block

BERHAMPUR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, GANJAM
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)
No. 5667 / XVIII.E6.12/18 Date: 04.05.18
No.57-C- Invitation for Bids
Bid Identification No. BMC (BAM) 164 2018-19

1	The Municipal Commissioner, Berhampur, invites percentage rate bids in ONLINE MODE only, as per Annexure "A"
2	Nature of work Electrical Works
3	No. of work 4 Nos.
4	Bid Cost. The bidders shall remit online the cost of bid document for amount through the process as mentioned in the DTCN as per Annexure "A"
5	E.M.D. The bidder shall remit online the Earnest Money Deposit/ Bid Security at the rate of 1% of the estimated cost put to tender as mentioned under DTCN. Bidders desirous to hire machineries or equipments from outside the State or owned but deployed outside the State are required to remit online 2% of the amount put to tender as Bid Security. Exemption from EMD is permissible as per codal provisions of Govt. of Odisha as per Annexure "A"
6	Class of Contractor As per the Annexure "A"
7	Availability of Bid Documents in the website From 15.00 hrs. of Dt. 08.05.18 to 17.00 hrs. of 23.05.18
8	Date of Opening of Bid 11.30 hrs. onwards on Dt. 25.05.18
9	Mode of submission of tender Tender should be submitted online in www.tendersorissa.gov.in

The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum/ corrigendum/ cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.
Sd./- Commissioner,
Berhampur Municipal Corporation
Berhampur, Odisha
13035/11/0020/1819



SANITATION AWARENESS

NSS Bureau of Central University of Orissa creates awareness on health, sanitation and education in Rajpalam in Koraput.

RED CROSS DAY

Staff of Indian Red Cross Society take out a rally to mark World Red Cross Day in Bargarh.



SHORT TAKES

Witness dies while appearing in court

Dhenkanal: A man died while appearing as a witness in a case at a local court Tuesday. The deceased who is yet to be identified collapsed before appearing in the dock. He was rushed to the district headquarters hospital where doctors pronounced him brought dead. However, what has surprised many is that the hospital authorities handed over the body to his family members for cremation without conducting a post-mortem. This has called for a probe as the post-mortem could have helped ascertain the reason behind his death.

CUO gets new registrar

Koraput: Asit Kumar Das has joined here as the Registrar of the Central University of Orissa Monday, according to a press release. Prior to his joining the University, Das served as the Controller of Examination, Bodoland University, Assam and as Principal of the Pramatheha Barua College, Gauripur, Assam. He has formerly been the Head of Department, Co-ordinator, Extension Education, Co-ordinator, UGC Remedial-Coaching Programme, and Co-ordinator, Steering Committee for NAAC Assessment & Accreditation (B. B. Kishan College); Principal academic and executive officer of P. B., said Phagunath Bhoi, the public relations officer of the varsity in the release.



MINOR GIRL FOUND DEAD, KIN CRY MURDER

Kendrapara, May 8: A 17-year-old girl Tuesday allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself over a love affair at Kathiapada village under Pattamundai police station. However, her family members alleged that she was killed by her lover and his family members. Pattamundai police seized the body and sent it for post-mortem to Aul community health centre (CHC), said Pramod Mallick, IIC of Pattamundai police station. The mother of the deceased girl lodged an FIR at Pattamundai police station Tuesday alleging a fellow villager Pakua alias Biswaranjan Rout kept physical relationship with her minor daughter. Her daughter became pregnant out of the relationship. When she and other family members were absent Tuesday, Pakua and his family members killed the minor, the complainant said. After killing her, they hung the body from the ceiling in a bid to cover up the crime, the complainant stated. Pattamundai police registered a case and detained Pakua. Police have been waiting for the post-mortem report to proceed further in this case, said IIC Mallick.

Two assistant engineers in Vigilance dragnet

Bargarh, May 8: A Vigilance team held simultaneous raids at the offices and residences of two assistant engineers Tuesday following allegation that they took hefty bribes and amassed huge assets. The two were Rasananda Majhi, assistant engineer of Bhawanipatna lift irrigation division and Ghanashyam Seth, assistant engineer of Rengali canal subdivision.

A Vigilance team led by DSP BK Nayak conducted searches at five places, including Majhi's office in Narla, his residence in Bargarh and houses of his relatives at different locations.

Another five teams searched Seth's office in Rengali, his two-storied residence, houses of his in-laws and his paternal house in Bargarh district. The exact assessment of the disproportionate assets unearthed in the raids will be known later, once the searches are complete, an official said.

A red-faced Seth tried to defend himself. "I have been working for 32 years and taken loans. I pay income tax regularly," he said while rejecting the allegations. Majhi, who was also caught unawares, did the same.

SIZZLING HEAT



A thoroughfare in Sundargarh wears a deserted look, as the town sizzled at 44.8 degree Celsius, Tuesday.

OP PHOTO

Euthanasia seeker admitted to SCB

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, May 8: Soon after a woman of Bardol village here pleaded for euthanasia for her family members after she failed to get financial support for the treatment of her bedridden-son, the district administration has swung into action.

Administrative officials rescued the ailing man and admitted him to the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack Tuesday.

The administration arranged a special ambulance for Muna for his transfer to the Cuttack hospital. He was accompanied by his mother Prabhathi, as also social workers Bikash Agarwal and Mahipal Barik.

According to his family members, Unmarried Muna had received critical injuries in a fall from a tree. He had been admitted first to the Bargarh district headquarters hospital and later to the VSS Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR) in Burla but he failed to recover. He was confined to bed after becoming paralytic from waist

Muna was confined to bed after becoming paralytic from waist to toe. His mother Prabhathi sold off all her land to get her son treated, but to no avail

to toe. Prabhathi sold off or mortgaged all her land including her homestead land to get her son treated, but to no avail. Doctors said he could be cured if provided advanced treatment.

However, Prabhathi lacked the wherewithal. Unable to bear with her difficult situation, she pleaded with the district administration April 30 for euthanasia.

The Collector, taking note of her plight from the reports published in Orissa Post May 1, provided her ₹20,000 from the District Red Cross Fund. He also promised her that the government would bear the cost of further treatment of her son.



Muna being taken to SCB in an ambulance.

OP PHOTO

THREE KILLED IN ELEPHANT ATTACKS

This year, many incidents of elephant attacks were reported from Dhenkanal with the death toll reaching nine

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal/Nuapada, May 8: Three persons including a farmer were killed after being attacked by elephants in two incidents in Dhenkanal and Nuapada districts Tuesday morning.

In the first incident, two monks were trampled to death by a herd of elephants at a riverbank near Khandanala Ashram near IGIT Sarang under Dihadola forest section of Dhenkanal district.

The deceased were identified as Manas Ranjan Sahu of Barihapur village and Prahallad Behera of Andharikhola while another monk Satyananda Bhutia of Deulabeda managed to escape.

The three monks from Kandhanal ashram at Sarang had gone to take bath in a nearby river early morning when they came face to face with a herd of elephants that had strayed into the area.

While Satyananda managed to escape, the two others were tram-



A herd of elephants spotted near Karangabhata.

OP PHOTO

pled to death by the pachyderms. The herd had strayed into the area late Monday night. The elephant menace has reached its peak in Sarang panchayat as around 40 elephants strayed into the area and unleashed a reign of terror.

Tension prevailed in the area as the residents staged a blockade

on National Highway-149. On being informed, forest ranger Suresh Chandra Behera, forester Harmohan Nayak and other officials rushed to the spot and managed to convince the people from withdrawing the blockade.

The bereaved families were handed over an ex-gratia of ₹40,000

each while the remaining amount of compensation will be provided to them after completion of necessary formalities, the ranger said.

This year, many incidents of elephant attacks were reported from Dhenkanal, Parjang, Kamakhyanagar, Bhuban and Odapada blocks in the district with the death toll reaching nine, sources said.

In the second incident Tuesday, a farmer Sahadev Parabho (60) of Karangabhata village under Komna forest limits in Nuapada district was trampled to death by a herd of elephants. He had gone to his farmland when he encountered the animals. Assistant conservator of forest Debendra Kumar Khuria and forest ranger Jagdish Chandra Duria reached the spot and gave ₹1 lakh to kin of the deceased. The incident has triggered panic in the area as the villagers in adjoining Dharampur have refused to step out of their houses.

YOUTH DROWNS IN POND

POST NEWS NETWORK

Badasahi (Mayurbhanj), May 8: A youth met with a watery grave while taking bath in a pond at Chelia village under Badasahi police limits in Mayurbhanj district Tuesday. Police said Rabintra Kumar Behera had gone to take bath in a pond near the village Monday.

Family members grew apprehensive after he did not return home till late in the night. Locals spotted his body floating in the pond Tuesday morning. The body was taken out and sent for post-mortem.

A case of unnatural death has been registered and a probe launched. Prima facie, no foul play was suspected, police said.

LABOUR EXPLOITATION



Labourers of Punsar stage an agitation in front of the district labour office alleging financial exploitation in the name of labour welfare in Bolangir.

OP PHOTO

SMART CITY'S FACELIFT DRIVE HIT BY BEGGARY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, May 8: Even as Rourkela has been accorded Smart City tag and crores of rupees are being sanctioned for its beautification, beggary has proved to be a stumbling block in this direction, a report said.

The Smart City administration has failed to make the city free of beggars. Scores of people begging for alms can be seen in most parts, especially at temples in the heart of the city and the outskirts.

A self-employment programme for these people would have been a solution to the rising number of beggars in the city, observed a group of conscious citizens.

"Rourkela is known as an industrial city across the country. It is also a city with a large number



A group of beggars in Vedvyas area of the city.

OP PHOTO

of educationists. However, its image has taken a beating because many women and kids can be seen begging for alms along the main thoroughfares," said Subas Lenka, an

educationist. Both the district and Smart City administration should devise a programme to get rid of the problem.

According to senior lecturer Umakanta Panda of Vedyas Sanskrit College, the then Chancellor and Governor Rameswar Thakur along with vice-

A self-employment programme for these people would have been a solution to the rising number of beggars in the city

chancellor of Shree Jagannath Sanskrit University of Puri spear-headed a programme called 'Gyanaloka' to bring the children of beggars to the mainstream of society by educating them.

Dr Panda also surveyed Vedyas and surrounding areas and identified 88 such children. However, the guardians were reluctant to make their children educated. The reason: the children added to the fam-

ily income. This prompted Dr Panda and then sub-collector Mahendra Kumar Patnaik to submit a proposal to the government for setting up an evening school so that the children can earn at day time and learn in the evening. At the beginning, the children were taught on temple premises and vacant space of colleges and offered food. At least 20 students were brought back to the mainstream of society.

However, the proposed evening school could not become a reality and the drive came to an end.

Meanwhile, locals demanded launching of vocational programmes for people involved in beggary to make them self-employed so that the city would become free of beggars.

SHORT TAKES

Water projects worth ₹4 crore for NAC

Chandbali: Residents of Chandbali NAC in Bhadrak district have reasons to be happy. Their long cherished demand for drinking water provision will come true soon as foundation stones for a number of drinking water projects worth ₹4 crore were laid in the area Tuesday. These projects will come up at Deuligan, Kanda, Phadpur, Bintara and Golaadia. Similar projects worth ₹2 crore will come up at Paikrapur, Nayahat and Kisimant.

Woman dies from snakebite

Krushnaprasad: A woman died from snakebite while she was asleep in her house at Maleswari village under this block in Puri district late Monday night. The deceased was identified as Brundabati Das (38). The snake slithered into the bedroom and bit the woman. Family members woke up after she screamed out of pain. They hired a vehicle and rushed Brundabati to Chhatrapur sub-divisional hospital. However, doctors declared her dead upon arrival.

Abandoned TV triggers panic

Malkangiri: Panic spread at Mudulibeda village under Mathili police limits in Maoist-dominated Malkangiri district Tuesday after locals spotted an old television which was abandoned under a tree near the village. According to reports, locals spotted the TV under the tree and alerted the officials posted at a nearby BSF camp. The BSF personnel rushed to the spot and immediately cordoned off the area, suspecting it to be some 'explosives' planted by the Maoists. Later, a bomb squad was engaged to blow up the TV, suspected to be a bomb. However, it was found that there were no explosives inside the TV. It is suspected that someone might have dumped the TV, said SP, Jagmohan Meena.

2 engineers suspended for 'poor performance'

Jajpur, May 8: Two engineers of the rural water supply and sanitation (RWSS) department in Jajpur and Danagadi blocks were suspended for their alleged failure in meeting the targets in toilet construction under the Swachh Bharat Mission, a report said Tuesday.

The engineers were assistant engineer Bijayananda Biswal of RWSS, Jajpur and junior engineer Sumant Kumar Tripathy of RWSS, Danagadi. Biswal was able to meet only 31.3 per cent of the target in toilet construction while Tripathy achieved only 23.85 per cent of the target within the deadline. The administration had set April last as the deadline. While many blocks were able to meet the targets, engineers of five blocks failed to do so. The administration issued show-cause notices to 10 engineers.

Biswal and Tripathy despite being pulled up for the delay failed to meet the deadline. As a result, Collector Ranjan Kumar Das suspended them.

APC for promoting mixed farming

Balasure, May 8: Agriculture Production Commissioner (APC) Gagan Bihari Dhal reviewed the implementation of various programmes and schemes of the agriculture department and line departments in Balasure and Mayurbhanj districts Tuesday.

The review meeting was held at the collectorate here in the presence of Collector Ramesh Chandra Rout, ADM Manas Ranjan Padhi, officials of the agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, cooperation departments and the watershed mission from both districts.

Dhal presented data about the agriculture scenario and various other needs to boost farm production.

He advised the officials of all departments to work in proper coordination so as to double the income of farmers and laid emphasis on mixed farming.

The commissioner also underscored the need for boosting potato production, setting up of short-duration cold storages with the help of primary agricultural cooperative societies and promoting the traditional farming methods.

Besides, he wanted effective steps for millet mission, government procurement for green grams, black gram and groundnut, artificial insemination of domestic animals, subsidy to poultry farmers, grass farming, mixed farming of paddy and pisciculture.

DANGER AVERTED



A gas cylinder-laden truck overturned at Bakalabandh Chhak under Nuagaon police limits in Nayagarh district. The driver escaped death. OP PHOTO

Protests over Anga projects on; 5 villagers hospitalised

POST NEWS NETWORK

Padampur, May 8: The public anger over the proposed Anga river bridge project and construction of a mega irrigation project at Pujharipali in Padampur sub-division of Bargarh district took a new form as 16 villagers sat in a protest in front of the collectorate since Monday.

Five of the agitators were Tuesday admitted to the sub-divisional hospital here after their health condition deteriorated. The five were Gangadhar Gadatia, Dolamani Sahu, Akshay Sahu, Kunja Sagaria and Premraj Sahu. Padampur IIC Priyanka Routroy along with a police team tried to pacify the protesters. Sub-divisional officer N Sharma also went and checked on the health condition of the protesters.

Villagers who are likely to be displaced by the two proposed projects wrote to the President of India Saturday last, pleading for eu-



Protesters admitted to Padampur sub-divisional hospital. OP PHOTO

thanasia-induced death for them, rather than being displaced.

Hundreds of farmers headed for the Bargarh head post office and posted their letters addressed to the President.

It was after repeatedly changing the site for the proposed irrigation project in the last three decades that the state government finally zeroed in on Pujharipali.

"The project is estimated to displace 30,000 people of 6,228 fami-

lies in 32 mouzas. Over 11 mouzas will be completely submerged while 21 villages partially affected. All the villagers will have to lose their homestead and farmland," activists said.

A total of 3912.67 hectares of private land, 212.35 hectares of forest land and 974.98 hectares of other land will be submerged along with the minerals underneath once the proposed project becomes a reality, as per an assessment.

Woman 'murdered' for dowry

POST NEWS NETWORK

Aradi, May 8: A woman was allegedly murdered by her in-laws for dowry at Doharapatana under Dhusuri police limits in Bhadrak district. The deceased was identified as Archana Palei.

Archana's mother Annapurna Barik filed a complaint with the police, alleging that in-laws of her daughter killed her for dowry and a smart phone. Police registered a case of murder and detained Archana's husband Prakash.

Archana, daughter of late Sanjib Barik of Dakshinabada, married Prakash in July 2017. The groom's side demanded fresh dowry and a smart phone. For this reason, Archana was subjected to torture by her in-laws. Her mother Tuesday got a call from her daughter's in-laws that Archana was suffering from dysentery.

By the time Annapurna reached the district headquarters hospital to see her daughter, the latter was dead. During post-mortem, the police came to know that the body had injury marks on neck and ears.

CRIME & PUNISHMENT

10-YEAR RI TO MAN FOR RAPING MINOR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Angul, May 8: A local court Tuesday sentenced a man to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment and slapped a fine of ₹10,000 on him after convicting him of the kidnap and rape of a minor girl at Kurujang village under Talcher police limits in this district.

Special judge-cum-additional district judge Soubhagini Mallick awarded the punishment to Manas Nayak (20) after examining the statements of 17 witnesses.

Nayak has to undergo an additional six months of imprisonment if he fails to pay the penalty, the judge observed.

According to the case diary, the incident occurred January 16, 2016 when the survivor was staying at her aunt's house for a fortnight. She woke up from sleep at 12 am and went out to relieve her-



self. Nayak, who was hiding nearby, picked her up.

He took her to an isolated place near Talcher town and raped her there on the promise of marrying her. Nayak was already married and a father of an infant girl.

Police registered a case and arrested Nayak after a complaint was lodged in Talcher police station January 26. Special public prosecutor Saroj Kumar Pattnaik pleaded the matter on behalf of the state government.

Teen girl missing in Andhra for 6 months, parents worried

The 17-year-old girl from Keonjhar had gone to Andhra Pradesh for daily waging

POST NEWS NETWORK

Ghasipura, May 8: Even as labour migration has reportedly been rampant in various tribal pockets of Keonjhar district, a 17-year-old girl from Barmal under this block, who had gone to Andhra Pradesh for daily waging six months ago, has not returned home till date. Her parents, a harried lot, have been waiting for her.

Chaturbhujia Jena, the father of the girl Gitanjali, has sought help of the police and urged the administration to rescue her.

Jena said his daughter had gone to Balkunda in AP six months ago to work in a company. Tripathi Patra, a contractor of Berhampur, had taken his daughter and some other girls of the village to provide them work.

Two of the girls came back to the village May 6. When Gitanjali's



Gitanjali's parents. OP PHOTO

parents asked the two about their daughter, the former stated that they had not seen Gitanjali since the night of May 5.

The couple is extremely worried. They lodged a written complaint about their daughter's missing.

Police asked the two girls who have returned to the village and col-

Development work goes haywire as Red fear grips panchayat

POST NEWS NETWORK

Lanjigarh, May 8: Developmental work has gone haywire in Trilochnapur panchayat in this block of Kalahandi district as the inhabitants live under the grip of Maoist menace, a report said.

The panchayat having 25 villages is situated in a remote corner of the block inside the Niyamgiri forests. The villagers live under the constant fear of Maoists as the latter have completely taken control of the panchayat.

The fear of the ultras is so apparent that over 12 families recently fled their houses in Goudathuaguda and Trilochnapur villages while 15-20 families were learnt to be preparing to shift elsewhere. The fear of the ultras had also prevented government officials and the police from visiting the panchayat and taking up development works. The residents recall the time when they had their tryst with ultras on the night of July 27, 2011. The villagers were asleep when the left wing extremists stormed the village and brutally killed a resident Ajit Pattnaik. Since then, the panchayat has been caught in the vicious circle of Maoist terror.

The ultras have laid siege to the area and could be often seen moving around and conducting secret meetings in the villages.

This has prevented the officials from taking up developmental works in the area. All the government schemes like Jana Surakhya Yojana, Mamata Yojana and Vasundhara Yojana have miserably failed here.

This has emboldened the ultras as they carry out bloodshed and destruction with impunity. In a recent incident, the Maoists kidnapped three persons in Trilochnapur including a Gramarakhia and thrashed them before releasing them after three days April 19. Later, members of 12 families in Trilochnapur and Goudathuaguda villages fled their homes because of Maoist threat.

Among them, the families of Anant Lohra, Gajendra Goud, Dulubag Naik and Gariamani Naik have taken shelter in their relatives' houses in Kalyansinghpur and Muniguda of neighbouring Rayagada district.

The villagers since then are living under constant fear of Maoist attack as the police never visit the spot in the event of any incident.



A view of Trilochnapur in Lanjigarh block. OP PHOTO

Tribals left out of NFSA cover

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jhumpura, May 8: The poor and disadvantaged people are entitled to subsidised food grains under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), but many poor tribals have reportedly been left out of its purview at Kanjipani in Nahabeda panchayat under this block in Keonjhar district.

Residents like Mina Munda, Sudarshan Kalindi, Jatri Munda and Jema Munda were not covered under the NFSA due to alleged administrative apathy. They put forth a complaint with the BDO April 25.

"We used to receive subsidised rice under the Antyodaya Yojana, but our ration cards were cancelled. The panchayat executive officer does not pay heed to our plight. We demand a probe on our status to see if we are eligible to get ration cards or not," they said.

Tribal-dominated Kanjipani village is situated in a forested pocket. The residents said the government has implemented a host of programmes for them, but these schemes are out of bound for them due to apathy of the officials concerned.

The village is plagued by lack of basic amenities like road, electricity, drinking water and healthcare.

Imposter defrauds bizman of ₹4 lakh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, May 8: A businessman was defrauded of ₹4.25 lakh here after he issued a bank cheque of ₹1,000 to a stranger; who had presented himself as a bank employee canvassing people for opening new accounts with the bank.

According to the businessman Rajesh Patel, a person identifying himself as a staff of the Rourkela main branch of the bank called him over phone. He identified himself as Amit and asked Patel whether he would like to open an account with the bank.

After Patel agreed to open an account, the imposter said that a person from the bank would visit his home and talk about the details. As said by the conman, a person

visited his home the next day and collected documents and a cheque of ₹1,000.

Patel suspected foul play after the caller's phone was switched off soon after. He visited the bank of which he gave the cheque and came to know that a sum of ₹4.25 lakh was transferred from his account to that of one Manoj Kedia.

Patel lodged a complaint at Town police station following which the police launched a probe. Sundargarh sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) Balabhadra Deepa stated that the accused might have tampered with the cheque and withdrawn ₹4.25 lakh fraudulently from the businessman's bank account. A case has been registered under Sections 420, 467 and 468 of IPC and an investigation was on, the SDPO added.

SAFETY FIRST



Railway officials conducting an earthing test as part of electricity safety week in Sambalpur Tuesday. OP PHOTO

Elephant found dead in Hadagada

Hatadhi: A female elephant was found dead at Pitanau in Hadagada sanctuary in Keonjhar district Tuesday. The animal, aged about 20 years, was suspected to have died of anthrax. Some forest officials while patrolling in Pitanau area found the carcass. Anandapur divisional forest officer (DFO) was informed about the incident. A team of veterinary doctors collected samples from the carcass. After the test report arrives, the exact cause of death will be known, said the DFO. The carcass was later buried.

Our actual enemy is not any force exterior to ourselves, but our own crying weaknesses, our cowardice, our selfishness, our hypocrisy, our purblind sentimentalism.

SRI AUROBINDO



Judiciary's hour

When the British left India, they had left some time tested systems of governance. Good or bad, they were for us to mould, bend and reorient according to our needs. Changes have been effected over the years to these systems with a view to making them serve the interests of the nation and its people better. No doubt, these reorganised systems stood India in good stead for decades. The institutions these systems spawned have helped shape India's destiny in commendable ways. Altogether, it was not a bad show, considering the huge growth in the nation's population.

The scenario, however, is fast changing, and changing for the worse by the day. Governmental functioning is increasingly being called into question. Several governmental agencies are dysfunctional. Even then, an institution that held its head high for long years was the judiciary. Not any more, thanks to the way it is taking a battering, of late.

It's a sad commentary that the Supreme Court itself has come under the scanner after dissenting voices are aired in the form of activism by a section of the Bar and also some judges. While it is not appropriate to blame one side or the other, the painful fact is that the nation's apex court has come to expose its fault lines and that too in perhaps a crude manner.

The manner of the impeachment move in Parliament against the Chief Justice of India (CJI) and the end result, as was seen today, May 8, 2018, when the petition was withdrawn from the court has grievously damaged the image of the CJI post.

The issue of the collegium's role in selection of judges for the apex court is exercising the public mind as also the judiciary and most of all the government itself. The collegium had recommended names to the government for appointment as judges to the Supreme Court. The government, in its wisdom or lack of it, decided to accept the recommendations in part, not full. Justifications are cited as to why the government could not accept the recommendation in full — of appointment of two judges — and why the government chose to select only one and left out the other. The recommendation has been sent back to the CJI who heads the collegium, for reconsideration.

The issue may keep hanging fire for some more time but it has eroded the credibility of the apex court as this is rumored to be the first ever instance when government refused to accept the collegium's recommendations.

In normal course, appointments to top posts are made by virtue of seniority. Supersessions do take place. But, in the case of the judiciary, supersession is largely the norm, not an exception.

This is true of both the Supreme Court and High Court appointments of judges. Allegations also flew around in recent years that the promoted ones were favourites of top three or four judges; or even of top politicians who thought they need a subservient judiciary to help run the country efficiently. Questions are raised like, if SC judges are selected on the basis of 'only merit', does it not imply superseded senior HC judges who had earlier been selected by the collegiums were not competent enough — and were selected as HC judges on the basis of other considerations. The large-scale supersession in selection of judges meant that, notably, either the selections of SC judges were wrong or the selections of HC judges were wrong, as is being justly argued.

Feelings are also rife that in every court, be it HCs or SC, or even a lower court, it is not a secret as to which lawyer is the favourite of which judge, so as to push a case through him or her for likely "best" results. It is also being circulated that litigants are charged for 'speedy justice' from a particular judge. It is cited that most juniors of sitting SC judges have become HC judges though, in such situations, the judge in question may recuse himself from the meeting to decide on names.

"As in politics and other fields, considerations of family, caste, religion also play their part in selection of judges," is an allegation doing the rounds. It is even argued that consensus within the collegium is sometimes resolved through trade-off. All these may or may not have grains of truth. Facts in such matters can never be ascertained. However, it would not be proper to tarnish the image of the whole judiciary by levelling allegations without ascertaining facts.

Right or wrong, fact is that institutions are breaking up, but there are no alternatives to look at or feel confident about. There is nothing to replace what had held the nation admirably together in the past. Alternatives do not spring up overnight and painstaking efforts put in over a period of time create stable systems. It will long before new edifices can replace the old. A better option is to preserve status quo and the sanctity of what has proven to be assets of the past till viable new systems come in to replace. That probably may not be expected in the India of today.

FOCUS AGRICULTURE

SUSTAINABLE FARMING

The evidence is all there. With soil fertility declining, excessive mining of groundwater sucking aquifers dry, and chemical inputs, including pesticides, becoming extremely pervasive in environment, the entire food chain has been contaminated. As soils become sick, and erosion takes a heavy toll leading to more desertification, crop productivity is stagnating thereby resulting in more chemicals being pumped to produce the same harvest. A former Director General of Indian Council for Agricultural Research had rightly said: "In 1980s, farmers used to produce 50 kg of wheat by using 1 kg of fertilisers. Now farmers are producing only 8 kg by using 1 kg of fertiliser."

As farmlands become more toxic, and with modern agriculture becoming a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions leading to climate aberrations, a startling study has gone unnoticed. Three quarters of flying insects in a nature reserve in Germany have vanished in past 25 years, says a study by the University of Sussex. While the alarming decline in population of honeybees had raised international concerns, that 75 per cent insect population has disappeared and that too inside a nature reserve raises the warning of an 'ecological Armageddon'. This is happening at a time when not only in Maharashtra, Punjab, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh in India, the dreaded bollworm pests on cotton have become resistant to genetically modified cotton in America too. From Carolina to Texas, bollworm insects have renewed their attack on cotton.

While the Green Revolution has already run out of steam, leaving behind a trail of misery, the catastrophic consequences manifest in the form of farm suicides. With input costs growing, and farm gate prices remaining almost stagnant, if not declining, farmer's income is swiftly on the downward slide. In America, hundreds of dairy farms have closed down in the past 4 years. In Europe, many farms would be unprofitable if European subsidies were to be removed. In France, farmers' mutual insurance association (MSA) believes that in 2016 "a majority of farmers



As per the government's own Economic Survey 2016, the average income of a farming family in 17 states, which means nearly half the country, has been computed at a paltry Rs 20,000 a year. A study by Niti Aayog says real farm incomes have remained virtually stagnant in the five year period from 2011 to 2016

earned less than Euro 350 a month". In India, as per the government's own Economic Survey 2016, the average income of a farming family in 17 states, which means nearly half the country, has been computed at a paltry Rs 20,000 a year. Another study by Niti Aayog tells that real farm incomes have remained virtually stagnant in the five year period from 2011 to 2016.

And yet more of the same is being pushed as the solution. Despite all the laudable objectives, the world is almost at a tripping point as the International Panel on Climate Change had warned us a few years ago. 'Business as usual' is not the right way forward, we are repeatedly told. But despite warning, there is no policy change that actually keeps environment protection as a non-negotiable. Even the report of the International Assessment for Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD), which was ratified during an intergovernmental plenary in Johannesburg, April 7-12, 2008, and had called for a shift towards sustainable agriculture has been lying in limbo ever since.

Every disaster is an opportunity. But it invariably ends up as an opportunity for business. The rhet-

oric has been the same and the solutions have remained the same too: more aggressive push for industrial agriculture. Just to illustrate, to ensure that the world does not witness a repeat of the 2008 food crisis — when 37 countries faced food riots — the international community has been swift in proposing a roadmap (not one, but a plethora of similar private-sector driven blueprints). Business leaders from 17 private companies had announced at the 2009 World Economic Forum the launch of a global initiative — New Vision for Agriculture — that sets ambitious targets for increasing food production by 20 percent, decreasing greenhouse gas emissions per ton by 20 percent, and reducing rural poverty by 20 per cent every decade. The 17 agribusiness giants include Archer Daniels Midland, BASF, Bunge Limited, Cargill, Coca-Cola, DuPont, General Mills, Kraft Foods, Metro AG, Monsanto Company, Nestlé, PepsiCo, SABMiller, Syngenta, Unilever, Wal-Mart, and Yara International. In other words, the more the world tries to change, the more things remain the same.

Back home, as we get half way through 2018, the script for an ecologically sustainable agriculture, which brings back the smile on

the face of farmers, without leaving any scar on the environment, is being rewritten. Andhra Pradesh has launched a massive programme to promote natural farming. Called Rythu Sadhikara Samstha, this programme aims to bring 5 lakh farmers in all the 13 districts during the period 2017-2022 to adopt natural farming practices. I recently visited a number of villages in Kurnool district to meet some farmers who have moved away from chemical agriculture to natural farming practices. I was amazed to learn that crop yields are increasing across all crops. In groundnut, yields have gone up by 35 per cent; cotton productivity has increased by 11 per cent; chilli by 34 per cent; brinjal by 69 per cent; and paddy by 10 to 12 per cent. So far, 1.63 lakh farmers have switched to natural farming. If crop productivity can increase without using chemical fertiliser and pesticides, if the net income in the hands of farmers goes up considerably, and if natural farming ushers in climate resilient agriculture, I see no reason why other states cannot emulate the pioneering efforts being made by Andhra Pradesh.

The writer is a trade and food policy analyst



Devinder Sharma

INCREASING FARM INCOME IS ONLY POSSIBLE THROUGH CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRICULTURE

IN JEST THIS

Rewards of the lottery of life



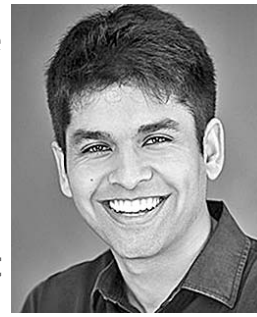
Melvin Durai
WINNING THE LOTTERY OF LIFE ISN'T JUST ABOUT WINNING MONEY

Shubham Goel graduated from college last year and is ready to lead the most populous state in America. The 22-year-old Indian-American, who has a degree in economics, is running for governor (or chief minister) of California. His chances of winning are slim, but don't tell him that. He's trying to win the lottery.

In fact, Goel has posted a photo of a lottery ticket on his Facebook page. "I ironically put the lottery ticket on my profile to remind myself that most of us will never win the lottery, but that doesn't mean we can't strike gold and be our own lottery ticket by being the person we have always wanted to be," Goel told California-based 'India West' newspaper.

What he means, of course, is that you don't have to play the lottery to win the lottery. Many lucky people, like Sundar Pichai, CEO of Google, win lotteries in their daily lives. According to news reports, Pichai intended to "exercise" 354,000 shares of the company's stock in early May, thus pocketing about \$380 million in compensation. Most of us, unfortunately, don't make any money when we "exercise." That's because

22-year-old Indian-American Shubham Goel who has a degree in economics, is running for governor of California. His chances of winning are slim, but don't tell him that. He's trying to win the lottery. In fact, Goel has posted a photo of a lottery ticket on his Facebook page



we only get to exercise our bodies, not company stock. And even if we do exercise stock, we don't make enough money to buy our own island. We're lucky if we can afford to visit one.

But winning the lottery of life isn't just about winning money. You can win the lottery in so many ways. Here are just a few:

1. Birth. Many people win lotteries by virtue of birth. Some are born into wealth and power, but many others are just born into circumstances that give them opportunities to succeed and live happy lives. Having a poor dad who encourages you, but can't afford to buy you leather shoes is better than

having a rich dad who belittles you and beats you daily with a belt made of the finest leather in the land.

2. Health. If you exercise regularly — and not just stock options — you may find yourself winning the health lottery. Health is wealth, they say, and it's absolutely true, even if you can't go to a car dealership and say, "I'm very healthy. Give me a Mercedes." If you're unlucky enough to have a life-threatening illness, just imagine how much you'd be willing to pay to regain your health. You'd empty Sundar Pichai's bank account if you could. You might go to prison, but at least you'd be a healthy prisoner.

3. Love. People often take love for granted, but if you're in a lov-

ing relationship, you've won a lottery. Money can't buy love, they say, but it's not true. Money can buy you lots of love — and not just from your banker. Just spend your money in the right way and you will be rewarded with love. Take toys to the orphanage and the children will love you. Take computers to the school and the students will love you. Take bananas to the zoo and the monkeys will love you. But you don't need money to get love, whether it's from your parents or children or spouse. If you have a loving spouse, you've won the lottery. You can't deposit love in the bank, of course, but unlike money, no one can steal it from you.

4. Achievement. In some fields, such as sports and acting, great achievement often results in great salaries. But in other fields, such as farming and teaching, great achievement doesn't always make you rich. A teacher may work hard her entire life, but have little wealth to show for it. Yet when dozens of former students attend her retirement party and thank her profusely for helping them succeed, the amount of pride she feels can't be measured in money — or even in Google stock.

WISDOM CORNER

- Definiteness of purpose is the starting point of all achievement. **W. CLEMENT STONE**
- Life isn't about getting and having, it's about giving and being. **KEVIN KRUSE**
- Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans. **JOHN LENNON**

WORDSWORTH

Wisecre

This odd-looking word means a pretender to wisdom. Although some experts do profess themselves baffled by the acre part of this word, we know where it comes from — the Middle Dutch 'wijssegger', a soothsayer, a wise sayer. The first part is from the same source as our wit. It first appeared in English in a scurrilous ballad of 1595 that had the catchy title *A Quest of Enquire, by women to know, Whether the Tripe-Wife were trimmed by Doll*. A tripe-wife was a tripe dresser, in this case a well-to-do London widow who sold her wares from a stall; the trimming referred to the cheating of her by one Doll Phillips, who pretended to be a fortune teller who could tell her which of her suitors she was to marry. The story was based on real events, though embroidered. We know that the Dutch pronunciation had already changed, since in the ballad it's given as 'wise-aker'. The shift from Dutch to English is a good example of a common form of folk etymology, in which an odd or foreign word is changed until it looks familiar, even if its parts make no real sense. The word seems never to have been used in English in the literal sense of a wise person that it had in Dutch, perhaps because of the traditional enmity between the two nations that led to a series of disparaging terms such as Dutch courage. It has always meant a person projecting an unjustified appearance of wisdom or specialist knowledge — a wisecre pontificates on a subject despite being ignorant about it. In the US it can also mean someone regarded with irritation because he's a know-all or makes sarcastic comments, a smart alec or wise guy.

LOL

Mail

A man was in his yard mowing the grass when his blonde neighbour came out of the house and went straight to the mailbox. She opened it then slammed it shut stormed back in the house. A little later she came out of her house again went to the mail box and again opened it, slammed it shut again. Angrily, back into the house she



went. As the man was getting ready to edge the lawn, she came out again, marched to the mailbox, opened it and then slammed it closed harder than ever. Puzzled by her actions the man asked her, "Is something wrong?" To which she replied, "There certainly is! My stupid new computer keeps saying, "You've got mail."

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST
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Award fiasco

Sir, A national award brings abundant joy and satisfaction to the recipient. If the award is handed over by the first citizen of India, the President, then the excitement is great. But the 65th National Film Award ceremony ended on a sore note as nearly 60 of the approximate 140 awardees boycotted the solemn occasion as they were annoyed that they were informed about the fact that President Ram Nath Kovind would hand over the awards to only 11 recipients, and ministers Smriti Irani and Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore would do the rest, at the eleventh hour. They felt there was "breach of trust" because the long held tradition was broken in one go. They felt left down because the invitation explicitly mentioned that President Kovind would do the honours. The Information and Broadcasting Ministry has a lot to explain about the concealment of news from the awardees till the last moment. Was it a fear about the possibility of a "mass exodus" that kept the ministry on the back-foot? Or was it a plain case of bureaucratic bungle and apathy? After President Kovind took over, the President's office is understood to have written to all ministries that he would be unable to spare more than half an hour to one hour for such functions. The I&B ministry has injected a non-existent "hierarchical status" among the awardees. Alternatively, ways must be found out so that the President does not need to stand for long so that he can make his presence felt.

Ganapathi Bhat, EMAIL

Friends of Pakistan

Sir, The Pakistan government in its self-interest should sue moto provide citizenship to notorious Indian politician Mani Shanker Aiyer who has been a pioneer in repeatedly making anti-India statements on Pakistani soil to get applause and praise in Pakistan. The Indian government should carefully analyse all statements made by Mani Shanker Aiyer during his various visits to the nation that funds and promotes terror, and take stringent action on the basis of those poisonous statements, even though imposing a ban on his visits to Pakistan may send wrong signals that Pakistan may misuse at the international forum. A complete social and political boycott of notorious Indian friends of Pakistan is the need of the hour. Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh who was amongst some prominent Indians who attended the dinner meeting hosted by Mani Shanker Aiyer at his New Delhi residence with some Pakistani diplomats December 6, 2017, should open his mouth on the comments made by Mani Shanker Aiyer in Pakistan.

Madhu Agrawal, EMAIL

national



Rabindra Bharati University can play a significant role in maintaining India's cultural diplomacy with other countries. It has scholars from South-East Asian countries, including Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, as faculty members
KESHARI NATH TRIPATHI | GOVERNOR WB

GOVT PREPARES CABINET NOTE FOR CISF SECURITY AT ALL AIRPORTS

The government has made the final policy push to bring all civil airports in the country under the cover of the CISF, in view of threats to national security from possible terror attacks and hijack bids. Of the 98 functional airports in the country, 59 are under the armed security cover of the paramilitary CISF



of the day quote

Dear FM, as you are indisposed and Finance Secretary is on vacation with his Guru on a quest for inner peace, I have decided to shut the Finance Ministry till further notice. The PMO will take all financial policy decisions as before. Prime Minister
RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS PRESIDENT



If people decide to entrust the Congress with the job of ruling the country, Rahul Gandhi will be the prime ministerial candidate
NAWAB MALIK | NCP NATIONAL SPOKESMAN



The AMU is suffering an assault from different quarters and it is even more important to respond with rationality and thoughtful action and not to be swayed by emotions
TARIQ MANSOOR | VC ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY



SHORT TAKES

Strong winds sweep parts of Rajasthan

Jaipur: Gusty winds swept parts of Rajasthan overnight and Tuesday morning, affecting normal life. No casualties have been reported so far. Heavy winds hit Ajmer and some areas of Jaipur Tuesday morning while a dust storm hit Bikaner and nearby region Monday night. The weather office has forecast dust storm, thunderstorm or light rains in 26 out of 33 districts of the state Tuesday.

Jawan kills wife, children and self

Agartala: A Tripura State Rifles (TRS) jawan Tuesday allegedly shot dead his wife and two children before killing himself with his service rifle at their residence at Malaynagar near the state capital Agartala, police said. Manik Ghosh, 40, a naik of the 1st battalion of the TSR, a state paramilitary force, shot dead his wife Ratna Ghosh, 34, daughter Hritika Ghosh, 2, and son Debraj Ghosh, 11, Superintendent of Police (Control) Harkumar Debbarma said. He killed them apparently after an altercation with his wife at around 8:00 am. The jawan shot himself dead with the rifle shortly afterwards.

Official commits self immolation

Bhadoli (UP): A deputy director of the Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC) committed suicide Tuesday by setting himself ablaze in his office at 'Kaaln Bhawan' here, police said. Sanjay Kumar Srivastava (45) went to a washroom in his office at about 12 noon and set himself ablaze, they said. He died on the spot, police said. The incident was the fallout of a family dispute due to which Srivastava was disturbed, police officials said.

NGT fines UP for ethanol distilleries

New Delhi: The National Green Tribunal has slapped a fine of Rs 50,000 on the Uttar Pradesh government for the inordinate delay in filing a report on the status of distilleries and sugar mills manufacturing, storing and transporting ethanol without obtaining permission from the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO). A bench headed by acting NGT Chairperson Justice Jawad Rahim noted that despite its specific direction February 22 to file the inspection report in two weeks, the state government failed to do so.

Mansarovar Yatra pilgrims selected

New Delhi: The External Affairs Ministry Tuesday announced the selected pilgrims for the annual Kailash Mansarovar Yatra chosen through computerised draw. Union External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj presided over the draw of lots for this year's pilgrimage. The four-month travel period to the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra starts from June 8.

SC raps Centre for failure in framing Cauvery scheme

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 8: The Supreme Court Tuesday told the Centre that it was in sheer contempt of its direction on Cauvery water sharing for failing to frame a scheme for distribution of water between the southern riparian states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Union Territory of Puducherry.

The top court directed the Secretary of the Union Water Resources Ministry to personally appear before it May 14 with a draft of the Cauvery management scheme to implement its verdict on water sharing between the four states.

It had in February asked the Centre to formulate a scheme to ensure compliance of its judgement on the decades-old Cauvery dispute.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra told the Centre that once the judgment has been delivered on the issue, it has to be implemented. While posting the matter for May 14, the bench, which was not happy with the development, said the Centre was in a sheer contempt.

"We do not want to come back to square one. Once the judgment has been delivered, it has to be



implemented," the bench also comprising Justices AM Khanwilkar and DY Chandrachud said.

Attorney General KK Venugopal said the Centre was seeking time in view of the fact that the Union Cabinet has not met due to the ongoing campaigning for the assembly polls in Karnataka.

Senior advocate Shekhar Naphade, appearing for Tamil Nadu, opposed the AG's plea and said, "This is the fit case for contempt. Somebody has to be sent to jail"

The apex court had, earlier modified the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) award of 2007, and made it clear that it will not be extending time for this on any ground.

The top court had February 16 raised the 270 tmcft share of Cauvery water for Karnataka by 14.75 tmcft and reduced Tamil Nadu's share, while compensating it by allowing extraction of 10 tmcft groundwater from the river basin, saying the issue of drinking water has to be placed on a higher pedestal.

'Piquant' & 'unprecedented' situation: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 8: The Supreme Court Tuesday dubbed as piquant and unprecedented the situation in the matter of impeachment of the Chief Justice of India, saying while the CJI was a party, four other judges may also have some role.

Responding to the argument of the two Congress MPs that the court should tell them where to mention the matter seeking a copy of administrative order to set up a larger bench to deal with their petition, a five-judge bench headed by Justice AK Sikri said, "It is a piquant and unprecedented situation where CJI is a party and other four judges may also have some role. We don't know."

The 5-judge bench, was referring to four senior most judges of an apex court—Justices J Chelameswar, Ranjan Gogoi, MB Lokur and Kurian Joseph—who had held January 12 press conference against CJI Dipak Misra raising litany of questions on allocation of cases.

The lawmakers, who later withdrew their plea challenging the decision of Rajya Sabha Chairman to reject the impeachment notice against the CJI, told the bench that they should be given a copy of the administrative order by which the constitution bench was constituted overnight to hear their petition.

The bench expressed its reluctance to senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the two lawmakers, saying that giving a copy of the administrative order "will not lead to anywhere" and they should argue on merits.

The bench declared the peti-

Lawyers object to Sibal's appearance as advocate

New Delhi: Two lawyers Tuesday opposed in the Supreme Court the appearance of senior advocate Kapil Sibal in the plea filed by two Congress MPs challenging the rejection of impeachment notice against Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra by the Rajya Sabha Chairman.

When the hearing began before a five-judge constitution bench headed by Justice AK Sikri, a lawyer objected to Sibal's appearance in the case, saying the senior advocate was also a signatory to the impeachment notice. "My basic objection is on Kapil Sibal appearing as a lawyer in the matter as he was a signatory to the impeachment notice," advocate RP Luthra told the bench also comprising Justices SA Bobde, NV Ramana, Arun Mishra and AK Goel. Luthra also referred to a Bar Council of India resolution and said Sibal cannot appear in the matter as he was a signatory to the impeachment notice. Towards the end of the hearing, advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay also raised objection on Sibal's appearance, saying Members of Parliament who are signatories to the impeachment notice cannot appear as a lawyer in the matter.

Upadhyay also cited the Bar Council resolution barring MPs who had signed the impeachment notice from practising before that particular court and said in a similar matter seeking ban on parliamentarians from practising in court, the apex court has issued notice.



tions moved by the two MPs as dismissed as withdrawn after Sibal decided not to press the petition, realising that the judges were not inclined to accept his arguments on parting with the administrative order. The 45-minute hearing before the bench saw the Rajya Sabha Congress MPs—Partap Singh Bajwa from Punjab and Ameer Harsadray Yajnik from Gujarat—raising a volley of questions over the setting up of the five-judge bench to hear the matter.

However, Attorney General KK Venugopal, appearing for Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu, sought dismissal of the petitions filed by Bajwa and Yajnik, pointing out that only two of the 64 members, who had earlier moved

the impeachment notice in the Upper House of Parliament, have approached the apex court.

He said only two MPs from one party, the Congress, have moved the court when there were MPs from six other opposition parties who had moved a notice of impeachment motion before the Rajya Sabha chairman.

Before the AG, opened his arguments, Sibal raised several questions on the setting up of the constitution bench, including who had passed the order to set up such a bench to hear the matter. He said the issue was that the power of master of roster was unparalleled or was it subject to some guidelines and how was this power to be exercised. "If the powers are unparalleled

then can the powers be exercised the way he (CJI) likes? Then the question arises what way. We request your lordship to look at this issue. Lordship tells me that CJI is master of roster and that is the end of dialogue. But is it so? It is the beginning of a dialogue," Sibal said.

The senior lawyer said he would raise the issue to uphold the dignity and values of the institution and the court will have to decide whether the order on administrative side can be challenged or is it the only exception in this country that can't be challenged.

Sibal read out Article 145(3) of the Constitution to say that there was a minimum requirement on the number of judges to decide the substantial question of law and other issues. He said "I must know who passed this order. This court should give me a copy of the administrative order so that I can decide my future course. Petitioner has the right to know the authority who passed the order".

"What purpose will it serve to you. Will you challenge it. You mean to say the CJI can't pass this order," the bench said.

Sibal said then the court should tell him from where to get the copy of the order and where to mention the matter. Responding to the Attorney General's arguments, he said, "Next time, I will get all 64 MPs to come here then. Which law says that only two MPs cannot challenge the order." The senior lawyer said if the CJI's order on administrative side cannot be challenged, then he will withdraw the plea.

The bench said, "Ok then the petition is dismissed as withdrawn."

REGENERATING LIFE



Children suffering from Thalassaemia and others participate in an awareness campaign on World Thalassaemia Day in Kolkata Tuesday.

Cop found drunk on duty in 'dry' Bihar, sent to jail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hajipur (Bihar), May 8: A policeman here has been arrested and sent to jail for getting drunk while on duty in dry Bihar; a senior police officer said Tuesday.

Ajay Sharma, posted as Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police at Sadar police station in Vaishali district, has been suspended and sent to jail after medical tests confirmed that he had consumed alcohol. Superintendent of Police Manojjeet Singh Dhillon said.

The SP said Sharma had reported for duty Monday night in an inebriated state and he misbehaved with other policemen on duty, including the SHO of the Sadar police station.

Regional news channels also played video footages of drunk ASI in his uniform, picking up quarrels with his colleagues and speaking in a slurry tone. After medical test reports Tuesday confirmed that Sharma was under the influence of alcohol, a case was registered against him for flouting the prohibition law and he was sent to jail, Dhillon said. He added that the ASI has also been placed under suspension with immediate effect.

The SP also said that the inquiry would also look into how the ASI laid his hands on alcohol, notwithstanding a ban on sale and consumption of the same which has been in force in the state for over two years.

Navy commanders discuss maritime issues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 8: Top naval commanders in a four-day conference that began Tuesday will discuss aspects concerning the country's maritime security, analyse mission-based deployments and larger issues of the geo-strategic Indian Ocean, a region witnessing increasing Chinese presence.

Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who inaugurated the conference, told reporters that there has been a very pointed discussion on issues raised by naval commanders and Navy chief Admiral Sunil Lanba.

The defence secretary, the financial advisor in the defence ministry and the Navy have been having talks with an open

mind and several issues of concern have seen a meaningful discussion, she said.

The conference will conclude May 11. Admiral Lanba said during the conference, "We are going to analyse our mission-based deployments, maintenance to operational transitional cycle and larger issues of geo-strategic Indian Ocean."

The Indian Ocean, considered the backyard of the Indian Navy, is critical to India's strategic interests. Over the years, the region has witnessed increasing Chinese presence. China increased its presence in the Indian Ocean Region by constructing the deep-sea Gwadar Port in southern Pakistan and a naval base



Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at the Naval Commanders' conference in New Delhi Tuesday

in Djibouti in the Horn of Africa. The region also has Chinese ships deployed for anti-piracy operations.

The commanders would also deliberate on improving the Teeth-to-Tail ratio and explore niche fields such as

Artificial Intelligence and Big Data Analytics.

Harassing cutting-edge technologies, specifically those 'Made in India' would be a key focus during the conference.

The Indian Navy's focus over the past year has been on combat efficiency and material readiness, and upkeep of its fleet of 131 ships and submarines.

Measures to ensure safety, continued training, and checks and balances on crew proficiency aboard its front-line warships will also be reviewed.

The commanders will also discuss the optimal utilisation of the Navy's share of the defence budget by prioritising capital acquisitions and modernisation plans to bridge critical capability gaps.

'Only about 10 pc sexual assault victims get compensation'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 8: In a startling revelation, the Supreme Court was Tuesday told that hardly 5-10 per cent sexual assault victims across the country were getting compensation under the relevant schemes in various states.

The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) told a bench comprising Justices Madan B Lokur and Deepak Gupta that as per the available data of Andhra Pradesh, out of 901 cases lodged last year, only one victim has received compensation.

"The data of state legal serv-

ices authority of the states on utilisation of fund have been compiled. Hardly 5-10 per cent victims of sexual assault are able to get compensation. It is startling. In Andhra Pradesh, 901 cases were registered (in 2017), but only one victim got compensation. At the outer limit, maximum 10 per cent victims were getting compensation," SS Rathi, Director of NALSA, told the bench.

As per the NALSA data, in 2016, 840 such cases were lodged in Andhra Pradesh but only eight victims got compensation. Out of 1,028 cases registered in 2017 under the Protection of Children from



Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act in the state, only 11 victims got compensated.

Similarly in Rajasthan, 3,305 such FIRs were registered in 2017 and 140 victims had received compensation under these schemes, while in Bihar, 1,199 FIRs of sex-

ual assaults were lodged in the 2017 but only 82 victims were compensated, the data showed.

The complete data would soon be filed in the apex court, he said.

During the hearing, senior advocate Indira Jaising, who is assisting the court as an amicus curiae, referred to the victim compensation scheme proposed by the NALSA for the victims of sexual assaults and said they wanted to have two "vital additions" in the scheme, the funds for which was earlier shared with the Centre.

Jaising said the police must mandatorily inform the legal serv-

ices authority of the state government about the lodging of FIRs in sexual assault cases so that the process of giving compensation to the victim can be expedited.

She said that suo motu power should also be given to the legal services authority to grant compensation to the victims, as was already being done in Delhi.

The bench, on hearing the brief submissions, said it would pass directions May 10 with regard to compensation scheme for victims and survivors of sexual assaults.

The apex court said it would consider in July the issues related to section 228-A of the Indian Penal

Code (IPC) which deals with disclosure of identity of victims of sexual offences and utilisation of Nirbhaya Fund by the states.

Nirbhaya Fund was announced by the Centre in 2013 after the December 16, 2012 gangrape and murder case in Delhi to support the initiatives on women's safety across the country.

The top court had earlier observed that nothing would materialise if money from the Nirbhaya fund was not properly spent on women's welfare. It had said there was no lack of funds under the scheme but the issue was of proper utilisation.



I feel strongly that as adults, we can and should 'be best' at educating our children about the importance of a healthy and balanced life

MELANIA TRUMP | FIRST LADY OF THE UNITED STATES

RARE TUMOUR REMOVED IN WORLD-FIRST ROBOTIC SURGERY

In a first, a robot was used to successfully remove a rare tumour from a patient's neck in a surgery led by an Indian-origin surgeon. Chordoma is a rare type of cancer that occurs in the bones of the skull base and spine. A chordoma tumour usually grows slowly and is often asymptomatic for years



of the day quote

And frankly, I think if what trump wants is to be able to claim victory he could do that



ROBERT MALLEY | AMERICAN LAWYER

It is now seeking to plant very dangerous weapons in Syria ... for the specific purpose of our destruction



BENJAMIN NETANYAHU | ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER

The President (Trump) is being harmed in his ability to conduct the business of his presidency



RUDY GIULIANI | EX MAYOR OF NY CITY

SHORT TAKES

'Trump expected to exit Iran N-deal'

Washington/Paris: US President Donald Trump is expected to announce Tuesday that he is pulling out of the Iran nuclear deal, European officials said, in a move that would raise the risk of conflict in the Middle East, upset America's European allies and disrupt global oil supplies.

Bangladesh SC defers Khaled's bail hearing

Dhaka: The Bangladesh Supreme Court Tuesday deferred a hearing on opposition leader and former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's bail in a corruption case in which she is currently serving a five-year sentence.

New York attorney general resigns

New York: The Manhattan District Attorney's office is investigating allegations of violence against women by New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, who resigned just hours after accounts of abuse by four women.

Protest leader elected Armenia's PM

Yerevan (Armenia): The leader of protests that gripped Armenia for weeks was named the country's new Prime Minister Tuesday, overcoming the immediate political turmoil but raising uncertainty about the longer term.

SC suspends ex Pak minister's membership

Islamabad: Pakistan's Supreme Court Tuesday suspended the Senate membership of former finance minister Ishaq Dar after he failed to appear before it in connection with a petition contesting his election to the Upper House.

KIM MEETS XI SECOND TIME IN CHINA

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Beijing, May 8: Chinese President Xi Jinping and Kim Jong Un met in northeast China Tuesday in an unannounced visit by the North Korean leader ahead of an expected summit with US President Donald Trump.

Shortly after the meeting was made public, Trump tweeted that he would speak to his "friend" Xi about North Korea later Tuesday. Chinese state broadcaster CCTV showed Xi and Kim taking a sea-side stroll in the northeastern city of Dalian and holding talks, while the official Xinhua news agency said the two leaders met Monday and Tuesday.

It was Kim's second visit to China since March, highlighting efforts by the Cold War-era allies to mend ties that have chilled as Beijing has supported UN sanctions over Pyongyang's nuclear activities. Beijing is keen to avoid being left out in the cold in the wake of Kim's historic summit last month with South Korean President Moon Jae-in and his expected meeting with Trump in June.



It was Kim's second visit to China since March, highlighting efforts by the Cold War-era allies to mend ties that have chilled as Beijing has supported UN sanctions over Pyongyang's nuclear activities.

Beijing is keen to avoid being left out in the cold in the wake of Kim's historic summit last month with South Korean President and his expected meeting with Trump in June.

happy about it," Xi said, according to Xinhua. For his part, Kim was quoted as saying: "These are the positive outcomes of the historic meeting between me and Comrade General Secretary (Xi)."

And Trump tweeted that "the primary topics" of his discussion with Xi "will be Trade, where good things will happen, and North Korea, where relationships and trust are building." Japanese media had earlier shown images of an airplane normally used by North Korean VIPs flying out of Dalian, fuelling speculation that Kim had been in town. Xi said he was willing to meet Kim again to make joint efforts to have a healthy bilateral relationship, achieve peace on the Korean peninsula and promote regional stability. Xinhua said Kim travelled to Beijing by train in March for his maiden of-

ficial trip abroad and met Xi for the first time since taking power in 2011. At their summit last month in the Demilitarized Zone dividing the two Koreas, Kim and Moon agreed to pursue the complete denuclearisation of the peninsula. They also decided to seek a peace treaty by the end of the year and hold talks with the United States, and possibly China, to achieve it.

The Korean War, in which China fought on the North's side, ended in 1953 with an armistice rather than a peace treaty. China would likely want to be part of discussions on a peace treaty, according to experts. While China has supported punitive measures against the North, analysts say it could worry that the diplomatic thaw may lead to a deal between Pyongyang and Washington that is not in its interests.

IN MEMORIAM



French President Emmanuel Macron lays a wreath of flowers at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier during the ceremony at the Arc de Triomphe monument in Paris, France, Tuesday

Mallya loses \$1.55 billion assets case in UK court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, May 8: Embattled liquor tycoon Vijay Mallya, undergoing an extradition trial in a UK court over fraud and money laundering charges by Indian authorities, today lost a lawsuit filed by 13 Indian banks in the UK High Court seeking to collect from him more than \$1.55 billion.

Judge Andrew Henshaw refused to overturn a worldwide order freezing 62-year-old Mallya's assets and upheld an Indian court's ruling that a consortium of 13 Indian banks were entitled to recover funds amounting to nearly \$1.55 billion (1.145 billion pounds). The victory for the banks, which claimed the businessman had willfully defaulted on the loans accessed from them, will enable them to enforce the Indian judgment against Mallya's assets in England and Wales.

The worldwide freezing order prevents Mallya from removing any assets from England and Wales up to that value or to in any way dispose of, deal with or diminish the value of his assets in or outside of this jurisdiction, up to the



same value.

"Today's judgment is a very important decision not just for our clients, who want to proceed in this jurisdiction with enforcing the judgment they secured against Mallya in India, but also for Indian and international banks more generally," said Paul Gair, from UK law firm TLT which represented the Indian banks in the London court.

"In dismissing Dr Mallya's application, the High Court has demonstrated its willingness to recognise judgments granted by courts in other jurisdictions, giving parties opportunities to enforce their judgments against any assets held here. This case also sets a strong precedent for parties to secure a worldwide freezing order when enforcing judgments against willful defaulters," he said in a statement.

SHARIF IN FRESH TROUBLE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

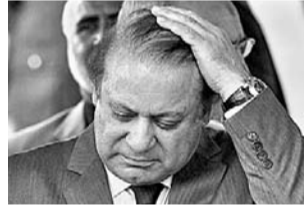
Islamabad, May 8: In further trouble for Nawaz Sharif, Pakistan's top anti-corruption body Tuesday ordered a probe against the embattled former prime minister and others for allegedly laundering \$4.9 billion to India, media reports said.

The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in a press release said its Chairman Justice (ret'd) Javed Iqbal took notice of reports making rounds on news channels claiming that Sharif allegedly laundered \$4.9 billion to India, the Express Tribune reported.

According to the media report, this incident is mentioned in the World Bank's Migration and Remittance Book 2016, the release said.

However, details of the media report in question have not been mentioned in the brief statement issued in Urdu, Geo Tv reported.

MONEY LAUNDERING



The statement claims that the amount was laundered to the Indian finance ministry after which Indian foreign exchange reserves witnessed an increase and Pakistan suffered as a result.

Sharif is facing three corruption cases at the accountability court following the Supreme Court's verdict in the Panama Papers case. A NAB inquiry is also under way against him for alleged illegal expansion of a road leading to his estate in Lahore's Jati Umra locality.

Once formulated, this will be the fifth case against the ousted premier by the NAB.

Rabbani assures release of abducted Indians

Kabul: Afghanistan Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani has met new Indian envoy to the country Vinay Kumar and assured him that Afghan security forces will not spare any effort to ensure the safety and release of seven Indian engineers abducted by the Taliban gunmen in the restive northern Baghlan province. During the meeting with the Indian ambassador Monday, Rabbani expressed grief and sorrow over the abduction of the Indian engineers and said that the Afghan security forces will not spare any effort to protect the safety and secure the release of the Indians. He said that efforts have been initiated through the community elders to help secure their release. Rabbani also had a telephone conversation with External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj regarding the abduction of the seven Indian engineers of KEC International, an RPG group company.

INDIA ABROAD | Indians in restaurant sector facing modern slavery in UK

London: Indians employed in the hospitality industry are at a greater risk of falling victim to modern-day slavery in the UK, according to a new report on labour exploitation in the country released Tuesday. India is among the top 10 victim nationalities identified as being at risk of exploitation, with numbers more than doubling since 2015 - when the UK's Modern Slavery Act came into force. Vietnam is at the highest risk, followed by nationals from Romania, Poland, China, Sudan and then India, the new report by the UK's Gangmasters & Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA) found. "GLAA intelligence shows that, where known, Indian workers are most commonly found in the hotel and restaurant sector. Open source reporting also shows that India is ranked a 'severe risk' source country from which modern day slaves enter the UK," the report notes. The study titled 'The Nature and Scale of Labour Exploitation Across All Sectors Within the United Kingdom' narrowed down high-risk sectors for mistreatment of labourers, ranging from wages theft to slavery. Construction, recycling, nail bars and car washes were among the top sectors, followed by agriculture, food packing, fishing, shellfish gathering, warehouse and distribution, garment manufacturing, taxi driving, retail, domestic work, and social care.

India, Guatemala to support each other for UNSC membership

Guatemala City: India and Guatemala have agreed to support each other's candidature for non-permanent membership in the UN Security Council (UNSC). The decision was one of the several outcomes of the extensive talks Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu held with the President, Vice President and Parliament Speaker of Guatemala here Monday to push bilateral relations to a new level. "Guatemala will support India's candidature for UNSC membership for 2021-22 while New Delhi will do so for 2031-32 for Guatemala," an official release said. Vice President Naidu's visit to Guatemala is the highest level trip from either side since the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries in 1972. Presenting the context of his first overseas visit as Vice President, Naidu told Guatemalan leaders that "India is keen about enhancing its engagement with Latin America and looks at Guatemala, the most populous and biggest economy in Central America, as the gateway." "My visit to Guatemala is a clear indication of this thinking in New Delhi. Going by trade patterns and consumption needs, we are complementary in nature and not competitors and need to take our relation to a new high taking advantage of emerging opportunities in both countries for mutual benefit," the release said quoting Naidu as saying. Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales said his country could benefit from the "successful economic story of India" and stressed the need for improving bilateral engagement in various fields.

What will happen when Sun dies

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

London, May 8: While scientists agree that the Sun will die in approximately 10 billion years, they were not sure what would happen next, until now. A new study now says that it will turn into a massive ring of bright, interstellar gas and dust, known as a planetary nebula.

"This is a nice result... We even have found out what the Sun will do when it dies!" said one of the researchers Albert Zijlstra, Professor at the University of Manchester in Britain. A planetary nebula marks the end of 90 per cent of all stars active lives and traces the star's transition from a red giant to a degenerate white dwarf.

But, for years, scientists were not sure if the Sun in our galaxy would follow the same fate as it was thought to have too low a mass to create a visible planetary nebula. To find out, the team



developed a new stellar, data-model that predicts the life-cycle of stars.

The model, detailed in the journal Nature Astronomy, was used to predict the brightness (or luminosity) of the ejected envelope, for stars of different masses and ages.

"When a star dies it ejects a mass of gas and dust - known as its envelope - into space. The envelope can be as much as half the star's mass. This reveals the star's core, which by this point in the star's life is running out of fuel, eventually turning off before finally dying," Zijlstra explained.

Indians accounted for more than 74% of H-1B visas in 2016-17: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, May 8: In 2016 technology professionals from India accounted for 74.2 per cent of the total number of H-1B visas issued by the US and the next year the figure increased to 75.6 per cent, a government report said.

However there has been a drop in the number of new H-1B beneficiaries from India, the official report has said. China with a little over nine per cent, comes a distant second after India in terms of number of H-1B visas. The figures for China were 9.3 and 9.4 per cent respectively for 2016 and 2017.

"The number of beneficiaries from India approved for initial em-

ployment decreased by 4.1 per cent in fiscal 2017, while the number of beneficiaries approved for continuing employment increased by 12.5 per cent in fiscal 2017," the USCIS said in its latest report titled 'Characteristics of H-1B Specialty Occupation Workers'.

United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) said petitions for initial employment are filed for first-time H-1B employment with an employer; only some of which are applied to the annual cap. Examples of petitions for initial employment that are exempt from the cap include petitions submitted by nonprofit research organisations or governmental research organisations.



Continuing employment petitions refer to extensions, sequential employment and concurrent employment, which are filed for foreigners already in the US. Extensions generally are filed for H-1B workers intending to work beyond the initial three-year period up to a total of 6 years, the maximum period gener-

ally permissible under law. In 2016, as many as 70,737 Indians received initial H-1B visas, which dropped to 67,815. During the same period, Indians accounted for 185,489 visas for continuing employment, which increased to 208,608 in 2017. In all there were 256,226 Indians on H1B visas in 2016 and 276,423 in 2017.

A copy of the report, sent to US lawmakers April 10, became public this week.

Dismantling several myths about H-1B, USCIS said the median salary of beneficiaries of approved petitions increased from \$82,000 for fiscal year 2016 to \$85,000 for fiscal 2017. While the number of H-1B petitions filed increased 1.24 per cent from 398,718 in 2016 to 403,675 in 2017, the number of H-1B petitions approved increased 5.9 per cent from 345,262 in 2016 to 365,682 in 2017. According to the report the number of H-1B petitions approved in 2017 for workers between the ages of 25 and 34 was 66.2 per cent, the number of H-1B petitions approved in 2017 for work-

ers with a bachelor's degree was 45.2 per cent.

In addition, 44.5 per cent of approved petitions were for workers with a master's degree, 6.8 per cent had a doctorate, and 3.3 per cent were for workers with a professional degree. The number of H-1B petitions approved in 2017 for workers in computer-related occupations was 69.8 per cent, it said. The number of H-1B petitions approved for workers in computer-related occupations increased by 6.6 per cent from 237,837 in 2016 to 254,592 in 2017. The number of H-1B petitions for all other occupation groups increased by 3.4 per cent from 106,418 in 2016 to 110,009 in 2017, the report said.

CAREER AS DATA SCIENTIST

Data Scientists analyse business data for actionable intelligence. Data scientists analyse data from a range of sources, including customer transactions, click streams, sensors, social media, log files and GPS plots. Their mission is to unlock valuable and predictive insights that will influence business decisions and spur a competitive advantage.

The data explosion – fueled by increased bandwidth and processing power, innovative data analysis tools, and the proliferation of inexpensive cloud-based storage solutions – has placed Data Scientist among the most demanded and lucrative IT careers. Data scientists' salary and demand are well-deserved, as their findings have the potential to make or break the business.

The most successful – and sought after – data scientists possess that rare combination of analytical skills, technical prowess and business acumen needed to effectively analyse massive data sets while thinking critically and shifting assumptions on the go, ultimately transforming raw intelligence into concise and actionable insights.

Just to name a few, some of the most common job titles for data scientists include:

Business intelligence analyst

A BI analyst uses data to help figure out market and business trends by analysing data to develop a clearer picture of where the company stands.

Data mining engineer

The data mining engineer exam-

ines not only the data for their own business but also that of third parties. In addition to analysing data, a data mining engineer will create sophisticated algorithms to help analyse the data further.

Data architect

Data architects work closely with users, system designers, and developers to create blueprints that data management systems use to centralise, integrate, maintain, and protect data sources.

Data scientist

Data scientists begin by translating a business case into an analytics agenda, developing hypotheses, and understanding data—as well as exploring patterns to measure what impact they will have on businesses. They also find and choose algorithms to help further analyse data. They use business analytics to not only explain what effect the data is going to have on a company in the future but can also help devise solutions that will help the company to move forward.

Senior data scientist

A senior data scientist can anticipate what a business's future needs will be. Apart from gathering data, they also analyse it thoroughly in order to resolve highly complex business problems efficiently. Through their experience, they can not only design but drive forward the creation of new standards, as well as create ways to use statistical data, and also develop tools to help further analyse the data.



Skills required

If you've been wondering how to start a career in data science, you'll need hard skills like analysis, machine learning, statistics, Hadoop, etc., but you'll also excel in this type of role if you excel at critical thinking, persuasive communications, and are a great listener and problem solver. You'll also need data science training, of course; download our free eBook Top Programming Languages for a Data Scientist to learn more.

This is an industry where opportunities are plenty, so once you have the education and qualifications, the jobs are waiting for you—now and in the future.

Job market for data scientists

With millions of worldwide job openings in Big Data, the role of a data scientist has become the hottest job of the decade. In today's data-based world, companies are using the insights that data scientists provide to stay one step ahead of their compe-

tion while keeping overhead costs low. Big names like Oracle, Apple, Microsoft, Booz Allen Hamilton, State Farm, Walmart, and more all regularly have job postings for data scientists.

According to Forbes, for most of 2016, there were an average of 2,900 unique job postings for data scientists each month. According to a McKinsey Global Institute study, it's predicted that by 2018, there will be almost 200,000 open positions.

Career outlook

With the right qualifications, you'll enjoy a bright career outlook as a data scientist. The demand for individuals with these skills will continue to increase, and those already in data science roles are sure to see their salaries increase in the future. As demand for skilled professionals to fill these positions increases, the salaries offered are also likely to increase—even those holding the lowest-paying data scientist jobs will still make a nice living.

Education requirement

The education requirements for data science roles are among the steepest in the IT industry—about 40% of these positions today require you to hold an advanced degree. There are also resources to learn data science online; for example, education providers like Simplilearn that also offer data science training online—courses that are much more career focused. These courses allow you to gain in-depth knowledge about the most modern skills and technologies that data scientists use, such as Tableau, Hadoop, R, SAS, Python, machine learning, and more.



Happiness is the key at work

Unhappiness at work can lead to a lack of focus, and can impact productivity and make it harder to communicate with those on your team. It can also lead to an increase in stress levels, which can cause significant damage to the body.

There is no doubt that those who are happy at work are more productive and more likely to go the extra mile. Happier people are also much more pleasant to be around and make stronger leaders and co-workers. But what makes you happy at work? While enjoying what you do and income plays a big role, experts say that your mindset and attitude are much more important factors.

If you are looking to feel happier at work, here are

If you find you are working all the time, you may need to make adjustments and put boundaries in place. While some jobs demand longer hours than others, there may be ways to work around this, such as requesting to work from home.

Each day brings a new set of hurdles to overcome. Instead of getting frustrated by these, learn to enjoy the ride and take things as they come. One way to do this is to practice being present and living in the moment, rather than getting caught up in the stresses of the past or future. Being present allows you to focus on problem solving rather than the problem itself.

Acknowledging yourself and your team for the progress they make through-



five proven changes that you can make to your daily routine that will have profound benefits:

Change your mornings

If you start your mornings by frantically running around trying to get organised for the day ahead, you could be setting yourself up for a day of stress. How you start your mornings is crucial when it comes to feeling good, so pay attention to your routine and find ways to make some positive changes.

For example, consider getting organised the night before or waking up 15 minutes earlier. Tanaaz Chubb, author of *The Power of Positive Energy*, recommends taking a moment to write down five things you feel grateful for. Doing this first thing in the morning can have a powerful impact on your feelings of happiness and positivity, and can help you start the day off right.

Maintain a work-life balance

All work and no play is not a recipe for happiness.

out the day can boost happiness levels in the workplace. When you acknowledge good work, it helps to boost feelings of confidence and self-assurance. Everyone likes to be noticed for the work they do, and you can make a significant difference by simply praising your co-workers for work they have done.

A simple way to track your progress is to make a checklist and tick off all the items you complete. This will help you feel more satisfied about all you have accomplished throughout the day.

Learn new skills

Doing the same thing day in and day out can grow tiresome, so try to change things up a bit and keep challenging yourself to learn new skills. Taking the time to learn new skills and take on new tasks at work can improve feelings of satisfaction and happiness. It can also keep you motivated and inspired, which can have a positive effect on your feelings of overall satisfaction and happiness.

Be a successful manager

Behind every successful business, high performance team, and high employee morale record, there is a successful manager. The happiness of employees (and ultimately their performance) is often highly dependent on the relationship they have with their direct manager/supervisor.

One of the biggest challenges for managers in small businesses is the lack of resources. Unhappy employees and a high employee turnover rate can be a recipe for disaster. Good hiring decisions will acquire top talent, but great management is often what keeps this talent in the long run. It is important to invest in your employees and ensure that they have the right support, motivation and challenges to help them reach their peak.

If you want to ensure your employees are happy, as well as retain your top talent and limit the amount of training sessions you are running, then you should look at yourself in the mirror and see if you are following these 10 tips of being a successful manager:

Be a mentor

View yourself as a coach and a mentor who is there to help develop your team and team members' potential, not as a drill sergeant there to crack the whip and keep employees in check. Most employees want a job where they can grow, be respected, challenged with great work and where they can build great relationships and friendships. View yourself as a coach who is there to motivate the team when they

need it and mend their wounds to get ready to fight another day.

Provide support

Every great leader was once a follower. Never forget where you came from and put yourself in your team members' shoes to consider things from their perspectives. Ask yourself: what would have been helpful for me if I was in that situation? What type of support/coaching would have benefited me?

Help to develop

To build a high performance team, you need to challenge your employees to do their best work while also allowing them to reach their personal career objectives. A happy employee is one who sees the value of their work and



who feels productive and needed. As a manager and a coach, you should help each team member reach their full potential by helping them create a yearly development plan of one or two key career goals they would like to meet. Then during the year, be on the lookout for these opportunities and give them to the employees who are actively working on acquiring these skills.

Customise the style

Everyone operates differently and we all have different drives and motivations. Some of us are intrinsically motivated while others are extrinsically motivated. Get to know each one of your team members and what makes them tick. No one size fits all.

Lead by example

The greatest managers are the first ones to get their hands dirty when push comes to shove. If you are asking your team to work overtime, then you should be in the trenches

with them throughout the night.

Be honest and transparent

Good communication and trust are key ingredients for a happy high performance team. If you want your team to feel comfortable, to be honest and have trust in you, then you need to do the same with them. People can always sense when someone is not being genuine with them. Being honest and open also means admitting your own mistakes and acknowledging when you don't have the answers. Don't try to be a know-it-all.

Push them to their best

At the end of the day, you are running a business and trying to be successful in a competitive market. The business world is not all roses and sunshine and sometimes you need to have difficult conversations with individuals if they are not meeting expectations. The way you phrase your feedback is important and the conver-

sation should focus on development points, along with suggestions for improvement and support. Remember that we are all human and mistakes happen.

Never stop learning

In order to be a great manager, you should recognise there is always room for you to learn and improve. Cultivate a positive personal growth mindset and create your own yearly development plan with individual career goals.

Be confident

Leaders need to show confidence and provide their team with a direction and a compelling vision. Trust your own abilities, they are what got you to where you are today.

Work on your own issues

If you find yourself lacking in some of the points above or in your own confidence, then you should focus on dealing with those internal issues or road blocks.



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The Indian real estate market is in its next evolutionary stage, and perfectly primed for ANAROCK Capital.
ANURUP PURI | ANAROCK CHAIRMAN

SBI GENERAL INSURANCE PROFIT RISES THREE-FOLD

SBI General Insurance, a non-life subsidiary of SBI, Tuesday reported three-fold jump in net profit to ₹396 crore for the fiscal ended March 2018. The company had earned a net profit of ₹153 crore in the previous fiscal.



of the day quote

We have some exposure (in the PNB fraud case). We are participating in the resolution process. It (exposure) was around ₹200 crore. We are participating in the insolvency process in overseas also.



DINABANDHU MOHAPATRA | MANAGING DIRECTOR AND CEO, BANK OF INDIA

There remains a significant skill gap between the desired and the actual hands on IT professionals, lack of available skillsets being the major roadblock.



MANMEET SINGH | PRESIDENT, EXPERTS, MANPOWERGROUP INDIA

With the reduced cane costs, the total contribution margin is likely to increase by around ₹500 per tonne of sugar produced, which translates into a one-and-a-half per cent margin at the operating level.



SABYASACHI MAJUMDAR | ICRA RATINGS SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND GROUP HEAD

SHORT TAKES

Ishwar Chandra Mishra new Bol GM

Keonjhar: Ishwar Chandra Mishra, Zonal Manager, Bol, Keonjhar Zone has been promoted as General Manager and posted at the head office of the bank in the HR department. He is the first Zonal Manager of Keonjhar zone of the bank to be elevated to the post of GM. During his tenure, as the Zonal head of Keonjhar, the bank crossed business mix of ₹10,000 crore. He has also played a vital role in digitalising 131 villages covering 9 districts under 127 branches in the financial year 2017-18.



Tata chief places teleservices bid

New Delhi: Tata Sons Chief N Chandrasekaran Tuesday met Telecom Secretary Aruna Sundararajan, amid Tata Communications' stated interest in acquiring the enterprise business of Tata Teleservices. The government has close to 26.12 per cent stake or 7.44 crore shares in Tata Communications, the erstwhile Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd (VSNL). Asked if a final decision had been taken on the enterprise business, Chandrasekaran told reporters that the matter has to be taken up by the board of Tata Communications first. The meeting took place at a crucial juncture for Tata vis-a-vis the telecom business. While Bharti Airtel had last year announced the takeover of consumer mobile business of Tata Teleservices Ltd and Tata Teleservices Maharashtra Ltd in a cash-free, debt-free deal, Tata Communications had stated that it will explore the possibility of acquiring the enterprise business of Tata Teleservices.

Flipkart may be liable for capital gains tax

New Delhi: Flipkart founders Sachin and Binny Bansal may have to pay 20 per cent capital gains tax if they sell their shares in the company as part of the proposed deal with US retail giant Walmart, say tax experts. The Indian e-commerce major is in discussions to sell majority holding to Walmart and an announcement to this effect is likely to be made soon, sources close to the development said. Walmart is likely to buy stakes of multiple Flipkart investors, including that of Tiger Global and Japanese conglomerate Softbank, to end up with 60-80 per cent holding for roughly USD 12 billion. According to experts, there would be two taxation angles to the deal once it goes through. The first will be taxation of capital gains earned by the sellers (Flipkart investors). Secondly, whether Flipkart India is allowed to carry forward the losses for the adjustment against income tax payable by the company.



Oil PSUs froze prices to avoid consumer pain: IOC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 8: With oil PSUs deciding not to hike petrol and diesel prices ahead of Karnataka elections, IOC Chairman Sanjiv Singh Tuesday said the company has decided to "temporarily moderate" prices to avoid sharp spikes and panic among consumers.

State-owned oil firms have since April 24 not changed petrol and diesel prices despite benchmark international product rates going up by nearly USD 3 per barrel.

Separately, Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said the government has nothing to do with fuel pricing after it deregulated and gave PSUs freedom to fix retail rates.

Singh however indicated that retail prices will rise if the current trend in international oil prices continues. Karnataka goes to polls May 12.

"We have decided to temporarily moderate retail prices by not passing on the required increase as we believe the current international oil product prices are not supported by fundamentals. So we have decided to wait for a while," Singh told reporters on sidelines of an industry event here.

The freeze in fuel prices follows the finance ministry's refusal to cut excise duty to give relief to the common man after petrol hit a 55-month high of ₹74.63 a litre and diesel touched a record high of ₹65.93.

WELCOME FREEZE

Retail prices will rise if the current trend in international oil prices continues

The freeze in fuel prices follows the finance ministry's refusal to cut excise duty to give relief to the common man

A 10 per cent increase in oil price could potentially increase headline CPI inflation by 0.2-0.3 per cent



"We can pass on daily spikes based on the freedom we have to revise prices on a daily basis. But we believe the surge in international oil products market is not supported by fundamentals and passing them on to consumers will unnecessarily create panic," Singh said. "So we moderate to a certain extent so that peaks are avoided."

Asked about all the three PSU oil firms fixing retail rates in tandem, he said it was possible that all of them thought that the spike in international oil prices is not supported by fundamentals and needs

to be moderated.

Petrol and diesel prices have not changed since April 24. This is despite the benchmark international rate for petrol going up from USD 78.84 per barrel, which was used for raising the price to ₹74.63 a litre on April 24, to USD 81.61 now, according to sources privy to fuel pricing methodology.

The benchmark international diesel rates during this period have climbed from USD 84.68 per barrel to USD 87.14. Also, the rupee has weakened to ₹66.62 to a US dollar from ₹65.41, making imports costlier.

Shubhada Rao, Chief Economist, Yes Bank, said hardening of international crude oil price is likely to manifest itself via higher pressure on India's twin deficits along with inflation while also having a marginally negative spillover on overall growth momentum.

"A 10 per cent increase in oil price could potentially increase headline CPI inflation by 0.2-0.3 per cent, increase CAD/GDP ratio by 0.3 per cent, and lower overall GDP growth by 0.1 per cent. The final impact on fiscal would depend upon the degree of discretionary fiscal adjustment encompassing both non oil revenue and non oil expenditure," Rao said.

Pradhan had last month denied reports of a directive to state oil firms to absorb at least Re 1 a litre hike by not raising prices in line with cost.

New telecom policy to shape sector's future



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 8: The proposed telecom policy addresses issues of all players, but only its effective implementation will determine the growth of the sector, Tower and Infrastructure Providers Association (TAIPA) Tuesday said.

"It (telecom policy) is the first right step but the most critical part will be the on-ground implementation and alignment of state governments with central government's rulings and guidelines," TAIPA Director General TR Dua said.

He said the draft policy addresses issues with regards to all stakeholders but its implementation will be the most critical part to shape up the sector and prepare the country for the future.

Telecom infrastructure companies, mainly mobile tower firms, continue to face challenge while rolling out networks despite central government notifying 'Right of Way (RoW)' rules, which refer

to norms for rolling out telecom infrastructure.

The draft National Digital Communications Policy, 2018 proposes to create a broadband readiness index for states and union territories that will help them attract investments and address RoW issues.

"The Indian telecom tower industry has been struggling through number of critical issues such as non-inclusion of IP-1s under RoW rules, November 2016, state tower policies not aligned with RoW rules," Dua said.

He said state governments and local bodies charge exorbitant and multiple fees and at various occasions the authorities under them take coercive action and often shut down mobile towers.

"In the last one year period ended December 2017 the tower industry could install only 21,000 mobile towers when it could have erected many more, had the challenges were addressed," Dua said.

India slips to 6th spot in biz optimism index: Thornton

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 8: With business sentiment at the "weakest" in four years, India slipped to the 6th position globally in the business optimism index for the first quarter of this year, says a survey.

Business optimism is however at an "all-time high" globally with the index at net 61 per cent, the highest figure recorded in 15 years of research, as per Grant Thornton's quarterly global business survey released Tuesday.

Noting that business sentiment in India has been the weakest since 2014 in the first quarter, the advisory firm said the confidence has



been shaken since the third quarter of 2017 with weakening currency and a surge in oil prices.

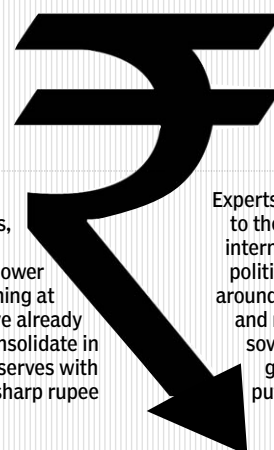
"While entering the last year of the current regime, the business optimism in India has deteriorated with the country ranking 6th globally on the optimism index in the first quarter of 2018. India has been topping the chart since the new government came into power in 2014," Grant Thornton's

Foreign funds sales pull rupee down

Here are factors contributing to the rupee's downward spiral

According to Kotak Mahindra Bank president (group treasury) Narayan S A, the rising price of crude oil — the biggest import item for India — is directly impacting the strength of the rupee. In addition, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have net sold equities and debt worth about \$3.5 billion since April this year.

According to ICICI Securities analysts Amit Gupta and Gaurav Shah, other than the sharp rise in crude oil prices, the recent spike in global yields is also affecting the domestic macro picture to a certain extent. "Benefits of lower crude prices have been disappearing as oil appears firming at \$65-75 levels. However, we expect most negatives to have already been priced in. As such, the (rupee-dollar) pair could consolidate in the range of 65.80-67.30 per dollar. Also, record forex reserves with the RBI may be utilised in the event of the next bout of sharp rupee depreciation," the analysts said.



"The emerging market currencies are now playing catch up with some of the excessive losses seen in developed currencies... Asian currencies have also fallen victim to the latest round of US dollar buying momentum," Jameel Ahmad, Global Head of Currency Strategy & Market Research at FXTM wrote in a note.

Experts said, in addition to the domestic and international factors, political uncertainty around Karnataka polls and rising yields of sovereign bonds globally are also putting pressure on the rupee.

Oil prices eased slightly on Tuesday, a day after hitting 3-1/2 year highs, as investors braced for US President Donald Trump's decision on whether to withdraw the United States from the Iran nuclear deal, a move that could disrupt global oil supply. Global benchmark Brent crude futures stood at \$75.64 per barrel, down 0.7 percent, having risen as high as \$76.34 Monday.

Induction cook tops segment still sagging

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 8: Induction cook top sales in the state are subdued at ₹15 crore to ₹16 crore. Lack of awareness and fear among customers have impacted sales.

"The sales of induction cook tops in the state are not encouraging and remain at ₹15 crore to ₹16 crore. However, this year the industry is witnessing growth of 10 per cent," a V Guard official told Orissa POST. He said fear psychosis of getting electric shocks and restriction for bulk usage have

impacted sales. The official said growth will come on the back of people purchasing the cook tops to gift their near and dear ones on special occasions. Prices are minimal, so sales are expected to rise.

The official said the industry which has suffered headwinds due to different factors is changing due to increasing awareness as well as the hike in LPG price. The industry is rebounding back to a profitable trajectory.

The official said Odisha has the potential and there is need to en-

hance awareness as well as educate customers about using the product. "Out of the total sales the major chunk comes from domestic buyers whereas about five per cent comes from commercial users like tea stalls and fast food outlets," the official said, adding that with the restriction on commercial usage of domestic cylinders the demand for induction cook tops is increasing. However, penetration is still low. The company has seven models in induction cook tops segment priced between ₹1,600 and ₹3,500.

Battery operated vehicle service launched

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 8: A free battery operated vehicle service was inaugurated at Cuttack and Bhubaneswar railway stations Tuesday evening.

The vehicle service was inaugurated at Cuttack and Bhubaneswar railway stations in association with the National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO).

NALCO CMD Tapan Kumar Chand along with East Coast Railway (ECoR), Khurda Region DRM Braj Mohan Agarwal inaugurated the free service for senior citizens, the differently-abled and sick passengers at the railway stations.

On the occasion, NALCO CMD Dr Chand said, "I want to appreciate the initiative taken by the railway authorities along with NALCO for implementing such a service as it will help the 'divyangs' and critical patients among others. As of now one vehicle has been launched at Cuttack station and two at Bhubaneswar railway station but we have plans to add two more as and when required."

"The same service has been already implemented at Puri railway station which we are hoping will boost tourism," he added.



Anees Raghavan

EXPLORATIONS IN ODISSI

Dancer Anees Raghavan wants to explore all the nuances of Odissi to discover the spirituality within this divine art form

International Centre of Education at Pondicherry right from my childhood up to graduation. As an eleven year old student, I was encouraged by the school authorities to be part of a curriculum that enabled me to try the basics of three classical dance styles taught in the school i.e., Kathak, Bharatanatyam and Odissi. I could try each out for three months and then decide the style I wished to pursue. I started with Kathak and then moved on to Bharatanatyam. Finally, I learnt Odissi from one of the finest Odissi performers/teachers today, Smt. Sangeeta Dash. She is more than a teacher to me. So, it was my destiny which brought me to this style of dance.

■ Which part of an Odissi composition allures you the most?
■ Odissi, in all its forms, is a great source of enjoyment. Even the items such as the old Arabhi Pallavi—not the one choreographed by Guru Kelucharan Mahapatra—or the popular Batu have always been a mine of subtleties. Besides, the Abhinaya which is not physically taxing can be extremely demanding, especially in the Debaprasad Das gharana. To strike a subtle balance and be receptive to “the internal flow” is a greater challenge than the external challenges presented by pure dance items like Pallavi or Moksha. However, all these challenges are also enjoyable and alluring.

■ As an Odissi dancer, what makes you different from others?
■ Dance is allied with rhythm, space, symmetry, and music which helps simultaneously develop one's scientific/mathematical sense and musical intelligence. Besides, the songs of this dance form are known for their depth of meaning and philosophical suggestions, which help refine one's artistic senses, deepen one's intellect, and make

one more sensitive to subtleties, be it aesthetic or spiritual. Thus, this kind of a conscious dance education has had a definite effect on my way of thinking and living. So, it is this privilege of a multi-faceted development which, I would say, is my X factor as an Odissi dancer.

■ How did you choose the Guru Debaprasad Das gharana?
■ I did not choose this gharana, it was more the decision of destiny. Guru Debaprasad Das gharana is special because of its founder who was a real scholar concerning the culture of Odisha. Be it the Mahari temple traditions or the Gotipua culture of Puri, the northern traditions of Mayurbhanj Chhau, the southern theatrical traditions of Sakhinata, the sculptural beauty of Konark, or the western ritualistic temple traditions of Sambalpur, Guru Debaprasad Das wove all these symbols of Odia culture into his style. Though I consciously did not choose this gharana, I feel very fortunate to be part of this gharana and to have the guidance of Smt. Sangeeta Dash, who has directly learnt from Guru Sri Debaprasad Das.

■ Any memorable incidents from your performances?
■ One of the very special moments was when I received the Guru Debaprasad Das Yuva Pratibha samman from Smt. Bipanchi Das, daughter of Guru Sri Debaprasad Das, in the presence of my Guru, at the Sangeeta Mahavidyalaya in Bhubaneswar. It was the first time I heard my Guru remark that my performance was “flawless,” and that was an award by itself.

■ You are also a vocalist. Does this help in your dance?
■ Yes, it does. Singing helps in the melodic expression (raga), which in turn helps me connect to the mood of the dance with more ease.

■ What has been the audience response towards Odissi performances in Odisha, Puducherry, at the national level and abroad?
■ Most of the time, it is very positive and encouraging. In Odisha, the audience is critical but appreciative of my efforts, all the more as I am a non-Odia. In Puducherry, Odissi was not very popular earlier. But now, our performances have led



Receiving an appreciation award at the Island festival in Andaman

■ Dance can never really be completely separated from music. The musical sense I have developed thanks to my knowledge of Carnatic music helps me understand the music of our dance better, in terms of the musical nu-

ances and melodic expression (raga), which in turn helps me connect to the mood of the dance with more ease. ■ What has been the audience response towards Odissi performances in Odisha, Puducherry, at the national level and abroad? ■ Most of the time, it is very positive and encouraging. In Odisha, the audience is critical but appreciative of my efforts, all the more as I am a non-Odia. In Puducherry, Odissi was not very popular earlier. But now, our performances have led

to growing interest in the dance form and many Tamils are interested in learning this dance form. At the national level, the response has been extremely positive. Abroad, I have performed along with my sister, who is a Bharatanatyam dancer and a thermal engineer in France. We have tried to showcase the richness of the classical styles of Indian dance by performing Odissi and Bharatanatyam together, in the form of a jugalbandi, along with interactive sessions. These sessions were highly appreciated in France and Italy.

■ You have also accompanied your Guru in a number of concerts.
■ I have been extremely privileged to have accompanied my Guru for duet performances in India and abroad. We have performed all kinds of compositions from the Odissi repertoire. We were always appreciated for the synchronisation which at times was so perfect that it would take even us by surprise. There have been times when we were asked to perform at short notice and even those performances looked well-rehearsed and perfectly in sync.

■ Future plans?
■ My aim is to delve deeper and deeper into this ocean of Odissi dance and spread the knowledge which has been passed down by Sri Guru Debaprasad Das to my Guru, which I have been blessed to receive. I want to constantly learn and explore more and more till I can feel the spirituality which is said to shine at the heart of this divine art form.



With his mother and sister

HIMANSHU GURU, OP

Odissi, the classical dance of Odisha, has not only attracted Odias but people from other states as well. Eminent Odissi dancers, who have made their homes in other states, have mentored talented Odissi dancers there. Young Odissi dancer Anees Raghavan, who has performed in national and international concerts and made a name for himself, learnt the art form from prominent Odissi dancer Sushree Sangeeta Dash, who mesmerised Oriya film audiences with her acting and dance skills in ‘Baje Bainsi Nache Ghungura.’ Twenty four year old Anees recently won the first prize in Glory Fest 2018 organised in Odisha. He has participated in the Kourkela Vedavyas Nrutyotsava (2012), International Dance Festival of Odissi (2015) organised by the GKCM Odissi Research Centre in Bhubaneswar; and the Guru Krupa Nrutya Samaroha Mahotsav (2015 and 2016) organised in memory of Odissi legend Guru Debaprasad Das. Orissa POST caught up with Anees recently.

■ What inspired you to opt for Odissi in preference to other classical dance forms?
■ I was at the Sri Aurobindo



Performing with his mentor Smt. Sangeeta Dash



Summer scarves

Summer officially began this past weekend, and tons of people will ring in the hottest months with a nice, rosy sunburn. If you are burnt (and even if you are not!) we have got stylish solution for every single sunny day this summer. Try out loose, full-covered, sun-protecting summer scarves.

Big sunglasses and a scarf have been a fashion staple from Grace Kelly to Audrey Hepburn to Rihanna, and there's a reason: it's glamorous, sun-safe look. Plus, the scarf is eminently versatile. Head, neck, shoulders, back—a good scarf can cover it all. Did you know that the skin on your neck is 10 times thinner than the skin on your face? It's true! And a scarf is perfect for this sensitive skin.

Floral pareo
This super-wide, super-long light silk scarf doesn't offer the highest UPF but with this much fabric, layering can go a long way. We love the light 100% silk and bohemian batik design from Australian Natalie Martin.

Zara's cotton scarves

Zara's simple, classic 100% cotton scarf offers a touch more protection than silk, and again, with the super-large size, layering can give some extra protection from UV rays. It will act as a shawl, and can double as a towel in a pinch.

Embroidered scarves

Woven from a cotton-acrylic blend, the thick material will definitely protect you from the sun—and matching dress.



With a scarf, any cover is better than none, but tightly woven fabrics have a higher UPF rating than looser, thinner fabrics (cotton beats silk, lycra beats cotton—you get the point). A wider swath of fabric will also offer more protection, and with all this in mind—plus your maximum summer style—Here we put together this list.

Handmade super soft
The handmade lightweight scarf is super soft and incredibly versatile both in fabric and color palette. It's 60% silk and 40% viscose, which means an even higher UPF rating than full silk or cotton. It's also makes great for travel, doing double duty to keep you warm on trains, planes and automobiles.



MEGHA ARYAN, OP

Safety is an issue

Since the news broke that the personal data of 87 million Facebook users, mostly in the US, had been improperly shared, people have been worried about data leak that could affect them. The youth today spend a lot of time on social media sites. On Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, Twitter and other social media plat-

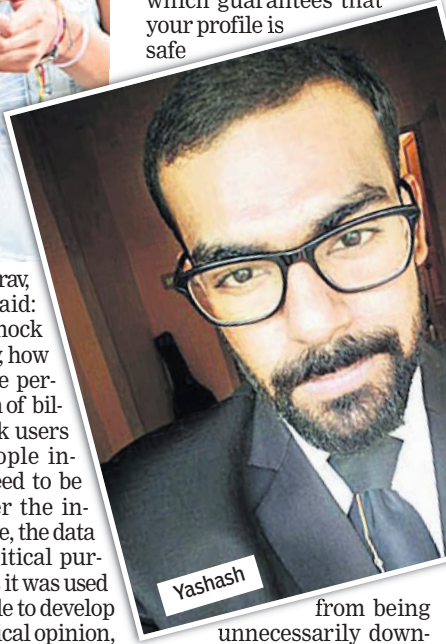
forms, they share their personal photos and videos. Orissa POST talked to a few youngsters to ask if they were worried by the recent data leak reports.

Yashash Gaurav, an engineer, said: “It came as a shock to me. Seriously, how can they put the personal information of billions of Facebook users at risk? The people involved in this need to be punished. As per the information we have, the data was used for political purposes. That means it was used to influence people to develop a particular political opinion,

which is totally unacceptable and unethical.”

He added: “Zuckerberg has apologized of course, but that is not enough. Now, I will think twice before sharing my photos through social media.”

Kolkata-based Archita Rai said, “Facebook has again proved that it can't provide its users a secure information sharing space. The profile guard feature on Facebook which guarantees that your profile is safe



Yashash



Archita

loaded is the most useless feature, I guess. They can't download the photo but they can take screenshots. Then what's the use of the safety guard? Social media is losing its credibility. It wasn't like this a few years back but now things are growing too fast and becoming difficult to control. There is no app which guarantees hundred per cent se-

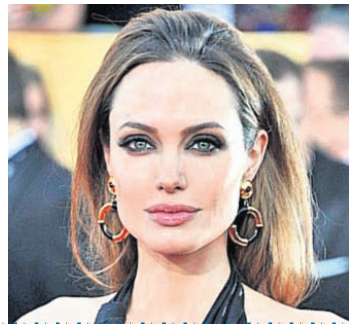
curity, so why blame only Facebook?” Delhi-based Sonika Kashyap said: “What happened is unfortunate. I have deleted my Facebook account because I didn't feel safe there. I use other social media apps, which I know

can also not be trusted fully, but I find them useful to stay in touch with friends and family members. I don't think anyone should share their intimate pictures or personal videos through social media. That is never safe.”



Sonika





Actress-filmmaker Angelina Jolie has decided to produce a biopic on Native American athlete Jim Thorpe who won two gold medals in 1912 Olympics. "His is a tale of bravery and overcoming odds," Jolie said Monday in Los Angeles. "It is a great honour to work on the project"

FERGUSON RECOVERING

The British media reported Tuesday that former Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson is sitting up and talking to his family as his recovery from emergency surgery following a brain haemorrhage continues. "Surgery went very well and the 76-year-old's response to treatment has been very positive," said a report



SHORT TAKES

Paddler Thakkar books Youth Olympics berth

Bangkok: Paddler Manav Thakkar booked his ticket to the Buenos Aires Youth Olympics defeating Singapore's Shao Josh Chua 4-0 (11-4, 11-7, 11-2, 11-9) here Tuesday. However, in the girls' segment Archana Girish Kamath, missed the bus for third time in succession when she bowed out in the quarterfinals to Hungarian Fanni Harasztovich 3-4 (11-13, 11-8, 11-7, 11-6, 7-11, 10-12, 5-11) said a Table Tennis Federation of India media release. Archana was 3-2 and 10-8 up in the six. However, she failed to utilise the two match points and lost the game on deuce and the Japanese proved too strong for her in the decider. In the boys' singles top-seeded Thakkar accounted for Jacobo Vahnish of Panama and Jordan's Khaled Khader by identical 4-0 margins to enter the finals.

Koscielny 'devastated' after missing out on WC

London: Veteran French defender Laurent Koscielny is 'devastated' at missing out on this year's World Cup finals after undergoing surgery on a ruptured Achilles tendon, Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said here Tuesday. The 32-year-old central defender will be sidelined for six months, bringing a sad end to his international career as he had planned to retire after the finals in Russia. The player has been, capped over 50 times for France. He got injured during Arsenal's Europa League semifinal second leg defeat by Atletico Madrid last Thursday. "He is of course devastated. He will be out for six months. You will not see him before the beginning of December at best," said Wenger.

Bayern retain Ribery for one more season

Berlin: Veteran winger Franck Ribery, 35, has signed a one-year extension to stay at Bayern Munich until 2019, the German giants announced Tuesday. "I am very happy to be able to play for another year at this great club," said Ribery in a statement. "Munich has long since become a home for my family and I, therefore, am proud to be able to play in the FC Bayern shirt next season." Ribery joined Bayern in 2007 and has so far scored 80 goals in 247 Bundesliga appearances. He has also won the German league title for a joint record eighth time this season. "We are very pleased that Franck has been retained," said Bayern's sports director Hasan Salihamidzic.

'Biggest' World Cup for Uruguay's Godin

Montevideo: Uruguay captain Diego Godin is expecting the 'biggest World Cup' of his career when football's flagship tournament kicks off in Russia next month. This will be the third World Cup for the 32-year-old Atletico Madrid central defender and he said Monday here that he has never felt better going into a major tournament. "On a personal level, this will be my biggest World Cup due to my experience, my age, my form and my maturity," Godin told Uruguayan radio station 'Rincon'. "That's why I want to enjoy it as much as possible and try to win it for me, for my country." Since making his debut in 2005, Godin has played 116 games for Uruguay. They will begin their World Cup campaign against Egypt, June 15.

AFC ASIAN CUP TOURNAMENT NEXT YEAR

BHUTIA BACKS INDIA TO DO WELL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 8: Indian football great Bhaichung Bhutia said Tuesday the country can qualify for the knockouts but also finish among the top two in the group stage of the AFC Asian Cup next year. India have been clubbed with Thailand, Bahrain and hosts UAE in Group A. Two teams will qualify for the knockout stages with the four best third-placed teams from six groups also making the cut.

"I am very happy with the group which we have drawn. I feel we have been extremely lucky as we didn't draw any Asian superpower - Iran, Japan, Australia and the Korea Republic - in our group," Bhutia stated. "Every pot had six teams and from Pot A we avoided all those who have qualified for the 2018 World Cup," he added.

The only Indian footballer to have played over 100 internationals, Bhutia said India can make it to the round of 16 with a bit of luck.

"We can finish among the top two from our group and qualify for the round of 16. I understand it's not that easy but it's also not im-



BEING OPTIMISTIC: Bhaichung Bhutia is optimistic about India's chances at the AFC Asian Cup Championship next year

possible. With a fair deal of hard work and a bit of luck, we can achieve it," the former captain pointed out.

Bhutia was asked to comment on the last time the country played the tournament in 2011. "In international football nothing is easy. But in comparison to the group in

Doha 2011 where we were clubbed with the then World Cuppers Australia and Korea, this looks good, or should I say favourable," Bhutia said.

"Not to forget that the other team in our group in 2011 was Bahrain, and they had played the World Cup play-offs from Asia too

Just putting in hard work won't always get you success. You need to have the we can do it attitude

BHAICHUNG BHUTIA

(for World Cup South Africa 2010)," he added.

India were thrashed by their opponents in 2011 and returned home without a point. But this time around, things could be different. With time in hand, Bhutia stated that the team should prepare properly.

"Physically and mentally we need to prepare ourselves for our best and that always adds to the confidence. Perhaps this is the first-ever time when India are ranked second among the four teams in the group. Admit or deny, it's bound to have a very significant impact on the mentality of the players," asserted Bhutia.

"In such tournaments, mere putting in your 100 per cent won't work. You need to put in that extra effort which can sail you through to the next stage," Bhutia signed off.

Praneeth leads Indian challenge



B Sai Praneeth of India will be one of the favourites to win the title

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sydney, May 8: Fresh from his semifinal appearance in the New Zealand Open badminton tournament and in the absence of the top guns, B Sai Praneeth will lead the Indian challenge at the Australian Open HSBC BWF World Tour Super 300 event, starting here Wednesday.

Established stars such as PV Sindhu, Saina Nehwal, Kidambi Srikanth and doubles exponent Ashwini Ponnappa have given the event a miss. In their absence, Sai Praneeth and the men's doubles pair of Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Reddy will lead India's campaign.

The Manu-Sumeeth combo has been seeded third and will open their campaign against Australian pair of Lukas Defolky and Michael Fariman. The other Indian men's doubles pair of Arjun MR and Ramchandran Shlok will meet Australians Tam Raymond and Eric Vuong.

In men's singles, World No.18 Praneeth has been handed top seeding and he will meet Israel's Misha Zilberman in the opening round. Fourth seed Sameer Verma faces New Zealand's Abhinav Manota, brother Sourabh will take on Takuma Ueda of Japan, Ajay Jayaram will square off against Japanese Riichi Takeshita and youngster Lakshya Sen will fight it out against Hong Kong's seventh seed Lee Cheuk Yiu.

In the women's singles, Sai Uttejitha Rao Chukka, Sri Krishna Priya Kudaravalli and Vaishnavi Reddy Jukka will be the Indians to watch out for. This will be a great opportunity for them to benefit from the exposure and carve out some important victories.

Praneeth meanwhile stated that he did not feel any pressure after being declared the top seed. "Seedings do not really matter as every match is tough," he said. "So I will have to be at my best from the very first round."

INIESTA WILL NOT JOIN CHONGQING

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Shanghai, May 8: China's Chongqing Lifan Club have denied making a big-money move for Andres Iniesta as Spanish media said the Barcelona captain could now be headed for Japan or Australia after completion of his two-decade tenure with the Spanish giants.

Chongqing said Iniesta wouldn't be joining 'as a player' but left the door open to future cooperation with the midfielder, who has promotional and marketing links with the city.

Chongqing asserted that they wanted to support the 'healthy development of Chinese football'. "Our club will never violate the development prospects of Chinese football," a statement from the club said.

"The other sports industry sections of our club's controlling shareholder have in-depth cooperation with Mr Iniesta in sports brokerage, sports marketing, and youth training and education.

"We don't rule out that in the future there may be more in-depth cooperation between the two sides in the Chinese market, but this does not mean that Mr Iniesta will join the club as a player," it added.

Japan's Vissel Kobe, named in Spanish media as a possible next club for Iniesta, had no comment Tuesday when approached by this agency.

Australia bank on Langer, Paine for image makeover



Tim Paine has been named Australia ODI captain for the England tour

AGENCIES

Sydney, May 8: New Australia coach Justin Langer named Tim Paine as ODI captain Tuesday for next month's tour of England as they look to open a new era after a damaging ball-tampering scandal in South Africa.

The 33-year-old wicketkeeper

Wenger surprised at number of offers

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

London, May 8: Arsene Wenger said Tuesday he has been surprised at the number of job offers he has received since his departure from Arsenal became public. He has also urged the club to appoint his successor as soon as possible.

The Frenchman will step down as Gunners boss after Sunday's Premier League trip to Huddersfield, with Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri reportedly the first choice of the Arsenal board as his replacement.

The 68-year-old has said he will take a break from football before deciding on his next move. Asked if he had received any offers, Wenger replied: "Yes, more than I expected! At the moment I focus on doing my job well. I want to work well until the last day of my contract. Then I will analyse the offers."

Even though, Allegri has emerged frontrunner, Carlo Ancelotti and Luis Enrique, both currently out of work, have been linked with the Arsenal job.

"I think the earlier, the better," Wenger said when asked if an ap-



Yes, there have been offers. I haven't analysed those. I want to work well till the last day of my present contract. Then only will I think about those offers

ARSENE WENGER

pointment should be made ahead of the World Cup, but he refused to be drawn on who he favoured.

"People want hope and they need as well to prepare for the next season. I must say the squad doesn't need much, because there's a huge potential in there," asserted the Frenchman.

Wenger is set to depart with the club finishing in sixth, the lowest position of his reign, and with no silverware following their Europa League semifinal exit at the hands of Atletico Madrid last week.

Chairman of selectors Trevor Hohns said Cricket Australia (CA) had faith in Paine's ability to lead the 15-man squad in England, with Aaron Finch as his vice-captain.

"Tim is a strong leader and will captain the side for the series, supported by Aaron," Hohns said. "A decision on a permanent one-day captain will be made in due course." World Champions Australia will open the series against England at Lord's June 13.

Hohns said the tour would help players test themselves on English pitches ahead of the 2019 World Cup in England. "Obviously, these are the conditions we will face during the tournament, so now is a perfect chance to give these players an opportunity to press their case for selection," he informed.

CA also named a 14-man squad for a one-off Twenty20 match in England, followed by a tri-series tournament in Zimbabwe also featuring Pakistan. Finch was named to lead the squad, with Alex Carey as vice-captain.

Meanwhile off-spinner Nathan Lyon who has been included in the ODI squad for the first time since 2016 said in Melbourne that the players will have to stoically bear the English taunts over the ball-tampering affair.

"I am sure the fans will take full advantage of the current situation," Lyon said. "I've never played in England where they haven't given it to us. There's no point taking some issues out with us, we've just got to stand out there and cop it."

6-TEAM CPL TO START TODAY



Owners of six teams unveil their respective team jerseys at a city hotel, Tuesday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 8: The inaugural edition of the Corporate Premier League (CPL) organised by Corporate Cricket Club will start, May 9 here, the organisers announced in a press meet at a city hotel, Tuesday.

Six teams will be participating in the tournament with the final coming off, May 13. Approximately 150 players from various IT companies registered

for the auction, conducted last month, of which 84 got picked up by the respective franchisees. All the matches (10 overs each for the batting side) will be played at the SOA University ground.

The participating teams are Spartans XI, Royal Rangers, Bluetech Smashers, Clouds XI, Royal Cricketing Daredevils and Surgical Strikers.

The teams will play against each other on a round robin basis with the top four qualifying for the semifinals

which will be played in the IPL format. The winner of the first semifinal will qualify for the final. However, the winner of the second will take on the loser of the first semifinal in a game which can be titled 'Eliminator'. The winner of the Eliminator will take on the victor of the first semifinal in the summit clash for the title.

The winners will be awarded prize money of Rs 60, 000 while the runners-up will get Rs 40, 000.

Lots at stake for golfer Anirban

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ponte Vedra Beach (Florida), May 8: Golfer Anirban Lahiri has more than a few things to set right this week at the PLAYERS Championships as he is in danger of dropping out of the top 100 for the first time in more than four years.

Lahiri is also yet to register a top-10 finish in this calendar year and has not tasted a win since the Hero Indian Open in February 2015.

This week, the event includes a very strong field led by World No.1 Dustin Johnson, current FedExCup points leader Justin Thomas, last week's Wells Fargo champion Jason Day as well as Tiger Woods, Rory McIlroy, and defending champion Si Woo Kim, for the USD 11 million showpiece which will feature every single player in the top 50 of the world.

Lahiri, never one to mince

words, has often been very hard on himself. "I'm definitely looking forward to this week. I think I've got some demons to exorcise. I played pretty well last year except for the 18th hole and it'll be nice to get back out there and exact some revenge," pointed out the Indian golfer.

"I feel I can play good on this golf course. It's also good I've already played here a few times. I know what to do, know what the conditions are and know where the misses should be. It's a week where I feel well prepared for," added Lahiri.

Lahiri began the 2017-18 PGA season strongly with two early top 10 finishes, but that was in September-October. Since then, Lahiri's form has been rather 'off'. He has made six cuts in nine starts, but none inside top 25. The best was tied 26th at the Genesis Open. Now he stands at 100 in world rankings and trying hard not to fall outside the elite group.



Anirban Lahiri will have to regain form quickly if he has to remain in the top 100 of world rankings

PTI PHOTO

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

SHORT TAKES

CA confirms Adelaide Test to be a day affair

Melbourne: Cricket Australia (CA) confirmed Tuesday that the Adelaide Test against India will not be a day-night affair after the latter expressed reservations over playing with pink ball.

India eves face Japan in CT hockey opener

New Delhi: Defending champions India will begin their campaign in the Vth Asian Women's Champions Trophy hockey tournament against Japan May 13 at the Donghae City in Korea.

CR7 will be fit for CL final: Zidane

Madrid: Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane has confirmed that Cristiano Ronaldo will be at 150 per cent for the Champions League final against Liverpool at Kiev, May 26.

NAIR REPLACES KOHLI

RAHANE TO LEAD INDIA IN AFGHANISTAN MATCH



Ajinkya Rahane

Bangalore, May 8: Karnataka middle-order batsman Karun Nair has replaced skipper Virat Kohli for the one-off Test against Afghanistan to be played here June 14 to 18, thus making an unexpected comeback to the squad.

Ajinkya Rahane will be leading India in the historic Test against Afghanistan. However, he has not found a place in the limited over squads for the T20 series against Ireland and the three-game ODI series against England.

Among other decisions taken was to rest Rohit Sharma for the Test against Afghanistan. For the ODI squad, Shreyas Iyer and Ambati Rayudu make comebacks after their impressive string of good scores in IPL-XI.

In another development the BCCI has also announced the India A squads for the One-day tri series and four-day matches in UK. Shreyas Iyer was named captain of the one-day team while Karun Nair will lead the squad in the four-day matches.

As expected, youngsters Prithvi Shaw was selected in both the squads while Shubman Gill only found his place in the one-day team. India A team will start their tri-series campaign June 22 which also features England Lions (A team) and West Indies A while the only four-day game against England A will start from July 16.

The squads Test against Afghanistan: Ajinkya Rahane (captain), Shikhar Dhawan, Murali Vijay, KL Rahul, Cheteshwar Pujara, Karun Nair, Wriddhiman Saha (wk), Ravi Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Umesh Yadav, Mohammed Shami, Hardik Pandya, Ishant Sharma and Shardul Thakur. T20 series against Ireland (two games) and England (three games): Virat Kohli (captain), Shikhar Dhawan, Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul, Suresh Raina, Manish Pandey, MS Dhoni(wk), Dinesh Karthik, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Washington Sundar, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah, Hardik Pandya, Siddharth Kaul and Umesh Yadav.

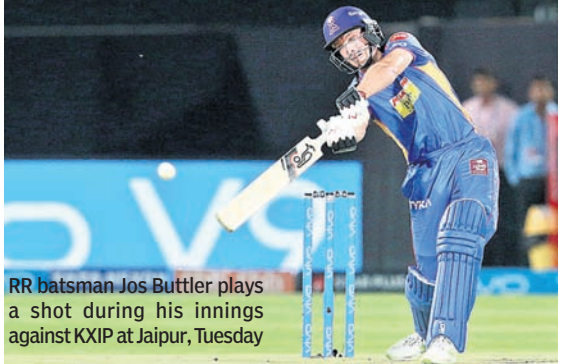
RR keep play-off hopes alive

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, May 8: Opener KL Rahul (95 n o, 70b, 11x4, 2x6) stood tall despite ending up in the losing side as Rajasthan Royals kept their play-off hopes alive after scripting a convincing 15-run victory over Kings XI Punjab in their IPL tie here, Tuesday.

Chasing a modest but challenging 159, KXIP never looked in chase losing wickets at regular intervals. Swashbuckling West Indian opener Chris Gayle (one) was the first to fall before skipper Ravi Ashwin (zero) who promoted himself up the order; also got out cheaply as the visitors were reduced to 14/2 in the third over. Krishnappa Gowtham (2/12) got both the wickets.

But after the departure of Karun Nair (three) in the next over, reduced KXIP to 19/3 and made the chase al-



RR batsman Jos Buttler plays a shot during his innings against KXIP at Jaipur, Tuesday

most impossible. However, Rahul held his nerves and kept his wicket one end but running out of partners at the other end, restricted him to play his natural game. However, at 81/6 in the 14th over, Australian all-rounder Marcus Stoinis (11) joined Rahul and raised some hope of a win, but they failed to up the ante at right moment before eventually ending up in the losing side. KXIP man-

aged to score 143/7. Earlier, opener Jos Buttler (82, 58b, 9x4, 1x6) led a struggling RR with a blazing half century after they opted to bat first. However, the bowlers brought KXIP back with some tight bowling and restricted the hosts to 158 for eight in their 20 overs. The England wicketkeeper-batsman smashed almost all the bowlers at will all round the park before being stumped

Brief scores RR 158/8 (Jos Buttler 82; Andrew Tye 4/34; Muejeb Ur Rahman 2/21) bt KXIP 143/7 (KL Rahul 95 n o; Krishnappa Gowtham 2/12) by 15 runs.

out off the bowling by young Afghani spinner Muejeb Ur Rahman (2/21). Skipper Ajinkya Rahane once again perished early before Gowtham, who was promoted up the order, departed off a Stoinis (1/15) delivery. However, a half century partnership between Buttler and Sanju Samson (22) lifted RR to some extent. Ben Stokes (14) also failed to get going of Australian pacer Andrew Tye (4/34) getting rid of the left-hander: Stuart Binny (11) also failed to contribute to the team's cause before being run out cheaply from a brilliant Nair throw.

Arushi claims U-9 national chess title

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 8: Arushi Srichandan of Odisha emerged champion in the U-9 girls' category of the All India IGMSA below Elo 1,500 Chess Championships which was played in Hyderabad, May 5-7.

Arushi finished with 5.5 points from nine rounds. Her win also helped her gain 44 Elo rating points and prize money of Rs 6,000 along with a certificate and a trophy.

Palak Mohapatra and Ankita Sahoo (both from Odisha) finished second and third respectively in the same segment. Palak also finished with 5.5 points and was declared runner-up after tie-breaker score was implemented. She got Rs 4,000 along with a trophy and cer-



(From L) Dolisiyas Dash, Ankita Sahoo and Arushi Srichandan pose with their respective trophies and certificates in Hyderabad

tificate. Ankita finished with five points.

Among other state participants, Dolisiyas Dash finished third in the U-11 girls' category. She gained 116 Elo rating points.

Sports Hostel win

Sports Hostel, Odisha thrashed Ananthapur Football Academy 4-0 in the ongoing U-18 Indian Youth League in Shillong, Tuesday. Arun Minz scored twice while

Dilip Lakra and Manjit Kishan scored a goal apiece.

After the win, the state clots were in fourth position in the Rest of India Zone Group A table. Notably, they had lost their last match to Aizawl FC 0-2.

Pramod to participate

Ace Odisha para-badminton player Pramod Bhagat is in the seven-member India squad for the IVth Turkish Para-Badminton International Enesucup tournament, which will be played May 9-13 in Konya, Turkey.

Pramod will be in action in both the singles and doubles events of the five-day meet. The state had secured two medals in the Dubai Para-Badminton international tournament last month which helped him get a direct entry for the Turkey meet.

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