



## YET TO BELIEVE: SANYA

Dangal famed actor Sanya Malhotra says the feeling that she is an actor is yet to sink in

GLITTERATI P10



## NK FREES 3 US DETAINEES

Trump said three American citizens jailed in N Korea have been released and are on their way back home

INTERNATIONAL P12



## PRANEETH, VERMA ADVANCE

Shuttlers B Sai Praneeth and Sameer Verma advance to second round of Australian Open badminton tournament

SPORTS P15

### SHORT TAKES

#### Train rams into JCB, 2 passengers injured

**Jajpur/Chadheidhara:** Passengers of a train had a narrow escape when the Ernakulam-Howrah Antodaya Express hit a stationary JCB machine at Chheliapada level-crossing near Haridashpur railway station in Jajpur district Wednesday. Timely action and promptitude shown by the loco pilot saved hundreds of lives, though two passengers were injured in the mishap. The injured Tapas Nanda (20) and Nasiruddin Islam of Murshidabad district in West Bengal were discharged after primary treatment in Barchana hospital. They were hurt while resting their hands on the windows in their compartment.

Details on P7

#### Another girl ends life over poor HSC marks

**Banarpal:** Yet another girl committed suicide Wednesday allegedly over scoring poor marks than expected in the annual matriculation examination, the results of which were declared by the Board of Secondary Education (BSE) Monday. The deceased was identified as Sumitra Mirdha (16) of Jhinkibahal village under Kishorenagar police limits in Angul district. She consumed poison and tried to commit suicide Tuesday night. Family members rushed her to the district headquarters hospital in a critical condition where doctor pronounced her 'brought dead'. Angul police registered a case and sent the body for post-mortem.

#### Flyover mishap probe report likely today

**Bhubaneswar:** The technical committee constituted to probe the second mishap at the under-construction Bomikhal flyover in the city will submit its report to the government Thursday. "We have examined various aspects of the mishap. Currently, the findings are in discussion stage. We will submit the report to government tomorrow," a member of the panel told Orissa POST, Wednesday. Works Minister Prafulla Mallick told the media that the government will take further actions after receiving the probe report. Meanwhile, sources said the panel may not recommend action against the engineering staff as it holds the contracting firm - Panda Infra Projects Private Limited, for the lapses.

## ORISSA HC SERVES NOTICES ON STATE, WB

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, May 9:** The ongoing war between Odisha and West Bengal over the GI tag for the sweet delicacy - Rasagola took a new twist Friday with the Orissa High Court serving notices to both the states in response to a public litigation (PIL) seeking scrapping the GI tag to 'Banglar Rasogolla'.

Hearing the PIL here Friday, the high court served notices to Odisha Chief Secretary as well as the West Bengal State Council of Science &

Technology to clarify their respective stands on the issue. The court also served separate notices to the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration

### GI TAG FOR RASAGOLA

(SJTA) and Chennai Intellectual Property Office (IPO).

Susanta Sahu, secretary of Punya Utkal Foundation and Santosh Kumar Sahoo, editor of Odia Parba, filed the PIL in Orissa High Court February 5 by seeking a GI tag for 'Odishara Rasagola'



and demanding that the GI tag received by West Bengal for 'Banglar Rasogolla' be scrapped.

According to sources in the state government, the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration, Chennai

Intellectual Property Office (IPO), and West Bengal State Council of Science & Technology have also been made parties in the PIL.

It is worth mentioning here that the Geographical Indication (GI) Registry office had issued a show-cause notice to the West Bengal State Food Processing & Horticulture Development Corporation March 16 asking it to explain why the GI tag granted to 'Banglar Rasogolla' should not be withdrawn. The March 16 notice was issued after the Regional

Development Trust chairman Ramesh Chandra Sahoo filed an application the Chennai-based IPO office for demanding that the GI tag granted to 'Banglar Rasogolla' either be rectified or removed.

In the plea before the high court, Susanta Sahu and Santosh Kumar Sahoo, who represent a city-based Trust, have alleged that West Bengal had received the GI status for 'Banglar Rasogolla' from GI Registry office on the basis of false evidence and data furnished by the neighbouring state.

## DMs told to arrest potato hoarders

Despite the expiry of Potato Mission deadline, there is hardly enough production and storage capacity of this kitchen essential in the state

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 9:** The state government Wednesday came down heavily on unscrupulous traders hoarding potatoes, thereby creating an artificial crisis in the market. In order to curb such practice, the government has directed all districts Collectors to intensify enforcement activities and arrest the traders storing the vegetable beyond permissible limits.

Talking to the media here Wednesday, Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare (FS&CW) Minister Surya Narayan Patro said, "We have instructed Collectors and supply inspectors to arrest the traders engaged in illegal storage of potatoes."

While each potato wholesaler in Cuttack are allowed to stock a maximum of 500 quintals, those in

Bhubaneswar, Sambalpur, Rourkela and Puri are permitted to stock a maximum of 350 quintals, Patro said, adding, wholesalers in other cities and towns have been allowed to store 150-quintal potatoes each."

Recently, in a letter to the Collectors, FS&CW secretary VV Yadav stated, "Keep a close watch on availability and arrival of potato in the market and ensure availability of the same to the consumers at reasonable prices. If required, action may be taken against hoarders and unscrupulous

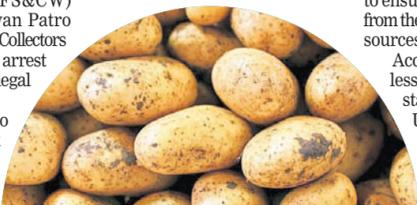
traders under provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955."

The government's directive came in the wake of an alarming increase in the prices of the essential commodity in various markets in the state. This kitchen essential is currently being sold at ₹18 per kg in Cuttack and Bhubaneswar, while consumers have to shell out ₹15 in other towns like Rourkela, Sambalpur, Jeypore and Balasore.

The government has also asked the Collectors of the border districts to ensure smooth supplies potato from the producing states to Odisha, sources said.

According to sources, there is less production of potatoes in states like West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh, the vegetable's price has seen an upward trend in Odisha in recent, the source said.

Continued on P5



GUSTY BLOW

A fish vendor struggles to hold onto his umbrella against the fast blowing wind, on the banks of Brahmaputra river in Guwahati Wednesday.

PTI PHOTO

## Another row hits K'taka ahead of polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bangalore, May 9:** A massive controversy has rocked Karnataka after nearly 10,000 "fake" voter ID cards were seized from a flat in Rajrajeshwari Assembly seat, prompting the BJP to demand countermanding of the election claiming Congress was behind the racket, a charge dismissed by the latter as a "lie".

With just three days left before Karnataka goes to poll, the BJP and Congress, the two main contenders for power, went after each other's jugular, each claiming the flat belonged to a woman associated with the rival party.

Addressing a press conference, Union minister Prakash Javadekar claimed Congress candidate and sitting MLA Munirathna Naidu was behind the alleged racket, which was exposed by BJP worker Rakesh.

### 'FAKE' VOTER I-CARD

Congress spokesman Rajdeep Singh Surjewala hit right back, alleging that the flat owner Manjula Nanjammari and Rakesh had BJP connections and both contested Bengaluru Municipal Corporation elections on the tickets of the saffron party.

Karnataka's Chief Electoral Officer Sanjiv Kumar had called a press conference last midnight where he said besides the cards, form 6A (application for inclusion of name in electoral roll by an overseas elector) with counterfoils were found. He said that the colour in the counterfoil appeared unusual, and that an inquiry was on.

Javadekar said thousands of fake cards with hologram, lamination machines, and computers were seized by police after BJP workers informed it about the

racket, and demanded a thorough forensic inquiry.

"This is the philosophy of the Congress...if voters do not vote for you, create fake voters," he said, claiming a "fake voter ID printing factory" was being run in Manjula's flat. Manjula, he said, was once associated with the BJP but was now with the Congress, and demanded her immediate arrest.

He alleged she had campaigned for the sitting Congress MLA from the seat and its candidate for the current Assembly election. Munirathna Naidu in the last polls.

The Congress hit back with a vengeance, claiming BJP was making such allegations because it was aware of its imminent defeat.

"They are making such allegations because of their imminent defeat, and after their workers and

leaders were caught red-handed influencing voters in collating and collecting fake ID cards in order to influence the results of the elections," Surjewala told reporters.

He said the ID cards and equipment were not recovered from the flat by the police but BJP workers. The flat, he said, belonged to a BJP worker.

"Prakash Javadekar had the audacity to lie, mislead the people of Karnataka by saying Manjula does not belong to the BJP. She is a former BJP corporator and Rakesh also contested corporation election on BJP ticket in 2015," he said.

"Javadekar runs a factory of lies. Rakesh was a tenant of flat No. 115 and it is mentioned in the list of BJP candidates who contested the corporation elections. Manjula is a former BJP corporator from Jalahalli," he said, citing newspaper reports.

## Walmart buys 77% stake in Flipkart

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 9:** Walmart Inc Wednesday said it is buying 77 per cent stake in Flipkart for about \$16 billion (Rs 1.05 lakh crore), its biggest deal which will give the US retailer access to Indian e-commerce market that is estimated to grow to \$200 billion within a decade.

The deal, wherein co-founder Sachin Bansal and Japan's Softbank Corp Group are exiting, values Flipkart at \$20.8 billion. It is the biggest M&A deal in India this year. "Walmart's investment includes \$2 billion of new equity funding, which will help Flipkart accelerate growth in the future," a Walmart statement said.

They "are also in discussions with additional potential investors who may join the round, which could result in Walmart's investment stake moving lower after the transaction is complete", the statement added. "Even so, the company would retain clear majority ownership," Walmart said.

Google parent Alphabet Inc seen to be the potential investor who may get as much as 15 per cent. Binny Bansal, who had co-founded Flipkart with Sachin 11 years ago, will retain his 5.5 per cent stake and will be Chairman of the company's Board. Walmart's Krish Iyer will be the CEO of the company which will continue to be based out of Bangalore.

Walmart and Flipkart will remain separate brands and the Indian e-commerce company will have an independent Board, which will be revamped to give representation to the US firm.

Walmart also plans to pump over ₹13,000 crore as fresh equity into Flipkart to strengthen its hold on the e-commerce firm

Rival Amazon too was reportedly in the race to acquire Flipkart, but the Indian online retailer went for Walmart's offer

Tencent Holdings Ltd, Tiger Global Management LLC and Microsoft Corp will also continue to remain shareholders in Flipkart, Walmart said without divulging their stake. "While the immediate focus will be on serving customers and growing the business, Walmart supports Flipkart's ambition to transition into a publicly-listed, majority-owned subsidiary in the future," it said.

Pre-deal, Tiger Global Management held about 20 per cent stake in Flipkart. The deal is subject to clearance from Competition Commission of India and other regulators. It is expected to close later this year.

The deal will help the US retail giant - which has seen consumers migrate to online platforms like those run by Amazon - get a vantage position in e-commerce space in the world's fastest growing economy which has a huge untapped but rapidly growing market.

### MARKET WATCH

| INDEX  | VALUE    | VARIATION |
|--------|----------|-----------|
| SENSEX | 35319.35 | ↑ 103.03  |
| NIFTY  | 10741.70 | ↑ 23.90   |
| DOLLAR | 67.26    | ↓ ₹0.18   |
| EURO   | 79.73    | ↓ ₹0.17   |
| GOLD   | ₹31,358  | ↑ ₹148    |
| SILVER | ₹40,215  | ↑ ₹418    |

### WEATHER

|          | BHUB                 | CTK    |
|----------|----------------------|--------|
| TEMP MAX | 37.2°C               | 36.5°C |
| TEMP MIN | 28.4°C               | 26.6°C |
| Humidity | 92%                  | 84%    |
| Rainfall | Nil                  | Nil    |
| Forecast | Partially cloudy sky |        |

### QUICK READS

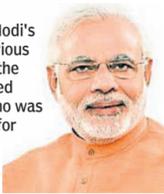
#### Woman pays gang with wedding ring to kill husband



**Hyderabad:** A newly-married woman was arrested in connection with the murder of her husband in Andhra Pradesh's Vizianagaram district Tuesday, a day after she accused three unidentified men of killing the 30-year-old during a robbery. The police said the woman had hired a gang of unemployed B Tech graduates for the murder and had paid them off with her wedding ring. The woman, Y Saraswati (22), had lodged a case at Garugubilli police station of Parvathipuram sub-division Monday saying three unidentified men had killed her husband, Yamaka Gowrishankar, and robbed her bridal jewellery around 8pm at ITDA Park in Thotapalli.

#### Prime Minister Modi 9th on Forbes most powerful list

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the ninth most powerful person in the world, according to American business magazine Forbes. Modi is placed behind Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian Premier Vladimir Putin, who rank number one and two respectively, on the publication's annual list. Putin was displaced by Xi, who over the past few months has consolidated power in China. The list released in 2018 is for the year 2017. PM Modi's position on the list is the same as the previous two lists. However, the biggest change in the list was at the top, where Xi Jinping climbed three spots to dethrone Vladimir Putin, who was named the world's most powerful person for four years in a row. US President Donald Trump, who was placed number two on last year's list, dropped a spot to third.



#### White tiger 'marries' Royal Bengal Tiger at Delhi Zoo

**New Delhi:** While you were busy tracking every aspect of Sonam Kapoor and Anand Ahuja's big fat Bollywood wedding, two tigers at the Delhi Zoo secretly "tied the knot." The zoo confirmed today that the big cats were "married" in a novel attempt to get the yellow-striped Royal Bengal to mate with the white tiger and produce healthier mixed offspring. Five-year-old Karan, the Royal Bengal tiger and three-year-old Nirbhaya, the white tigress were moved into the same enclosure after zoo officials noticed a certain "chemistry" building up between them. "They were introduced to each other two days ago, in a private enclosure... we wanted to see if they have chemistry, will they fight or not."



**FORTUNE FORECAST**  
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**ARIES**  
 You may have a wide circle of casual friends, but today, these associations will prove to be beneficial. Your friends will help you chase away the blues. That way, you will also understand the deeper role of friendship, says Ganesha.

**TAURUS**  
 You may feel suspicious about the people around you, feels Ganesha. You are also likely to emerge victorious in visa matters. You will take time to let your loved ones know how much you care for them. Have a positive attitude and it will win many hearts for you, advises Ganesha.

**GEMINI**  
 Emotions, not acidity, will be the cause of your uneasiness. Something important is going on in your life and you are nervous. It can be related to a matter concerning law, ethics, prejudice, education, or social customs. You are, however, likely to win admiration from all quarters for your fine taste in arts, says Ganesha.

**CANCER**  
 You will win over people with the gift of the gab. Your rhetoric will prove beneficial to you. You may get into an argument or have friction with someone in the in-laws' side. But keep your cool and face it bravely, so as to stave off mental depression.

**LEO**  
 A moment once lost is not going to come back. So, it's about time you realised the value of time, says Ganesha, because time is money. On this day, set everything to a schedule and figure out your tasks right down to the brass tacks. Personal organisers are a good bet, but if you are old school, then maybe you would rather prefer a diary and a calendar.

**VIRGO**  
 Give attention to your deepest feelings. A small excursion may be on the cards. Ganesha says today you will easily get along with other people. You will shower your sincere love and affection on your near and dear ones. Use your magical skills to improve your relationships.

**LIBRA**  
 Ganesha says that you will be full of joy, enthusiasm and vigor today. Your knowledge will improve by being in the company of intelligent people. Anything that you take up today will have your luck or destiny supporting you. Ganesha wishes you success in all your undertakings

**SCORPIO**  
 You are quite vocal about your ambitious plans, says Ganesha. But, being too harsh on yourself or others for that matter may spoil your relationships with many people. Stay away from lengthy discussions to avoid any conflicts.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
 Friendship with a few like-minded people is likely to develop today. You shall spend a large share of your time discussing issues like attitude, beliefs and values. Those with you will enjoy sharing their ideas and opinions, and casting them in a new mould.

**CAPRICORN**  
 You are a die-hard romantic and with every plan to please your sweetheart, you are taking him/her closer to the cloud nine. But, don't live in fantasy world, warns Ganesha, as problems are going to follow you everywhere. If you are a businessman, your rivals may give you a hard time. Take proper care of your health, advises Ganesha.

**AQUARIUS**  
 Today, you will understand the value of your job. You decide to do away with everything that has been hampering your work till now. You realise you need to set some long-term goals in your career. Grab the opportunity while the intention lasts, says Ganesha.

**PISCES**  
 Today you will feel generous and calm. You will shower those in the family who are younger than you with this generosity and as a result be the object of their fondness. With a clear perspective you will be able to see things for what they are.



**ICAI SEMINAR**

A seminar on 'Accounts and Audit under the Companies Act-2013' being organised by the Institute Accounts of Chartered Accountants of India as part of ICAI foundation day in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

**MEMORIAL LECTURE**

Eminent author Manoj Das addresses the Basanta Satpathy Memorial lecture organised by Siksha-Sandhan at Bhanja Kala Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday



# MURALS WITH MESSAGES TO BEAUTIFY CITY

Art is the best means to sensitise people about an issue. Bhubaneswar Smart City Ltd and UN Population Fund have undertaken a plan to make city slums beautiful

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar:** The artists of Bakul Foundation have collaborated with BSCL and UNFPA to paint the walls of the Shanti Nagar slum area near Mali Sahi with messages such as cleanliness and child labour.

Sarojini Brahma, Gender Specialist of Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited (BSCL), said that to communicate important social messages through paintings and the written word the BSCL and Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation have started using the walls of the city slums. Earlier, we had done similar work on Telugu Basti in Saheed Nagar to spread the message of cleanliness and gender equality, she said.

"Activating the unused space at slum area, BSCL under the Socially Smart Bhubaneswar initiative has created several murals in collaboration with the city-based artists. The murals will also have social awareness messages added to them in the upcoming days" she added.

In the Shanti Nagar area, Bakul Foundation artists have turned 4000 sq ft area which was an open defecation ground until recently



Wall painting at Shanti Nagar near Malisahi

PIC- BIKASH NAYAK



member of Bakul Foundation, who along with other 50 members has done this wall painting in seven days. The Smart City Initiative will not be possible if every member is not part of the planning. Under this initiative, we had painted walls based on the theme of cleanliness, women empowerment, gender equality and child labour, Pinaki said.

into a small playground, thanks to the wall painting. Pinaki Mohanty, an artist and a

Sujit Mohapatra of Bakul Foundation said young children of Shanti Nagar Basti had cleaned up a 4,000 sqft area that was earlier

used for open defecation. They had cleaned up the space and are now using it as a playground. Sujit said that the wall painting is a unique medium to showcase the valid and important messages.

Earlier, we have taken up an initiative to beautify Bhubaneswar railway station, Jaydev Vihar, Rajmahal Square, Acharya Vihar and Vani Vihar and transformed them into 'art places,' to bring about a positive result,

Sujit said. Asked how long this beautification work would last, he said, "we see some people urinating on them! We can't change the habits of people overnight." Sarojini said that the BSCL, in collaboration with the United



**BSCL along with UNFPA has taken up the Socially Smart Bhubaneswar initiative to empower adolescent girls, women and students for a better society. At present, we are conducting self-defence training at 24 slums under Bhubaneswar Town Centre District**

SAROJINI BRAHMA | BSCL

girls, women and students for a better society. At present, we are conducting self-defence training at 24 slums under Bhubaneswar Town District Centre (BTCD), she said.

We are also in talks with Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation about adding other slums in the wall painting initiative, she added.

The locals are welcoming the initiative and want such initiative more often. Manorama Sahoo, a resident of Shanti Nagar area, said the area was earlier used for open defecation but now with murals, the place has turned into a nice place where our children could play.

## Rajesh Touchriver to direct Odia movie *Bullet Raja*

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar:** National award winning director Rajesh Touchriver will direct the Sridhar Martha produced movie *Bullet Raja* which is based on the Patnagarh 'Parcel Bomb' incident.

Martha made the announcement before reporters here Wednesday in the presence of the actors.

Rajesh Touchriver who has worked with the National School of Drama, New Delhi, as a designer in 1995, has directed over 30 plays in Malayalam, English and Telugu. His 2002 film 'In the Name of Buddha' was screened in the Spotlight on India Section at the Cannes Film Festival, 2003.

Actor Manoj Mishra, who will portray Arun Bothra role (CBI officer who solved the case), said "Working on such a project with acclaimed director Rajesh is a long cherished dream of mine. His movies are realistic. They have won many national awards. I am looking forward to working with him."

The actor said he had to work hard to ensure that his portrayal



of CBI officer is taken in a positive way by audience.

Director Rajesh Touchriver, who was also present at the poster launch said, "The way the parcel bomb crime was plotted, its execution and the ultimate discovery of truth through a painstaking probe is really engrossing. This movie will be a revenge saga, inspired by true events. It would depict a variety of emotions like love, jealousy, wrath, revenge and con-

nivance." The film would be shot in and around Bhubaneswar. Hara Rath would play Punjilal Meher, the English lecturer, the key accused in the case. The shooting will commence in July.

"A college lecturer spends hours preparing a bomb to kill a professional rival. In turn, he wipes her entire family which will make the plot interesting for the viewers," said the director Rajesh.

## TAGORE REMEMBERED



Artists recite Rabindra Sangeet to mark the 157th birth anniversary of Rabindra Nath Tagore, organised by Pragati at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

## EMPOWERING GIRL CHILD Self-defence skills 'mandatory' for girls' safety in society



DIPCHAND BIHARI, OP

**Bhubaneswar:** Rising crime against women has raised questions about their safety especially in the wake of criminal assault against adolescent girls and minors.

Parents and guardians are also a worried lot because their children's safety is now at stake. Conscious parents have started permitting their children to learn self-defence skills from a tender age.

Many school girls are being sent to a Karate School at Unit IX to acquire basic defence skills such as punches and kicks for their own defence. Speaking to **Orissa POST**, parent Pratima Dhadiasingh of Shashtri Nagar said, "As it is impossible for me to stay with my child all the time, I

am sending her to acquire basic defence skills. Kidnaps, rapes and murders against minor and

teenage girls are happening around us. We have to be conscious about our children's safety."

Parent Pradeep Kumar Maharana said, "I am afraid of sending my daughter alone. I escort her to tutorial classes and pick her back. But, self-defence classes have brought some relief. My daughter has been applying her tricks on me after her classes."

Several guardians have appreciated the initiative of the state government to train adolescent girls in self-defence skills.

Karate trainer Hari Prasad Patnaik says, "We have been training school and college students in self defence skills, called React. More than 12 lakh girls have learnt self-defence since 2013."

"The girls should first develop body and mind fitness. Then she can shield

### KARATE GIRLS SPEAK

I have been practicing Karate from first week of January. I am practising activities that will strengthen my mind. I am learning punch and kick. Now, I am a yellow-belt holder now. The practice makes me confident



Self-defence is needed for a girl to stay safe in the society. I also learn discipline from the martial arts. My parents allow me to learn it for my safety



Self defence classes helped me learn discipline. Physically, I am growing stronger and becoming confident of myself. Self-defence makes a girl secure and safe



I am learning self-defence because I don't want to be a weak or fragile girl. I want to be strong who can fight back



herself from opponents by shouting, jumping, scratching, hitting and kicking. Girls must practice in their homes for at least 35 minutes thrice a week. We also ensure the physical and mental development of the girls at the training. She

must have confidence in her potential to fight a criminal," Patnaik added.

City-based schools affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education also conduct physical and martial training classes for girls from Class I to Class X as per a CBSE directive.



### TOY SELLER

A vendor sells balloons on the Grand Road in Puri, Wednesday

### ALUMNI MEET

1989 batch students of OSEB UG ME School pose for a photo during a get-together at a hotel in Bhubaneswar



## State govt to appoint 2,178 doctors soon

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 9:** The state government Wednesday said that admissions into Balasore and Bolangir Medical Colleges will take place from this academic session.

Highlighting the achievements of Health and Family Welfare department, Pratap Jena said that the government will also appoint 2,178 doctors soon through Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) to meet the shortage of doctors in government-run healthcare facilities.

The minister said that 11 new welfare schemes were launched in 2017-18 to provide better health facilities to the people of the state.

The priority area of the government was to provide free medicines to the people and make health insurance universal. Accordingly, under the free drugs scheme, Niramaya, the government has spent over Rs 500 crore during the period 2014-2018 in providing free medicines to people of the State. Over three crore people of the State have been benefited under the scheme, the minister added.



He also said for making health insurance universal, the government, through the Biju Krushak Kalyan Yojana (BKKY), Odisha State Treatment Fund (OSTF), Rashtriya Swasthya Vima Yojana (RSVY) and Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF), has covered about 70 lakh families with a health cover of over Rs 800 crore.

He further said that new programmes have also been launched recently to provide proper and affordable treatment to cancer patients in the state.

On law, the minister said that special courts have been set up in all 30 districts for trial of offences against women. Such courts have also been set up for trial of offences against STs and SCs.

The government will also open 50 courts this year in the state to fast-track various cases pending at district level.

Stating that justice in the doorstep is the main motive of the present government in the state, the minister said that the state government plans to set up civil judge-cum-JMFC courts in all blocks. Out of 314 blocks in the state, such courts have already been set up in 199 blocks.

## Abdur Rehman produced in Sessions court

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, May 9:** Terror suspect Abdur Rehman was produced before the district and sessions court here Wednesday. In deference to earlier directions, Jagatpur inspector-in-charge (IIC) Ranjit Kumar Prusty also deposed before the lower court and recorded his statement.

During the proceedings, Prusty informed the court that Rehman was arrested by a joint team of Special Cell of Delhi police and Commissionerate Police from his residence at Paschimakaccha village in Cuttack December 16, 2015. The team had seized some CDs from his residence.

Later, a raid was conducted at a madrasa in Bilteruan near Tangi in Cuttack, which was run by Rehman and many incriminating documents were also seized from the scene. Following this, a case was filed against Rehman for his terror activities, IIC Prusty stated before the court.

According to the case details, earlier a witness Salim Khan has also recorded his statement in the court. Earlier, the lower court September 13 last year had framed charges against Rehman under Section 124(a) of IPC and Unlawful Activities Prevention Act. The Crime Branch has filed the charges against Rehman.

## CAMPUS IN TURMOIL



Hostel boarders of Ravenshaw University in Cuttack leave for their homes Wednesday—a day after the varsity was closed sine die.

OP PHOTO

# Govt junks report on delivery under culvert

State seeks report from Mayurbhanj collector regarding the incident

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 9:** The state government has sought a report from Mayurbhanj collector regarding a shelter-less woman giving birth to a baby under a soiled culvert at a village in the district even as the Health Minister Pratap Jena Wednesday said that the 'case is not true.'

From the preliminary inquiry it comes out that the report is not based on facts, the minister said. He said the government gets to know about many such cases from media and also orders immediate inquiry but eventually finds no truth in most of such cases.

"To say specifically about this case, we ordered an enquiry and the preliminary report suggests that the photograph of a mother holding her baby under a culvert has been taken four days after the delivery of the baby. The woman in the picture was asked to sit under the culvert holding her baby after which the photograph was clicked



Photo shows the woman and her baby under the culvert

and made public," Jena said while speaking to reporters here on the sidelines of state government's media blitzkrieg which it has launched on the occasion of BJD government entering the fourth year in its fourth term.

"This photo has not been taken on the same day of delivery," the minister claimed though he remained unanswered to a question about the exact place of delivery of the baby.

Health Secretary Pramod Kumar Meherda said that the state gov-

ernment has sought a report from the Mayurbhanj collector regarding the incident which is yet to be received by the Health Department.

Notably, Pramila Tiria, a woman from Mayurbhanj district, who went shelter-less after elephant destroyed her house six months back, reportedly gave birth to a child at a village under a culvert Tuesday.

The news spread like wildfire when a photo of the woman sitting with her back on the concrete culvert, her hands wrapped around the newborn who was sleeping on a piece of dirty cloth, went viral and published in various media.

Locals alleged the incident reflects the indifferent approach of the forest officers and the government authorities in the district who have not helped the woman for the last six months.

The additional district magistrate of Mayurbhanj told news agencies that action will be taken against officials who did not intervene in the matter.

## 1 dies in mishap, another critical

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Begunia, May 9:** A youth died while another sustained critical injuries in a road accident on Khurda-Bolangir National Highway 57 Wednesday.

The deceased was identified as Jaga Deuri (25), a resident of Kadaba Adivasi Sahi in Begunia police limits.

Police said Jaga was on his way home from Begunia on his bike at 9.30am when he collided head-on with the bike of Sushant Nayak (21) of Rajsunakhola. Some locals called 108 Ambulance and shifted them to the district headquarters hospital.

However, Jaga was pronounced dead by the doctors. The police handed over the body of the deceased to his family members after post-mortem.

The police registered a case and seized the motorcycles.

## POLICE ATROCITY

# Cop thrashes elderly woman, video goes viral

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Nimapara, May 9:** The inspector-in-charge of Nimapara police station allegedly beat up a 75-year-old woman after she was called to the police station May 7 in connection with a domestic violence case.

Although the incident took place May 7, it came to light after a video clip of the elderly woman, Basanti Palata of Dalei Sahi in Dhirapur, went viral on Facebook. In the Facebook post, the woman was seen narrating the brutality she was subjected to by the inspector-in-charge Mrutyunjay Swain and showing her severe injuries she sustained.

According to sources, Basanti's daughter-in-law had lodged a complaint of harassment against her. Acting on the complaint, police had summoned Basanti and her daughter-in-law to the police station for a compromise. During discussion, the IIC allegedly lost his cool and thrashed Basanti with a lathi.

The old lady said she has lodged a complaint with superintendent of police, DGP, Chief Minister and the woman commission Tuesday.

On the other hand, IIC Swain rubbished the allegations as false and concocted, saying, "Neither I beat her up nor did I abuse her. There is not even an iota of truth in her allegations."

Protesting against the incident, activists of Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and its women's wing termed the incident 'unfortunate and shameful'. A delegation led by BJD Nagar president Jibananda Mohapatra, block working president Ashok Sahu and other leaders submitted a memorandum Wednesday to additional SP Dhiren Kumar Nanda and SDPO Niranjan Padhi.

The members threatened to launch a protest if action was not taken against the IIC at the earliest. Meanwhile, a fact-finding team of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) arrived at Basanti's house to enquire into the matter.

## Cops fail to nab rapist of 9-yr-old

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Brahmagiri, May 9:** Police Wednesday detained the son of a 55-year-old man who allegedly raped a nine-year-old mentally challenged girl at Kathuaardi here recently.

A case under Section 376 of IPC and Section 6 of protection of children from sexual offences (POCSO) act was registered against the accused, Dhaneswar Palai. Dhaneswar has been absconding since a complaint was lodged against him by

the victim's father Tuesday. The medical examination of the minor was conducted Wednesday. Raids are being carried out at different places to nab the accused, the police said.

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

## SMART CITY CONFERENCE

# City scores brownie points

City's 'Social Equity Centre' becomes the talking point at Apex Conference of Smart City CEOs

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhopal/Bhubaneswar, May 9:** With an aim to provide a platform for disseminating and promulgating ideas for various smart cities, a maiden Apex Conference of Smart City CEOs was held at Bhopal Wednesday.

The two-day conference beginning May 8, 2018, would enable the CEOs to learn from experiences of all veteran city policy makers. The list of invitees includes Principal Secretaries (UD)/State Mission Directors, Municipal Commissioners, Ambassadors of several countries, UN representatives, Heads of multilateral/bilateral agencies, civil societies, and capacity building institutes.

Attending the conference, Additional Commissioner of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Subham Saxena gave a presentation on im-



BMC additional commissioner Subham Saxena speaks at the first Apex Conference of Smart City CEOs.

OP PHOTO

plementation of the Smart Janpath, Social Equity Centre and Mural Project (STAMP) of Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited (BSCL). It is worth mentioning here that the Social Equity Centre was one of the unique projects in urban governance and was widely appreciated at the event.

Notably, the Smart Cities Mission

(SCM), since its launch June 25, 2015, has been one of the most transformational urban missions with a pragmatic approach.

Key projects such as digitally integrated smart city centres, street redesigning, and installation of solar rooftop on buildings; among others have been the subjects of its discourse.

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**PAST RECIPIENTS**

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| <p>His Holiness The 14th Dalai Lama (2017)</p> <p>Ms. Ashley Judd, Hollywood Actor, Activist &amp; Global Goodwill Ambassador, UNFPA (2016)</p> <p>His Excellency Dr. Alejandro Toledo, Former President of Peru (2015)</p> <p>Ms. Anne F. Stenhammer, Former Regional Programme Director, UN Women, South Asia Regional Office (2014)</p> | <p>Madam Albina Du Boisrouvray, Founder, Association François-Xavier Bagnoud (FXB International), Switzerland (2013)</p> <p>His Excellency Lyonchen Jigmi Y. Thinley, Hon'ble Prime Minister, The Royal Government of Bhutan (2012)</p> <p>Rt. Hon. Lord Nicholas Addison Phillips, President (Chief Justice) of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom (2011)</p> | <p>Rt. Hon. Sir Anerood Jugnauth, Eminent Social Worker &amp; His Excellency the President of Mauritius (2010)</p> <p>Dr. Ham Kee-Sun, Eminent Educationist &amp; Physician and Hon'ble President &amp; Founder, Hanseo University, South Korea (2009)</p> <p>Ms. Edna Bomo Molewa, Noted Social Worker &amp; Hon'ble Cabinet Minister, Social Development, South Africa National Assembly, South Africa (2008)</p> |
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## One injured as fire razes three houses

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Nimapara, May 9:** Three houses were gutted at Arilo under Nimapara police limits in the late hours of Tuesday. The houses belong to Abhinna Behera, Surendra Behera and Ramesh Behera.

Sources said Abhinna suffered light burns in the mishap and is undergoing treatment at Nimapara hospital. While a cattle head was charred to death, two other live stocks sustained severe burns in the blaze.

According to sources, the fire erupted from the cattle shed. The members of the three families were also unable to salvage any of their belongings as the fire engulfed all the rooms.

On being informed, the Nimapara fire brigade reached the spot and doused the flames. But, by then household items worth around ₹5 lakh were reduced to cinders.

## SISHU BHAWAN BLUES

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, May 9:** At a time when the state government is spending crores of rupees to improve healthcare facility, an emergency operation theatre (OT) at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Postgraduate Institute of Paediatrics (Sishu Bhawan) here has been lying unused for the last 11 years.

The hospital authorities have been conducting emergency operations at the OTs of other specialised departments for last several years. As a result, patients admitted to these departments are being told to wait for some more days to get the operation facilities, sources said.

According to sources, Sishu Bhawan authorities had locked



SVPPIP authorities have sent several letters to the Orissa Medical Corporation to provide necessary equipment to the emergency OT but to no avail

Sishu Bhawan authorities had locked the emergency operation theatre in 2007 due to shortage of modern equipment, anaesthesia experts and other health staff

At present, authorities of the premier paediatrics healthcare facility are conducting emergency operations at the OTs of specialised departments

the emergency OT in 2007 due to shortage of modern equipment, anaesthesia experts and other health staff. As per the guidelines of Medical Council of India (MCI),

Sishu Bhawan authorities are bound to open the emergency OT round-the-clock to provide treatment to needy people.

"At present, the hospital au-

thorities are conducting emergency operations at the OTs of specialised departments. Many patients admitted to these departments are being denied timely operations," said a source.

It is learnt that doctors at the surgery department of Sishu Bhawan recently told four patients to wait for some days to get operated upon.

When contacted, surgery department in-charge PK Jena said they usually operate upon critically-ill persons on emergency basis. "No one is being denied treatment at our department," he asserted.

Sishu Bhawan superintendent Saroj Sathpathy said people having minor health problems are advised to wait for a few days for operation. "The inflow of patients to the child-

care hospital is rising day-by-day. We are trying to provide healthcare to all patients," he claimed.

Hospital sources, meanwhile, claimed that Sishu Bhawan authorities have sent several letters to the Orissa Medical Corporation to provide necessary equipment to the emergency OT but to no avail. A few social activists have raised an apprehension that some patients might have been denied timely operation due to the closure of emergency OT at Sishu Bhawan. "As many as 2,062 children died at the hospital in last fiscal. We suspect that a few patients might have died due to denial of timely operation. Only an impartial probe can bring truth to the fore," said social activist Amiya Bhusan Biswal.

## PIL challenges Works secy term extension

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, May 9:** A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has been filed with Orissa High Court (HC) challenging the extension of tenure of the Works department secretary Nalini Kanta Pradhan.

In his petition, Odisha Youth Forum general secretary Uday Kumar Sahoo Tuesday urged the HC to reject the notification of the state government published March 31 extending the term of Pradhan as works secretary.

The Chief Secretary, General Administration (GA) department principal secretary and Works department secretary have been made parties to the case.

The petitioner has informed the HC that Works department has been instrumental in development of the state.

During Pradhan's tenure as the Works secretary, the state exchequer has spent a huge sum on several projects, including construction or renovation of roads, housing complexes and bridges, in the state.

"However, due to the inordinate delay in completion of several projects, the state government has suffered heavy losses to the tune of crores of rupees. Besides, it is during Pradhan's tenure that the state witnessed several bridge collapse incidents which claimed many innocent lives," the petitioner read.

Observing that under such state of affairs, Pradhan should not further hold his office as the Works secretary, the petitioner urged the court to reject the state government's notification for extending Pradhan's tenure.

Notably, the state government's notification has entitled Pradhan to continue in the position from April 1.

## Realtor arrested for ₹4 crore fraud

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 9:** The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) sleuths here Wednesday arrested a 55-year-old realtor in connection with a ₹4.33-crore fraud. The sleuths said they have arrested managing director of Golden View Infrastructure Private Limited Premananda Mohapatra, a resident of Pandab Nagar here, on the allegations that the builder had duped several persons to the tune of ₹4.33 crore on the pretext of providing flats in Tamando area here in 2014.

According to the case diary, around 35 persons had approached the Canara Bank's Cuttack Road branch here in September 2014 seeking loan for purchasing flats from Golden Avenue at Bijipur mouza in Tamando, a pet project of Golden View Infra. Accordingly,

**Premananda Mohapatra of Pandab Nagar was arrested on allegations that he had duped several persons on the pretext of providing flats in Tamando area**

the bank extended a credit of ₹4.33 crore as the first installment to the builder's bank account. However, instead of providing the flats to the customers, Mohapatra fled with the amount.

One of the duped investors approached the EOW which registered a case (06/2018) under Sections 420, 406, 467, 468, 471 and 120B of the IPC, and Section 6 of the Odisha Protection of Interests of Depositors (OPID) Act and made the arrest.

## SCORCHING HEAT



Puri beach wears a deserted look as temperature soars Wednesday

OP PHOTO

## SASHAKT CAMPAIGN

# Drive for inclusive growth of persons with disabilities

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Puri, May 9:** Sashakt campaign, to promote greater awareness and inclusion of people with disabilities, knowledge about laws, existing government facilities to society by Odisha State Disability Network was flagged off at 9am from Lord Jagannath temple Wednesday.

It was inaugurated by Maj Gen BK Mohapatra, AVSM, Chairman of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan; Ajay Agarwal, District Governor Rotary International District 3262; Dr Sruti Mohapatra, Chairperson, Sashakt State Coordination Committee; Sanyas Behera, DSSO HQ, Madhubhai, State Convenor NYP; and others along with 400 people cheering and singing campaign songs and carrying the flags.

The district headquarter meeting was held at Town Hall, Puri. Sruti Mohapatra briefed the audience about the campaign and its aims. The campaign details,



including the route, the district coordination details and the activities were shared by campaign coordinator Mihir Mohanty. "All residents of Odisha have a lot to offer our society, including those with disabilities who are often left behind," said Sruti.

During Sashakt campaign (May 9, 2018 - November 30, 2019) and all the years ahead, we will focus on inclusion and help everyone in our state live more self-determined independent lives, she stressed.

The campaign that was flagged off at Puri will end at Nayagarh June 13. On June 20, a first phase closing will be done. It is planned

to reach one million people by November 30, 2019.

**The aims of SASHAKT are:**

- To create a 'buzz on disability, diversity and inclusion in Odisha'
- Make 500,000 PWDs to be knowledgeable about law
- Reach 10,00,000 people to understand about inclusion
- To raise awareness throughout society, including at the family level, regarding persons with disabilities, and to foster respect for the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities
- To combat stereotypes, prejudices and harmful practices relating to persons with disabilities, including those based on sex and age, in all areas of life
- To promote awareness of the capabilities and contributions of persons with disabilities
- Build capacity of 5000 people/organizations to become change agents.

## Bolangir hottest with 44.5 degrees

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 9:** The state continued to reel under severe heatwave condition as 13 places recorded maximum temperature of more than 40 degrees Celsius Wednesday.

According to a report of local Met office, Bolangir recorded the highest temperature of 44.5 degrees. The temperature was 44 degrees at another western Odisha town Sonepur while it was 43.8 degrees at Sambalpur, 43.5 degrees each at Hirakud and Titlagarh, 43.4 degrees at Jharsuguda and 43 degrees at Talcher. Similarly, the maximum temperature at Malkangiri was 42.4 degrees, followed by Sundargarh (42), Bhawanipatna (41.7), Angul (41.1), Dhenkanal (40.5) and Keonjhar (41).

Director of Bhubaneswar Met Centre Sarat Sahu said, "The temperature will start falling from Thursday and it will go down to below 40 degrees by May 14." Thunderstorm is likely to occur at one or two places over districts of Koraput, Malkangiri and a few other districts during the next 24 hours, he said.

## ₹18 crore from Niyamgiri SPV utilised: State to SC

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 9:** The state government Wednesday apprised the Supreme Court (SC) about the utilisation of special purpose vehicle (SPV) funds meant for the welfare of the tribal population of Niyamgiri which were hit by the mining activities in the area.

State chief secretary Aditya Prasad Padhi Wednesday deposed before the apex court as per the earlier directions to explain the status of utilisation of the SPV funds. The state government in its response told the court that out of ₹20 crore earmarked for the funds, ₹18 crore had been spent on development activities in the area while the



same earned ₹7 crore interest.

The state reportedly also had told the SC that the diverted ₹2 crore funds could not be used for activities relating to the welfare of the tribal community of the area. Earlier, the Odisha Mining Corporation and Vedanta had joined hands to provide some portion of their profit towards the welfare of the community in the area.

## Junior MVI's bail rejected

**Cuttack:** The Orissa High Court Wednesday rejected the anticipatory bail plea of Balasore RTO's junior motor vehicle inspector (MVI) Bipin Bihari Das, accused of amassing assets disproportionate to his known source of income. Justice CR Dash turned down the plea based on the arguments that if the accused is granted bail it could affect the investigation process and witnesses of the case. Notably, acting on a search warrant issued by Bhubaneswar Vigilance Division, the sleuths had raided five places including Das's house and office, and unearthed illegal assets to the tune of ₹1.58 crore. Das had moved the HC for anticipatory bail to avoid arrest.

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# Woman knocks Puri SP door for justice

COPS SUGGEST THE VICTIM TO WITHDRAW THE COMPLAINT AND STAY AWAY FROM INFLUENTIAL PERSONS

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Puri, May 9:** Reena Bhoi, a woman from Ramachandi Sahi under Kumbharpada police limits here Monday filed a complaint with Puri superintendent of police (SP) alleging that Kumbharpada police has turned a deaf ear to her complaints of harassment by her landlord.

Bhoi, in her complaint, has stated that even though she has filed three written complaints with the local police against the house owner for attacking and harassing her, the cops showed no promptness in taking action against

The complainant alleged that despite filing three written complaints with the local police against the landlord, the police showed no promptness in taking action against the accused

the accused. Due to the lax attitude of police the house owner and his aides are repeatedly threatening to kill her.

According to the complaint, Reena and

### POLICE INACTION

her family had been staying in a rented house for a couple of years. The owner of the house allegedly took ₹20,000 in advance from Bhoi to sell the house to her. However, after getting the money the accused asked Bhoi to vacate the house.

But when Bhoi asked her advance money back, the accused owner and his two sons allegedly dragged her out of the house and threw away all the household stuffs March 13. Besides, when Bhoi reported the matter to police, the house owner's sons and their

accomplices attacked her with sharp weapons. Bhoi sustained severe injuries on both her legs and after she recovered, she filed a written complaint again with Kumbharpada police; describing her plight. However, the cops suggested her to withdraw the complaint and told her to stay away from such influential persons.

The complainant has also cited that the accused persons have threatened to kill her if she files any further complaint against them. Expressing concern over the woman's allegation, Puri SP Sarthak Sarangi has directed Kumbharpada IIC to take action against the accused.

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2018-19 FISCAL

State for execution of 14,346 RIDF projects

Bhubaneswar, May 9: Laying stress on rural infrastructure, the state government Wednesday recommended execution of 14,346 projects worth ₹10,328 crore under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for the year 2018-19.

High power committee on RIDF headed by Development Commissioner R Balakrishnan, has recommended the projects to National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). Reviewing the performances of FY 2017-18, Balakrishnan directed various departments to expedite fund-raising to NABARD against the ongoing projects. Chief General Manager of NABARD Krishna Chandra Panigrahi outlined the issues for discussion.

According to sources, RIDF is being implemented for completion of the ongoing and incomplete infrastructure projects in the state. The fund is being supported by RIDF corpus, managed by NABARD, with state contributing in 85:15 ratio.

It may be pertinent to mention that claims against RIDF are generally raised to NABARD by the departments after making the actual utilisation at the ground level.

During the year 2017-18, 14,455 projects worth ₹5,514 crore were recommended under RIDF against which only 2,351 projects of ₹2,539 crore were sanctioned and the expenditure was ₹3,872 crore from state government budgeted funds. NABARD has disbursed ₹2,512 crore to state government from RIDF against the claims made by various departments during the year 2017-18, which is highest among all the states in the country.

OSPCB FIAT

Air pollution headache for Puri civic body

Puri, May 9: The Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB) has written to the municipal authority here regarding the degrading air quality in the Pilgrim city and directed the authority to take measures to control it.

Although the pollution level in the air in the city is not that high, the quality of air is not good either. It may affect the health of vulnerable group of the society, the pollution board said in its letter.

After receiving the letter, the municipal authority has decided to hold a meeting in this regard May 11.

Sources said lakhs of tourists from across the country and abroad come to the Pilgrim city to have darshan of Lord Jagannath and to visit the beach. And the deterioration of air quality has become a cause of concern for one and all.

The OSPCB checks the air quality index (AQI) at the Town police station near Badadanda and VIP Road near Sadar police station Square twice a week. Currently, the air quality index value in the city is 82. During the check, the pollution board found that the presence of pollutant in the air is in-

creasing in the city. As per the calculation of the board, the annual permissible limits of particulate matter of 2.5 micrometers size (PM2.5) and particulate matter of 10 micrometers size (PM10) are 40 ug/m3 and 60 ug/m3 respectively as per the National Ambient Air Quality Standard. However, at present the average level of PM10 and PM2.5 are found to be 81 and 42 respectively in the city. If the PM10 level increases to 101-200, the residents will face problem in breathing and there are possibilities of heart diseases among them, the pollution board stated in its letter.

OSPCB regional officer Haribandhu Panigrahi said, "We check the level of PM10 and PM2.5 in the air. We have intimated the municipal authority about the air quality. Now the air quality of the city should be good not satisfactory."



Blacksmiths hammering out nails for chariots ahead of Rath Yatra in Puri Wednesday

Govt to take up 'Ama Gaon Ama Vikash' at block level

So far ₹21.37 crore has been released to 50 GPs under the programme

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 9: In an attempt to cover more panchayats under the 'Ama Gaon Ama Vikash' programme, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday announced to take it to blocks rather than operating it at panchayat level.

Pursuing the interactive programme, Chief Minister has sanctioned ₹1.41 crore for execution of 32 infrastructure projects in four GPs—Maidankela of Keonjhar district, Alasuguma of Ganjam, Barthala of Bolangir and Bhedabahal of Sundargarh district.

₹ 37 lakh has been sanctioned for implementation of 10 projects

in Maidankela GP while ₹34 lakh was released for six projects of Alasuguma, ₹35 lakh for 9 projects of Barthala and ₹35 lakh for 7 projects of Bhedabahal GP. Expressing his delight for directly interacting with people of 50 panchayats, Naveen extolled the keen interest and initiative of the rural populace for the development of their own villages. He expressed his optimism that such an initiative for the rural mass would very soon transform the fate and image of their villages.

According to official sources, the CM has sanctioned ₹21.37 crore for execution of 460 rural projects under the Ama Gaon Ama Vikash programme so far.

City cops visit MP to nab fugitives

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, May 9: A team of Madhupatna police reached Madhya Pradesh Wednesday to nab two criminals in connection with a loot case.

While the police team reportedly carried out raids at different places in search of these two, both habitual offenders, the duo managed to give the police a slip.

Notably, the accused duo was part of a robbery gang that was involved in a major loot near a theatre in Madhupatna police limits in 2015. The gang had broken into someone's house and looted huge amount of gold ornaments and other valuables by keeping the family members at gunpoint.

Earlier, the duo had made 12 arrests in connection with the loot. However, the two members of the gang

are still absconding. In the past six months three major robberies took place in Madhupatna area which the police suspects are the handiworks of the criminal gang.

During inquiry into the robbery cases, the police got some leads about the presence of the criminals in Madhya Pradesh and went there to nab them.

Continued from P1  
US to reimpose ...

He said the sanctions would target industries mentioned in the deal, including Iran's oil sector; aircraft manufacturers exporting to Iran and Iranian government attempts to buy US dollar banknotes.

Under the financial sanctions, European companies will have 90 to 180 days to wind down their operations in Iran, or they will run afoul of the American banking system.

The sanctions on oil will require European and Asian countries to reduce their imports from Iran, the paper said. Mnuchin also insisted that the restrictions would not drive up oil prices because other suppliers would pick up the slack. "My expectation is not that oil prices go higher," he said. "To a certain extent, some of this was already in the market on oil prices," he added.

Iran ramped up its oil production by one million barrels per day after sanctions were lifted in early 2016.

At least some of that oil will now be pulled from the market — at a time when oil prices are already rising because of production cuts by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and Russia as well as instability in Venezuela, CNN Money reported.

DMs told to arrest ...

While officials in different districts have launched raids on various markets to check hoarding, questions are being raised on the effective implementation of BJD government's Potato Mission, which was launched in 2014-15 to deal with the frequent potato crisis in the state. The mission aimed to make state-self sufficient in tuber production and storage in three years. However, there has been no improvement in situation even after the expiry of the deadline.

The state government has also failed to meet the target to increase the cold storage capacity of potato to 7.05 lakh tonnes by the end of 2017-18 fiscal. On the other hand, the Potato Mission had fixed a target of producing 10.12 lakh MT of potato as well as to increase the production area to 60,000 hectares by 2017-18. As of now, the vegetable is being cultivated only in 1600 to 1700 hectares.

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
Tender Notice No. MSM/Data Entry/ SBP-18-21, Dt. 04.05.2018  
Description of Work: PROVISION OF DATA ENTRY OPERATORS FOR THE CREW LOBBY AT SAMBALPUR FOR A PERIOD OF 03 YEARS.  
Approx cost of work: ₹41,88,747.60, EMD: ₹83,780/-, Cost of Tender Document: ₹3,000/-, Completion period of work: 03 (Three) Years.  
Tender closing date & Time: 1500 hrs of 11.06.2018.  
No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-Tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.  
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-Tenders is available in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>  
Divisional Railway Manager (Mech./ PR-75/J/18-19) Sambalpur

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
E-Tender Notice No : ST-SBP- TENDER-2018-07, Dated : 01.05.2018  
NAME OF THE WORK: PROVISION OF PASSENGER AMENITIES OVER SAMBALPUR DIVISION.  
Tender value : ₹3,17,70,888/-, EMD : ₹3,08,860/-, Cost of tender Document : ₹10,000/-  
Date and time of closing of tender: At 1500 hrs of 13.06.2018.  
No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-Tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.  
Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website fifteen days before the date of opening of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender.  
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>.  
Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer Sambalpur PR-70/J/18-19

**PANCHAYAT SAMITI, DHANKAUDA**  
BID IDENTIFICATION No: 01/2018-19  
No. 1400 Dt. 09.05.2018  
1. The Block Development Officer, Dhankauda, on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate Bids in Single Cover System for Civil Works as detailed in the table, from the class of eligible Contractors as mentioned in column-5 (five) Registered with the State Governments and Contractors of equivalent Grades / Class Registered with Central Government / MES / Railways, to be eventually drawn up in PWD P-1 Agreement Form.

| Sl. No. | Bid | Name of the work  | Approximate value of work | Period of completion    | Class of contractor       | Bid security @1% | Cost of bid document (including) |
|---------|-----|---|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1       | 2   | 3   | 4                         | 5                       | 6                         | 7                | 8                                |
| 1       | P-1 | Construction of Community Library at LIC Office near Centreline, Burla, SMC | 49,80,000/-               | 6 (Six) Calendar Months | "B" & "C" calendar months | 49800/-          | Rs. 10,000/-                     |

2. The sale of the bid documents shall start from Dt. 11.05.2018 at 07.00 AM to Dt. 29.05.2018 at 01.00 PM during office hours in the office of the undersigned. The bid documents can be purchased on Cash payment of Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees ten thousand) only from the office of the undersigned by the contractor or his / her authorized representatives.  
3. Bid documents shall be received by the undersigned upto 01.00 PM of 30.05.2018 through Registered Post / Speed Post only. The authority will not be held responsible for any postal delay in delivering of the bid documents or non-receipt of the same.  
4. The bid will be opened on Dt. 31.05.2018 at 09.00 AM in the office chamber of the undersigned in presence of the members of the Block Level Tender Committee and the Bidders or their Authorized Representatives.  
5. The Terms & Conditions and other details can be viewed in the Office Notice Board of BDO, Dhankauda.  
6. The authority reserves right to reject any or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd./- (Sri S.K.Biswal)  
Block Development Officer, Dhankauda

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Offer available only at : Jugaad Jn, Mahadev Campus, Laxmi Sagar Chakk, Cuttack Puri Road, (Near Sunshine Hospital).  
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# state



## AWARENESS CAMP

An awareness camp on permanent Lok Adalat and its functioning is under way at Angul.

## STUDENTS' STIR

Students stage protests over their demands at Balasore railway station.



## SHORT TAKES

### 2 killed in road mishap

**Jharsuguda:** Two persons including a woman were killed in a head-on collision between a car and a motorbike near Gandiabad Square here Wednesday. The deceased were identified as Suraj Sunani (29) of Balijori and Pinky Singh (25) of Kalimandir Gosh Colony. BTM outpost police seized the bodies and sent them for post-mortem to the district headquarters hospital. Police seized the car and launched a probe while the car driver was absconding after the incident. Sources said the incident occurred while Suraj and Pinky on a motorbike were returning home from Brajarajnagar. The speeding car collided with their bike.

### Man held for rape

**Berhampur:** Police Wednesday arrested a man on the charge of raping a 20-year-old girl at Mali Jagannathpur village under Ganjam block. He was identified as Sudarshan Mahapatra (52) of the same village. The girl was sent for a medical examination to MKCG Medical College and Hospital and later handed over to her family. "The accused will be produced in court Thursday," second officer Hrusikesh Panda said. According to police, the girl belonged to a poor family and used to tend cattle for a living. On the fateful day, Mahapatra gagged the girl in a forest and forced himself upon her. He threatened her with dire consequences if she revealed the incident to anyone. Since then, he has raped the girl on several occasions. The matter came to fore after the girl became pregnant.

## Locals resent funds mismanagement by forest officials

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Nuagaon, May 9:** Residents of several villages under Mahipur forest range in Nayagarh district have expressed their resentment over alleged disinterest on the part of officials to protect the forest resources. They say the officials are misusing the funds sanctioned for forest protection projects.

The Mahipur forest range under Nayagarh forest division is divided into three sections - Gumi, Mahitama and Hamipur. In a bid to ensure protection flora and fauna, the sections are further divided into beats.

The Gumi section, thus, is divided into four beats, Mahipur into five beats and the Mahitama section into seven beats. Every beat is guarded by a forest guard and every section has a forester.

Even after all these, forest officials are disinclined to do their job of protecting the forests. While the government pumps in crores of rupees for forest conservation, as also formation and protection of new forests, the negligence of the officials has endangered the wildlife and its habitat, say locals. They say forest officials are using poor people to clean the forests while keeping aside the funds sanctioned for forest development. In view of this, it is the villagers who have formed a committee to protect the forests. "While the village forest protection committee does all the work, the forest officials are there to claim credit for this," one villager said. "They also mismanage all the money that comes for the committee," the locals alleged. When contacted, Mahipur ranger Subhanshu Sekhar Panda said he would look into the allegations.

## Girl student alleges harassment in school

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhampur, May 9:** A girl student at a private school here says she was allegedly harassed by two lady teachers. The teachers intentionally gave her poor marks in the examinations, among other forms of harassment, a complaint made by her parents to the authorities alleged.

The girl told her parents that the two teachers were not involving her in project sessions. She was also being humiliated in front of the entire class, she said. "They do not allow me to sit on the bench. They even made me stand throughout their class, by way of punishment, but for no fault of mine," the girl complained.

The girl's parents told the sub collector that she was under stress due to the harassment and not able to perform well in exams. "We spent more than ₹1 lakh on her education every year. But, the harassment of the teachers has left my daughter in extreme stress," the girl's mother alleged.

The parents demanded a probe and stringent action against the two teachers.

The sub-collector assured them of action after a probe. "During investigation, it will be clear whether the charges levelled against the teachers are true or not. Accordingly action will be taken," said sub-collector of Berhampur, Siddharth Swain.

## BEATING HEAT



Amid sizzling conditions in western Odisha, kids pump out water from a tube well for their friend in Sambalpur.

OP PHOTO

### 1 yr on, minor boy reunites with mom

**Odagaon:** A minor boy separated from his biological mother was reunited to her after a year. The joy of the mother and son knew no bounds after the reunion. The incident was reported from Bahadrajhola panchayat in Nayagarh district. According to police, Puspa Sahu, daughter of Anand Sahu, had been married to Premanand Sahu of Senteri. The family was filled with happiness after a baby boy was born to the couple. Unfortunately, their happiness did not last long. Premanand died in an accident. Since then, Puspa was worried as to how she would raise her son. Luckily, she got a compensation of ₹7 lakh from an insurance company over her husband's death. This, however, created a rift between Puspa and her in-laws. The in-laws wanted to appropriate the amount for themselves. They allegedly tortured Puspa when she did not give them the money and instead kept it safe for the future of her son. Infuriated, her father-in-law threw her out of his house and separated her from her son. Despite repeated pleas, Puspa's in-laws did not allow her to meet her son. With the intervention of the police, the boy was rescued and handed over to his mother.

## NHRC asks govt to compensate witch hunting victims in state

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kendrapara, May 9:** The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has directed the Odisha Chief Secretary to pay compensation to the victims of witch hunting and submit a compliance report along with proof of payment within six weeks.

The commission also asked the CS to intimate as to whether any monetary compensation has been paid to victims under the provisions of the Odisha Prevention of Witch Hunting Act, 2013.

Acting on a petition filed by rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy, the NHRC passed the order. The petitioner alleged that eight villagers including two girls of Olapur village of Chikiti block of Ganjam district were tortured and forced to eat human excreta in full public view by fellow villagers January 19, 2015 allegedly for practicing witchcraft.

Four of the victims have fled to Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh.

The whereabouts of two victims were not known as on date. The state has failed to provide safety to the victims and also in preventing practice of witchcraft, the petitioner alleged. Tripathy sought investigation of the case and action against the wrongdoers.

On the direction of the commission, the Berhampur Superintendent of Police had stated that cases under various sections of the IPC had been registered and the matter is sub judice.

Subsequently, the NHRC observed that despite directions and existence of the Odisha Prevention of Witch Hunting Act, 2013, many women have been branded witches and thereafter they as well as their families have been subjected to various kinds of atrocities including physical (rape, killings and disfiguring of their bodies), mental and economical harm to them.

The commission observed that the state has failed to prevent such incidents and so is negligent in

discharging its constitutional duties, resulting in violation of human rights of witch hunting victims.

The NHRC then issued a show-cause notice to the Chief Secretary, as to why monetary compensation of ₹75,000 each should not be recommended u/s 18(a)(i) for violation of their human rights.

Pursuant to the directions of the commission, the state government submitted that steps had been taken by the district administration and local police to eradicate the superstition of witchcraft. The report however, clarified that no compensation has been given to the victims by the district administration so far.

Finding it to be a fit case to recommend a sum of ₹75,000 u/s 18(a)(i) of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 to be paid to each of the witchcraft victims, the commission asked the state government to protect women from being branded witches and prevent atrocities on them and their families.

## WESTERN ODISHA SIZZLES, MERCURY LIKELY TO TOUCH 50°C

The plight of rural people is beyond description as most of the villages have power cuts during the daytime these days

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sambalpur, May 9:** The western region of Odisha is like a boiling cauldron. Recording a temperature of 44.8°C Tuesday, Titilagarh in Bolangir district topped the list of hottest places in the state so far.

Some of the other places where the maximum day temperatures literally roasted the people Tuesday were: Sambalpur 43°C; Hirakud 42.1°C; Jharsuguda 43.8°C; Sundargarh 42°C; Bhawanipatna 42.2°C; Bolangir 43.5°C; and Sonepur 44°C. The plight of rural people is beyond description as most of the villages have power cuts during the daytime these days. As almost all the urban areas are boiling with temperature above 40°C in the first week of May, it is feared that the maximum daytime temperature in the region may reach 50°C this year.



People prefer to remain indoors after 11 am till the evening. As a result, it's just an undeclared curfew-like situation in most of the urban places with roads deserted and shops' shutters down.

Meanwhile, ASA and Anganwadi Workers (AWW) Association convener Prashant Padhi has demanded the state government to provide temporary relief for its members from the extreme weather condition.

He also requested the state government to close all the Anganwadi centres for the time being to protect women and children from the excessive heat. Though the government has declared early summer vacation for all the govern-

### Villager dies of sunstroke

**Bargarh:** A middle-aged man died of sunstroke at Sirkida village under Sohela police limits Tuesday night. He was Manohar Nayak. He was out in the sun during the day in connection with works for an upcoming marriage function in his friend's family. The two friends set off to distribute invitation cards since morning, and returned home late in the afternoon. Soon, he experienced uneasiness caused by exposure to the heatwave. Family members rushed him to the Sohela community health centre (CHC). Later, he was shifted to the district headquarters hospital. While under treatment, he collapsed. The doctors confirmed that he died due to heatstroke. Sohela police registered a case of unnatural death and sent the body for post-mortem. Later, it was handed over to the family for last rites.

ment schools, some private educational institutions are still in operation defying the government advisory despite such adverse weather conditions, he claimed. Odisha is vulnerable to sunstroke casualties every year. But there is a substantial reduction in sunstroke deaths in recent years as the awareness level has increased.

People are seen using umbrellas, caps and towels to protect themselves from heat. They are also seen carrying water bottles whenever they go out these days. The welcome change is largely due to awareness campaigns organised by the state government before the onset of summer each year.

The first sunstroke death of this summer season was reported to have occurred in Kusumdihi village of Rengali block in Sambalpur district April 18. The victim was Kishor Rohidas (38). It is feared that there might be some more such occurrences but they may not be included in the official record.

## Docs' exodus likely to hit VIMSAR



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sambalpur, May 9:** Veer Surenra Sai Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR) may face scarcity of teaching staff and physicians as there is an unending process of doctors being transferred from there. Five doctors have opted out to join Odisha Medical Service Cadre (OMC) and they might be transferred and relieved any moment. However, no replacements seem to be in place.

Only two doctors have joined VIMSAR as its cadre, whereas 32 doctors have already been transferred in the last four months without giving any thought to fill the vacant posts. Some more doctors are going to be transferred as they have got their promotions.

Thirteen doctors, including five associated professors and eight assistant professors, are getting promoted to the next higher post. It is apprehended that they may get

transferred, according to VIMSAR sources. These five doctors are promoted from assistant professor to rank of professor. Some of them are also keen to continue at VIMSAR. They are: Dr Sadhucharan Panda of community medicine department; Dr PK Mohanty (medicine); Dr Lal Mohan Nayak (O&G); Dr Bhabagrahi Rath (pharmacology); and Dr Kahnucharan Purohit (physiology).

Eight more doctors have been promoted from assistant professors to associate professors. They are: Dr Malay Kumar Patel (anaesthesiology); Dr Madhusmita Acharya (biochemistry); Dr Subrat Pradhan (community medicine); Dr Tanmay Padhi (skin and VD); Dr Mayal Nayak (surgery); Dr Sharmila Pradhan (O&G); Dr Alekh Sahu (pathology); and Dr Sunanda Nayak (pathology).

VIMSAR director Prof Ashwini Pujhary was not available for his comment on this matter.

## QUALITY EDUCATION



A programme on quality education and Mo School Abhiyan is in progress at Bargarh.

OP PHOTO

## ILLEGAL SLUM PUTS RAIL PROJECT IN JEOPARDY

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, May 9:** Construction of a new rail platform, a long standing demand of thousands of passengers, is in jeopardy due to encroachment of railway land near Gopabandhupali here by slum dwellers, a report said.

Railways authorities have already set up the second entrance to the station but other infrastructure work has been affected due to the presence of an old and illegal slum. Though the district and railway administrations issued order on many occasions for the eviction of the patch, the illegal occupants don't pay heed. It is alleged some local politi-

cians are in favour of the illegal slum and this is one of the reasons it becomes difficult for the railways to acquire the land.

According to Sangram Keshari Mohanty, the general secretary of North Odisha Rail Coordination Committee, the second entrance has already been opened and there is a proposal to set up a platform on Gopabandhupalli side. This is purely a railway project but the slum dwellers don't vacate the patch as they get support from local political leaders. Infra development works like construction of parking lot, circular area development and other civil constructions have been affected, he added.



A slum near the railway station

OP PHOTO

Citing an instance, Mohanty said, Bhubaneswar and Rourkela were covered under the Smart City project at the same time. While a second entrance and two platforms were immediately constructed to meet Smart City requirements in Bhubaneswar, it was not possible in Rourkela. Shortage of platforms has put restriction on the entry of number of trains into the railway station, he pointed out.

Thousands of people from Chhend, Basanti Colony, Koel Nagar, Jagada, NIT and Steel Township are set to get the benefit of the second entrance of Rourkela railway station as they will now travel less than before.

However, the absence of a platform near the second entrance makes them visit the old platform.

Similarly, passengers in six north Orissa districts - Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur and Kendrapara - are yet to get the train services via Keonjhar because of less number of platforms in Rourkela, it was learnt.

When contacted, Manoj Kumar Roul, assistant secretary of Rail and Road Users' Association, said the issue was raised on several occasions with the top railway officials and the state government but it is yet to yield any result.

SHORT TAKES

**Toddler falls into hot gruel, critical**  
**Ghasipura:** A three-year-old boy was critically hurt after falling into a dish containing hot gruel at Barbahali under Ghasipura police limits in Keonjhar district. The toddler with 70 per cent burns was admitted to the Anandapur sub-divisional hospital. His condition is stated to be stable.

**Farmhand dies in freak mishap**  
**Rupsa:** A woman reportedly died after coming in contact with the belt of a paddy harvest machine at Bahabalpur under Balasore Sadar block Tuesday. The deceased was identified as Bimala Maiti (64). Reports said she was feeding paddy into the machine, but her saree got stuck in the belt and she was dragged into the machine. Critically injured, she was rushed to the district headquarters hospital where she succumbed. Police registered a case of unnatural death.

**Lightning claims 2 lives**  
**Kamakhyanager/Bhuban:** Two women were killed while three others were injured after they were struck by lightning in Kankadahad and Bhuban blocks in Dhenkanal district Wednesday. The deceased were Nayana Patra (52) of Maruabilli and Gurubari Munda (55) of Majhpal. Nayana was struck by lightning while grazing goats. Family members rushed her to Kamakhyanager CHC where doctors declared her brought dead. Gurubari was hit by lightning when she was sitting at her house while her relatives Makara (33) and Sambhari (20) suffered injuries. Rangabati Behera (65) of Bhuban NAC was injured in lightning.

**Woman, son clear matriculation exam**

**Balasore, May 9:** Age is just a number. A 35-year-old woman in this district has become a matriculate along with her son. Tapoi Khatua, a resident of Shabaraghat panchayat under Bhogarai block, appeared for the examination from the Odisha State Open School, which helps school dropouts appear for HSC examination without attending school. Her son Bikash appeared for the same as a regular student. The two apparently helped each other in studies. Tapoi was not fortunate enough to pass the matriculation in her first attempt in 1999. In her belated second attempt, she got through it with flying colours. Immediately after her first attempt, she wanted to reappear for the examination but there were financial constraints. Also, she was married off hastily. Seeing her son study for the examination, the wish to be a matriculate again arose in her and she decided she would reappear for the examination. "There was always a wish to be a matriculate. I took inspiration from my son to pass the examination. My family members were also supportive," Tapoi said. While Tapoi attributed her success partly to her son, the son stressed his success had to do with his mother's help and joint study. "I feel proud of my mother. This is a rare achievement. I give full credit to my mother for what I have achieved today. We sat together and studied while at home," Bikash noted.

**GANGRAPE VICTIM AWAITS JUSTICE**

**Balasore, May 9:** About 25 days have passed since a woman was allegedly raped by some people at Padabadagan under Balasore town police limits, but the police have failed to act against the accused. The victim lamented that accused are roaming scot-free while the police were charged with ignoring a court order by being lax. A group of people had stormed into the house of the woman, attacked her husband and raped her April 14. The victim had moved from one police station to another seeking justice for a few days before filing a complaint at the Balasore SDJM court. Admitting the case (295/18), the court directed the Sadar police for an investigation. But the probe is being delayed while accused are moving free, the victim rued. The complaint said there was enmity between the victim's husband with Jhulatu Singh, Dabini Singh and Hauda Singh. The three had entered their house at 8 pm April 14 and raped the woman. The woman had gone to Haladipada police station and then Sadar police station with a complaint, but the police allegedly refused to accept the FIR. The woman finally moved the court. IIC Dayanidhi Das said he was well aware of the court order and preliminary investigation pointed to land dispute. "The investigation will be completed in time and the victim will get justice," the IIC said.

**2 passengers hurt as train rams JCB at level crossing**

**Jajpur/Chadheidhara, May 9:** Passengers in an express train had a narrow escape after the Ernakulam-Howrah Antodaya Express hit a stationary JCB machine at Chheliapada level crossing near Haridashpur railway station in Jajpur district Wednesday. The timely action and promptitude shown by the loco pilot saved hundreds of lives, though two passengers were injured in the mishap. The injured Tapas Nanda (20) and Nasiruddin Islam of Murshidabad district in West Bengal were discharged after primary treatment in Barchana hospital. They were hurt while resting their hands on the windows in their compartment. The mishap disrupted train services on track no-3 for three hours. The intensity of the collision was such that the passengers were thrown off their seats. The JCB driver fled the scene after the mishap. Khurda Road senior divisional manager Arun Kumar, senior divisional medical officer Dr BK Gochhayat, electrical engineer K Mohapatra, Dharmasala



Locals gather at the mishap site. OP PHOTO

police, GRP and RPF officials rushed to the spot and took stock of the situation. The East Coast Railway authorities holding the level crossing gate keeper Jashobant Swain responsible for the incident suspended him and issued a show-cause notice to the station master of Haridaspur. According to sources, the JCB on its way to Osra village from Chheliapada stopped on the track no-3 after it ran out of fuel. The driver left the vehicle on the track before the gate could be closed. Meanwhile, the train on its way to Howrah was rushing at great speed. The loco pilot noticed the JCB and tried to bring down the speed of the train. However, the train still rammmed the JCB. While the JCB was severely damaged, the bogies were safe. Villagers rushed to the spot and made arrangements to shift the injured persons to Barchana hospital. Fifteen passengers were killed and over 150 were injured after 14 bogies of the Coromandel Express got derailed near Jajpur Road station on Bhubaneswar-Howrah rail route February 13, 2009.

**MAHANADI CONCERN**



Rapid growth of hyacinth and weeds has obstructed the free flow of Mahanadi in Sambalpur even as the district administration carries out awareness drives on the river. OP PHOTO

**Illegal sand lifting: NGT defers hearing to July 3**

**Jaleswar, May 9:** Even as the mafia from West Bengal has been illegally mining sand over the years from the bed of river Subarnarekha in Jaleswar block of Balasore district, the principal bench of the NGT at New Delhi Wednesday deferred its hearing of a case related to illegal sand mining to July 3. The Bengal mafia has been plundering sand with impunity from the riverbed at Bilashpur, Rajnagar, Makidia, Kuanrpur, Dakhina Praharajpur, Beherasahi, Makarpur and other areas while the state government has to lose crores of rupees towards revenue every year. Hundreds of high-powered pump sets have been engaged to lift sand from deep under the bed. The rampant sand mining with swamp pumps has caused cracks in



Swamp pumps used to lift sand. OP PHOTO

houses in the riparian region, apart from leading to collapse of riverbanks. Acres of land have already vanished into the river. Taking serious note of the im-

acts of rampant sand mining on the ecology, life and property of people, social activist and convener of Jaleswar Bikash Manch, Sudarshan Das, had moved the NGT in Kolkata against the Collector and the SP of West Midnapore district about a year ago. The NGT had directed the Collector and the SP of West Midnapore to seize the machines of the mafia and take steps to stop sand quarrying. Despite the NGT order, the Collector and the SP of West Midnapore had not taken any step to put curbs on illegal sand mining. Upset, Das appealed to the principal bench of NGT in February, 2018 for quick hearing of the case. The NGT had fixed May 9 as date of hearing, but the West Bengal administration moved time petition, citing its preoccupation with upcoming panchayat elections. It urged the NGT to defer the hearing to another date. The court approved the appeal and decided to hold hearing of the case July 3.

**Missing woman gangraped, 3 arrested**

**Angul, May 9:** A woman of Sambalpur region who went missing after getting down from her husband's car at Nakichi on National Highway-55 under Handapa police limits here was gangraped. The police arrested three persons for the offence Wednesday. This was stated here by SP Mitrabhanu Mohapatra at a press meet organised at the district police headquarters. The accused were identified as Pilu Behera (20) of Bamrei village under Handapa police limits, Sujit Behera (25) of Baramancha village under Chhendipada police limits and Nilam Sahu (27) alias Nilu of Kusumdhara village under Thakuragad police limits. Two other accused Bulu and Dipu, both auto-rickshaw drivers, are absconding after the crime, the SP said. All the six accused are employees of a private consultancy firm Sai Infra Constructions engaged in developing NH-55. They were staying at a camp near the construction site. The survivor was going with her husband and minor daughter from Sambalpur to

Bhubaneswar in a car. Her husband stopped the vehicle at Nakichi to drink water when she came out with a water bottle and pushed the door. Her husband drove the car for Bhubaneswar assuming that she might have fallen asleep on the rear seat as she has the habit of speaking in a low voice and falling asleep during journeys. After going for 10 km he realised that his wife was not there in the car and drove back to Nakichi to trace her. He searched for her but failed to trace her despite best efforts. Greatly distressed and shocked at the turn of events, he went to the Handapa police station and lodged a complaint May 5. Police registered a case and launched a search operation by scanning the CCTV footage from the spot till Boinda and collected details about the missing woman. Two days later, police traced her at her aunt's house in Jagatsinghpur district and went to bring her back to Angul with her husband. There a medical examination was conducted on her as she recorded her statement at the Athamallik court. Handapa IIC Sunil Kumar Kar during probe found that the woman was gangraped.



SP produces the accused before media. OP PHOTO

The accused picked her to Purunapani jungle near Nakichi on the highway while she was roaming around and took turns on her. Later, they left her back near the highway and fled. Left with no option, the woman took shelter at a shanty along on the highway. The family living in the shanty came to know about her ordeal after reports were published in the media. The family gave her some money and purchased a bus ticket for her to go back to her house. Two days later she boarded a bus to Angul and later to Cuttack from where she again boarded a bus to Jagatsinghpur for her aunt's house. After arriving at Jagatsinghpur she informed the police about the incident. Police will make all efforts to ensure stringent punishment to the accused, the SP said. Senior police officials were present at the press meet.

**Missing minor girl's father seeks legal aid**

**Ghasipura, May 9:** With their 17-year-old girl missing for six months in Andhra Pradesh, a worried couple of Barmal under Ghasipura block in Keonjhar district Wednesday sought the help of the sub-divisional legal services authority. The parents had initially sought help of police, but the latter refused to accept their complaint and advised them to move the district labour office and Childline. The couple met the staff of Childline May 8 and necessary documents of the missing girl Gitanjali were prepared. They sought help of Anandapur Legal Services Authority Wednesday. Gitanjali's father Chaturbhuj Jena said he had sent his daughter among other girls of the village with Tripati Patra, a contractor of Berhampur, to work in Andhra Pradesh for daily wage. "Six months have passed, but there is no trace of my daughter," Jena said. Two of the girls came back to the village May 6. When Gitanjali's parents asked the two about her



A file photo of Gitanjali.

Gitanjali's father said he had sent his daughter among other girls of the village with a contractor of Berhampur, to work in Andhra Pradesh daughter, the girls stated they had not seen Gitanjali for the last several days. Even the contractor is not available on phone, a worried Jena said.

**AGE IS JUST A NUMBER FOR BHUYAN WOMEN**

**Keonjhar, May 9:** The women of their age usually spend time with their grandchildren or lead lonely lives in the confines of four walls, but many elderly women of the Bhuyan tribe at Thakuradihi under Bansapal block in this district have not retired from the struggles of their lives. Age has not deterred them from making their own living. Without the help of others, the women have become self-sufficient enough to keep their pots boiling and set an example for others. Such women can be seen in forests collecting sal leaves. They make plates out of these leaves and sell them in locals markets. Though their daily earning from plate sales is not enough to make a decent living, they never crib about their plight. Despite all odds from age and livelihood, the tribal women seem



Elderly Bhuyan women make leaf plates. OP PHOTO

to be joyous. The provision of monthly pension and ration cards has not led to complacency in the women. "We want to earn and try to survive by ourselves," they said with pride. The Bhuyan women are as hard working as their male counterparts. Among these elderly women are Phulamani Nayak, Guri Dehury Radhi Parihal and Mahuli Parihal. Radhi and Mahuli are relatives who live separately, but work together. Braving the blazing heat, they go out into nearby forests and collect sal leaves for two to three days. Then, they sell leaf plates in the market. "We earn ₹50 to ₹100 per day while ₹20 is spent on transport fare to the market. We purchase rations with whatever is left," said Phulamani. Radhi has married off two daughters. "Me and my husband manage to keep our pot boiling,"

she added. Guri has a son but he stays at his in-laws' house with his wife. "Now, my husband and I live by ourselves," she added. Phulamani says, "My two daughters were married off. Our sons were married but they have to look after their own families. We earn for our own living." The son and daughter-in-law of Mahuli look after her. The narratives of these elderly women trying to live by themselves are a pointer to the inefficacy of many government schemes meant for their development. Many of them observed that they had managed to live their lives amid forests and wild animals, but were worried about the next generations. It is alleged that the leaf traders rake in the moolah while tribals fail to get the right price for their hard work.



The true lasting quietness... comes from a complete consecration to the Divine

THE MOTHER



## Pork's water footprint

The world is getting hotter. The gap between the need and availability of freshwater is widening every day. Despite finding ourselves in such a situation, we continue to propagate practices that waste trillions of litres of water every day. One of these, which I have been focusing on, is the humungous wastage of water in the meat industry. I have given statistics of the water that goes into the production of beef and poultry. Now come to pork.

Pigs need vast amounts of water to drink and wallow in. The average water footprint of pig meat globally is 5,988 litres/kg, meaning that much water is used to produce 1 kilo of pork on our plates. The production of pork uses five to twenty times more water than the production of grains and cereals (1500-2000 litres/kg), potatoes (387 litres/kg) and tomatoes (214 litres/kg).

Despite this, pork production is being increased in India. As per statistics of the Indian Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fishing, the production of pork in India has increased by 21 per cent (81,250 tonne) between 2015-16 and 2016-17. In 2017, an estimated 1.2 crore pigs were slaughtered in India. The import of pork has also been increasing annually by about 11 per cent since 2010.

More Indian producers have adopted the western industrial method of animal production. This is the format of more animals, faster growth and shorter meat-to-market time. Large numbers of animals are bred in one facility, where they are fed grains and pumped with growth promoters, before being slaughtered for their meat. These industrial systems use more water than traditional grazing systems, thus increasing the stress on local water resources.

An increasing number of live pigs are being imported into India, as they are larger than local pigs and produce more meat. These pigs can weigh up to 300 kg and yield about 180 kg of pork per animal. If the average global water footprint of pork is 5,988 litres/kg, it takes about 10-11 lakh litres of water to raise a single such pig for its meat.

The largest proportion of water, about 67 per cent or 7 lakh litres, is spent in growing food for breeding one pig. Pigs have a high feed conversion ratio, which is the amount of food needed by the animal in order to be ready for killing. Pigs are generally given concentrated feed, which again takes a particularly large amount of water and land to produce.

On-farm water use in piggeries is estimated at 33 per cent of the total water footprint, or about 3.5 lakh litres per pig. Pigs drink an average of 25 litres of water a day, depending on the weather and their size. Pigs require up to 75 litres of water per day for drinking and washing down. This requirement goes up even more if the pig is diseased, the feed is insufficient, the sow is lactating, or if the environmental temperature is high.

Water is also used in maintaining the farms and cages where pigs are kept in preparation for slaughter. As part of the slaughter process, pigs are usually stunned electrically, then cut to bleed to death, after which they are scalded in large amounts of extremely hot water to remove their hair and skin.

After scalding, the animals are immediately chilled to maintain the quality of their meat, which also involves large amounts of water. The removal of internal organs again requires water for cleaning purposes, as does the cutting stage. This combined 'service water' use is estimated to be about 85,000 litres per pig. More water is used in post-farm activities, which include the stages of pork processing, packaging, distribution and consumer use.

Apart from direct use, it is important to recognise that the production of pigs, right from the feed growing stage till their packaging, pollutes innumerable litres of water with fertilizers, antibiotics, organic and inorganic matter from the pig farm and so on. Not enough care is given to the treatment and disposal of water from piggeries to help reduce water pollution in the surrounding area. This water pollution is included in the total water footprint of pork.

What you are eating is not pork chops but vast amounts of water. While I cannot convince everybody to turn vegan, I think it's only fair for each of us to consider just how much meat we consume every day and how much we could cut down on. Even one less pork chop, can save more than 900 litres of water. Let us learn from Cape Town.

Cape Town in South Africa is a rich city of 4.5 million people. It has run out of water. Severe restrictions have been put on every resident. From February 2018 not more than 50 litres, for bathing, eating, washing etc, is allowed per person. Water for flushing, showers, gardens, car washes is banned. On June 4, 2018, or Day Zero, all municipal water will stop and be rerouted to 149 emergency pickup points, and people will have to queue for 25 litres every day. Water supply will only be maintained in hospitals.

Cape Town is a test case for what happens when climate change, extreme inequality, and political dysfunction collide. It is a forerunner for the cities of India.

Cape Town has highways, shopping malls, restaurants, slaughterhouses, high-rises. As the water diminished, no attempt was made to stop the large water guzzlers – the meat production industry, the bottled water/cola manufacturers. Cape Town's water comes from six dams. Rainfall patterns have changed due to global warming. Most of the dams are now in the desertified areas. Theewaterskloof Dam, the biggest feeder, is currently at 12.5 per cent of its capacity.

By February 2018 the agricultural sector has incurred ₹14 billion (\$1.17 billion) in losses due to water shortage. Capetown farms, which contribute 23 per cent of South Africa's agricultural output and are the main employer in rural areas, are closing down orchards, fields and vineyards. Livestock herds have been slaughtered, fruit trees felled. So far 37,000 jobs have gone, and an estimated 50,000 have been pushed below the poverty line due to job losses, and inflation due to increases in the price of food.

Tourism is in sharp decline. Businesses are relocating, so other jobs are disappearing. Families that can are leaving the city. A breakdown in the sanitary system is leading to an outbreak of disease and civil unrest. The army has been put on alert.

Is this the first time that a large modern city has run out of water? In 2008 Barcelona came close. Sao Paulo, the large city in the Western hemisphere is almost there, three years ago supplies ran so low that the pipes sucked up mud and the flow of water to homes was cut to twice a week. The government of Indonesia is considering evacuation of parts of Jakarta, which has run out of potable water. Melbourne, in Australia, says its water could run out in a decade – and even London has warned that demand is close to capacity and the city faces future supply problems.

Military strategists talk of water, not oil, as the potential trigger for 21st century conflicts, while the United Nations has warned water scarcity could displace 700 million people by 2030.

The earth has run out of miracles where water is concerned. It is time for politicians and administrators to take stock of how much water we have and when will the earth come to Ground Zero. I predict ten years. In India, Hyderabad will be the first.

While policy changes will happen only when we reach crisis point, it is our personal choices that can have the most significant and immediate impact. Water is life. You mustn't play with water. Cutting back on meat is the first solution.

To join the animal welfare movement contact [gandhim@nic.in](mailto:gandhim@nic.in), [www.peopleforanimalsindia.org](http://www.peopleforanimalsindia.org)



Maneka Gandhi

The production of pork in India has increased by 21 per cent (81,250 tonne) between 2015-16 and 2016-17. In 2017, an estimated 1.2 crore pigs were slaughtered in the country. The import of pork has also been increasing annually by about 11 per cent since 2010

S Saraswathi  
THE WINNERS OF THE KARNATAKA ELECTIONS WILL GET AN OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD GOODWILL AHEAD OF 2019

## OPEN FORUM

# DRESS REHEARSAL FOR 2019

The entire nation's political attention is concentrated on the election in Karnataka as if it will decide the fate of India for the next five years. The two main contenders to power in the state are two national parties – a phenomenon unknown in southern India.

It is only after 2014, when a strong BJP wave across the country elevated the party to its present status, State Assembly elections have been arousing nation-wide interest. Even by-elections are keenly contested and intensely watched. All regional parties are following every move of those in the fray in Karnataka which seems to be a trial run for approaching Lok Sabha elections. Speeches and campaigns are indeed conducted like a dress rehearsal for the parties for the final drama in 2019.

Karnataka has been a stronghold of the Congress until the victory of the Janata Party in 1985. The state does not consistently support any particular party and does not normally go with the predominant national mood. When the Congress was in power at the Centre in 1994, Janata Dal won Karnataka Assembly; in 1999, when the BJP led NDA won Lok Sabha, Congress won most of the Lok Sabha seats in the state. In 2004 and 2009 when UPA defeated NDA at the Centre, BJP came to power in the state. In 2013, Congress won the Assembly and replaced BJP government, but in one year, Karnataka saw the emergence of the BJP in 17 out of 28 Lok Sabha seats. The state has even preferred Congress for the Centre in 1984 and the Janata Party for the state the next year.

Because of the Karnataka election, the Union government has not been able to frame the Cauvery Water Sharing Scheme within the deadline given by the Supreme Court. And the Congress government of Karnataka on its part has not been able to take the risk of releasing 4 tmc ft water to Tamil Nadu as directed by the Cauvery Tribunal for fear of losing votes for the party and cites water shortage in the state even for drinking purposes as its defence. The arch enemies in the field have a common interest in taking no action with re-



Retaining power in Karnataka is a life and death question for the Congress, for losing it will mean getting restricted to one state and one Union Territory – Punjab and Pondicherry. For the BJP, winning Karnataka and thereby regaining a lost foothold in the south is necessary to sustain the Modi wave and to break the prevailing notion of it being a north Indian party

garding to releasing Cauvery water pending elections!

Retaining power in Karnataka is a life and death question for the Congress, for losing it will mean getting restricted to one state and one Union Territory – Punjab and Pondicherry. For the BJP, winning Karnataka and thereby regaining a lost foothold in the south is necessary to sustain the Modi wave and to break the prevailing notion of it being a north Indian party.

Hence, both national parties are deploying maximum energy and electioneering talent to outdo each other. Since February end, several Central leaders of the BJP have visited the state. The Prime Minister has a programme of addressing some 30 rallies within a week in May. The Congress president is also holding road shows and rallies in different regions of Karnataka. The rallies to some extent display the changing mood of the people ahead of Parliament elections.

The Congress has a habit of playing regional politics in the southern states. Few may remember that at times it included two-language formula as its election promise in its manifesto in Tamil Nadu. In Karnataka, it allows state party leaders to wave the flag of Karnataka,

promote state identity through Kannada language and opposition to Hindi, and champion state rights in the federal set up. The state cabinet has already approved a tricolor state flag, a cultural policy to promote Kannada language and culture, opposition to use of Hindi name boards in metro trains and stations. The strategy of the Congress seems to be to oppose the nationalist stress of the BJP and assume a posture of unity with the local masses by vociferously supporting their parochial interests.

Neither the Congress nor the BJP has touched the crucial state-level issue of sharing Cauvery water in their election manifestoes. No plans to improve the condition of the river or to rejuvenate it are mentioned. But both have centred their focus on the farming community with schemes to enhance funds for agriculture, and promises of farm loan waiver, infrastructure plans, education, sports and culture, women's empowerment, social welfare schemes, and special programmes for development of Bangalore.

Both the BJP and the JD(S) have a common objective of defeating the Congress – a reason strong enough to form an alliance. But it has not

taken place pre-poll. On the contrary, both Congress and BJP accuse each other of having a secret understanding with JD(S). This does not prevent Modi and Deve Gowda from praising each other's statesmanship and efficiency. It is part of the politics of keeping the doors open for post-poll alliances which may be necessary in case of a fractured verdict.

Even parties willing to form post-poll alliances for forming a government fiercely fight one another in elections to increase their individual strength which will improve their bargaining power in the post-poll scenario. Such fights do not preclude accusations and complaints against each other. Doubtless, they confuse the voters not knowing the combinations that will finally form the government and the opposition.

As conditions stand in the week preceding polling, it is clear that the JD(S) will have an important role in the case of a hung Assembly. Its state president maintains that the party will not remain just a "kingmaker" as predicted in some reports, but will become the "king". Its role depends on the Modi wave and the vigour of the new Congress leader more than its own acceptability.

The mood of the people is not clear despite lavish gifts like separate religious identity to Lingayats. What is clear is that the election is no longer a simple traditional caste fight as Lingayat (identified with Yeddyurappa), Vokkaliga (associated with Deve Gowda) and so on. Wishful thinking of non-political reformists that political divisions within castes may gradually weaken their social unity and lead to disintegration of castes is falsified in real life as there are no cases of disappearance of castes due to political divisions.

The case of Lingayats may become another instance to prove that solid vote banks made up of castes is an illusion of politicians and not a reality. The energy, time, and money spent on building block votes of castes may be more usefully diverted to get block votes territorially by area development schemes cutting across caste lines. -NFA

The writer is former director, ICSSR, New Delhi

## SPECTRUM PERSONALITY

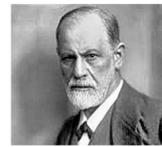
# Sigmund Freud's lingering legacy

It is the great, not necessarily correct, but disruptive ideas about human nature and the world that evoke the most fervent reactions. Some of the quite famous of these stem from a quartet of European thinkers, all born within seven decades in the 19th century, and having done most to shape the modern world – Charles Darwin, Karl Marx, Sigmund Freud, and Albert Einstein.

For all four helped to overthrow the existing worldview that humans were instinctively rational, that concord and harmony was the normal human condition, and that a "grand plan" underpinned the universe's functioning. But while Darwin's work spanned all living creatures, Marx's was about society, Einstein's looked at everything from the sub-atomic world to far-away universes, and Freud's work focussed on individuals – and their minds.

The founder of psychoanalysis, which stressed the techniques of free association and transference (of feelings), Freud sought to redefine sexuality to include its infantile forms – which led him to the "Oedipus complex" and dreams as

Social philosopher Erich Fromm holds him "one of the last representatives of Enlightenment philosophy" who believed in reason as a human strength



symbols of wish fulfillment.

His method of clinically analysing symptoms led him to postulate that their origins lay in repressed memories and formed his theory of the unconscious and its psychological constructs of id, ego and super-ego. Then he conceived of "libido", an energy powering mental processes and responsible for erotic attachments, and a death drive, from which emanate compulsive repetition, aggression and neurotic guilt. Later, he sought to interpret religion and culture.

While all of our four thinkers have their staunch supporters and dedicated detractors, Freud, since he brought some uncomfortable views into contention, especially his emphasis on sex and an incestuous basis of identity formation, has more than a fair share.

In 'Introducing the Freud Wars'

psychiatrist Stephen Wilson seeks an "uncompromising" investigation into the "chief accusations levelled against him (Freud) and the oppositions to his discoveries".

As Wilson tells us, Freud was charged with lying about his clinical practice, moral cowardice in his theorising, collusion in medical negligence, and overweening ambition, for drug addiction and "demonising children", and "responsible for delaying our recognition of infantile sexual abuse" as well as "the invention of false memories of infantile sexual abuse".

If this wasn't enough, he was "reproached for both unoriginality and myth-making, stating the obvious and mystifying us with the obscure" and was said to be guilty of encouraging both libertinism and puritanism, and misogyny and homophobia, and even planning to

murder a close friend he later fell out with.

However, Wilson undertakes a balanced approach as he deals with these charges as well as others to show where Freud was on the right track, where he came to know he was wrong and admitted it, and where he was wrong, in light of further research.

One of the areas where Freud acknowledged he had been wrong was his seduction theory, attributing adult neurosis to childhood sexual abuse before later discerning they were "fantasies". However, Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson, Sanskrit scholar-turned-psychoanalyst, alleged that Freud abandoned this for personal reasons, and "began a trend away from the real world".

And then, Freud figures widely in popular culture. While Breton lauded him for studying dreams, Auden's 'In Memory of Sigmund Freud' said: "He wasn't clever at all: he merely told/the unhappy Present to recite the Past...", and Madonne sang "Sigmund Freud. Analyse this! Analyse this! Analyse this-this-this!" in James Bond's 'Die Another Day'.

## Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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## Afghan abduction

Sir: Afghanistan is not exactly an unfriendly country but it is a war-ravaged nation struggling to come to terms with the Taliban movement which is waging a war against the state. Currently, North Afghanistan is an area where significant Taliban presence is acknowledged and it was here that seven Indian engineers were reportedly abducted recently. No group has claimed responsibility for the kidnapping but going by the area the Taliban hand is evident because Taliban deputy chief for Pothun region Qari Bakhtiar commands the region. Why Indians, is a natural question. First, it may have been a case of mistaken identity as the Taliban may have thought the engineers were Afghan government officers. Second, the extortion angle cannot be ruled out. Third, the massive electrical development may have made the Taliban commanders see red. Fourth, Indians specifically may have been targeted by the Taliban, prompted by Pakistan's ISI, because Islamabad is extremely worried about New Delhi's large economic contribution to Afghanistan. It is hoped that there will be an expeditious and safe release of the Indians as the local tribal elders are engaged in mediation with the abductors.

Ganapathi Bhat, EMAIL

## Propriety priority

Sir: Without commenting on the merits and demerits of the writ petition filed in the Supreme Court against the Vice-President of India declining to admit the motion of impeachment against the Chief Justice of the country, one thing is clear that propriety demanded that the matter be heard by the senior-most judge next to the Chief Justice to decide if the constitution bench should have been formed to hear the petition. Even if a constitution bench had to be formed, the Chief Justice must have recused himself from forming the bench leaving the task to the senior-most judge next to him. It is unfortunate that the long RTI route had to be adopted for revealing how the constitution bench was formed in a superson manner without the writ having been admitted in normal course. By the time the final response on the RTI application filed by an advocate seeking information on the formation of the constitution bench comes – may be after crossing hurdles of first appeal and second appeal – the RTI response will lose significance. Such hurried constitution of a constitution bench if done by Chief Justice of India will certainly be impropriety because he must have recused himself from any matter involving him.

Subhash Chandra Agrawal, EMAIL

# national



There is rising expectation among the people for greater efficiency in public service delivery and civil servants must use information technology and other tools to meet the task

RAM NATH KOVIND | PRESIDENT

## D RAJA TO VISIT MOSCOW

CPI leader D Raja will participate in a global conference in Moscow organised to commemorate the 200th birth anniversary of revolutionary socialist Karl Marx this weekend



## of the day quote

The West Bengal State Election Commission (SEC) has lost its identity as it has been functioning under pressure from the ruling Trinamool Congress over conduct of the panchayat election



KAILASH VIJAYVARGIYA | BJP NATIONAL GENERAL SECRETARY

After becoming the environment minister I saw a lot of discussions are held on issues of global warming, climate change, forest cover around the world. A lot of big meetings are organised and environment day is celebrated. But a lot of these events remain symbolic as people tend to forget about them



HARSH VARDHAN | UNION MINISTER

We have five Centres of Excellence already operational in Haryana to help agricultural productivity with Israeli know how and a sixth one in the pipeline. The goal is to increase income of farmers in the state by utilisation of research and technology in Israel to increase agricultural produce



MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR | HARYANA CM

## Baramulla attack: 4 LeT militants held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, May 9: Police Wednesday busted a Lashker-e-Taiba terror module in north Kashmir and arrested 10 people, including four militants who were allegedly responsible for gunning down three boys at Baramulla on April 30.

"We have ample evidence to suggest the hand of outlawed Lashker-e-Taiba group in instigating violence and killing innocent people



in north Kashmir," Inspector General of Police (Kashmir range) Swayam Prakash Pani told reporters here.

He said besides the four militants, police had also arrested six over-ground workers (OGWs) who were allegedly active in providing shelter and transportation to the militants. A police spokesman

said two of the four militants held were involved in the killing of Haseeb Nabi Khan, Irfan Ahmad Sheikh and Mohammad Asgar Sheikh—all residents of Baramulla, on April 30.

"Eyewitness accounts suggested that three to four terrorists were involved in commission of this heinous crime," the spokesman said. "Out of the three civilians killed, names of two had figured in a threatening video issued by the LeT during the 2016 unrest in the Valley," he said.

The police said multiple parties of police, Army and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) were tasked to track the culprits. Two AK rifles, Chinese pistols, four hand grenades, 50 AK rounds, four AK magazine and two pistol magazines were found from the militants' hideout, they said. "During sustained interrogation of the terrorists, the police and security forces were also able to unearth a LeT module operating in the Sopore-Baramulla belt," the spokesperson said. "The police said the arrests have also helped them to solve the cases of two grenade attacks on Baramulla police station on December 2, 2017 and January 22 this year.

## CARTOON CORNER



## MODI SLAMS RAHUL OVER HIS 'PM REMARK'

AGENCIES

Bangarpet/Chikkamagaluru (Karnataka), May 9: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday lashed out at Congress president Rahul Gandhi after he publicly declared his prime ministerial ambition, and wondered whether the country will ever accept such an "immature and naamdar (famous)" leader for the post.

Taking his attack on the Gandhi family a notch further with barely a day left for the campaign to end, Modi said, "He (Rahul Gandhi) feels that the prime minister's chair is reserved for one family and no one can sit on it. He feels it is an ancestral right (paitruk hak)."

He said the Congress leader was not bothered about his party, its legacy, senior leaders, or the country. "From morning till evening, while sleeping and while awake, he has only thing in his mind and that is the prime minister's chair," he said.

Modi's attack on Rahul at his rallies in Bangarpet and Chikkamagaluru came a day after the Congress president said he was ready to occupy the prime minister's post if his party emerged as the largest party in the 2019 Lok Sabha



polls, making known his ambition for the topmost executive post.

"The naamdar who does not have confidence in his alliance partners...who doesn't care for the Congress' internal democracy, whose arrogance has reached cloud seven, and is declaring himself that he would be the prime minister in 2019...will the country ever accept such an immature 'naamdar' leader?" Modi told election rallies.

"Yesterday in Karnataka and India's politics something happened. All of a sudden one person came and he declared....(he) did not care about others who are standing in the line. (He) did not care about other coalition partners. "There are leaders waiting for 40 years....He came all of a sudden...and said I will become the prime minister," the prime minister said during the final lap of his campaign blitz in poll-bound Karnataka, where voting

## No contest with BJP on graft: Rahul

New Delhi: Congress President Rahul Gandhi Wednesday said the previous BJP government in Karnataka "wins hands down" over the present Congress dispensation when it comes to corruption. It is a "no contest", he said on Twitter drawing comparisons between the Congress government in the state and that of the BJP during 2008-13. He also put out figures in graphics to show that his party-led dispensation was better on various fronts. "In Karnataka, when it comes to corruption, it's a 'No Contest' as this graphic shows. The BJP wins hands down!", he tweeted along with the graphics. The graphics claimed that the Congress was the "top job creator" in the country, the Anna Bhagya scheme of the party's government in Karnataka was feeding four crore people, the Ramthal Marol, Asia's largest drip irrigation project, and the world's largest solar power park, were built by the party and that it had also waived the loans of 22 lakh farmers, amounting to ₹8,165 crore, in the southern state.

will be held on May 12.

He asked the gathering whether it was not a reflection of the Congress president's "arrogance." He also wanted to know whether it did not show the state of internal democracy in the Congress party.

Modi also attacked the Congress for "defaming" institutions such as the CAG, CBI, NIA, ED and RBI by calling them wrong, and saying only the Congress is right and trying to "break the morale" of the Army and security forces by raising questions about them. "You might have seen in the last few elections the

Congress is losing, and instead of accepting defeat by following democratic principles, they are lying by blaming EVMs," he said.

He said the Congress had defamed the Election Commission of India that is respected globally for its work. "They have started defaming the EC after they started seeing defeat. For them, the EVM are wrong, the Congress right, the Election Commission wrong, the Congress right," he said.

He said the Congress had also "doubted" the World Bank and global credit rating agencies by saying "Modi has bought these agencies."

## 40 booked in recruitment case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 9: The CBI has booked 40 people, including an army havildar posted at the headquarters recruiting zone, Lucknow, for allegedly facilitating recruitment of 34 candidates in the force on the basis of forged documents, officials said Wednesday.

According to the conditions, only those candidates can appear in a recruitment rally who are residing in districts for which the rally is being organised. Lucknow is headquarters for Army recruitment from Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

These candidates allegedly participated in the recruitment drive in Lucknow during 2016-17 on the basis of fake domicile certificates issued from the office of the sub divisional magistrate in Hamirpur district in Bundelkhand area whereas all of them were residents of western Uttar Pradesh. They were selected for the posts of soldiers for technical duty, general duty, sentry duty, clerical duty and medical duty in the Army, the Central Bureau of Investigation FIR said.

Most of these 34 candidates joined training in the Army at respective places, it said. The rally was organised for Auraiya, Barabanki, Kannauj, Gonda, Banda, Hamirpur and Fatehpur districts in August 2016. After suspicion arose, Director Recruiting Col Deepak Sharma sent a letter to the officer of the SDM in Hamirpur for the verification of domicile certificates which were found fake. During the enquiry, it was found that the certificates were not issued from the SDM's office and were fake.

## SHORT TAKES

### WB panchayat polls: SEC moves SC

New Delhi: The West Bengal State Election Commission Wednesday approached the Supreme Court challenging the Calcutta High Court's order directing it to accept the nominations of those candidates who have filed their papers electronically within the stipulated time for the panchayat election in the state. The state election commission (SEC) has sought a stay of the operation of the Tuesday's order saying it would suffer "irreparable loss and injury" which cannot be compensated.

### 2 jawans killed

Imphal: Two BSF jawans were killed and a local woman injured in an IED blast outside the force's camp in Manipur Wednesday, a senior official said. The blast triggered by an improvised explosive device (IED) occurred at about 2 pm, when the Border Security Force (BSF) men were deployed just outside the gate of their Koirengi sector headquarters camp, on the Dimapur-Imphal highway here, the official said.

### 2 labourers killed

Hisar: Two labourers were killed and four were severely injured in a blast at Rajiv Gandhi Thermal Power Plant (RGTPP) at Khedar, about 30 km from here, police said Wednesday. The unit number one of the plant was closed Tuesday noon due to less demand of power. The labourers were fixing a leakage at the bottom seal of the unit when the boiler's clinker containing hot ash fell on them following a blast.

### Actress dies

Barasat (WB): A 63-year-old actress has died after a live snake being used as a prop in a 'jatras' bit her during the show in North 24 Parganas district, police said Wednesday. The incident occurred at Barunhat village in Hasnabad police station area Tuesday night. After the snake bit Kalidasi Mondal, she was taken to hospital where she was declared brought dead, police said.

### Man found murdered

Lucknow: A 60-year-old city mason was found with his throat slit inside a mosque in the Uttar Pradesh capital here Wednesday, police said. At 8 a.m., the body was discovered in a pool of blood by a security guard. The incident occurred in Mahipat Mau village of Kakori, on the city outskirts.

### Reds torch 10 vehicles

Ranchi: Maoist guerrillas Wednesday set on fire 10 vehicles employed in road construction work in Jharkhand's Giridih district. According to the police, around 30 Maoists raided a private road construction company at Pirtand. They asked the workers to move away to one side as they poured kerosene on the vehicles and set them ablaze.

## NEWS SNIPPET

### Pawar 'stuck' in Maharashtra auditorium

Satara (Maharashtra): Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) President Sharad Pawar was "locked up" inside an auditorium here Wednesday after a door lock suddenly got jammed, giving anxious moments to his party workers. The incident happened after Pawar addressed a packed media conference and proceeded to leave the venue, said NCP state spokesperson Nawab Malik. The door, however, refused to budge. The handle on it appeared to have jammed the lock, preventing it from opening either from inside or outside, he said. Several NCP legislators, activists, journalists and auditorium staffers attempted to free it but without much success. They had to break the lock. The 77-year-old appeared amused by the development. After some 10 minutes, he was able to walk out of the venue. Earlier, Pawar paid homage to eminent academic, the late 'Karmveer' Bhaurao Patil, on the occasion of his 59th death anniversary at the 99-year-old Rayat Shikshan Sanstha founded by him here in 1919.

### Lalu to attend son's marriage

Ranchi: Jailed RJD chief Lalu Prasad Wednesday secured five days parole to attend his elder son's marriage in Patna on May 12. The parole was granted following consultations between the jail administration and the Home Department. Lalu Prasad had sought five days parole to attend Tej Pratap's wedding. The former Bihar Chief Minister is being treated at the Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) here after he was brought here from the AIIMS in New Delhi on May 1. He is likely to leave for Patna by air. The RJD leader has been convicted in four fodder scam cases since 2013 -- the latest being the Dumka treasury case in which a CBI court sentenced him to 14 years in jail.

## Courts can use Parl panel reports

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 9: The report of a parliamentary committee can be relied upon in courts for interpretation of statutory provisions wherever necessary, the Supreme Court Wednesday said while making it clear that its findings cannot be questioned or challenged in a court of law. A five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra said that courts can take notice of parliamentary standing committee reports, which are admissible under the Evidence Act.

"Parliamentary Standing Committee report can be taken aid of for the purpose of interpretation of a statutory provision wherever it is so necessary and also it can be taken note of as existence of a historical fact. Judicial notice can be taken of the Parliamentary Standing Committee report under Section 57(4) of the



A five-judge constitution bench said that courts can take notice of parliamentary standing committee reports, which are admissible under the Evidence Act

Evidence Act and it is admissible under Section 74 of the said Act.

"In a litigation filed either under Article 32 or Article 136 of the Constitution, this Court can take on record the report of Parliamentary Standing Committee. However, the report cannot be impinged or challenged in a court of law," the bench also comprising Justices A K Sikri, A M Khanwilkar, D Y Chandrachud and Ashok Bhushan said.

The 338-page verdict was delivered on the PILs which had ini-

tially raised the issue of untimely death of some young girls in 2008 in Andhra Pradesh due to alleged administration of cervical cancer vaccines and the grant of compensation to their families.

The petitioners, seeking compensation for the victims' families, had relied on the 81st Report of Parliamentary Standing Committee of December 22, 2014, which had allegedly indicted some pharma firms for conducting trials of the controversial Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine.

## Kerala coolie steps closer to civil services dream

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 9: Being surrounded by books is a matter of routine for civil services aspirants, but Sreenath K, a coolie who cleared the written test of the Kerala Public Service Commission, the preparation is just about his phone and earphones as he goes about his job.

Sreenath has been earning his livelihood carrying heavy luggage at Ernakulam Junction in Kerala for the past five years. Unlike his colleagues, he deftly balances the luggage on his shoulders and listens to his digital coursework at the

same time - his teachers speaking to him through the earphones.

A high school pass-out, he takes advantage of the free WiFi Internet service available at Ernakulam station to learn. "I have appeared thrice for the exam and this is the first time I used the WiFi at the station. What I do is put on my earphones and listen to the study material as I carry the luggage or solve questionnaires in my mind. This way I can study while I work. I revise all my work at night when I get free time," Sreenath said.

The WiFi service, launched in 2016 as part of Prime Minister

### Unlike his colleagues, he deftly balances the luggage on his shoulders and listens to his digital coursework at the same time

Narendra Modi's Digital India initiative, provides free Internet to passengers under Railwire, the retail broadband distribution model of RailTel Corporation of India Limited. As of May 2018, at least 685 railway stations have been equipped with WiFi technology

across the country, with the Indian Railways setting a target of providing the facility at all 8,500 stations by March 2019 at a cost of ₹700 crore. Sreenath hails from Munnar, a town in the Western Ghats mountain range. Ernakulam is the nearest major railway station from Munnar.

He said the free WiFi service at the station opened up opportunities for him he never thought were available in the first place - reams of practice question papers, downloadable at a speed of 20-40 mbps, easy access to online examination forms, and above everything else, he saves money on books.

If he qualifies for KPSC after interview, he is likely to be a village field assistant under the land revenue department. "I will keep studying. While I work as a coolie because I have the pressure of running my house, I will keep studying and appearing for exams. If I appear for enough exams, I am bound to get a good job," Sreenath said.

He has also applied for exams advertised recently by the railways for 62,000 Group D posts of trackman, cabinman, leverman, pointsman, gangman and others.

"What is my ideal job? A person of some authority to change things in my village maybe," he said.



TWEET SPOT >>



**Mallika Sherawat | Soaking in some early morning sun ( ( #nomakeup #natural #nofilter**



**Adah Sharma | What should my hair colour be next? #Throwback to January**



**Neha Sharma | Mandatory car selfie..when u r in the car for hours (**



## STORIES TOP

### JUSTIN BIEBER SAYS 'DON'T BE FOOLED'

**Los Angeles:** Singer Justin Bieber doesn't want his fans to "be fooled" by the "glamorous" lifestyles of celebrities that are showcased on social media. On Tuesday, the 24-year-old pop star penned a note on Instagram explaining that the lives of A-listers are no better than everyone else's, reports people.com. "Hey world that glamorous lifestyle you see portrayed by famous people on Instagram, don't be fooled thinking their life is better than yours," the "Let me love you" hitmaker wrote. "I can promise you it's not!" he continued.

### JAMES BLUNT ADORES MUSIC'S UNIFYING POWER

**New Delhi:** Whether it is from love or his various experiences or his view of politics, "You're beautiful" star James Blunt likes to draw inspiration from the world around him. The Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter says music unites people irrespective of caste, gender or religion. "I write about a number of different subjects. I have written a song titled 'Someone singing along'. It is about the politics in the world today and how politicians strive to divide us and tell us we should be afraid of people who are different from us," Blunt said.

### ZACH BRAFF IS UP FOR 'SCRUBS' REUNION

**Los Angeles:** Actor Zach Braff is ready for a "Scrubs" reunion. "It seems like everyone wants that so much these days," Braff told James Corden on "The Late Late Show", reports ew.com. "I'm doing 'Alex, Inc.' now, but maybe if it was a TV movie or something, I don't know. In some incarnation I'd be interested, yeah." "Scrubs" went off air in 2010 after nine seasons. Since then its cast mates have reunited over the years in varying degrees. Braff is still friends with actor Donald Faison and they came together with actor John C. McGinley for a photo op. Braff ran into Elizabeth Banks in 2016.

### MARGOT ROBBIE TO PLAY SHARON TATE

**Los Angeles:** After months of speculation, Sony has confirmed that Margot Robbie will portray the role of actor Sharon Tate, who was killed in the most infamous murders by the Charles Manson family in the 1960s, in "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood". Veteran actor Burt Reynolds is in early negotiations to star in Quentin Tarantino's ninth film, Deadline reported. If on board, the "Boogie Nights" star, 82, will play George Spahn, the blind rancher who owned the property that Charles Manson and his followers were living on when they hatched the plan for the most infamous murders in the 1960s.

### DEADPOOL 2 SCRIPT HAD DEADPOOL AS DAD: RYAN

**Los Angeles:** Hollywood star Ryan Reynolds has revealed that in the initial drafts of the "Deadpool 2" script, the Marvel antihero was envisioned as a father. The 41-year-old actor, who reprises his role as the title character in the sequel, said he along with co-writers Rhett Reese and Paul Wernick had planned on showing the part with a child. "The genesis of it was 'What if Deadpool had a child?' Like, what if we started five years later and what would that be like?" Reynolds told EW. The actor said they decided against the idea as they did not think it would work.

# NORA THRILLED

**Mumbai:** Actress Nora Fatehi, who will be seen hosting a dating reality show "Dating in the Dark", says she always wanted to be the face of a show. "I'm very excited to start the shoot of 'Dating in the Dark', this is huge for me as I've always wanted to be a face of my own show and MTV is the perfect platform to reach the younger audience. This is going to be a really interesting and unique show and I'm sure the audience will really enjoy watching," Nora said. "Dating in the Dark" will give three single men and women a chance to meet and get to know each other. But, the twist will be that the contestants being able to speak with each other without any eye contact because the dating happens in a dark room. On being the host of the show, Nora said: "The show makes dating fun as it leaves millennials with a question - are looks really that important? I strongly believe that appearance is important as it's the first impression you get but that is definitely not the deciding factor." Nora added that the MTV show, with its unique concept, has always managed to go beyond the standard conventional way of engaging with its audiences. "This show marks my first stint as a host and a face of a show. I am extremely happy to be part of this amazing team. I hope that the audience and my fans appreciate my role and find their own answer to the question - do looks really matter or is the personality more important in finding the one," she added. IANS

## Ekta likes to make 'eclectic' films

**Mumbai:** Film and TV producer Ekta Kapoor says big budgets and busy schedules of actors have kept her away from working with big stars and instead concentrate on "eclectic" films that have earned critical acclaim. "It is not about the access to the stars. We have not made films with Salman (Khan) or Shah Rukh (Khan) because at this point if I have to spend half a year in planning a film with a big star, it would require certain effort. "We have got into an eclectic mix of films. Access doesn't always mean... You could have picked up a phone and called them. It is not that we are making a big star Rs 100 crore proposal," Ekta said. Instead, the producer's banner Balaji Motion Pictures has backed a number of unconventional films such as "Love, Sex Aur Dhokha" and "Lipstick Under My Burkha". Ekta started her production journey with TV and soon became the soap opera queen with hits such as "Hum Paanch", "Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi" "Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki", "Kasauti Zindagi Ki" and "Kahiin To Hoga. She soon moved to the big screen with films such as "Shootout at Lokhandwala", "The Dirty Picture" and "Ek Thi Daayan". There have been failures along the way but Ekta says she does not dwell on them too much. "Either you win or you learn. I don't like to live a delusional life, which is an easy thing. We all have dreams but we have to understand where the dream becomes delusional," Ekta says. As a producer, she says she might feel the content she is churning out is great, but the audience may not appreciate it and one has to be open to rejection. "If I am making something for others, I have to take their opinion into consideration - be it bouquets or brickbats; TRPs or criticism. I try to keep an open mind," she says. PTI

# Yet to believe: Sanya

**Mumbai:** Sanya Malhotra, who shot to fame with her debut 2016's "Dangal", says the feeling that she is an actor is yet to sink in. "Today, Sanya has her hands full with three films - Ritesh Batra's "Photograph", "Badhai Ho" with Ayushmann Khurrana and Vishal Bharadwaj's "Churriyan". "I am satisfied with whatever I am doing. I can't believe I am an actor, I think it will take some time for me this to sink in. I am glad I am getting to work with brilliant directors and actors, which I had not imagined. I am enjoying each and every day of being an actor," she said. Sanya says she does not know if she is a natural at acting. "Acting is very new to me. With every film that I am doing I am learning new things either about myself, or about filmmaking," she says. The actor does not come from a film background but she feels making a mark in the industry is difficult - for both an outsider and a person with connections. Everyone has to go through their fair share of ups and downs, she asserts. "When I came to Mumbai to audition for a dance reality show, I was in top 100. I doubted myself and did not get through. It was a lesson for me... After that day, whenever I used to go for auditions, I never doubted myself," she says. Long before "Dangal", there was a period of three-four months that Sanya had no work but the actor says her family stood by her like a rock. She kept herself busy through ad films and soon things changed when casting director Mukesh Chhabra called her to audition for the hit sports drama. Post the stupendous success of the film, in which she played the role of wrestler Babita Kumari Phogat, Sanya was flooded with offers but somehow, nothing materialised. PTI

## CINE BITS

### Adnan Sami celebrates daughter's first birthday

**Munich:** Singer Adnan Sami celebrated his "angelic" daughter Medina's first birthday here. Adnan and his wife Roya Sami welcomed their first child, Medina, on May 8 last year. "I know that God truly loves me...By blessing me with an angelic daughter. He has given me the greatest reason to rejoice and find new meaning to life and the magnificence of his generosity and creation," Adnan said. "My Medina is too little to read this but one day when she can, she will know that today I was reliving every moment by the clock as to what we were doing at every minute till she entered this world one year ago," he added.

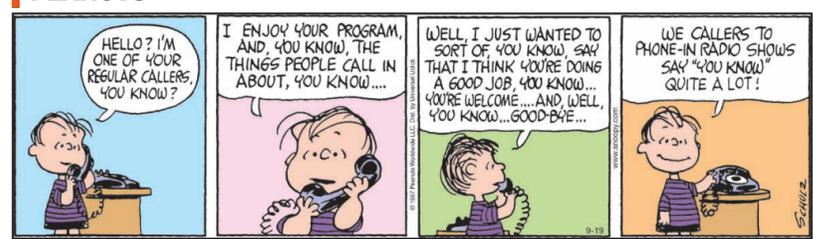
### Tried to break stereotypical portrayal of Pak army: Vicky

**New Delhi:** Actor Vicky Kaushal says he has tried to break away from the stereotypical portrayal of Pakistani Army officers through his performance in "Raazi". The actor, who plays Iqbal, a Pakistani military man in Meghna Gulzar's upcoming film, says people have been "conditioned" to perceive the Armymen from the neighbouring country as "crude" and "fanatic". "We've been conditioned that way. We can't pinpoint fingers at anyone. But that's what was fun to do while playing the part," Kaushal said.

### Casting couch exists everywhere: Sachin-Jigar

**Mumbai:** Music composer duo Sachin-Jigar say the casting couch exists everywhere, but hope people come "off their dirty ideas" and make way for true talent. On the existence of the casting couch, Jigar said: "I would say (it is) everywhere. It is there, of course nobody wants it to be there, but it has been there and it still exists, I feel. It is something I will strongly oppose and do not believe in, but at the same time I want people to know that it is not only in Bollywood it is just everywhere and it's absolutely disgusting." Sachin said that for him and Jigar, it has always been about discovering a new voice or a new lyric writer. "That changes the way our sound is and maybe that casting couch is really meant for bringing about new talent to focus. And I hope that it finds its true meaning," he added.

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

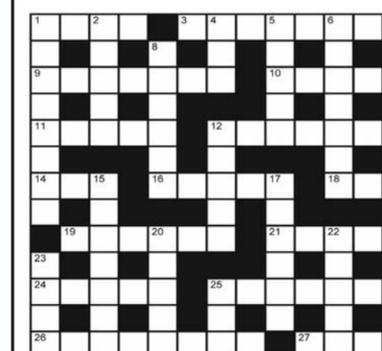


### BREVITY



## FUN post

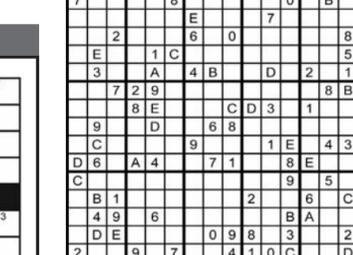
### CROSSWORD



- Across**
- Stalactite site
  - Purse item
  - Shellfish
  - Football game
  - Early warning system
  - Plump
  - Clumsy sort
  - Eccentric
  - Notable period
  - Monkey business
  - Beauty parlour
  - Town square
  - Winter wear
  - Sideboard
  - Exploding star
  - Neighbour of Chad
  - Bona fide
  - Variety
  - Herring of the east North Atlantic
  - Artless innocent young girl
  - Custodian's collection
  - Groove
  - Archaeological site
  - Hawaiian volcano (5,3)
  - The sound of trumpets
  - Cheerless
  - Breathing fire
  - Vernacular
  - Colossal
  - Casbah headgear

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS

**CROSSWORD**

CANDOUR ARGUS  
YACEDUDE  
SEATED MAMBA  
TITIDW  
SYRUP NUTTREE  
UKO  
DIGEST SHAPED  
TIAMAMA  
LUMBAGO MASAI  
EBSWSON  
MELBA AVOIDED  
MERITCROKE  
ACRITID CAKEMIX

**SUDOKU**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| 7 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 8 | 3 | 8 | 9 |
| 2 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| 0 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 0 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 6 |
| 6 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 3 |
| 9 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 0 | 7 | 6 |
| 1 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 7 | 4 | 9 |
| 4 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 0 |
| 0 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 6 |
| 3 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 0 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 9 |

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



**The Nitish Kumar**  
government is trying to buy out Dalits by offering them crumbs. It needs to be remembered that Dalits are not for sale  
DANISH RIZWAN | HINDUSTANI AWAM MORCHA(HAM) SPOKESMAN

**OPERATION VIJAY PRAHAR**

Troops of the Indian Army's South Western Command during 'Vijay Prahara' military exercise at Mahajan Field Firing Range near Bikaner in Rajasthan Wednesday



**of the day quote**

The BJP is using the killing of terrorists for political gains. It wants to grab power by doing politics over dead bodies. The SP will prevent the BJP from doing such politics  
**RAMGOVIND CHAUDHARY** | SAMAJWADI PARTY LEADER

The government misused the labour welfare fund for expansion of AAP cadre for which Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Deputy CM and Education Minister Manish Sisodia and Labour Minister Gopal Rai are directly responsible  
**MANOJ TIWARI** | DELHI BJP PRESIDENT

Congress has excelled in performance in the last five years, delivered on all pre-poll promises, and there is no anti-incumbency factor against it  
**M VEERAPPA MOILY** | CONGRESS LEADER

**SHORT TAKES**

**7 killed in tanker-car collision in Gujarat**  
**Vadodara:** Seven members of two families, including three children, were killed when a tanker collided with their car head-on in Gujarat's Chhotaudepur district in the early hours Wednesday, the police said. The members of the two families, all from Dhar district in Madhya Pradesh, were going to Vadodara for the treatment of a child. Around 6 am, a tanker coming from the opposite direction hit their vehicle.

**Chardham Yatra resumes**

**Dehradun:** A day after snowfall in the higher reaches of Uttarakhand disrupted the Chardham Yatra and claimed the life of a porter, the pilgrimage resumed Wednesday as the weather cleared up and traffic restored along the main routes. The Chardham Yatra comprises the Himalayan shrines of Kedarnath, Badrinath, Gangotri and Yamunotri.

**Minor set afire for not sharing number**

**Varanasi:** Enraged over a girl's refusal to share her mobile despite his repeated requests, a man allegedly set his minor Dalit neighbour on fire at her house in Faraha village in Azamgarh district, police said Wednesday. The incident took place Tuesday. Shai first allegedly thrashed her and then set her afire. The victim has sustained over 80 per cent burns.

**Dalit youth shot dead by lover's father**

**Muzaffarnagar (UP):** A Dalit youth was shot dead allegedly by the father of a girl he was in love with at Bachan Singh colony here, the police said Wednesday. Vikas (18) was called by accused Anil Kumar Gupta to the latter's house Tuesday, SP(City) Ombir Singh said. The accused then shot the boy dead as he was opposed to his daughter's relationship with the victim. Gupta was later arrested.

**Green licence plates for e-vehicles**

**New Delhi:** To promote electric vehicles in India, the government has approved green licence plates bearing numbers in white fonts for private e-vehicles and yellow for taxis, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said Wednesday.

**9 killed in thunderstorm**

**Lucknow:** A thunderstorm lashed parts of western Uttar Pradesh Wednesday, killing nine people and injuring four others a week after a freak weather system had battered the region. Four people died in Etawah district, three in Mathura and one in Agra in mishaps related to this evening's thunderstorm. Another death was reported earlier in the evening from Hathras district, where a 15-year-old boy was struck by lightning. A hailstorm also struck Hathras in the evening. A tree fell on a house in Agra's Etmadpur area, killing one person.

**CONSIDER IF ASI IS NEEDED AT TAJ MAHAL, SC TO CENTRE**

PRSS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 9:** The Supreme Court Wednesday came down heavily on the Archeological Survey of India for its failure to take appropriate steps to protect and preserve of the iconic Taj Mahal. The apex court also expressed concern over the historic monument being infected by insects and asked the authorities, including ASI, what steps they have taken to prevent this. "This situation would not have

arisen if the ASI would have done its job. We are surprised with the way the ASI is defending itself. You (Centre) please consider if the ASI is needed there or not," a bench of Justices MB Lokur and Deepak Gupta told Additional Solicitor General ANS Nadkarni, who was appearing for the Centre.

Nadkarni told the bench that the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) was considering the apex court's suggestion to appoint international experts to look into the issue of protection and preser-



vation of the Taj Mahal. The counsel for ASI told the court that the problem of insects was due to stagnation of the water of river Yamuna. The top court has been moni-

toring developments in the area to protect the monument, built in 1631. The mausoleum is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The apex court had May 1 expressed concern over the changing colour of the Taj Mahal apparently due to pollution and rapped the government saying "perhaps you don't care."

Observing that the monument had earlier turned yellow and was now going brownish and greenish in colour, the apex court had pulled up the authorities for not tak-

ing appropriate steps to preserve and protect it.

It had asked the Centre to take the assistance of experts from India and abroad to first assess the damage and take steps to restore the 17th century white marble mausoleum.

While perusing the recent pictures, shown by petitioner and environmentalist MC Mehta, the bench had observed, "This is now becoming the eighth wonder of the world."

The petitioner had said the au-

thorities have not complied with the apex court's directions due to which the condition of the monument has become horrible. He had said that besides change in its colour, there were patches on the marbles and recently a minaret had also fallen down.

The bench had observed that heads of countries and several dignitaries, including the Canadian Prime Minister, visiting India go to see the Taj and the court assumes that the authorities would want to preserve it.

**EC, law panel talks likely next week**

THE POLL PANEL HAS INVITED LAW PANEL CHIEF AND OTHER TOP OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE MAY 16

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 9:** The Election Commission and the Law Commission are likely to hold a brainstorming session next week on the road ahead for holding the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections together.

The poll panel has invited law panel chief Justice BS Chauhan (ret'd) and other top officials to discuss the issue May 16.

"Yes, we will discuss the issue of simultaneous polls with the EC as they are the one who are mandated to hold elections," said a law panel official.

The planned meeting comes days after the Law Commission issued a working paper on simultaneous polls. The law panel said simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and state Assemblies could be held in two phases beginning 2019, provided at least two provisions of the

**SIMULTANEOUS POLLS**



**CEC had a word of caution on simultaneous polls when he recently said the legal framework required for holding the elections together would take time to be readied**

Constitution were amended and ratified by a majority of the states. Some provisions of the Representation of the People Act would also have to be amended by a simple majority in Parliament, it said. According to the working paper, the second phase of simultaneous polls could take place in 2024.

The document has proposed amending the Constitution (Articles 83(2) and 172(1)) dealing with tenures of the Lok Sabha and the state Assemblies) and the Representation

of the People Act to extend the terms of state legislative Assemblies to effect the move.

It suggests that in case a government falls mid-term, the new government would be elected for the remaining period of that term, and not for a fresh five-year rule.

"As an abundant caution and in order to avoid a challenge (in the courts) to amendments on the ground of not having obtained ratification by majority of the states, such ratification could be

obtained for the proposed (constitutional) amendment," the working paper says.

The states which are recommended to be covered under phase I, with Assembly polls in 2021, include Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

States which will come under phase II include Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Delhi and Punjab. To hold elections in these states along with Lok Sabha polls, the terms of the Assemblies would have to be extended.

Based on a suggestion made by the Election Commission, the working paper also says that a no-confidence motion against the government should be followed by a confidence motion. This would ensure that if the Opposition does not have the numbers to form an alternative government, the regime in office cannot be removed.

**Death or injury while boarding or deboarding train 'Passenger entitled to compensation'**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 9:** Death or injury while boarding or deboarding a train is an untoward incident which entitles a passenger to compensation and will not be considered his negligence, the Supreme Court held Wednesday.

It also said that mere presence of a body on the railway premises would not be conclusive to hold that the injured or deceased was a bona fide passenger for seeking compensation.

The apex court, however, clarified that the absence of ticket will not negate the compensation and the onus will be on claimant to prove his case by providing requisite documents. "We hold that death

or injury in the course of boarding or de-boarding a train will be an 'untoward incident' entitling a victim to the compensation and will not fall under the proviso to Section 124A (suicide, self-inflicted injury) merely on the plea of negligence of the victim as a contributing factor," a bench comprising justices Adarsh Kumar Goel and Rohinton F Nariman said.

"The initial burden will be on the claimant which can be discharged by filing an affidavit of the relevant facts and the burden will then shift on the railways and the issue can be decided on the facts shown or the attending circumstances. This will have to be dealt with from case to case on the basis of facts found," it said. The judgement came on

an appeal filed by the Centre which had approached the apex court against Patna High Court order awarding a compensation of ₹4 lakh to the wife of a person who fell down from a train due to rush of passengers and died on the spot August 20, 2002.

The High Court had set aside the railway tribunal's order by taking into consideration the statement of an eye witness who had filed an affidavit stating that the deceased had purchased the ticket and had boarded the train.

The tribunal had dismissed the claim on the ground that it was not a case of "untoward incident" but a case of "run over" and that the deceased was not a bona fide passenger.

**CBI gets time to prosecute Lalu, others in IRCTC Case**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 9:** A Delhi court Wednesday granted three weeks to CBI to procure sanction from concerned authorities to prosecute an accused in a graft case against former Railway Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav, his wife Rabri Devi and son Tejashwi Yadav relating to the allotment of IRCTC hotels.

Special Judge Arvind Kumar directed the CBI to get the required nod by June 1 to prosecute Additional Member of Railway Board, BK Agarwal, who was then the group general manager of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).

The CBI, meanwhile, submitted various documents related to the case before the court. The agency had April 16 filed a charge sheet against two companies and 12 people in the case.

Besides Yadav and his family members, former union minister Prem Chand Gupta, his wife Sarla Gupta, Agarwal, then Managing Director of IRCTC PK Goyal and then IRCTC Director Rakesh Saxena, were also named in the charge sheet.

Others named in the charge sheet, include then group general managers of IRCTC VK Asthana and RK Goyal, Vijay Kochhar, Vinay Kochhar, both directors of Sujata Hotels and owners of Chanakya Hotel.

**Gender proof not must for PAN: I-T**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 9:** The Income Tax department Wednesday said those seeking a PAN card under the transgender category do not need to furnish any documents specifying their gender. Supporting documents will not be needed in the filing of fresh application or for those wishing to change their sex in an existing card, it clarified.

The department had on April 10 amended Income Tax (I-T) rules to allow members of the transgender community to be recognised as an independent category of applicants for a Permanent Account Number (PAN) needed for tax-related transactions and other functions. Till now, PAN application forms only specified two gender categories — male and female.

**TRANSGENDER CATEGORY**



The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) had effected the change in view of representations from the transgender community.

"New PAN allotment and change request applications with gender as transgender is allowed without hassle. Also, there is no requirement of depositing any supporting document for change of gender to transgender..." the department today said in an advisory.

CBDT in the notification issued in April, under sections 139A and

295 of the Income Tax Act, had specified the new application process for obtaining a PAN number by an individual.

"Individuals from the transgender community were facing hassles in obtaining a PAN card and this problem was further magnified as Aadhaar had the third gender category but not PAN. Hence, transgenders were not able to link their PAN with their Aadhaar due to this anomaly," a senior official said.

The amendments will now be reflected in Form 49A (PAN application form for Indian citizens) and 49AA (PAN application form for individuals not a citizen of India). The government has now made quoting of Aadhaar mandatory for filing income tax returns as well as obtaining a new PAN.

**Court refuses scribe's CBI custody, sends him to 14-days in jail**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 9:** A city court Tuesday sent journalist Upendra Rai, arrested for his alleged involvement in dubious financial transactions, to 14-day judicial custody after rejecting CBI's plea for his custody for five more days.

"I am rejecting your application," Special CBI Judge Santosh Snehi Mann said in response to the investigative agency's argument that the scribe's custodial interrogation was necessary to carry forward the investigation. The court thereafter sent him to judicial custody till May 23.

CBI counsel Manoj Shukla sought 5-day custody of Rai, saying certain new grounds had come up and the journalist was required to be confronted with them. It also said that the journalist's bank locker had to be searched for which his presence was required, but Rai's counsel argued that they could open the locker without his presence.

The CBI had May 3 arrested the Delhi-based scribe for allegedly indulging in dubious financial transactions and getting an airport access pass made by the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) by furnishing false information.

The court had earlier sent Rai to three-day CBI custody after the agency said several incriminating material were recovered during the probe and he has not been cooperating in the investigation.

**Justice Chelameswar declines SCBA farewell invite**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 9:** Justice J Chelameswar, the senior most judge of the Supreme Court who retires June 22, has declined an invitation from the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) for his farewell function citing personal reasons, SCBA office-bearers said.

Justice Chelameswar had recently courted controversy by holding a press conference along with other three senior most judges — Justices Ranjan Gogoi, MB Lokur



**Justice Chelameswar Wednesday did not come to the apex court for judicial work. This was the third consecutive Wednesday when he did not attend court**

and Kurian Joseph — January 12, in which litany of allegations were made against Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra.

SCBA president Vikas Singh said the bar body had met him last week to invite him for the farewell

May 18, which is the last working day of the Supreme Court before the summer vacation.

"He declined the invite for the farewell function," Singh said. He said the members of the executive committee of SCBA Wednesday

once again tried to persuade him to attend the farewell function but the judge did not agree citing personal reasons. The judge also told the members of the bar that he had not accepted a farewell earlier when he was moving out of the Andhra Pradesh High Court to another High Court.

SCBA honorary secretary Vikrant Yadav said the senior most judge Wednesday met the members of the bar at his residence, had a chat with them but declined the invite for his farewell. He said it is

a tradition that when a judge is retiring during the vacation, a farewell is thrown on the last working day before the holidays.

Justice Chelameswar Wednesday did not come to the apex court for judicial work. As a result, he also missed the traditional Wednesday lunch of the judges when one of them takes a turn to bring 'ghar ka khana' (home food) from his or her home state. This was the third consecutive Wednesday when Justice Chelameswar did not attend court.

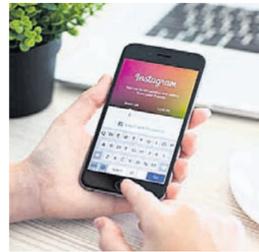


I believe that the decision to put the JCPOA at risk without any Iranian violation of the deal is a serious mistake

BARACK OBAMA | FORMER US PRESIDENT

## NOW BOOK TICKETS FROM INSTAGRAM

Users can now book tickets, order food, make appointments and reservations from Instagram itself as the photo and video sharing app rolled out "call-to-action buttons" for businesses



## of the day quote

We must take the recent momentum towards denuclearisation on the Korean peninsula and towards peace and security in Northeast Asia, and, cooperating even further with international society, make sure this is linked to concrete action by North Korea



SHINZO ABE | JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER

We remember the tragedies of the two world wars, about the lessons of history which do not allow us to become blind. The same old ugly traits are appearing along with new threats: egoism, intolerance, aggressive nationalism and claims to exceptionalism



VLADIMIR PUTIN | RUSSIAN PRESIDENT

We will remain committed to this agreement and will do everything to ensure that Iran complies with the deal



ANGELA MERKEL | CHANCELLOR OF GERMANY

## SHORT TAKES

### Multiple attacks on police stations kill 7

**Kabul:** At least seven people were killed and another 17 were wounded in multiple attacks on police districts in the Afghan capital Wednesday, officials said. According to police spokesman Hashmat Stanikzai, the first attack began with a blast when two militants equipped with arms and suicide vests targeted a police station in Police District 13 in Dashti Barchi locality at 11.30 a.m., *Xinhua news agency* reported. After hours of fighting, six people including two police personnel and two attackers were killed and nine others sustained injuries.

### Pak-Italian woman was strangled to death

**Islamabad:** A Pakistani-Italian woman who was killed in an alleged case of honour killing was strangled to death and did not die of natural causes, according to an autopsy report. The police arrested the victim Sana Cheema's brother, father and uncle after the submission of the report by the Punjab Forensics and Science Laboratory. It stated that Cheema's cervical bone was fractured, the *Express Tribune* reported Wednesday. The 26-year-old was murdered in her hometown of Mangowal for "honour".

### India sends relief for Rohingyas in B'desh

**Dhaka:** India has sent to Bangladesh its second relief consignment to help tens of thousands of displaced Rohingya Muslims who fled Myanmar following a military crackdown, triggering one of the world's worst refugee crises. Over 600,000 Rohingyas have fled Myanmar's violence-hit Rakhine state to neighbouring Bangladesh since August when the military intensified crackdown against alleged militant outfits of Rohingya Muslims.

### 5.5-magnitude quake hits Pakistan

**Islamabad:** An earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale hit the Pakistan capital here and parts of the northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and east Punjab provinces Wednesday, the *Met* said. The epicentre of the quake was located 20 km northwest of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Bannu district at a depth of 12 km, the meteorological department said on its website. No loss of life or property was reported, *Xinhua news agency* reported.

### Six killed in Indonesia prison riot

**Jakarta:** Six people have been killed in clashes between Indonesian police and Islamist militant prisoners at a high-security jail on the outskirts of the capital Jakarta, officials said. The jail in the Mobile Police Brigade (Brimob) headquarters in Depok houses high-risk terrorism convicts as well as Jakarta's former Governor Basuki Tjahaja Purnama also known as Ahok, *Efe news* reported.

## INDIA, CHINA MUST BE SENSITIVE: INDIAN ENVOY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Beijing, May 9:** Being sensitive to each other's interests and aspirations is the key to progressive India-China ties, Indian envoy Gautam Bambawale said here Wednesday.

In his first remarks after the unprecedented informal summit at Wuhan between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping last month, Ambassador Gautam Bambawale said, "I would like to see a resumption of military exchanges between India and China as well as strategic communication between our top military commanders". "This will be good for maintaining peace and tranquillity in the India-China border areas," he told the 8th India-China dialogue between Ananta Aspen Centre (AAC) and China Reform Forum (CRF).

### 9/11 mastermind wants to share info about Trump CIA pick

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New York, May 9:** The 9/11 attacks mastermind, who was allegedly tortured by the CIA after his arrest, has sought a US military judge's permission to share six paragraphs of information about President Donald Trump's nominee to head the spy agency ahead of her confirmation hearing.

Gina Haspel, 61, is currently serving as the Acting Director of the CIA after Mike Pompeo became the secretary of state. If confirmed by the Senate, Haspel would be the first female head of the top spy agency of the US.

She is facing tough questions from US lawmakers on her stance on torture ahead of her confirmation hearing for the post of CIA Director. Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, the principal architect of the September 11 attacks, was captured in March 2003 and tortured by the CIA, a report in *The New York Times* said.

He had asked a military judge at Guantanamo Bay for permission to share six paragraphs of information about Haspel with the Senate Intelligence Committee, the report said. Haspel is scheduled to appear before the panel for a confirmation hearing today.

## MUTUAL BENEFITS



His comments followed Modi and Xi issuing "strategic guidance" to their respective militaries to strengthen communication in order to build trust and mutual understanding and enhance predictability and effectiveness in the management of border affairs at the Wuhan summit. While emphasising the importance of the significance of candid talks at all levels, Bambawale significantly

An important principle in India-China relations is the necessity of being sensitive to the other country's aspirations and interests," Bambawale said

The dialogue between the two organisations was not held last year apparently due to the Doklam standoff

with the other side's point of view," he said. "I hope that such sensitivity will also be displayed in your discussions today. This is an important pre-requisite for moving forward in our bilateral ties," he said, pointing out that delegations at today's talks between AAC and CRF have "retired defence personnel in their composition". The dialogue between the two organisations was not held last year apparently due to the Doklam standoff. Referring to the Wuhan summit between Modi and Xi, he said, "both leaders spoke freely and frankly to each other on strategic and over-arching issues pertaining to the international and regional situations as well as on India-China relations". The summit April 27-28 was seen as an effort by India and China to rebuild trust and improve ties that were hit by the 73-day-long Doklam standoff.

observed that dialogue cannot make progress without the two sides empathising with each other's sensitivities and interests.

"An important principle in India-China relations is the necessity of being sensitive to the other country's aspirations and interests," Bambawale said. "In the absence of such sensitivity, we may talk to each other but little progress will be made if we do not empathise

## ROYAL WEDDING SOUVENIRS



Mugs commemorating the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle

REUTERS

## North Korea frees three US detainees

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Washington, May 9:** US President Donald Trump Wednesday said three American citizens jailed in North Korea have been released and are on their way back home, in a move seen as a goodwill gesture ahead of a historic summit between Trump and Kim Jong-un.

Trump tweeted that he would greet the men when they return Thursday with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who was in Pyongyang to arrange the planned talks. "I am pleased to inform you



Secretary of State Pompeo is in the air and on his way back from North Korea with the 3 wonderful gentlemen that everyone is looking so forward to meeting. They seem to be in good health," he tweeted.

He added that Pompeo had a "good meeting" with Kim and said

a date and place have been set for the meeting between the two leaders. The Americans, Kim Dong Chul, Kim Hak-song and Tony Kim, were able to "walk on the plane without assistance", the White House said. They had been jailed for anti-state activities and placed in labour camps, *CNN* reported.

While Kim Dong Chul had been in North Korean custody since 2015, the other two were arrested in 2017. Their convictions were widely condemned. Tony Kim and Kim Hak-song worked at the Pyongyang University of Science

and Technology, which bills itself as the only privately-run university in the North Korean capital.

Ahead of his visit, the second to North Korea in six weeks, the US Secretary of State said that he hoped North Korea would "do the right thing" and release the detainees. South Korea's presidential Blue House welcomed the release of the Americans, saying it would have a "positive effect" for upcoming negotiations. Blue House spokesman Yoon Youngchan also called upon the North to release six South Korean prisoners.

## QUICK READS

### Volcano prompts door-to-door evacuation

**Pahoa:** Police went door-to-door in Hawaii to roust residents near two new vents emitting dangerous gases in areas where lava has been pouring into streets and backyards for the past week. Authorities ordered nearly 2,000 residents to leave two communities in the mostly rural district of Puna on Hawaii's Big Island last Thursday. Some ignored the order and stayed to watch over their property. But yesterday, the emergence of the two new vents prompted Hawaii County to issue a cellphone alert ordering stragglers in Lanipuna Gardens to get out immediately. Police followed up with personal visits. "There were a number of people at their residences," Talmadge Magno, the administrator for Hawaii County Civil Defense, said at a news briefing.

### Russian paid Cohen: Stormy's lawyer

**Washington:** Stormy Daniels' lawyer said he has information showing that Michael Cohen, President Donald Trump's longtime personal attorney, received \$500,000 from a company associated with a Russian billionaire within months of paying hush money to Daniels, a porn star who claims she had an affair with Trump. Lawyer Michael Avenatti also said hundreds of thousands of dollars streamed into Cohen's account from companies, including pharmaceutical giant Novartis, AT&T and Korea Aerospace, with US government business interests. AT&T confirmed its connection Tuesday evening. Avenatti did not provide documents to support the claims and did not reveal the source of his information. But in a seven-page memo, Avenatti detailed what he said were wire transfers going into and out of the account Cohen used to pay Daniels \$130,000 in October 2016 to stay silent about her alleged affair with the soon-to-be president. Trump denies having an affair with Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford.

### Woman stoned to death in Somalia

**Mogadishu:** The Somalia-based extremist group al-Shabab said it stoned to death a woman accused of marrying 11 men. The al-Qaida-linked group's radio arm Andalus reported that the stoning was carried out Wednesday after an ad hoc al-Shabab court convicted the woman in Sablale town in Lower Shabelle region. The report said masked men stoned to death 30-year-old Shukri Abdullahi Warsame in a public square. The self-proclaimed judge said the woman had confessed to having secretly married 11 men in a row without seeking a divorce. Al-Shabab has been fighting for years to impose a strict version of Islam in the long-chaotic Horn of Africa nation. The group often executes suspected spies and people accused of adultery after convictions that human rights groups say lack the proper judiciary process.

### Brazil's first lady jumped into lake to rescue pet dog

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Brasilia, May 9:** Brazil's first lady Marcela Temer leapt fully clothed into a lake at the presidential palace to rescue her pet dog - then got roasted on social media. The 34-year-old former beauty queen jumped into the lake after her Jack Russell named Picolet went after some ducks but struggled to get back out.

Although the drama occurred April 22, it only became public this week. Brazilian media and Twitter wits mocked the first lady's heroics, making the incident a top trending topic late Monday. Given that her husband Michel Temer is the most unpopular president on record in Brazilian history, a leftist blogger Leonardo Stoppa joked that Marcela's aim was not to save the dog but the duck. "She despaired, because she saw one



of Temer's few voters," he said in a YouTube broadcast.

Michel Temer, who is more than four decades older than his wife and embroiled in multiple corruption investigations, took another hit from blogger Jose Simao, who tweeted: "Marcela's dog tried to commit suicide! It couldn't put up with Temer!" Referencing comparisons between Temer and vampires - a jibe that took center stage at this year's Rio carnival - one tweeter said he wasn't surprised Marcela cared so much about animals.

## How India, other Asian oil buyers will deal with US sanctions

REUTERS

**Washington/New Delhi, May 9:** Asia's petroleum refiners are seeking alternative supplies as they prepare for renewed US sanctions against major oil exporters amid a tight market.

Iran is the third-largest oil producer in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), which had recently ordered production cuts despite strong demand. The United States plans to impose new unilateral sanctions after abandoning the agreement, which

limited Iran's nuclear ambitions in exchange for removing joint US-Europe sanctions.

New sanctions will likely include measures against Iran's oil and shipping sectors, said Ehsan Khoman, head of research for Middle East and North Africa at Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, with 180 days for those industries to adjust. "By declaring... the US will be instituting the highest level of sanctions against Iran - adding that any country that aids Iran will also be sanctioned - President Trump is clearly articulating that he has min-



imal desire in an alternative agreement with Iran," Khoman said. During the last round of sanctions, Iran's oil supplies fell by around 1

million barrels per day (bpd), but the country re-emerged as a major oil exporter after sanctions were lifted in January 2016.

### China and India

The biggest single buyer of Iran's crude is China, whose imports peaked at about 900,000 bpd in mid-2016 but have dropped to around 600,000 bpd in 2018, according to Thomson *Reuters* ship-tracking data. A senior official with a Chinese oil major, who declined to be named because he is not authorised to speak to the media, said new sanctions would hurt Chinese refiners by pushing up the price of crude oil, the most important feedstock for the petroleum industry. After Trump's decision to walk away from the

Iran deal, Brent crude futures, the international benchmark for oil prices, rose to their highest level since November 2014 Wednesday, at \$76.75 per barrel. In India, refiners hope they can continue importing Iranian oil. During the last round of sanctions, India enjoyed waivers allowing limited Iranian oil imports paid for in rupees instead of US dollars. "The impact (of new sanctions) in India will be there, but not so high," said R. Ramchandran, head of refineries at state-owned oil firm Bharat Petroleum Corp.



**Immediately there will be no impact of the US backing out of the Iran deal. But we have to wait and watch how the European block reacts**

A K SHARMA | DIRECTOR (FINANCE) OF IOC

## MARUTI SUZUKI LAUNCHES VITARA BREZZA AUTOMATIC

Maruti Suzuki India Wednesday launched its compact sports utility vehicle Vitara Brezza with auto gear shift technology priced between ₹8.54 lakh and ₹10.49 lakh. The variants are in addition to the model's manual transmission trims



## of the day quote

We have enhanced its (Vitara Brezza's) allure to meet aspirations of our young customers. They now have the option of AGS, the acclaimed two-pedal technology, for enhanced convenience



R S KALSI | MSi SENIOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (MARKETING AND SALES)

This quarter's profit number are not comparable as last year we had a one-time hit of ₹145 crore after we sold NPAs worth ₹680 crore



KAILASH BAHETI | CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, MAGMA FINCORP

The consumer need for breakfast choices is only growing and companies need to bring more options to satisfy this need. We are therefore pleased to be introducing Nestle Breakfast Cereals in India. This business complements our current portfolio by combining our expertise in food and this category, globally



SURESH NARAYANAN | CMD, NESTLE INDIA

## SHORT TAKES

### NCLAT allows Bhushan to consider Liberty bid

**New Delhi:** The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) Wednesday allowed the committee of creditors for Bhushan Power and Steel Ltd to consider the resolution plans submitted before it and arrive at a decision with respect to a successful bidder. An NCLAT bench headed by Justice SJ Mukhopadhyay was hearing an appeal moved by Tata Steel, one of the bidders in the race to acquire debt-ridden Bhushan Power and Steel, against a National Company Law Tribunal order directing the CoC to consider UK-based Liberty House's resolution plan and "take (an) appropriate commercial decision".

### Airtel may plan Africa unit IPO in debt cut

**Mumbai:** Bharti Airtel Ltd. is looking to pare \$4.6 billion from its net borrowings over the next three years by listing its African unit and potentially selling some stake in its tower business, according to a person with knowledge of the matter, in a bid to safeguard its investment grade ratings. India's top wireless operator plans to raise as much as \$1.5 billion by listing a quarter of equity in its Africa unit by early 2019 in either London or South Africa. The parent will also look to sell part of its stake in the \$14.6 billion tower giant after Bharti Infratel Ltd. merges with Indus Towers Ltd.

### TANISHQ FLOATS SAVITRI OFFER

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 9:** Leading jewellery retail brand Tanishq has floated its offer for Savitri. The company, which successfully concluded a customer meet, announced offers to lure customers not only to avail the benefits of purchasing ornaments but also other benefits like zero deduction in exchange of old gold jewellery and various discounts on making charges. Savitri is a festival in which women observe a fast for their husbands and offer gifts while breaking the fast after offering a prayer to goddesses Savitri.

"Like every year this year too we have various offers clubbed with special offers of 0.2 gram of gold coin free on every purchase of 10 grams of gold jewellery or ₹10,000 of diamond jewellery," Manik Hans, proprietor head of Tanishq, said in an official release.

Customers can avail this offer only within the period between May 12 and 13 across all Tanishq outlets in Odisha.

"We understand the emotions and sentiments of our customers linked with jewellery and festivals and strive to be a part of their celebrations by providing them best-in-class jewellery and an unmatched retail experience. Tanishq offers plain gold and studded jewellery in over 5000 traditional, western and fusion looks, leaving customers spoilt for choice," the official added.

He also said Tanishq has added various collections for customers with Rivaah – a complete wedding range.

## I WALMART-FLIPKART DEAL

# Salute to the success of Indian start-up

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Despite several teething troubles, hats off to Indian entrepreneurs, especially those of the 'first generation'. For them, it is no-holds barred. Great spirit of enterprise



D S RAWAT | ASOCHAM SECRETARY GENERAL

This is a great time for someone to become an entrepreneur in India and success stories like this will only boost their confidence



V BALAKRISHNAN | FORMER CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, INFOSYS

**Hyderabad, May 9:** Industry body ASSOCHAM sees the Walmart-Flipkart deal as a salute to the success of the Indian start-up that pioneered the fledgling online retailing in a country where bulk of the trade is in the unorganised sector.

"Isn't it so great that a start-up goes on to fetch an enterprise valuation of about USD 21 billion, making the Walmart equity infusion the largest ever FDI into India", ASSOCHAM Secretary General D S Rawat said. "Despite several teething troubles, hats off to Indian entrepreneurs, especially those of the 'First Generation'. For them, it is no-holds barred. Great spirit of enterprise," he said.

Rawat also said the roll out of the online retailing has also meant formalisation of the Indian economy and a new ecosystem that rewards entrepreneurship.

Former Chief Financial Officer



of Infosys Ltd V Balakrishnan said it was a great validation of the potential of Indian consumer market as well as the evolving startup ecosystem. Large exits like this is very important to attract more and more talent and capital into the Indian startup ecosystem, he said.

"This is a great time for someone to become an entrepreneur in India and success stories like this will only boost their confidence", he said. "Having said that, it is also sad

to see foreign companies dominating the ecommerce marketplace in India which is one of the largest in the world", Balakrishnan said. He expressed hope that the deal would entice more Indian capital to be invested in "our startup ecosystem". The US retailer Walmart Inc acquired 77 per cent stake in Flipkart for about USD 16 billion in its biggest acquisition till date. The deal values the 11-year old Indian e-commerce firm at USD 20.8 billion.

## Paradip sees growth in cargo handling

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 9:** The Ministry of Shipping Wednesday claimed that the Paradip port in Odisha has registered growth in handling cargo traffic in the month of April compared to its corresponding figures last year.

In a release Wednesday, the ministry claimed that most of the major ports of India including Paradip have witnessed growth in cargo traffic including Kolkata (Haldia included), Paradip, Visakhapatnam, Kamarajar, Chennai, Cochin, New Mangalore, Jawahar Lal Nehru Port Terminal and Deendayal.

The ministry said the highest growth was registered by Kolkata (12.56 per cent), followed by Kamarajar (12.08 per cent), New Mangalore (11.41 per cent), Paradip (11.12 per cent) and Chennai (7.55 per cent). Paradip alone had this April handled 8.15 million tonne cargo traffic (14.35 per cent share in the country).

# ArcelorMittal hires BoA to sell European assets

## STEEL GIANT TO SELL ASSETS TO SECURE ANTITRUST CLEARANCE

AGENCIES

**London, May 9:** The world's largest steelmaker ArcelorMittal has hired Bank of America-Merrill Lynch to sell a number of its steel assets to secure antitrust clearance to acquire Italian peer Ilva.

ArcelorMittal offered in March to sell its galvanized steel plant in Italy, as well as units in Romania, Macedonia, the Czech Republic, Luxembourg and Belgium as a concession to EU regulators for its 1.8 billion (\$2.15 billion) bid for Ilva. ArcelorMittal said Wednesday that it had appointed Bank of America-ML to handle the asset sale.

European and Asian steelmakers will be among the likely buy-



ers as the European Commission has said the steel plants would be sold to buyers who would continue to operate them, allowing them to compete with ArcelorMittal. The EU antitrust watchdog decided to clear Arcelor's offer Tuesday, after seeking feedback from rivals and customers on the concessions. Concerns were ini-

tially raised that the deal may reduce competition in some flat carbon steel products and result in higher prices for customers in southern Europe.

Global steel equity values have more than doubled since hitting 12-year lows in early 2016 at the depth of a steel sector crisis that resulted in job losses, bankruptcies and capacity closures worldwide.

The ArcelorMittal takeover of Ilva, Europe's largest steel plant with 11 million tonne capacity, is expected to improve the pricing power of EU steelmakers in the longer term by reducing the number of sellers in the market. Steel majors Tata Steel and ThyssenKrupp agreed in 2017 to combine their European steel assets.

# Hiring activity sees 21% rise in April: Study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 9:** Hiring activity registered a 21 per cent rise in April this year, mainly driven by growth in the auto sector and the market is expected to stay cautiously optimistic in the months to come, says a report.

The Naukri JobSpeak Index for April 2018 stood at 2,139 marks, showing a 21 per cent rise in hiring activity in comparison to the same month last year.

"The rise is on the back of 11 per cent slump in hiring activity experienced in April 2017 due to the impact of macroeconomic factors on the job market," the report released by Naukri.com said Wednesday.

"The Job Speak index contin-



ues to surge ahead and move north with a 21 per cent YOY growth in April. This positive sentiment is line with our earlier predictions and the growth observed in the first three months of 2018.

"This heralds a good start to the new financial year with growth

across sectors. This signals positivity and we expect the market to stay cautiously optimistic in the months to come," said V Suresh, Chief Sales Officer, Naukri.com.

The report further said that 2018 has started on a strong note. Major industries which witnessed double

# HOT MONEY RISKS RISE WITH 'BOND TOURISTS'

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, May 9:** A series of measures from the central bank to lure foreign buyers into the country's short-term debt market could easily backfire, investors fear, exposing the economy to volatile "hot money" flows.

The Reserve Bank of India lifted (RBI) a restriction limiting foreign investors to buying bonds with three years or more to maturity and also gave them access to short-term sovereign treasury bills.

The RBI's lifting of the maturity restriction came after government bonds tanked when sovereign bond auctions failed to attract many buyers, followed by a spike in yields when surprisingly hawkish minutes of a monetary policy meeting raised fears of the RBI hiking interest rates.



The new rules have stoked fears of an influx of "bond tourists" and the associated rapid-fire switching in and out of short-term debt by foreign traders.

Such volatile flows could make India's financial markets more vulnerable at a time when the rupee has been the worst performer in the region, high oil prices are driving up the current account deficit, and interest rates could soon rise on heightened inflation risks, investors said.

2018 has started on a strong note. Major industries which witnessed double digit growth in their hiring activity for April 2018 as compared to same month last year are auto, construction and engineering, banking and financial services and IT

digit growth in their hiring activity for the month of April 2018 as compared to same month last year are auto (44 per cent), construction and engineering (34 per cent), banking and financial services (29

per cent) and IT (20 per cent).

The positive hiring sentiment ran across key cities. Chennai, Delhi, Bangalore and Mumbai saw 25 per cent, 24 per cent, 17 per cent and 17 per cent growth in hiring, respectively. "Unlike 2018, in the year 2017 the economic reforms led to unpredictable nature of the job market and the difference is reflected in the index numbers for April this year (2,139) and April last year (1,788)," the report said.

The Naukri JobSpeak Index for the months of January, February and March of 2018 indicated a consistent demand for entry-level job-seekers (0.3 year experience). This trend continued with a growth of 6 per cent in April 2018 when compared with April 2017.

per cent) and IT (20 per cent).

## BAD-LOAN CLEANUP

# Cheaper overseas loans cheer for banks

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, May 9:** India's banks are getting syndicated loans at razor-thin interest rates from international lenders amid signs the country is moving towards cleaning up \$210 billion of non-performing assets.

Axis Bank Ltd., IndusInd Bank Ltd., State Bank of India and Yes Bank Ltd. are among those reaping the benefits of cheaper funds as confidence in the world's fastest-growing major economy increases. Indian banks have raised 77 per cent more in foreign-currency loans this year than in the same period of 2017, even as such lending overall to all Indian borrowers slumped, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

Indian banks will have cleaner balance sheets and stronger credit profiles in the long run as a result of the central bank's multi-year push to recognize problem assets more accurately, Moody's Investors Service said in a report this month. The country's economic growth increased 7.2 per cent in the October-December quarter, the quickest in more than a year.

"There is good demand for high-quality loans from Indian banks as the sovereign macro story remains strong," said Manmohan Singh, head of banking at the Indian unit of Bank of Nova Scotia. "International investors and lenders are taking comfort from the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, which is working well."

India's bankruptcy courts are dealing with the nation's 40 largest bad loan accounts, whose resolution is key for local lenders to clean up their books.

Strengthening sentiment has increased access to the offshore loan markets for investment-grade domestic lenders. After raising the country's sovereign rating in November for the first time in 14 years, Moody's also upgraded three lenders including State Bank of India and Indian Railway Finance Corp., the funding unit of the state-owned rail network.



## RICH PICKINGS

INDIAN BANKS HAVE RAISED 77 PER CENT MORE IN FOREIGN-CURRENCY LOANS THIS YEAR THAN IN THE SAME PERIOD OF 2017

AXIS BANK, INDUSIND BANK, STATE BANK OF INDIA AND YES BANK ARE AMONG THOSE REAPING THE BENEFITS OF CHEAPER FUNDS

State Bank is seeking a new \$750 million borrowing, after getting \$2 billion of syndicated loans last year. The nation's largest lender paid a margin of 105 basis points a five-year borrowing signed in September, five basis points less than facilities in October 2016 and December 2015.

"Pricing on Indian offshore loans seems to have bottomed out," said Mumbai-based Singh at Scotiabank. Underwriters and borrowers need to be "watchful" as there may be resistance from participating lenders at current levels, he said.

IndusInd Bank's \$500 million loan signed last month pays a margin of 80 basis points over Libor, 10 basis points lower than a comparable facility in August. Yes Bank launched a \$300 million three-year loan in January, after raising \$400 million from two transactions in 2017. It already cut spreads on its five-year loan in November by 10 basis points to 120 basis points compared with September 2016.

"Some of the deals were arranged, structured and priced at the back end of 2017 with syndication then taking place this year, so in that sense, they are lagging indicators of loan market appetite," said Andrew Ashman, head of loan syndicate for Asia Pacific at Barclays Bank Plc in Singapore.

# 'India world's fastest growing economy in 2018'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**United Nations, May 9:** The International Monetary Fund (IMF) reaffirmed Wednesday that India will be the fastest growing major economy in 2018, with a growth rate of 7.4 per cent that rises to 7.8 per cent in 2019 with medium-term prospects remaining positive.

The IMF's Asia and Pacific Regional Economic Outlook report said that India was recovering from the effects of demonetisation and the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax and "the recovery is expected to be underpinned by a rebound from transitory shocks as well as robust private consumption."

Medium-term consumer price index inflation "is forecast to remain within but closer to the upper bound of the Reserve Bank of India's inflation-targeting band of four per cent with a plus or minus two per cent change, the report said.

However, it added a note of caution: "In India, given increased inflation pressure, monetary policy should maintain a tightening bias."

It said the consumer price increase in 2017 was 3.6 per cent and projected it to be five per cent in 2018 and 2019.

"The current account deficit in fiscal year 2017-18 is expected to widen somewhat but should remain modest, financed by robust foreign direct investment inflows," the report said. After India, Bangladesh is projected to be the fastest-growing economy in South Asia with growth rates of seven per cent for 2018 and 2019; Sri Lanka is projected to grow at four per cent in 2018 and 4.5 in 2019, and Nepal 5 per cent in 2018 and four per cent in the next.

# KATRINA -ALIA COLD WAR DENIED

Can Alia Bhatt and Katrina Kaif ever stop inspiring us? These Bollywood besties sure know how to put all rumours to rest in true style. While one may assume that they are exchanging cold vibes courtesy Ranbir Kapoor, there's nothing like that. These BFFs were clicked at Sonam Kapoor and Anand Ahuja's reception party in Mumbai and no, there was no animosity whats over.

Many speculated that Katrina was upset with her once upon a time best friend, Alia Bhatt thanks to her proximity with her ex beau, Ranbir. The Brahmastra pair made headlines when Manish Malhotra predicted that they will hook up in 2018. Soon rumours of them being an item started surfacing. And if the recent pictures are anything to go by, one can definitely assume that they are fond of each other. Frequent appearances together, the recent one being their arrival together at Sonam's reception, has only added fuel



to these gossip stories. But just in case you thought Katrina would be affected by it then, hey, you are so wrong! The actress, in fact, was happily posing with the Raazi actress at the reception bash and the picture is enough to put all rumours to rest. Nothing has really changed between the actresses and we hope their bond stays the same in future too.

Earlier, Alia was vocal about her friendship with the Tiger Zinda Hai actress, and spoke at length about their bond. She had said, "I've known Katrina for a couple of years now. We've got to know each other organically. It all happened when Kat and I started spending time in the gym. Today, she's someone who I can say is my friend. I know I can count on

her when I'm in trouble and she can count on me, for sure. She's got my back and I've got hers." The ones who think actresses can only indulge in catfights, should certainly take a look at Alia-Kat.

AGENCIES



# Katy, Taylor resolve row

After a nearly five-year feud, singers Taylor Swift and Katy Perry are ready to put their differences aside.

Swift, 28, shared an Instagram Stories clip of a good luck card she received from Perry, 33, on the opening night of her "Reputation" stadium tour. Enclosed along with the note was an actual olive branch, officially ending the pop duo's long-simmering rift.

"Hey old friend," the note appears to read. "I've been doing some thinking on past miscommunications and feelings between us and wanted to clear the air." The words "deeply

sorry" are visible as well. "Thank you Katy" Swift captioned the video, adding a double-heart emoji.

Swift and Perry were once friends, and exchanged happy tweets. However, their feud goes back to 2014, when Swift told Rolling Stone magazine that her new song *Bad Blood* was inspired by a female artist who had stabbed her in the back.

Perry had hit back with a track titled *Swish Swish*, and also addressed her issues with Swift during a 2017 *Carpool* Karaoke segment with James Corden.

AGENCIES



# John 'honoured' to work with Manoj



Actor John Abraham says it was an honour for him to work with National Award-winner Manoj Bajpayee in *Satyameva Jayate*.

John recently tweeted a photograph of himself along with Manoj and wrote: "So much fun and an honour working with Manoj Bajpayee. It's a wrap for you and my work starts now. Thank you Avinash Gowariker for the picture! *Satyameva Jayate*."

Manoj replied by saying that he misses

working with John and being on the set.

"Likewise brother! Missing being on the set with you all already. Good luck with all the fists and the kicks," he wrote.

The film will release August 15. *Satyameva Jayate* promises intense action and power-packed dialogues. It is produced by Bhushan Kumar of T-Series and Nikkhil Advani of Emmay Entertainment.

AGENCIES

# Suppandi inspires Anushka's new fashion line

Remember Suppandi, the popular character from the Tinkle comics universe? In an effort to popularise Indian pop culture and celebrate it globally, actress Anushka Sharma has sought design inspiration from Suppandi for the spring-summer collection line of her label NUSH.

For Anushka, reading comics was an integral part of her growing up years. Suppandi, who was presented as a well-meaning village simpleton inadvertently caught up in everyday adventures, was one of her favourite characters. NUSH and Tinkle Comics have collaborated on this endeavour to bring out a cool and comfortable fashion collection, comprising tops and dresses.

The actress will actively promote the Suppandi clothing line not just in India but globally.

"While we celebrate the *Avengers* or *Mickey Mouse* from the West, images of Suppandi will re-ignite fond recollections of childhood for many people," Anushka said in a statement.

"Suppandi was my (imaginary) buddy as I would gobble up comics featuring him on lazy summer afternoons. I wanted to flesh out his place in our happy childhood memories with the brand's summer collection, and we have worked at retaining the simple, comfortable element of Suppandi in his line," she added.

AGENCIES



# DEEPIKA'S 'METGALA' LOOK WOWS RANVEER

Deepika Padukone made her second appearance at the utterly famous Met Gala this year. She wore a red Prabal Gurung number which made heads turn at the fashionable event. Later, the actress received a polarising response to her outing. But we know that Deepika gives two hoots about the haters. She has said in an interview that she only cares about what her loved ones have to say about her fashion choices. And well, she just got a huge thumbs up from her boyfriend, Ranveer Singh. The actor was found stalking Deepika's Instagram just like us. On her picture with the Met Gala look, his comment could be found saying, "Uff Yaar", of course, followed by a heart emoji.

On the second Instagram post, where Deepika explains how her outfit goes with this year's Met Gala theme - Heavenly Bodies - Ranveer shared his love and support for her. He wrote, "Grace and poise". Okay, that has got to be boyfriend goals, right?

Ranveer and Deepika were last seen in this year's biggest and most controversial hit *Padmaavat*. The movie was directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali.

AGENCIES



**Cristiano Ronaldo who scored Sunday for Real Madrid against Barcelona has equalled the record of the legendary Alfredo de Stefano. The latter had 18 goals in Clásico against Barcelona, the most by any Real player. Sunday, Ronaldo became the second man to score 18 goals against Barca**

**ARDENT ADMIRER**

KL Rahul's feat with the bat has got him a fan from across the border. After Rahul scored a 70-ball unbeaten 95 in a losing cause Tuesday for KXIP against RR, Pak anchor Zainab Abbas took to Twitter and said: "KL Rahul, impressive, superb timing, great to watch"



**SHORT TAKES**

**FIFA fines Russia for racial abuse before WC**

**Geneva:** Five weeks before the World Cup kicks off, FIFA has fined the Russian soccer federation 30,000 Swiss francs because fans racially abused France players during a friendly game played in St Petersburg. Monkey chants were aimed at black players, including Paul Pogba, during France's 3-1 win over Russia at a marquee stadium which will host seven World Cup games. FIFA said its disciplinary panel noted 'the gravity of the incident but also the limited number of fans involved'. Hence the fine was small in amount.

**Neuer himself in doubt over WC participation**

**Berlin:** Bayern Munich coach Jupp Heynckes said Wednesday Manuel Neuer will not play again for the club this season while the goalkeeper has poured serious doubt on his World Cup chances. "I do not think it's imaginable that I go into such a tournament without match practice," Neuer said at an event Tuesday night. Neuer, 32, has been sidelined by a fractured foot since September and is running out of time to be fit in time for Germany's opening World Cup match June 17 against Mexico in Moscow. With Heynckes ruling out Neuer's inclusion, it means the goalkeeper will get only two friendly games before the World Cup. However, coach Joachim Loew said Neuer will be in his provisional to be announced Tuesday.

**Konta confident Murray will recover before SW19**

**Madrid:** Johanna Konta is hoping that fellow Briton Andy Murray will be in action at this year's Wimbledon despite media reports claiming that the Scot has suffered a setback in his recovery from hip surgery. Murray, 30, has not played a competitive match since losing to Sam Querrey in the Wimbledon quarterfinals last July and had an operation on the hip at the start of the year after rest and recuperation failed to resolve the issue. "I still hope he can (come back as planned)," Konta told reporters here Wednesday. "I am sure he will do so, because he has a very good support team and from what I know, recovery is on schedule, I guess."

**Atletico slam Barcelona for chasing Griezmann**

**Madrid:** Atletico Madrid chief Miguel Angel Gil Marin attacked Barcelona officials Tuesday over their pursuit of highly-prized striker Antoine Griezmann and said he was 'fed up' with the Catalan club's attitude. Marin issued his strongly worded rebuke hours after a Spanish radio station reported that Barcelona were poised to pay the French international's 100 million-euro release clause. The Atletico CEO said the club's stance was very clear. "Not once have we negotiated for Griezmann nor do we have any intention to do so," he said. "A few months ago, I personally expressed to Barcelona's president that our player isn't for sale. Hence we're fed up with Barcelona's attitude."

**Noble gesture**

**New Delhi:** The Delhi Daredevils (DD) squad, including Gautam Gambhir, Mohammad Shami and Prithvi Shaw, pledged Wednesday to donate their organs in an effort to raise awareness around the cause at an event here. "I want to request everyone to become an organ donor. I myself am one. The ability to help someone live a better life - there is no better feeling than this," said Gambhir who has already pledged to donate his organs. "Organ donation reflects humanity's capability to give another life after we have lived our own. It is an initiative which is very close to my heart and I urge everyone to become an organ donor," Gambhir added.

**Extradition order upheld**

**Asuncion:** A Paraguayan appeals court has upheld Tuesday a decision to extradite the former president of the South American football confederation (CONMEBOL) Nicolas Leoz to the United States to face corruption charges. A three-judge panel ratified a November court ruling that paved the way for Leoz's extradition to face accusations that he accepted bribes for broadcast and marketing rights. Leoz's defence lawyers said they planned to appeal the decision in the country's Supreme Court very soon. The 89-year-old has been under house arrest since mid-2015 when he was among dozens of football officials indicted by the US justice department as part of a wide-ranging football graft probe. Leoz was CONMEBOL president for 27 years before resigning in 2013 due to ill health.

**PRANEETH, SAMEER REGISTER CONTRASTING VICTORIES**

**MIXED DAY FOR INDIAN SHUTTLERS**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Sydney, May 9:** Indian shuttlers started on a positive note at the Australian Open badminton tournament with second seed B Sai Praneeth and fourth seed Sameer Verma progressing to the second round of the men's singles here, Wednesday.

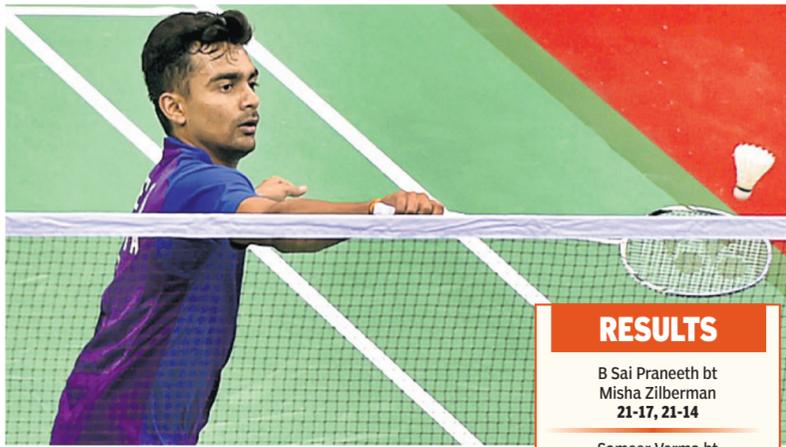
While Praneeth beat Israel's Misha Zilberman in straight games 21-17, 21-14, Sameer had to toil hard to get the better of New Zealand's Abhinav Manota 13-21, 21-17 21-12 in the opening round of the HSBC BWF World Tour Super 300 event.

Sameer's brother, Sourabh, however, suffered a hard-fought 19-21, 21-17, 21-12 defeat at the hands of Japan's Takuma Ueda.

It was curtains for unseeded Ajay Jayaram too despite offering a valiant fight before going down 20-22, 22-20, 21-17 to Japan's Riichi Takeshita in a pulsating contest that lasted for 72 minutes. In the last game it was clear that Jayaram had run out of steam.

Other lesser-known Indians, who fell by the wayside in men's singles first round, were Karan Rajan Rajarajan, losing 15-21, 8-21 against Sony Dwi Kuncoro of Indonesia and tennage sensation Lakshya Sen who bowed out with a 20-22, 21-13, 19-21 defeat against Chong Yee Lee of Hong Kong.

In the absence of big names like Saina Nehwal and PV Sindhu, Jakka Vaishnavi Reddy was the



Sameer Verma had to fight hard to overcome his opponent at the Australian Open badminton tournament at Sydney, Wednesday

lone Indian player to progress to the women's singles second round after she defeated England's Georgina Bland 19-21, 21-15, 21-15 in a tough opening contest.

It turned out to be a good day for the Indians in the men's doubles competition as the pairs of third-seeded Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Reddy and seventh seeds Arjun MR and Ramchandran Shlok advanced to the next round with easy wins over their Australian rivals.

While Manu and Sumeeth defeated Lukas Defolky and Michael

Fariman 21-11, 21-10, Arjun and Ramchandran scored a comfortable 21-7, 21-15 win over Raymond Tam and Eric Vuong in their respective tournament-openers.

However, the other Indian pair of Francis Alwin and K Nandgopal, seeded eighth, trailed 28-30, 8-7 before conceding their first round match midway.

The only Indian pair to feature in the women's doubles, Meghana Jakkampudi and Poorvisha S Ram also advanced with a comfortable 21-10, 21-16 win over Australia's Maggie Chan and Jodee Vega.

**RESULTS**

B Sai Praneeth bt Misha Zilberman **21-17, 21-14**

Sameer Verma bt Abhinav Manota **13-21, 21-17, 21-12**

Lakshya Sen lost to Chong Yee Lee **20-22, 21-13, 19-21**

Ajay Jayaram lost to Riichi Takeshita **22-20, 20-22, 17-21**

Karan Rajan Rajarajan lost to Sony Dwi Kuncoro **15-21, 8-21**

Jakka Vaishnavi Reddy bt Georgina Bland **19-21, 21-15, 21-15**

**THOMAS AND UBER CUP**

**Nehwal, Prannoy lead India's charge**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 9:** Saina Nehwal and current men's World No.8 HS Prannoy will lead India's charge at the upcoming edition of the BWF Thomas and Uber Cup, to be played, May 20 to 27 in Bangkok.

PV Sindhu, Kidambi Srikanth and doubles specialist Ashwini Ponappa have been rested for the tournament keeping in mind the hectic schedule they have to follow this season. Also all the three are suffering from minor injuries. Other than Prannoy, the other members of the men's team are B Sai Praneeth, Sameer Verma and Lakshay Sen. In the women's contest, Saina will be accompanied by Vaishnavi Jakka Reddy, Sai Krishna Priya, Anura Prabhu and Vaishnavi Bhale in the singles competition of the Uber Cup.

The experienced duo of Sumeeth Reddy and Manu Attri along with World No 43, Shlok Ramachandran, MR Arjuna and the pair of Sanyam Shukla and Arun George will be responsible to drive India in the doubles category of the Thomas Cup.

J Meghana, Poorvisha Ram, Prajakta Sawant and Sanyogita Ghorpade will lead the challenge in the women's doubles competition of Uber Cup.

"We have decided to give oppor-



Saina Nehwal

tunity to young and aspiring talents along with our experienced players so that they not only gain valuable exposure they will also have the experience to play alongside the top players," Himanta Biswa Sarma, president of Badminton Association of India, said.

"While selecting the squad, we have considered the performance of the players at the domestic level and those who have excelled in the national circuit have been given the opportunity to show their talent at the highest level," he added.

The continental tournament will see India taking on France in the opening rubber, followed by Australia and China in the Thomas Cup while the women's team, a bronze medal winner in the last edition, will take on Canada in the first tie followed by Australia and Japan.

**Boof dons new CA coat**

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Melbourne, May 9:** Forced to step down as Australia's coach owing to the ball-tampering scandal, Darren Lehmann will now groom young talent as part of a national performance programme (NPP) here, Cricket Australia (CA) announced Wednesday. In his new role, Lehmann will work under CA's NPP head coach Troy Cooley.

Lehmann, who worked with the national cricket Centre in Brisbane before taking charge of the national team, will oversee the development of the national performance squad (NPS) over the winter months alongside Cooley, Ryan Harris and Chris Rogers.

The 48-year-old Lehmann was appointed as head coach of Australia till 2019, but was forced to resign midway through his tenure following the Cape Town ball-tampering fiasco in March, despite being cleared of any wrongdoing.

According to CA, Lehmann will now work in his new position until October. "I had a good chat with 'Boof' (Lehmann's nickname) and he was really keen to continue his coaching," Cooley was quoted as saying by 'cricket.com.au'. "And what a great opportunity



Darren Lehmann

- having his expert skills in the areas that we need. He'll work with our targeted group of NPS players, but we'll also have our specialist blocks come in; so his first four weeks will coincide with our spin programme, which involves eight spinners from around the country plus the 10 NPS players.

"They'll all be able to talk to Darren about playing on sub-continental wickets, get his T20 thoughts, one-day and long-format thoughts about how to play and how to adjust your training,"

Cooley added. Cooley also said that Lehmann's experience will be an asset in developing young Australian cricketers.

"To have someone who's got that experience matching up with our coaching staff, it's invaluable," Cooley pointed out.

"It's also great experience for our coaches in 'Ryno' (Harris) and 'Buck' (Rogers), who are still learning their craft," he added.

Lehmann is scheduled to begin in his new role, May 28.

**A-League eyes Iniesta as marquee footballer**

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Sydney, May 9:** Australian football bosses plan to contact the agent of Barcelona captain Andres Iniesta to sound him out about a move to the A-League, reports said here Wednesday, as the domestic competition looks to recruit a marquee star. Football Federation Australia's (FFA) website indicated the governing body is set to move on this issue.

Spain's 'Sport' website named the A-League as the World Cup-winner's 'preferred destination' this week, although Japan's Vissel Kobe are also seen as one of his possible next moves.

A-League boss Greg O'Rourke informed Wednesday four Australian clubs have signalled their intent to make use of a recently announced Aus\$3 million (US\$2.2 million) 'marquee fund', which could be used to lure a player of Iniesta's calibre.

"We will determine with (the clubs) how this is going to work - do we go out and use \$3 million to go and hook one big fish, or three



Four clubs in the A-League are keen to have Iniesta as their marquee player

small ones?" he told reporters.

"There's some history that would say that (Alessandro) Del Piero, when he was here with (Emile) Heskey and Shinji Ono was actually quite amplifying," O'Rourke added.

The A-League most recently had a centralized 'guest marquee' fund in 2016, but it attracted only one player: Tim Cahill, whose stint at Melbourne City did not pull in the crowds and boost TV ratings as hoped. O'Rourke said if a move for Iniesta was unsuccessful, other targets would be drawn up.

**No new deal for Guardiola yet**

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Manchester, May 9:** Pep Guardiola has yet to conclude contract negotiations over a new deal with Premier League champions Manchester City but said Tuesday there is no urgency to do so.

The Catalan has led City to the title in his second season in charge at the Etihad and is now two-thirds of the way through the initial three-year contract he signed when he moved to Manchester in the summer of 2016.

It means Guardiola, 47, has not won the league titles in all three of the major European countries in which he has managed, following success in Spain with Barcelona and in Germany with Bayern Munich. But he has also established a habit of short spells with those clubs, spending four seasons managing his hometown club Barca and three in the Bundesliga.

"I have one more year and next year I will be here," said Guardiola. "Now it's time to finish well and then start to talk about what we have to do next season, who is staying and who we have to buy. "I have one more year. In football one more year is a lot and we're going to talk to the club," he added.

**Halep advances, Woznicaki falls**

AGENCIES

**Madrid, May 9:** Top seed Simona Halep sealed a quarterfinal berth at the WTA Madrid Open here Wednesday, but second seed Caroline Wozniacki suffered a shock loss against unseeded Kiki Bertens of the Netherlands.

Halep was in control throughout her match against Krystina Pliskova of the Czech Republic winning 6-1, 6-4 in a match that lasted a little over an hour: Hitting shots on both flanks with power, Halep had her rival scurrying for most of the match. Her only testing moment came when she faced two breakpoints in the eighth game of the second set, but saved it comfortably. And then she broke the Pliskova serve in the ninth game to close out the match.

Wozniacki looked jaded and tired in her 2-6, 2-6 defeat to Bertens. The second seed conceded an astounding 32 unforced errors in her match and lost her serve four times. "I was not in the court there really," Wozniacki said after her match. "Had no rhythm, it was a nightmare. Don't remember when last I played so badly," added the Dane.

Also sealing quarterfinal spots were Caroline Garcia of France a 6-2, 6-4 winner against Julia Georges of Germany while sixth seed



Simona Halep in action during her match against Krystina Pliskova at Madrid, Wednesday

defeat by emotional local favourite Carla Suarez Navarro.

Suarez Navarro was brushed aside in the first set but battled back against Ukraine's World No.4 and the third seed by scraping through a second-set tie-break to set up a dramatic third.

Breaking to go 5-4 up, Suarez Navarro spurned four match points after leading 40-0 before taking a tumble on the final point but

Svitolina sent her return long and the Spaniard burst into tears in front of the raucous home supporters.

"I'm feeling great, I'm very happy because at the end of the day, these types of victories are the victories that you need," said the 29-year-old Suarez Navarro, the World No.25.

**Serena pulls out**

**Rome:** Former World No.1 Serena Williams has opted out of the Italian Open tennis tournament stating that she needs more time to prepare for clay court tournaments. She had also withdrawn from the Madrid Open five days and the second successive pull out puts in doubt her participation in the second Grand Slam of the year, the French Open beginning 27th May. Serena stated that she needs more time to prepare on clay since giving berth in September. The Italian Open will be played May 14-20.

**DREAM PAIRING AT PLAYERS**

**A Tiger Phil wants to hunt**

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Ponte Vedra (US), May 9:** For the first time in 17 years, Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson have been paired together in the first two rounds of the PLAYERS Championship which begins here, Thursday.

The two have become close in recent times, courtesy Woods' duties as a vice-captain at Ryder Cup. They also played a practice round together at the Masters and it was one of the highlights of the week.

The careers of Woods and Mickelson, two of the best players of the generation, have almost overlapped for the last two decades, but they have played together only 35 other times in their PGA Tour careers. The last time was in 2014.

**I enjoy competing against him (Mickelson), day one, day two or on the final day. He is a class act, brings out the best in me**



TIGER WOODS

"We haven't been paired together in years, and as I look at the cover of the newspaper and the pairing is on there and the excitement that's been going on around here, it gets me thinking, why don't we just bypass all the ancillary stuff of a tournament and just go head-to-head and just have kind of a high-stake, winner-take-all match," Mickelson said.

"Now, I don't know if he wants a piece of me but I just think it would be something that would be really fun for us to do. Fifteen years ago my record against him sucked, and now it's OK. I'm doing better as time has gone on," Mickelson added.

Woods when asked what he thought about Mickelson's idea of a high-stakes match, said: "Not against that. We'll play for whatever makes him uncomfortable. Normally for most of our careers we were 1 and 2 in the world, and we're on opposite sides of the draw. We never saw each other, and that's what the Tour wanted. Now they have got it."

**TODAY'S MATCH**  
DD vs SRH  
Time: 8pm  
Telecast: Star Sports channels

**SHORT TAKES**

**6 CWG medallists included in TOPS**

**New Delhi:** Six Commonwealth Games (CWG) medallists from track and field, shooting and weightlifting disciplines were Wednesday inducted into the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), with the sports ministry including discus thrower Seema Punia and leaving out seasoned shooter Gagan Narang. The 2012 London Olympics bronze medallist Narang was among the 12 athletes to have been dropped due to poor performance and fitness issues. The other athletes to be included in the scheme are sprinter Hima Das, discus thrower Navjot Kaur Dhillion, shooters Akhil Sheoran, Elavenil Valarivan and weightlifter Rakhi Halder.

**CA cancels Bangla series**

**Melbourne:** Cricket Australia (CA) has Wednesday reportedly cancelled hosting Bangladesh later this year citing financial reasons. According to a report by a cricket specific website, CA communicated to the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) that the tour was not commercially viable. The International Cricket Council's (ICC) Future Tours Programme (FTP) had Australia down to play two Tests and three ODIs at home against Bangladesh in August and September, the latter's first bilateral tour Down Under since 2003.

**Middlesex sign Bravo**

**London:** West Indian all-rounder Dwayne Bravo has signed up to play for Middlesex in the upcoming Vitality Blast - England's domestic T20 competition. However, the veteran Caribbean all-rounder's participation is subject to him obtaining a visa and completing the necessary NOC paperwork. Middlesex cricket stated Wednesday while announcing the signing. Bravo, however, will be available to play only six matches for the county as the later schedule of the T20 tournament clashes with the Caribbean Premier League (CPL), where he's representing the Trinbago Knight Riders.

# A junior-senior mix for shooter Bhaker

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 9:** A chock-a-bloc international calendar and a looming burnout threat notwithstanding, teenager Manu Bhaker said Wednesday, she will continue to shoot in junior events for the next four years, apart from simultaneously competing in the senior tournaments.

Last month, the 16-year-old Bhaker was in a league of her own as she shattered two records en route to adding the Commonwealth Games gold medal to the glowing list of achievements in her relatively nascent career.



**SMILE OF INNOCENCE:** Teenager Manu Bhaker smiles at a promotional event in New Delhi, Wednesday

**I don't want to put pressure on myself thinking about the Olympic gold. There are other important medals to be won also. But yes an Olympic medal does matter**

MANU BHAKER

"I have four more years left in junior and I plan to shoot all these four years. I want to shoot both in the junior and senior segments simultaneously and gain as much experience as possible," Bhaker, a

gold medallist on her maiden senior ISSF World Cup, told this agency. Bhaker has a packed calendar ahead, beginning with the senior and junior World Cups in Germany - Munich and Suhl - followed by a tournament in the Czech Republic. Also lined up are big-ticket events such as the Asian Games in Indonesia, World Championships in Korea, which will be the first quota event for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, and the Youth Olympic Games in Argentina.

The gifted girl from Gorla village in Jhajjar district of Haryana is more than prepared to take on the challenges. "I take everything as gaining experience, getting a chance to participate in every event is something I take very seriously," she informed.

Asked about the Asian Games, she said the upcoming multi-sport extravaganza will be a different challenge from the CWG.

"Asian Games is going to be a different challenge with different countries, it is not necessary that we will win every time, but getting up strongly after going down is what matters eventually and your character comes through," asserted the teenager.

**GAMES AGAINST IRELAND**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 9:** The national selection committee's decision to name India skipper Virat Kohli for the two-match T20 series against Ireland has created confusion as it is clashing with his county commitments for Surrey.

There were rumours in the BCCI corridors that the section which wasn't happy with Kohli skipping the one-off Test match against Afghanistan, has played a role in cutting short his county stint in favour of the T20 Internationals against the minnows.

India are set to play two T20s against Ireland in Dublin's Malahide (June 27 and 29) while Kohli's last

county engagement for Surrey against Yorkshire will take place at Scarborough, June 25 to 28.

The county had earlier put a statement on its website which said: "India captain Virat Kohli will play for Surrey during the entire month of June."

When chairman of selectors MSK Prasad was contacted by this

# FAO restructures domestic football

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, May 9:** In a total revamp, the Football Association of Odisha (FAO) has decided for a complete overhaul of the domestic football structure. The FAO-run league in Cuttack will now be a three-tier completion while the body will also introduce two new tournaments - the Super Cup and the FAO Inter-District Club Championships. A decision to this effect was taken during a meeting of the body at the FAO office here, Wednesday.

The domestic football league will comprise of three segments - the Diamond League, Gold League and Silver League. The top eight teams of 2017 will be eligible to play in the Diamond League while the Gold and Silver Leagues will comprise of the teams in numerical order after the top eight (see names in box).

The Diamond League will be conducted in round robin format with 28 matches being played. The winners will get ₹1,00,000 and a trophy. Similarly the top finishers in the Gold and Silver Leagues will get ₹75,000 and ₹50,000 respectively. The lowest-ranked team of the Diamond and Gold groups will be relegated to the next pool.

However, the teams comprising the Silver League will be divided into two pools. The bottom-placed teams of the two pools will then play an 'Eliminator' to decide who will

**TEAMS FOR DIAMOND LEAGUE:** Radharaman Club, Sunrise Club, Rising Student Club, Sports Hostel (Cuttack), Bidanasi Club, ECoR, Jay Durga Club and Odisha Police.

**TEAMS FOR GOLD LEAGUE:** Rising Star, Morning Club, Young Utkal Club, Radhagobinda Club, Independent Club, Kishore Club, Mangala Club and Rovers Club.

**TEAMS FOR SILVER LEAGUE:** (Group A): SAI-5TC, YVCG, Odisha Govt Press, Club N Club, Chauliaganj Club and Town Club; (Group B): SBI, Chand Club, Labang Club, Azad Hind Club and Sunshine Club.

be relegated to the 2nd division. Similarly the champions of each of the groups will be promoted to the division above them.

The top four teams of the Diamond League will qualify for the Super Cup and the Kalinga Cup football tournaments. Similarly the top three finishers of the Gold League and the winner of the Silver League will be eligible also to play the Super Cup. The winners of Super Cup will get ₹1,00,000 and the runners-up ₹50,000.

FAO will continue with its women's league and the winner will be awarded a cash prize of ₹25,000. However, there will be no promotions or demotions in the women's segment.

# Ishan, Cutting power MI to massive 210/6

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, May 9:** Ishan Kishan (62, 21b, 5x4, 6x6) smashed a 17-ball half century as Mumbai Indians (MI) overcame a slow start to post an imposing 210/6 against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in an IPL encounter here, Wednesday.

Ishan tore apart KKR bowling as MI scripted a turnaround in the middle overs. The momentum shifted in favour of MI in the 14th over that yielded 25 runs with Ishan making a mockery of Kulkarni's (0/43) bowling, hitting the chinaman for four consecutive sixes. The bulk of Mumbai's runs - 148 - came from boundaries.

In the process, Ishan became the joint second fastest half century scorer with Sunil Narine, when he hit the third six off Kulkarni over.

Ishan ended the over with a helicopter shot that would surely make his Ranchi mentor MS Dhoni smile as MI scored 73 runs in five middle overs to reach to 145/3 in 15 overs from being a modest 72/2 midway into their innings.

After Ishan, it was Ben Cutting (24, 9b, 1x4, 3x6) show as he hit the first three balls of the final over for two consecutive sixes and a four before Krunal Pandya finished off their innings with another maximum off the final ball as MI finished on a high with 22 runs in the final over bowled by Piyush Chawla (3/48).

# Kohli's inclusion in T20 squad creates confusion

There were rumours in the BCCI corridors that the section which wasn't happy with Kohli skipping the one-off Test match against Afghanistan, has played a role in cutting short his county stint in favour of the T20 Internationals against the minnows.

India are set to play two T20s against Ireland in Dublin's Malahide (June 27 and 29) while Kohli's last

county engagement for Surrey against Yorkshire will take place at Scarborough, June 25 to 28.

The county had earlier put a statement on its website which said: "India captain Virat Kohli will play for Surrey during the entire month of June."

When chairman of selectors MSK Prasad was contacted by this

agency, Wednesday for a clarification whether it was a clerical error, he said: "Kindly talk to the BCCI secretary on this issue."

When BCCI acting secretary Amitabh Choudhary was asked, he replied: "Be rest assured, everything is fine."

However, there has been no clarity as to what will be Kohli's choice

as he gets to play only three four-day matches during his stint.

"If the selectors have picked him for the Ireland T20s despite the county dates being made public, it means that he will not play the game against Yorkshire. This cannot be a unilateral decision as the county contract has been inked after much deliberation. It will be

very interesting to know why there has been a change in Virat's schedule if England Tests are of paramount importance," wondered a senior BCCI official.

Whether Surrey would agree to the new arrangement is another question because the contract was signed after a lot of deliberations regarding Kohli's image rights.

# Nadal dominant as Djoko falls flat

AGENCIES

**Madrid, May 9:** World No.1 Rafa Nadal's clay court dominance continued Wednesday with his 48th successive win on the surface, but former World No.1 Novak Djokovic's attempt to regain form fell flat at the ATP Madrid Open tennis tournament here.

Nadal looked in ominous form ahead of the French Open as he demolished Gael Monfils three and one. The Spaniard never faced a breakpoint on his serve while breaking his French rival's serve four times in the match.

Djokovic, who had won a good match Tuesday against Kei Nishikori came a cropper against Kyle Edmunds. The Briton, never known for his clay court exploits beat the Serb 6-2, 2-6, 6-3 in a match that lasted 103 minutes to seal a third round spot. Had Djokovic won, he would have faced Nadal for a place in the quarters.



Britain's Kyle Edmunds celebrates his win over Novak Djokovic, Wednesday at Madrid, Wednesday

Edmunds had never been able to take a serve of Djokovic in their three previous en-

counters. However, Wednesday was a different affair. Having saved three breakpoints to go

3-2 up in the decider, he broke from nowhere to take a 5-3 lead. When it came to serving the match out he did it in double quick time, not even dropping a point.

"It was a great experience to beat Novak, he is a legend of the game. So it is definitely going to remain in my memory for lifelong," Edmund, who reached the Australian Open semifinals earlier in the year, said, after the match. "After the semis in Australia, I have realised, I could beat a lot of these legendary guys."

Meanwhile in matches played Tuesday, unseeded Milos Raonic who is also coming back of an injury lay-off stunned third seed Grigor Dimitrov 7-5, 3-6, 6-3 to reach the third round. He will meet Denis Shapovalov who will meet Benoit Paire's 29th birthday party with a 7-6 (7-5), 4-6, 6-4 triumph.

World No.6 Juan Martin del Potro started with a 6-3, 6-3 win over Bosnia's Damir Dzumhur.

# 32 Sports Hostel boys selected for BFC trials

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 9:** Newly-crowned Super Cup champions Bengaluru FC (BFC) have identified 32 players from the recently-concluded Odisha Sports Hostel football tournament for their youth development programme.

The players will have a trial at BFC's U-15 residential academy, May 20-24. Odisha's Sports Hostel players attracting the attention of top clubs, such as BFC, has become possible due to the participation in the first ever Youth I-League competitions (U-15 and U-18) 2017-18.

**Selected players:** Barish Soren, Shyma Hansdah, Indra Kujar, Vishal Oram, Susanto Naik, Suraj Lakra, Jyotirmaya Godta, Minaj Minz, Pintu Samal, Tankadhar Bag, Sagar Majhi, Rabindra Singh, Srikanth Bhoi, Rabim Oram, Ashanta Kerketa, Arbin Lakra, Manjeet Oram, A Shibaprasad, Rinku Mahar, Sai Ram Hansdah, Jagdish Oram, Dhaneshwar Beshra, Anil Toppo, Ganesh Naik, Prasanna Bora, Rajan Majhi, Purshottam Kerketa, Bijay Marandi, Fagu Majhi, Rupendra Hansdah and Jagannath Titu.

**Badminton tourney**  
Bhubaneswar Smart City Badminton

Association will organise the IInd State-level Ranking badminton tournament at the Sahid Nagar Indoor Hall here, May 11-13. The three-day meet will feature U-17 girls, senior women, U-15, U-17 and U-19 boys' events.

**Training camp**  
An 11-member Odisha girls' team left Wednesday for Mumbai to attend a selection-cum-training camp at the Bombay Gymkhana, May 11-31 for the inaugural Asia Rugby Championships Division 1 (Rugby XV's). The event will take place June 1-6, in Singapore.

**The squad:** Meerarani Hembram, Manjulata Pradhan, Sumitra Nayak, Bhagyalaxmi Barik, Laxmipriya Sahu, Sanjukta Munda, Shubhalaxmi Barik, Hupi Majhi, Rajani Sabar, Lija Sarkar and Parbati Kisku.

**Summer sports camp**  
KIIT has organised a summer camp, starting May 1, for various sport disciplines like archery, chess, cricket, badminton, basketball, volleyball, lawn tennis, swimming, football, rugby, yoga, health & fitness. The camp will conclude July 1 and around 2,000 students are participating in the month-long camp.

**Coach selected**  
SOA sports officer Sunita Barma has been selected Wednesday as the coach of the Indian Women's team, which will take part in the Asian Junior Women's Softball Championships at Clark City, Philippines.



Odisha rugby girls, along with officials, pose before their departure for Mumbai at Bhubaneswar Railway Station, Wednesday

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