



YAMI'S INSTA A/C 'HACKED'

Actress Yami Gautam takes to Twitter to inform her fans that she is unable to access her Instagram account

LEISURE P2



SRI LANKA COPS FIRE TEAR GAS

Police fire tear gas at hundreds of protesting students in central Sri Lanka Sunday

INTERNATIONAL P10



OZ TAKES WORLD CUP HOME

Aussies boss their way to a 7th Women's WC title with a crushing 71-run win over traditional rivals England

SPORTS P12



6 killed, 9 hurt in California shooting

SACRAMENTO: At least six people are dead and nine others have been injured after a shooting in downtown Sacramento, California police said Sunday. A video posted on Twitter showed people running through the street as the sound of rapid gunfire could be heard in the background. The video showed multiple ambulances being sent to the scene. Police provided a few details about the circumstances surrounding the shooting but said in a tweet that a "large police presence will remain and the scene remains active." Phone messages seeking comment were left with the Sacramento police. Residents were asked to avoid the area, which is packed with restaurants and bars that leads to the Golden One Center, where the Sacramento Kings play basketball.



Lt Gen Manoj Pande next Army chief

NEW DELHI: Army Vice Lieutenant General Manoj Pande is all set to become Chief of the Army Staff with incumbent Army Chief General MM Naravane due to retire by the end of this month. Lt Gen Pande will take over the reign as he is the senior most in the force after General Naravane. In the meantime, Gen Naravane is the front runner for the post of Chief of Defence Staff after the passing of General Bipin Rawat in a helicopter crash December last year. General Rawat, his wife Madhulika and 12 armed personnel were killed in a chopper crash December 8, 2021. Lt Gen Pande became the senior most after a few top officers retired in last three months.

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80 Srimandir 'chullahs' vandalised

Administration suspects involvement of some servitors in the vandalism following a dispute over completion of rituals, orders probe



As per the RoR of Srimandir, there are 240 registered chullahs in the kitchen

Superintendent of Police KV Singh. CCTV footage of the incident is being examined to identify those involved in the incident, he said. A joint inquiry by police and temple officials has been ordered, he said. The incident will affect devotees in getting 'Mahaprasad', but things will be normalised in two days, Verma said. The rituals of the temple were not affected as only one or two 'kotha chullahs', on which the temple administration prepares the offerings for the lord, were vandalised and the rest are intact, he said. However, there was a delay in serv-

ing 'Sakal Dhoopa' (morning offering) by 30 minutes, an official said. "At least 80 earthen hearths at Srimandir kitchen were found vandalised. The temple administration and the police should be blamed for the incident," said Suar-Mahasuar Niyog president Narayan Mahasuar. On the other hand, Srimandir administrator (development) Ajay Kumar Jena said 40 of total 240 earthen hearths at the temple kitchen were vandalised by the miscreants. "Only a limited number of servitors are allowed to enter the temple kitchen. We will include all stakeholders in the investigation," Jena added. According to the Record of Rights (RoR) of the 12th-century shrine, there are 240 registered chullahs in the kitchen. As only 'suaras' (cooks) are allowed in the kitchen, it is suspected that some servitors might have vandalised the chullahs Saturday night, following a dispute over completion of traditional rituals, officials said. Only earthen pots are used to cook the 'Mahaprasad' with around 400 cooks and 200 assistants directly engaged in the process. It is sold to the devotees in Ananda Bazar. The incident of vandalism raised concerns over the security of the temple. "The doors of the temple kitchen are closed immediately after the completion of Sandhya Dhoopa, Badasinghar and Chandanlatri rituals of the presiding deities in the evening. The servitors open the doors after the conduct of Mangalalati ritual the next morning. How could the miscreants enter the temple kitchen and vandalise the chullahs despite tight security around the shrine? It would take at least three days to repair the damaged chullahs," said Ranjit Soopakar, another servitor.

Diesel crosses ₹100 in Capital

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 3: Diesel price in the Capital city here crossed the ₹100-mark Sunday following a 85-paise hike. Petrol price also saw a 86-paise hike here. Petrol and diesel prices were again hiked Sunday by 80 paise a

CITY FUEL PRICES	
PETROL	₹110.36/litre
DIESEL	₹100.12/litre

litre each at national level, taking the total increase in rates in less than two weeks to ₹8 per litre. Petrol in Delhi will now cost ₹103.41 per litre as against ₹102.61 previously, while diesel rates have gone up from ₹93.87 per litre to ₹94.67, according to a price notification of state fuel retailers. Rates have been increased across the country and vary from state to state depending upon the incidence of local taxation. This is the 11th increase in prices since the ending of a four-and-half-month long hiatus in rate revision March 22. In all, petrol prices have gone up by ₹8 per litre. Petrol prices are above Rs 100 mark in all major cities from Srinagar to Kochi.

NO-TRUST VOTE NIXED

Imran hits a sixer, dodges ouster

In a surprise reprieve for Pak Prime Minister Imran Khan, the no-trust vote was dismissed as 'unconstitutional' by Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri, leading to vociferous protests by the Oppn



Islamabad, April 3: Pakistan's beleaguered Prime Minister Imran Khan bowled a yorker at his rivals Sunday by getting the presidential nod for the dissolution of Parliament, a move termed as 'unconstitutional' by the Opposition parties which approached the apex court to legally challenge the decision which has pushed the coup-prone country into further political and constitutional crisis. Khan was widely expected to lose the no-confidence motion moved by an alliance of Opposition politicians in the National Assembly - including more than a dozen defectors from his own political party. But in a surprise reprieve for the 69-year-old cricketer-turned-politician, the no-trust vote was dismissed as 'unconstitutional' by Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri, leading to vociferous protests by the Opposition. Khan, who had effectively lost majority in the 342-member National Assembly made a brief address to the nation in which the prime minister said he has recommended dissolution of the House and fresh elections. Khan congratulated the nation for the no-trust motion being dismissed, saying the deputy speaker had "rejected the attempt of changing the regime [and] the foreign conspiracy". "The nation should prepare for the new elections," he said, adding that the no-confidence was actually a "foreign agenda". Meanwhile, Pakistan's National Assembly has been dissolved after Khan advised President Alvi to do so. No Pakistani prime minister has ever completed a full five-year term in office. Earlier, Deputy Speaker Suri dismissed the no-confidence motion moved by the Opposition against Prime Minister Khan, terming it against the Constitution and rules of Pakistan. "The no-confidence should be according to the Constitution and rules of the country. Since it is not as pointed out by the Law Minister, so I reject the no-confidence motion," Suri ruled, amid vociferous protest by Opposition lawmakers. Suri chaired the crucial session after Opposition parties filed a no-confidence motion against Speaker Asad Qaiser.

Prepare for elections. No corrupt forces will decide what the future of the country will be

IMRAN KHAN | PAK PRIME MINISTER

The stunned Opposition termed the entire process to reject the no-confidence motion against the prime minister and dissolution of assembly against the Constitution and its lawmakers refused to leave the premises of the parliament house which was protected by security personnel. "We are going to challenge the ruling by the deputy speaker and advice by the prime minister to dissolve parliament in the Supreme Court," said Shehbaz Sharif, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament. P10

WHO suspends UN supply of Covaxin

REUTERS

New Delhi, April 3: The World Health Organisation (WHO) said that it has suspended supply through United Nations agencies of Covid-19 vaccine Covaxin, produced by India's Bharat Biotech, to allow the manufacturer to upgrade facilities and address deficiencies found in an inspection. The WHO asked countries that have received the vaccine to take appropriate actions, according to the statement, but did not specify what the appropriate actions would be. The WHO said the vaccine is effective and no safety concerns exist, but the suspension of production for export will result in interruption of Covaxin supply. It said the suspension is in response to the outcomes of WHO post emergency use listing (EUL) inspection conducted from March 14 to 22, and the vaccine maker has indicated its commitment to suspend production of Covaxin for export.

FIGHT TILL THE END



Ukrainian servicemen climb on a fighting vehicle outside Capital city of Kyiv. Heavy shelling by Russia in Ukraine's Odessa was reported Sunday. PTI PHOTO

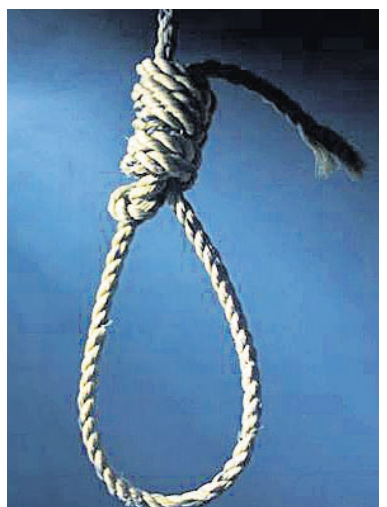
Odisha sees 28,249 suicides in six years

Data from different police stations shows that the number of suicide cases is rising with each passing year

Bhubaneswar, April 3: Be it Covid-19 pandemic or otherwise, there has been a sharp increase in number of suicides in Odisha during the past six years. According to the latest official data, as many as 28,249 suicide cases were reported in the state during the past six years (2016 to 2021). The data shows that the suicide cases increased with each passing year. While 3,884 suicides were reported in different police stations of Odisha in 2016, they increased to 4,151

Cuttack reported the highest 3,325 suicides between 2016 and 2021

Sambalpur registered 2,802 suicide cases during the same period



in 2017 and 4,447 in 2018. The number further went up to 4,636 in 2019. In 2020 and 2021, when Odisha was in the grip of the Covid-19 pandemic, suicides in the state crossed the 5,000 mark. As many as 5,482 persons committed suicide in 2020 while such cases increased to 5,649 in 2021, as per the data. Cuttack city, the oldest city of

Odisha, reported the highest number of 3,325 suicides during the six years. While 349 such cases were reported in Cuttack urban police district in 2016, the figure increased by more than two times to 875 in 2021. However, the rural areas of Cuttack district have not witnessed such a high surge in suicide cases. Only 283 such cases were reported in the rural areas of Cuttack district during the period. Sambalpur, a western Odisha district, registered 2,802 suicide deaths between 2016 and 2021, whereas 1,697 persons committed suicide in Berhampur police district area. Tribal dominated Mayurbhanj district registered the fourth highest (1,640) such cases during the period. The state's lowest suicide cases at 96 were reported from Boudh district. A total of 1,557 suicides were reported in the Capital city of Bhubaneswar in the last six years. According to the data, Bhubaneswar registered 282 suicides in 2021. The city had reported 310 suicide cases in 2020. In 2016, 165 suicide cases were reported in the City. There are many reasons for the rising suicides like family or personal problems. "Financial problems caused due to Covid-19, isolation from social life and a modern lifestyle, problems in love and married life are other reasons behind such deaths," said Haresh Chandra Mishra, a Psychology professor at Ravenshaw University. However, the main reason is depression. A person takes this extreme step when he/she goes into depression, he opined. "We are not prioritising mental health like physical health. To address the issue, we need to include mental health in school and college curricula. And, a lot of awareness programmes need to be taken up," suggested the psychologist.

LAKHIMPUR CASE

SC to hear plea against Ashish's bail today

AGENCIES

New Delhi, April 3: The Supreme Court will hear Monday the plea challenging the grant of bail to Ashish Mishra, son of Union minister Ajay Mishra, in connection with the Lakhimpur Kheri violence that had left eight people, including four farmers, dead. A special bench comprising Chief Justice NV Ramana and Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli had March 30 directed the Uttar Pradesh government to respond by April 4 to the two reports of a retired judge monitoring the SIT probe in the case suggesting cancellation of bail to Ashish Mishra. The top court noted the monitoring judge had written to the state government to seek cancellation of bail granted by the Allahabad High Court to Ashish Mishra in connection with the case.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Will I attract UAPA if I fail this student? Instead of answers he has written PM's Pariksha pe Charcha speech!

WEATHER	
	BHUB CTK
TEMP MAX	35.9°C 35.4°C
TEMP MIN	26.0°C 26.0°C
Humidity	74% 76%
Rainfall	NIL NIL
	Forecast
	Mainly dry weather

leisure



RACHEL ZEGLER TO VOICE CHARACTER OF PRINCESS ELLIAN IN SPELLBOUND

Actress-singer Rachel Zegler, who received accolades for her work in Steven Spielberg's *West Side Story*, is set to lend her voice to the lead character of Princess Ellian in the musical feature, *Spellbound*, reports *Deadline*.

PANNED BY CRITICS, YET MORBIUS TOPS NORTH AMERICAN BOX OFFICE

It may have been skewered by critics, not a common reception for a film adapted from Marvel comics, but still, Columbia Pictures' *Morbius*, starring Jared Leto, opened on top of the North American box office to a projected \$38 million to \$41 million from 4,268 locations.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Flow with the tide today. This is Ganesh's tip pertaining to your relationships. You are assertive as a general rule but you can save it for later. Today is the day to be generous and accede to the wishes of your beloved. You may even propose to him/her.

TAURUS
This day you will be compelled to be resigned to your fate. Ganesh does not see your own will power in operation today. Though you would be surrendering yourself to the whims of destiny, do not expect anything good to come out of it. You are likely to take wrong decisions and go of course.

GEMINI
You will end up having an argument with people owing to your aggressive nature. These people could slander your reputation on account of your enmity. However you will be able to defeat them. They will have to give up against your intellectual superiority.

CANCER
Today, you are likely to achieve something that you have badly wanted for a long time. It is very likely that you will get very emotional in the moment of victory today, predicts Ganesh.

LEO
Unlike Dennis or Calvin, expect your sometimes haughty and mostly naughty kids to behave 'just right' at the right time. It's not that children like to break rules, they just want to have some fun, reminds Ganesh. Keep this in mind while you go about arranging for special classes to improve their academic skills and performance.

VIRGO
Expenditures will be like oil spills- wasteful and dirty. But cosmic energies and positivity are gathering wind today, and you should do well to make full use of them in your personal and professional life, says Ganesh.

LIBRA
Lady Luck smiles on you today. With all the good fortune on your side, it's assured to be a day when financial gains come your way, especially if you are in the banking business. Agreed everything is going your way today, but be careful not to let your emotions cloud your reasoning and slow you down.

SCORPIO
Today, there are chances that you would be disturbed by continuous flow of negative thoughts in your mind. Try to divert your mind and look for positive people or friends who would cheer you up. Understanding needy people and living up to their expectations would bring some respite to your disrupted mind, says Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
Expect yourself to be hit with religious fervour. You may find yourself in the spotlight for an event or inauguration. Ganesh indicates travelling, so pack your bags for a long-distance business trip.

CAPRICORN
After all the drudgery you endured in a bid to reach a certain point in your career, it's time to sit back and enjoy the rewards, says Ganesh. Today, you can expect to get a transfer, a promotion, a pay hike or all the three. But these will be accompanied by added responsibilities and work, leaving you wondering if it really was an achievement or a bait used to trap you.

AQUARIUS
You will tackle complicated issues with infinite ease! But you will also find people passing the buck onto you. It irks you no end, having to take the blame for others' mistakes. But here's a chance, says Ganesh, to turn a weakness into a strength.

PISCES
You could swing both ways today! Fortunately, this alludes to nothing more sinister than the mix of the introvert and the extrovert that you are. So, between a quiet evening out by yourself at a classical music concert, or performing on the dance floor at the local disc - take your pick, says Ganesh.

Mrunal opens up about her love for denim

Mumbai: Mrunal Thakur, who has been turning heads with her experimental style of late, opened up about her love for denim. The actress also added that she is not comfortable posting a bikini photo on social media.

In an interview with a news portal, Mrunal said that India has not entirely normalised different types of bodies.

According to her, people still expect you to have a perfect body if you are going to a beach. However, that's not how she wants to inspire girls out there.

Spilling some more beans on her style, the actress stated that she is always wearing her mood and she is exactly the person she is at home. Mrunal also went on to reveal that the one thing that remains a staple in her wardrobe is denim. She admitted that she has too many of them and she cannot let go of them. And if she ever finds old denim that she cannot fit into anymore, she makes sure she can fit into them in the next six months.

On the work front, she is currently awaiting the release of her upcoming film, *Jersey* co-starring Shahid Kapoor.



Yami's Instagram account 'probably' hacked

Mumbai: Actress Yami Gautam took to her Twitter handle to inform her fans and followers that she is unable to access her Instagram account. She also added that her profile is 'probably' hacked.

Her official statement read, "Hi, This is to inform you all that I've been unable to access my Instagram account since yesterday, it's probably hacked. We're trying to recover it as soon as possible. Meanwhile, if there is any unusual activity through my account, please be aware of it. Thank you!"

Being an active Instagram user, Yami enjoys a massive fan following. Minutes after she posted the update, fans dropped in comments to check up on her. Her latest social media post was from two days ago, wherein she shared a song from her next film.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Yami is gearing up for her next titled *Dasvi* where she would be seen sharing screen space with Abhishek Bachchan and Nimrat Kaur. She also has Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury's *Lost*. Apart from these, the actress has also been roped in for *OMG: Oh My God* sequel.



Anil gets nostalgic as Beta completes 30 years

Mumbai: Who can forget the sensuous look of superstar Madhuri Dixit in the track 'Dhak Dhak Karne Laga' from 1992 movie *Beta*. Indra Kumar's directorial broke all the records at the box office and became a hit of that year.

Anil Kapoor, who won the Filmfare Best Actor Award for his performance goes down memory lane and recalls his working experience with co-star Madhuri. While speaking

about the same, Anil said: "The writing of *Beta* was revolutionary for that year. It had many layers with women in charge, the very topic of discussion today."

"I had the best time working on it with Madhuri Dixit and Aruna Irani. Thirty years is a long time, but the memories of shooting it are still very fresh in my mind," he added.

Meanwhile, Anil Kapoor is all set for his projects such as *Jug Jugg Jeeyo*, *Thar*, *Animal*, and *Fighter*.

Parkin's book dedicated to anthropologist LK Mahapatra released

BHUBANESWAR: Renowned British social anthropologist Robert Parkin released a book titled 'When Humans Study Humans: Classic Themes in Social and Cultural Anthropology', a foundational text of anthropology for students across the world at Utkal University here, Sunday.

Written by Parkin, who retired from the University of Oxford in 2017 after a 15-year career in its School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography, the book is a comprehensive introduction to social and cultural anthropology. It covers a wide

area from the origins of anthropology up to recent developments in the anthropologies of materiality and mobility.

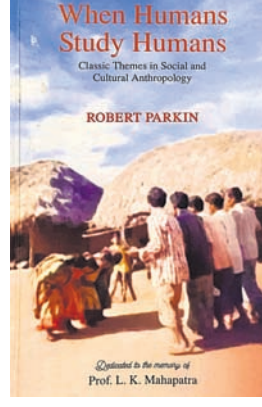
Parkin dedicated the book to renowned social anthropologist and revolutionary Lakshman Kumar Mahapatra who served as the head of the department of anthropology at Utkal University from 1967 to 1989. During his tenure the department witnessed a new phase of its growth. Thanks to his efforts, the department developed into a Centre of Excellence, which drew eminent scholars from across the world in-



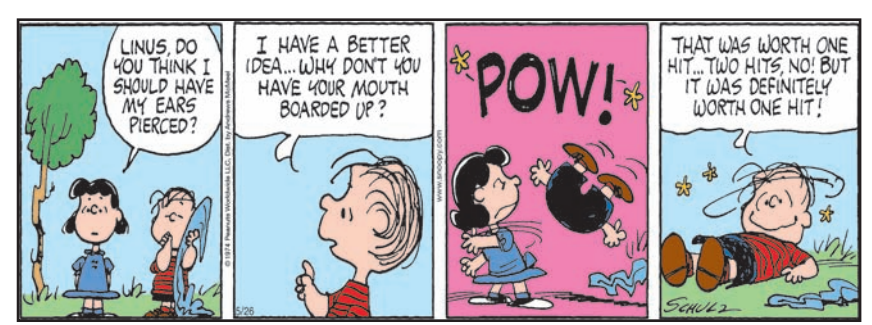
Guests during launch of the book at Utkal University, Sunday

cluding Professor Parkin, who also researched in Odisha and taught at Utkal University.

The book has been published by the Lavanya Institute of Indian Studies in association with Sikshasandhan. Professor Savita Acharya, Utkal University Vice-Chancellor Professor K C Tripathy, Professor P K Nayak, Professor K K Mishra and former VC of Utkal University of Culture Professor A B Ota among others were present at the event. It was chaired by Professor Jatindra Kumar Nayak.



PEANUTS



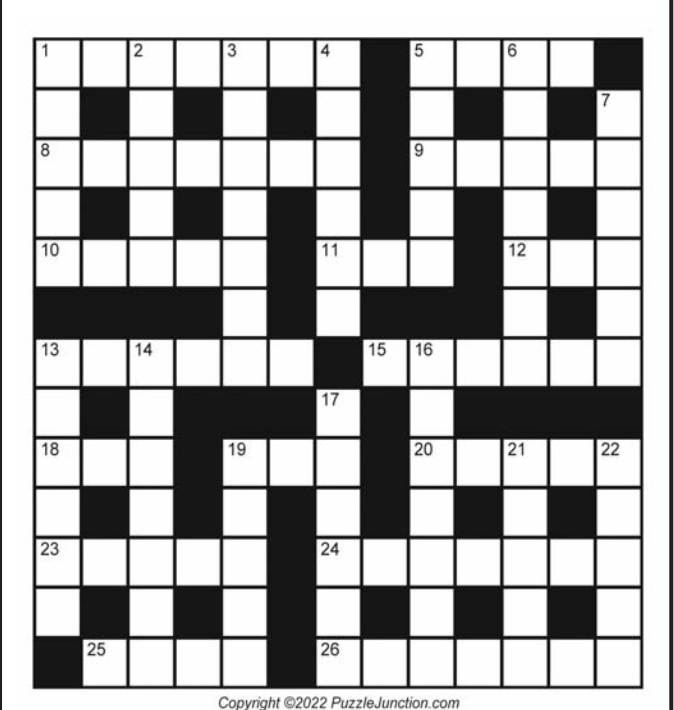
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



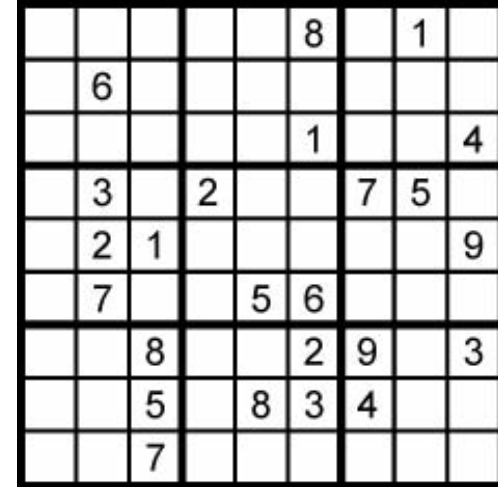
FUN post CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Grape variety
 - 5 Plumbing problem
 - 8 Arrest type
 - 9 Demolish
 - 10 European blackbird
 - 11 Bagel topper
 - 12 Tonic's partner
 - 13 Raspy
 - 15 Tough spot
 - 18 Slicker, briefly
 - 19 Samoan staple
 - 20 Vesuvius
 - 23 Wedding helper
 - 24 City in SW England
 - 25 Clever tactic
 - 26 Fencing words (2,5)
 - 4 Meek
 - 5 Paint ingredient
 - 6 One of the Leeward Islands
 - 7 Quick look
 - 13 Bah follower
 - 14 Spirits
 - 16 Summer activity
 - 17 Sound quality
 - 19 Shindig
 - 21 Express
 - 22 Gown fabric
- Down**
- 1 Chocolate source
 - 2 Standards
 - 3 Tropical songbirds

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



SOLUTIONS



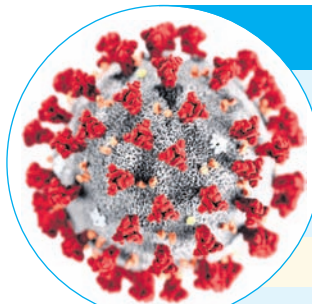
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



CPI MEET

Dignitaries at the state council meeting of CPI at Bhagabati Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Sunday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	49,11,79,461	42,60,61,975	61,75,172
India	4,30,28,131	4,24,93,773	5,21,345
Odisha	12,87,737	12,78,233	9,121

CB remand for Sarmistha, Jhuna extended

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 3: The court of Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) at Chandbali in Bhadrak Sunday sent prime accused Sarmistha Rout and her close aide Jhuna Bhoi on three more days of police remand for interrogation in connection with the murder of lensman Manas Swain, an official said.

On completion of the five-day remand period, the Crime Branch (CB) Sunday produced ex-OIS officer Niranjan Sethi, Ranjan Nayak, Sarmistha and Jhuna before the court and sought permission to take all the accused on remand for another five days.

The court, however, granted three more days of remand for Sarmistha and Jhuna while rejecting the same for Niranjan and Ranjan.

On the other hand, the CB is yet to unravel the reason behind

Lensman murder



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the murder and the mystery surrounding the contents of the missing memory card.

During the five-day remand, the investigating agency has only managed to unravel information about the way the accused executed their plan to murder the cameraman and evaded arrest for a long.

The CB is hopeful of eliciting

detailed information regarding the memory card during the fresh rounds of interrogation of Sarmistha and Jhuna, sources said.

Meanwhile, the CB officials were examining a diary of Niranjan that was reportedly seized from the office of Sarmistha's web portal here Saturday.

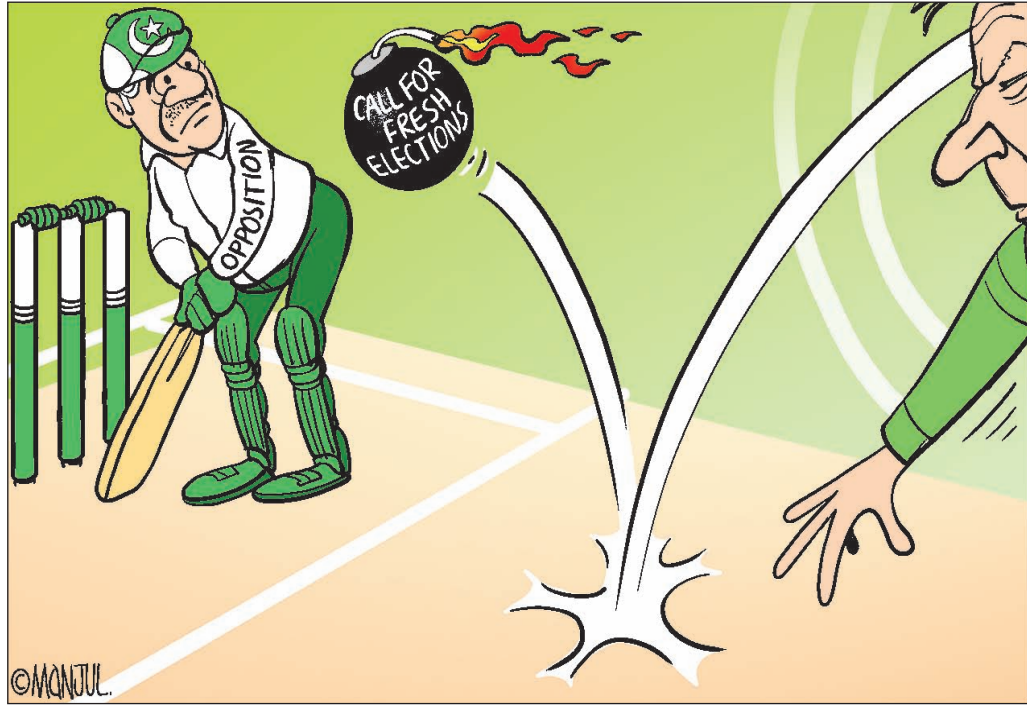
Sources said the accused had unsuccessfully tried to paint the murder as a suicide.

The murder of Swain, who had worked at Sarmistha's web portal, sent ripples across the state as he was allegedly killed for possessing a memory chip, containing controversial and objectionable videos and photos of some high-profile persons, which could have landed Sarmistha in trouble.

Swain was allegedly kidnapped from Bhadrak February 7. He had gone there to film a wedding function. When he did not return days after the event and could not be traced, his family members lodged a complaint with Chandbali police February 14.

Subsequently, the police arrested three persons for kidnapping Swain. During interrogation, the police came to know that the trio had killed Swain in Bhubaneswar and buried his body in Nayagarh.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



8 places sizzle at 40 degree Celsius

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, April 3: Sweltering heat prevailed over most parts of Odisha Sunday with as many as eight towns recording temperature of over 40 degree Celsius.

As per the India Meteorological Department, Titlagarh was the hottest town in Odisha with temperature recording of 41.6 degree Celsius during the peak hours of day followed by Jharsuguda and Bolangir and Boudh at 41.5 degree Celsius each.



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Mercury jumped above 40-degree mark in some other towns like Sambalpur (41.1), Sonepur (41), Bhawanipatna (40.2) and Sundargarh with 40 degree Celsius

Mercury jumped above 40-degree mark in some other towns like Sambalpur (41.1), Sonepur (41), Bhawanipatna (40.2) and Sundargarh with 40 degree Celsius, it said.

Similarly, the state capital city Bhubaneswar witnessed temperature surging to a maximum of 35.9 degree Celsius while Cuttack recorded the highest temperature of 35.4 degree Celsius.

On the other hand, the IMD has forecast that the weather conditions are conducive for the brewing of a fresh low pressure over South East Bay of Bengal between April 5 and 6. The system is likely to bring heavy showers Andaman sea regions during the time. However, models suggest that it is unlikely to cause any major impact in Odisha.

False Point: Guiding seafarers since 1838

SITUATED ABOUT 45KM FROM THE DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS OF KENDRAPARA, THE FALSE POINT, A 38-METRE HIGH MINARET-LIKE STRUCTURE, IS THE OLDEST FUNCTIONAL LIGHTHOUSE IN INDIA

PRASANJEET MOHANTY, OP

Lighthouses are a symbol of seafaring heritage. With a quiet charm and an aura of mystery around them, each lighthouse has its own story to tell. Located in the seaside village of Batighar, a coastal hamlet in Kendrapara district, False Point lighthouse has been guiding



mariners through the rough waters of the Bay of Bengal since 1838.

Sited about 45km from the district headquarters, the oldest functional lighthouse in India is a 38-metre high minaret-like structure featuring horizontal red and white bands and a huge 10-point star embossed on its side facing the sea.

Just next to the boundary wall of the lighthouse is a small cluster of graves. The British workers, who lived in isolation, worked in inhospitable conditions and died, were given a burial on the premises of False Point. The cemetery, with 11 vertical graves and a horizontal one, is a big draw.

Apart from the lighthouse tower, there are two double-storey structures—one superintendent's quarters and another to store general items as well as accommodate the assistant superintendent. There is a long barrack for lightkeepers, oil room and a kitchen. A semi-covered well inside the courtyard



The semi-covered well inside the courtyard

reminds us of the glorious past.

About its navigational code, the Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships (DGLL), which supervises lighthouses, says the colour scheme and pattern on the tower help seafarers identify it during the day while the flashing of two white lights every 20 seconds warns ships and vessels from a 50km distance after sundown.

JOURNEY SO FAR

Ships of the East India Company approaching the Calcutta (now Kolkata) Port used to mistake Hukitola in the Mahanadi for Palmirah Port, which was 1 degree farther north, at the mouth of the Hooghly. Hence, the point near the river mouth was named False Point. Later, it was decided to build a lighthouse near the Mahanadi mouth and name it False Point lighthouse.

The construction of the lighthouse—the first on the eastern coast of India—began December 6, 1836, and was completed October 16, 1837. The East India Company had then spent around Rs 46,000 for the lighthouse complex, according

to ICR Prasad, a lighthouse researcher and former electrical engineer.

Commissioned March 1, 1838, the tower first flashed lights through a lantern room with brass reflectors imported from England. The light was a fixed one and the illuminant was a coconut oil wick lamp. As the light was insufficient to warn mariners sailing at a distance from the shore, blue lights were beamed and maroons were fired from the tower once every four hours, Prasad said.

The light system was repaired around 1879 and converted into an occulting light in 1884. In 1931, the six-wick capillary lamp was replaced with a petroleum vapour lamp. Later, an incandescent lamp with a vertical filament was used for better illumination. Now, a metal halide lamp is used to flash lights every 20 seconds, he added.

TOURISM POTENTIAL

Its location close to mangrove vegetation infested with crocs makes it an ideal tourist destination on the eastern coast. Tourists can reach there by cruising through the Nasi river.

Dillip Kumar Das, a software engineer and avid traveller, who had recently been to the lighthouse, says the British-era structure attracts visitors for its architecture and natural beauty surrounding it. "Upon reaching the lighthouse base, you have to climb a 138 stairs and a 16-step ladder to reach the top from where you can capture a breathtaking panoramic view of the locations," says Das.

The Bhubaneswar resident, however, rues about the lack of basic civic amenities and public conveniences at Batighar. "Since there is no bridge over Nasi river at Kharinashi, which connects to the lighthouse, tourists have to take a boat ride to reach the lighthouse. Apart from a bridge, development of infrastructure like rest houses and a market in the locality is the need of the hour," Das adds.

Sources say the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways plans to develop 65 lighthouses, including those in Odisha, in a bid to boost lighthouse tourism.

BMC initiative for easy waste disposal by PwDs



Civic authorities putting up a signage

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 3: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has started putting up signage in front of the houses of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) to make the waste collection more user-friendly.

The garbage collection vehicles would halt in front of the houses of the PwDs and collect the waste, said a source in the BMC.

The initiative has been launched in three administrative zones of the BMC in collaboration with the civil society organisation Centre For Advocacy and Research (CFAR), sources said.

The initiative has been introduced at Tapobana Basti of ward no 63 under South West Zone, Pandav Nagar area of ward no 57 under South East Zone and Nirankari Nagar of ward no 21 under North Zone, sources added.

The initiative would be expanded to all 67 wards of BMC to bring a positive change in waste collection process and encourage greater participation from the communities, said an official. "The move is a first-of-its-kind initiative in the state. Through this initiative, due importance is being given to PwD families to participate in the Swachhata Campaign," said BMC Deputy Commissioner (sanitation) Suvendu Kumar Sahoo.

'Flash droughts' to set in more rapidly worldwide



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New York, April 3: After flash floods, it may be the turn of flash droughts - drying out soil in a matter of days to weeks - that are likely to occur more often than before, warns a study.

These events can wipe out crops and cause huge economic losses. According to scientists, the speed at which they dry out the landscape has increased.

Researchers at the University of Texas at Austin, the Hong Kong

Polytechnic University, and the Texas Tech University found that although the number of flash droughts has remained stable during the past two decades, more of them are coming on faster.

Globally, the flash droughts that come on the fastest - sending areas into drought conditions within just five days - have increased by about 3 per cent to 19 per cent. And in places that are especially prone to flash droughts - such as South Asia, Southeast Asia and central North America - the increase is about 22 per cent to 59 per cent.

Rising global temperatures are probably behind the faster onset. Every year, we are seeing record-breaking warming episodes, and that is a good precursor to these flash droughts. The hope and purpose of this research is to minimise the detrimental effects

ZONG-LIANG YANG | PROFESSOR, JACKSON SCHOOL, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

Rising global temperatures are probably behind the faster onset, said UT Jackson School Professor Zong-Liang Yang, in the The research published in the journal Nature Communications.

"Every year, we are seeing record-breaking warming episodes, and that is a good precursor to these flash droughts. The hope and purpose of this research is to minimise the detrimental effects," he said.

Flash droughts are relatively new to science, with the advancement of remote sensing technology during the past couple of decades helping reveal instances of soil rapidly drying out. This serves as the telltale sign of the onset of a flash drought and can make drought conditions appear seemingly out of the blue.

As the name suggests, flash droughts are short lived, usually lasting only a few weeks or months. But when they occur during critical growing periods, they can cause disasters.

In this study, the scientists analysed global hydroclimate data sets that use satellite soil moisture measurements to capture a global picture of flash drought and how it has changed during the past 21 years.

The data showed that about 34-46 per cent of flash droughts came on in about five days. The rest emerge within a month, with more than 70 per cent developing in half a month or less. Further, they noticed the flash droughts happening more quickly.

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THRUST ON ROAD SAFETY



Student traffic volunteers participated in a training camp on road safety measures at OCA conference hall in Cuttack, Sunday

HAND IN GLOVE WITH SYSTEM

Mineral mafia thrive in 16 dists

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar/Jajpur, April 3: The nexus between influential mining companies and local political leaders in Odisha has been catalytic for rampant illegal mineral mining in as many as 16 districts of the state, a source said Sunday. In a sense, there is an undeclared rat race for the illegal activity and the prevalent government norms in this regard have gone for a toss.

The districts where limited steps are being taken against smugglers of minor minerals include Khurda, Jajpur, Bolangir, Bhadrak, Bargarh, Boudh, Deogarh, Dhenkanal, Gajapati, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Keonjhar, Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur and Nuapada.

This necessarily raises eyebrows over the sincerity of legal actions in these mineral-rich districts where mafias allegedly get indirect protection in carrying out their illegal activity.

It was also reflected in a recent reply, given by state Revenue and Disaster Management department Minister Sudam Marndi in the Assembly during the Budget Session, to a question raised by Rairangpur BJP MLA Naba Charan Majhi.

According to a source, penalty to the tune of around Rs 19,86,50,543 was collected in the remaining 14 districts between FY 2015-16 to FY 2021-22 towards illegal mining of minor minerals, loot beyond the accorded quantity, transportation and sale of the minerals sans government prescribed transit form.

A maximum of Rs 6,10,00,562 penalty was collected in Balasore district alone, which amounts to about 30.70 per cent of the total collection in the state.

Taking into account the minor



minerals smuggled in the last two decades, the minerals will no more be available for future generations if the trend persists, some intelligentsia opined.

Illegal mining from Dankari hill in Jajpur district is a good example of indifference of the district administration towards curbing it. The administration has moved Supreme Court against the previous order of National Green Tribunal (NGT) to collect a penalty of Rs 25 crore from lessee. Similarly, a case pertaining to loot beyond the accorded quantity on Aruha hill of Jajpur is still sub-judice before the Odisha Lokayukta.

At least eight government officials were accused for their involvement in the illegal quarrying of black stones under Dharmasala tehsil, following a probe conducted by the Director of Inquiry, Lokayukta.

Instead of taking stringent actions against minor mineral mafias, the administrations concerned have been indirectly supporting them. "As a result, the state government is losing revenue worth crores of rupees every year," the intelligentsia added.

It is pertinent to mention that the Odisha Lokayukta earlier invited views from Minister Sudam Marndi relating to few other irregularities including alleged illegal min-

ing of Blackstone on Aruha hill.

Lokayukta had emphasised during previous hearing of a case over the alleged loot of Blackstone February 25 that the views be submitted on or before the next date of hearing fixed for March 8 this year. In addition, the name of erstwhile Geology department Joint Director, Zonal Survey in Dhenkanal Amiya Kumar Rout, who is also a party to the case, was wrongly mentioned in the primary probe report, the Lokayukta's official communique had stated.

The former joint director's actual name is Anup Kumar Rout and he has already been given superannuation. The retired government official must be issued a notice accordingly to remain present during the hearing, the Lokayukta order had mentioned.

Lokayukta had ordered former Jajpur Collector, four tehsildars of Dharmasala and three RIs of Aruha circles, including the lessee Trinath Jena in November 26 last year to submit their clarifications.

The Aruha Circle-IRI had then prepared a wrong sketch map of the leased area covering 6 acre and 80 decimal. The sketch map was subsequently certified by former Dharmasala tehsildar and he had ordered Geologist Gautam Sahu to prepare a detailed mining plan.

Human skeleton found in Koraput forest

JEYPORE: A human skeleton, recovered from a cashew forest near Ektaguda area under Koraput Sadar police limits Sunday, kept the district police on their toes. Police sources revealed that the head and hands of the skeleton were detached and lying away in the forest. Also, burnt patches were found in the forest and a towel was recovered. Some miscreants may have killed someone and torched the body to destroy evidence, police sources said. A three-member scientific team has been helping the police in the investigation, and the gender of the victim has not been ascertained yet.

PAT FOR ODIA CBI OFFICER



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 3: Odia officer Girish Kumar Pradhan, who is posted as an inspector at the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) office here, was awarded with the prestigious Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation, an official said Sunday.

Union Minister for Law and Justice Kiran Rijju presented the award to Pradhan at an event held in New Delhi in the presence of CBI Director Subodh Kumar Jaiswal.

Pradhan, who hails from Bargarh, had also received the award for 2018.

The ministry gives the award to all central investigating agencies and state/UT police for excellence in investigation. This award encourages high professionalism and efficiency in investigations, it was learnt.

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

I Hav- Ajay Kumar Padhi, Army No.15611148H my record office kamptee where my wife name is wrongly published as Radha Mani and date of birth is 08.04.1982.Hence her correct name is Radha Mani Padhi and date of birth is 04.04.1982.

Address: Name: Ajay Kumar Padhi, At/PO- Nagram, Dist- Balasore, Pin-756027, State- Odisha

Zero Covid deaths for 3rd straight day



Currently, Odisha has 330 active cases while 12,78,233 patients have recovered from the highly infectious disease so far, including 71 in the last 24 hours

PNN/AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, April 3: Odisha Sunday reported 36 more Covid-19 cases, of which six are in the age group of newborn to 18 years, taking the caseload to 12,87,737, the state Health department said in a bulletin.

Out of the 36 new infections, 21 were reported from quarantine centres while 15 persons contracted the virus locally.

The new infections were detected out of 25,447 samples tested for Covid-19, and the state's daily test positivity rate (TPR) stood at 0.14 per cent. Currently, Odisha has 330 active cases, while 12,78,233 patients have recovered from the

highly infectious disease so far, including 71 in the last 24 hours.

Sundargarh district registered the highest number of new cases with nine persons testing positive for the contagion, followed by Khurda and Mayurbhanj districts with five new infections each.

Other districts that reported fresh Covid-19 cases are: Balasore (2), Bolangir (1), Deogarh (1), Gajapati (2), Jagatsinghpur (1), Jajpur (2), Kendrapara (3) and Sambalpur (4).

The coastal state's death toll remained unchanged at 9,121 with no report of any fresh fatality, as per a tweet of the state Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department posted Sunday morning. The state had logged 40 cases and zero fatality Saturday. Fifty-three coronavirus patients have died due to comorbidities in the past.

The State Pool reported only one new case. The pool denotes people who come from outside Odisha and test positive. A total of 3,07,64,581 swab samples have been cumulatively tested so far.

Feat for KIIT

Bhubaneswar: Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) has been awarded the 'Best university with excellent placement & campus in India' at Asia Education Summit and Awards 2022 organised by Asia Today Research and Media at Hotel Taj in Bangalore, an official said Sunday. KIIT Director Sasmita Rout received the award, it was learnt. Sources said the award recognizes the professional contributions and academic achievement of an individual or organisation in the area of education. Asia Today Research and Media is a dynamic global media and analytical company providing research, analysis, and rating services.

NOBLE DEED



Utkal Bidwata Parishad organised a mass thread ceremony for Brahmin boys in Puri, Sunday

OP PHOTO

DID HUMANS INHERIT LOVE FOR ALCOHOL FROM MONKEYS?

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New York, April 3: Monkeys are known to routinely consume fruit containing alcohol, shedding light on our own taste for booze, finds a study that supports the 'drunken monkey' hypothesis.

A University of California, Berkeley biologist Robert Dudley, in his book 'The Drunken Monkey: Why We Drink and Abuse Alcohol', released in 2014, proposed that human attraction to booze arose millions of years ago, when our ape and monkey ancestors discovered the scent of alcohol that led them to ripe, fermenting and nutritious fruit.

To explore, researchers at California State University, Northridge (CSUN) collected fruit eaten and discarded by black-handed spider monkeys (Ateles geoffroyi) in Panama.

They found that the alcohol concentration in the fruit was typically between 1 per cent and 2 per cent by volume, a by-product of natural fermentation by yeasts that eat sugar in ripening fruit.

Moreover, the researchers collected urine from these free-ranging monkeys and found that the urine contained secondary metabolites of alcohol. This result shows that the animals were actually utilising the alcohol for energy -

it wasn't just passing through their bodies.

"For the first time, we have been able to show without a shadow of a doubt that wild primates, with no human interference, consume fruit-containing ethanol," said primatologist Christina Campbell, a CSUN professor of anthropology.

"This is just one study, and more needs to be done. But it looks like there may be some truth to that 'drunken mon-

key' hypothesis - that the proclivity of humans to consume alcohol stems from a deep-rooted affinity of frugivorous (fruit-eating) primates for naturally-occurring ethanol within ripe fruit," she added.

The study, which appeared in the journal Royal Society Open Science, showed that the fruit that spider monkeys collected were from the jobo tree Spondias mombin and were a

major component of the spider monkey diet. But the fruit also has been used for millennia by indigenous human populations throughout Central and South America to make chicha - a fermented alcoholic beverage.

Five of the urine samples from six spider monkeys contained secondary metabolites of ethanol or drinking alcohol.

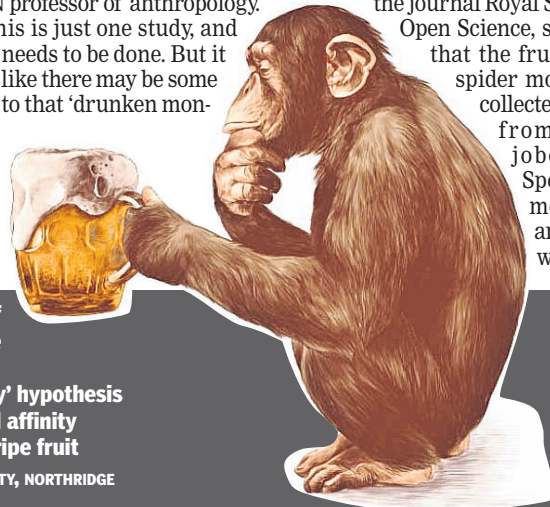
The monkeys were likely eating the fruit with ethanol for the calories, Campbell said. They would get more calories from fermented fruit than they would from unfermented fruit. Higher calories mean more energy.

However, Dudley said he doubts

that the monkeys feel the inebriating effects of alcohol that humans appreciate.

"They're probably not getting drunk, because their guts are filling before they reach inebriating levels, he said. But it is providing some physiological benefit. Maybe, also, there's an anti-microbial benefit within the food that they're consuming, or the activity of the yeast and the microbes may be predigesting the fruit. You can't rule that out," he said.

The need for the monkeys' high caloric intake may similarly have influenced human ancestors' decisions when choosing which fruit to eat, Campbell said.



For the first time, we have been able to show without a shadow of a doubt that wild primates, with no human interference, consume fruit-containing ethanol. This is just one study, and more needs to be done. But it looks like there may be some truth to that 'drunken monkey' hypothesis - that the proclivity of humans to consume alcohol stems from a deep-rooted affinity of frugivorous (fruit-eating) primates for naturally-occurring ethanol within ripe fruit

CHRISTINA CAMPBELL | PRIMATOLOGIST & PROFESSOR OF ANTHROPOLOGY, CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHBRIDGE

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ROBERT DUDLEY | BIOLOGIST, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

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SHORT TAKES

Minor girl abducted

Padmapur: A minor girl was allegedly kidnapped by unidentified miscreants in Naykanidhi area under Basudevpur block in Bhadrak district, Sunday. A police complaint was filed by the family members of the girl. According to the complaint, the class-IX girl was on her way to tuition when she was abducted by unknown people. As she did not return home, her family members searched for her, but in vain. Police started an investigation into the matter.

Scam alleged in MGNREGS project

Sajanagarh: A scam was allegedly committed in a project under MGNREGS at Arbandh panchayat of Nilagiri block in Balasore. Villagers have alleged misappropriation of funds and demanded an investigation into it.

People flock to Chh'garh as fuel prices skyrocket



POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, April 3: With prices of petroleum products showing no signs of abatement, people in Padia block of this district are heading to Chhattisgarh where fuel is available at a lesser price than that of the district.

The prices of petrol and diesel are on constant rise in Malkangiri district since the last 10 days. Sunday, things came to such a pass that the prices of petrol and diesel available in Malkangiri district surpassed the prices of fuel that is available in Delhi and Mumbai.

The price of petrol and diesel available in Malkangiri is also the highest in the whole state. The daily

Fuel prices in Malkangiri district have surpassed the oil prices in cities like Delhi and Mumbai

rise in petrol and diesel prices has also resulted in price rise of vegetables and other kitchen essentials.

After further rise in price Sunday, petrol now costs ₹115.90 per litre and diesel ₹105.48 in the district headquarters of Malkangiri. Moreover, the prices of essential products were also rising with an increase in fuel prices.

However, petrol is available at ₹110 per litre in Sukma of neighbouring Chhattisgarh which is around ₹5 less than what is available in Malkangiri. As a result, people in Padia block are flocking to Dornapal in Sukma district to fill their vehicles with petrol and diesel. Notably, the Dornapal area in Sukma district is just three km from the block headquarters of Padia block.

UNIQUE METHOD



Headmaster Dhanantawari Narayan Bisi dressing up a student in the class before staging a live demonstration on a subject at Arigaon Primary School under Binka block in Subarnapur district. A unique method of teaching through songs and dances has made the learning process appealing to the students. OP PHOTO

Use drones at Gahirmatha: Experts

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, April 3: Experts studying Olive Ridley turtles and dolphins have underscored the need for using drone cameras to keep a watch on the nesting places of turtles and activities harming the marine creatures.

Reports said, the state forest and environment department had conducted dolphin census in Bhitarkanika marine area recently. Altogether, 540 dolphins were found in the area. The number is 37 percent more than that of the preceding year. Among them were 15 spinner dolphins and 135 bottleneck dolphins.

Interestingly, only 22 bottleneck dolphins were sighted during the count in 2021 while their number has gone up five times more than the previous count.

The area is also an ideal home for endangered Olive Ridley turtles. However, several factors have posed threats to this endangered marine species throughout their life cycle—starting from migration, mating to nesting and return of baby turtles to the sea.

Every year, lakhs of turtles

SAFETY OF OLIVE RIDLEYS, DOLPHINS



through Gahirmatha marine sanctuary for breeding.

Experts and environmentalists were of the view that safety of these sea creatures should be the topmost priority of the department. "Aerial surveillance on the nesting sites, their movements, dangers during migration, research on coastal erosion can be done with help of drones. Data collected during surveillance can be used in finding out effective solutions," they added.

Secretary of Gahirmatha Samudrika Kaincha O Hentalabana Surakhya Samiti Hemant Kumar Rout, its vice president Prabhuprasad Mohapatra,

president of Jana Adhikar Abhijan Bhubanmohan Jena, lecturer Kshitish Kumar Singh and Dr PN Gourang emphasised that the population of marine species like dolphins and Olive Ridley turtles is declining worldwide, but their number is increasing in Gahirmatha area, spreading over 27 square miles in the sea. Over 5 lakh turtles have laid eggs this season, it was said.

However, thousands of turtle eggs have been damaged due to the lashing sea waves at the nesting place of Nasi-II. Coastal erosion is one of the factors affecting nesting of the turtles here, they said.

Moreover, thousands of turtles have to lose their lives for various

A 37% increase in dolphin numbers has taken the total population to 540 in Bhitarkanika marine area recently

Over 5 lakh turtles have laid eggs this season in Gahirmatha nesting sites. Thousands of turtles also lose their lives for various reasons. These deaths and their causes need to be monitored

Aerial surveillance on the nesting sites, their movements and dangers during migration, research on coastal erosion can be done with help of drones. Data collected during surveillance can be used in finding out effective solutions, say the experts

reasons, but the cause of deaths is not being monitored, they lamented. They suggested that there is a need for making use of high tech drones to keep watch on the activities and movement of the turtles and dolphins as well.

DFO JD Pati said that currently there is no provision of placing the vast marine area under surveillance of drone cameras, but this proposal may be considered for the next year.

VIMSAR races to mend its ways as NMC due in May

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, April 3: With no let-up in problems in the VSS Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR) at Burla here, the visit of National Medical Commission (NMC) scheduled for May has added to its woes.

Reports said that a team from NMC is scheduled to visit VIMSAR in May. The VIMSAR authorities have been apprised about the development. However, what ail VIMSAR are the numerous problems plaguing the premier healthcare institute in the state. The team lacks adequate posting of professors to teach the students, staff and infrastructure for which it has drawn a bad name.

Speculations are rife that if VIMSAR authorities do not correct the problems ahead of the visit of NMC then sanction to increase in PG seats in some departments might be cancelled. However, VIMSAR authorities have to race against time and plug these problems with only a month left for the visit of NMC. VIMSAR might land in trouble if these problems are not taken care off.

Residents have demanded that VIMSAR authorities should take immediate steps to resolve these problems.

Reports said that several posts of teachers are lying vacant in pathology, dermatology, orthopaedics, radiology, biochemistry, microbiology and paediatrics departments. Moreover, the institute also lacks necessary infrastructure.

The NMC team mainly reviews the presence of faculties available in the medical college for studies for which demands are being made from various quarters to fulfill the



Speculations are rife that if VIMSAR authorities do not correct the problems ahead of the visit of NMC then sanction to increase in PG seats in some departments might be cancelled. Several posts of teachers are lying vacant in pathology, dermatology, orthopaedics, radiology, biochemistry, microbiology and paediatrics departments. Moreover, the institute also lacks necessary infrastructure

The problem has sparked resentment among the people and if PG seats are reduced then it might lead to an agitation

post of teachers. Notably, people from Western Odisha and neighbouring states depend on VIMSAR for healthcare services. Thousands of people throng to VIMSAR daily to avail healthcare services from the doctors in the hospital.

The PG students play an important role in providing healthcare services to the visiting patients for which if PG seats are cancelled then healthcare services in the hospital might collapse. People will get deprived of healthcare services. Several reports regarding lack of doctors in VIMSAR have been published by various media.

The VIMSAR authorities have also published advertisements inviting applications for the post of

doctors. However, VIMSAR continues to reel under shortage of doctors, teachers and other staff in its medical college and hospital. The problem has sparked resentment among the people and if PG seats are reduced then it might lead to an agitation.

When contacted, Prof Dr Lalit Meher, director of VIMSAR said that attempts are being made to fill up the vacant posts of teachers ahead of the NMC visit in May. Moreover, advertisements have been published in various news dailies inviting applications for the post of doctors and faculties. The health department will be informed seeking its assistance while the rest of the problems will be sorted out in due time, he added.

BICYCLE RALLY



NCC cadets took out a bicycle rally spreading the message on cleanliness in Keonjhar, Sunday

OP PHOTO

Andhra govt annexes Kotia to its newly carved dist

Pottangi: Neighbouring Andhra Pradesh has again made another attempt to grab Kotia. The AP government has added the disputed Kotia panchayat to a newly carved district. According to reports, the neighbouring state has reorganised its 13 districts into 26 districts. However, formal announcement about new districts with addition of Kotia villages to its territory will be made by Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy at 9am Monday. Notably, Andhra Pradesh was split into two June 2, 2014. Telangana was carved out of it with 33 districts while Andhra was left with 13 districts. Among the new districts is Parvathipuram Manyam. A gazette notification to this effect was issued. Kotia panchayat has been declared as part of Salur block in this new district. There are 21 villages spread in three panchayats of Ganjeipadar, Fagunasineri and Fatusineri. "Earlier, people of these villages used to depend on Vizianagaram district. It was far from them. Now it will be easier for the new district administration to reach out to the people," said Ganjeipadar sarpanch Dibakar Gemel. However, Kotia sarpanch Liju Gemel said that the Andhra government will not succeed in its plan to grab Kotia. All the developmental works in Kotia have been done by the Odisha government while more works will be executed in days to come, she added. Zilla parishad members Tikai Gemel and samiti member Ambika Pangti supported the sarpanch.

Lost greenery turns Cuttack-Chandbali Highway torrid

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, April 3: Hundreds of trees alongside the Cuttack-Chandbali state highway (SH) were felled to facilitate renovation and expansion work in Kendrapara about 15 years ago, but the irony is that the lost greenery is yet to be replenished.

With the mercury on the rise in the district, local commuters have resented the lackadaisical attitude of authorities concerned for not taking up any afforestation programme along the highway.

As per the Forest (Conservation) Act-1980, saplings of at least double the number of trees cut off in forest lands and 10 times the number in case of non-forest lands should immediately be planted, in order to restore a forest cover lost

to development work. The renovation and expansion work had started in 2006 after the road was accorded the status of state highway. It was then decided that the work would be completed within three years and an agreement was signed accordingly with the contract firm concerned.

Residents of 95 nearby villages of Cuttack and Kendrapara districts were displaced and a number of local markets were demolished to accommodate the expansion. A massive drive to acquire private lands was carried out and 64 religious and other establishments were also relocated.

"Many large trees of chakunda (Foetid Cassia), karanja (Pongamia Pinnata), neem and mango were axed from alongside the road in between Jagatpur in Cuttack dis-



The renovation and expansion work of Cuttack-Chandbali state highway had started in 2006 after the road was accorded the status of state highway

It was then decided that the work would be completed within three years and an agreement was signed accordingly with the contract firm concerned

Locals alleged that ₹87 lakh sanctioned to carry out afforestation alongside Cuttack-Chandbali state highway has been embezzled

trict and Chandbali in Bhadrak via Kendrapara and Pattamundai, including a number of the fruit-

bearing coconut trees in Rajkanika block. Despite unusual delay owing to multiple reasons, the renova-

tion and expansion work was completed around four years ago," a local social activist Pratap Padhy said.

"Environment is always given priority during a road laying work. It is said that apart from other trees, more than 5,000 large fruit-bearing trees alone were cut before the road work started. Several trees were chopped off in the name of development, thereby causing ecological imbalance in the region," another activist Banambar Sahu stated.

Acacia trees are being planted elsewhere in the district, which does not suffice the need of afforestation, the local activist Sahu rued.

"A fund of ₹87 lakh previously sanctioned to carry out afforestation alongside Cuttack-Chandbali

state highway has been embezzled. It was decided that as many as 3,100 coconut trees would be planted at the roadside under the block. There exist only 31 coconut trees now," Saroj Kumar Das, a resident of Rajkanika rued.

Agitations and roadblocks were previously staged in this regard by the residents of Rajkanika block. Erstwhile Kendrapara district Collector Reghu G had committed to order for an enquiry, but to no avail.

On being contacted, Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Durgacharan Mohanty said, "Priority has been given to plantation of trees on roadsides of other state highways in Kendrapara. However, the case of Cuttack-Chandbali state highway in particular will be reviewed soon."

19 villages suffer as boat service halted

Jharsuguda: Travelling across Mahanadi from Mahulpali ghat in Jharsuguda district to Chikhill in Bargarh district came to a halt following a halt to boat services. As a result, people of 19 riparian villages under Lakanpur block have had a harrowing time as they have to remain stuck in their homes without commuting for work. Ambabona block dwellers have been similarly affected. The boat service was stopped abruptly. Reports said that the Mahulpali ghat comes under the Kandheigola panchayat in Lakanpur block. The panchayat authorities auction the ghat every year to boat service provider. The boat service was stopped by the panchayat authorities after expiry of the lease term March 31 without making any alternative arrangement. People have demanded BDO Sanjiv Patel for his intervention.

FOCUS SRI LANKA CRISIS

LESSONS FOR INDIA



Should the world go back to strengthening the public sector and check the private sector that has fudged balance sheets and misappropriated public money? It's wishful thinking in an unethically controlled world

global debt, largely from five countries, including China.

The crisis continues globally and India would need to lead in correcting the course. Should the world go back to strengthening the public sector and check the private sector that has fudged balance sheets and misappropriated public money? It's wishful thinking in an unethically controlled world.

The Narendra Modi government has the power with its massive mandate to take the call for a change. It must review its infrastructure policy and its extreme dependence on coal-generated electricity. The centralised control is susceptible to security threats that can jeopardise economic activities. It should promote a cash economy as digital stresses the banking system and is vulnerable to fraudulent deals. Cash is inclusive, quick and has the least cost.

Sri Lanka learns the hard way that high consumption is not sustainable without higher production, income and self-reliance. India has been trying to be 'atmanirbhar', reincarnation of the Gandhian Swadeshi, but all the same opting for Free Trade Agreement with Australia and West Asian countries. It also has 87.8 per cent debt to GDP ratio. The model of expensive toll roads, high priced transportation-communication, high income and other taxes are leading to soaring costs, inflation and a thaw in the economy. Additionally, India unwisely is junking 10-year-old private, government vehicles and farmers' tractors. This devastates wealth building. Similar luxurious follies have led to the Lankan crisis.

During the last 30 years, the world has seen Soviet Marxism collapsing, Maoism turning to capitalist exploitation, Manmohanomics failing and Theodore Levitt's globalisation becoming junk. It is India's turn to give a viable alternative of sustainable consumption and a mix of people-centric independent low-cost mixed economy, free from the control of big banks and large corporations. Sri Lanka exposes the dangers; the world must tread cautiously.

INFA

The flame of the aspiration must be so straight and so ardent that no obstacle can dissolve it.

THE MOTHER



Lankan Mess

The Sri Lankan government has imposed a nationwide emergency to curb violence over an unprecedented economic collapse that has overtaken the island country. Later, a 36-hour curfew was ordered from April 2, blocking access to social media purportedly to pre-empt violence. These are all retrograde steps taken to stave off a crisis precipitated by the ruling family, the members of which occupy top posts of President, Prime Minister and Finance Minister, besides allocating among themselves several key portfolios. The collapse of economic life in Sri Lanka is the outcome of mismanagement for the past few years that assumed alarming proportions under the current dispensation.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa declared nationwide public emergency following violent protests over the country's worst economic crisis in decades. He said in a government gazette notification late April 1 that he took the decision in the interests of public security, the protection of public order and the maintenance of supplies and essential services. Hundreds of protesters had clashed the previous day outside Rajapaksa's residence in a suburb of the capital, Colombo. While the government claimed the protests were taken over by anti-social elements, protesters said violence erupted only after the police used tear gas, water cannons and beat them up. The curfew was then resorted to in order to contain sporadic protests that have broken out over shortages of essential items, including fuel, rice, milk powder, medicines and other goods. One tell-tale indication of the economic crisis and the government's failure to handle it is that the people are being subjected to long blackouts that extend to many hours every day as the government does not have enough foreign exchange to pay fuel imports needed for running power plants.

The country's lucrative tourism industry and foreign workers' remittances have been hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. The problem has been compounded by deep tax cuts and the decision to ban fertilisers that severely affected agriculture production. The result was that ordinary Sri Lankans are being forced to live with shortages and soaring inflation. Faced with the grave situation, an alliance of 11 political parties urged Rajapaksa to dissolve the cabinet and form a government with all parties to deal with the crisis, but the latter spurned the suggestion.

The weak kneed actions of previous governments helped the Rajapaksa family which swept to power in 2019 promising strong leadership and decisive action. But the new government seems to have failed the nation. The administration which is a monopoly of the ruling family is solely responsible for populist measures such as a huge raise in the threshold for income tax and VAT registration that led to revenue loss. The order to take to fertiliser-free farming overnight and a ban on chemical fertilisers caused serious loss of yield. Though subsequently, the ban was lifted, it has taken its toll on food security. People have become hostile to the government for the apathy of the ruling family, its profligacy and mishandling of the monetary policy.

Sri Lanka largely depends on imports, while it gains its foreign exchange through tourism, the export of garments and tea and external remittances. The Easter Sunday blasts of 2019 put off tourists from visiting the country hitting the tourism sector hard. For some time, Sri Lanka has been trying to cope with the crisis with assistance amounting to \$2.40 billion from India and also from China. Realising that this is not enough, the country has decided to shake off its inhibitions against International Monetary Fund (IMF) loans and a move is on to get a bailout package from the IMF despite the conditions attached. The government's refusal to admit there is a deep crisis is not the right approach to salvage the economy.

Since the island country is moving towards insolvency, experts point out the Sri Lankan government needs to take adequate policies to curb imports, at least for the time being. This is to save precious foreign reserves. Its foreign reserves are close to \$2 billion, but less than \$1 billion is actually available because of repayment schedules of loans and sovereign bonds. The primary reason for the crisis seems to be policy paralysis where the government ignored signs leading to the collapse of its financial set-up.

In the present crisis of Sri Lanka lies a great lesson for India. It is not only Sri Lanka but Pakistan also is in a political turmoil because of economic mismanagement. India must realize that it too can fall into a similar situation very easily. Here in India, the government has tried to mess with time tested agricultural systems and although, under pressure from protesting farmers, some related laws were withdrawn, the mindset of those who govern remains the same. Similarly, economic actions such as Demonetization, introduction of GST and most importantly the sweeping changes being carried out in the banking sector along with disposal of invaluable government assets to select industrial houses could result in the Indian economy going into a tailspin. It would be wrong to assume that the size and magnitude of India would ensure a healthy future. It might be just that very size and magnitude that would be responsible for a crisis to be born.

WISDOM CORNER

Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere. ALBERT EINSTEIN

If you can imagine it, you can achieve it. If you can dream it, you can become it. WILLIAM ARTHUR WARD

The world of reality has its limits; the world of imagination is boundless. JEAN-JACQUES ROUSSEAU

WORDSWORTH

Slow travel

Back in 1989, slow food was created in Italy as a reaction to the increasing globalisation and standardisation of food, especially fast food (hence its name). Its aim was to preserve, encourage and promote local culinary specialities. That idea has since spread widely. Now we are seeing a cousin beginning to make headlines. Slow travellers eschew plane travel and especially short breaks in distant places. They prefer to travel more gently, by train, bus, cargo ship, even bicycle. They want to luxuriate in the experience of a stress-free journey, not rush to a destination. That such slow travel is kinder on the environment because of its lower carbon footprint is a bonus. For most travellers, the thought of trying to get to some long-haul destination by train or ship is daunting. It takes too long or it's difficult to arrange and more expensive than by plane. A recent news story about a woman from North Wales who got to a friend's wedding in Brisbane by train, bus and boat via Moscow, Beijing, Hanoi, Singapore and Darwin, taking two months, is either an awful warning or an inspiration. Most slow travellers stick to European destinations where the good rail system makes access easy.

LOL

Stop being late to work

Tom had this problem of getting up late in the morning and was always late for work. His boss was mad at him and threatened to fire him if he didn't do something about it. So Tom went to his doctor who gave him a pill and told him to take it before he went to bed. Tom slept well and in



fact beat the alarm in the morning by almost two hours. He had a leisurely breakfast and drove cheerfully to work.

"Boss," he said, "The pill actually worked!"
"That's all fine," said the boss, "But where were you yesterday?"



Shivaji Sarkar

A SMALL NEIGHBOUR IN DEEP TROUBLE DOES SHAKE INDIA IN MORE THAN ONE WAY

Is globalisation failing? The Sri Lankan economic crisis is a grave warning that reckless consumption promoted by global MNCs, the IMF and the World Bank at the cost of localised economies and ignoring decentralised agriculture, rural or small entrepreneurship, is not a sustainable model.

The Ukraine war is possibly the last nail in the coffin for a crisis-hit world. The war is not a doing of India, but it is disrupting the global supply chain impacting all countries "like the COVID-19 pandemic," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told the Rajya Sabha.

The Sri Lanka crisis and the disquiet among the working class, reflected by the March 28-29 all-India strike by dozens of labour unions, are a pointer to an impending danger. It is due to the faulty global designs of curbs on wages, cash transactions, over dependence on banks, extreme stress on high-cost infrastructure and other facilities. Sitharaman assures that the Central government is focusing on "sustained recovery through a predictable taxation regime."

India has to recall the strength of its mixed economy. That was the people's economy and it overcame the Soviet Union collapse and the 2007 meltdown. But since 1948, Sri Lanka had never been in such deep economic crisis. It has 10-hour power cuts, extreme fuel crisis and rice selling at Rs 500 a kg. Exams are put off for shortage of paper and two newspapers have ceased publication. Colombo rushes to sign six pacts with India with \$2.4 billion credit lines and is assured petroleum supply.

A small neighbour in deep trouble does shake India in more than one way. The 119 per cent Lankan debt to GDP now has started distressing refugee influx into India's southern shores of Tamil Nadu. Lanka hit by globalisation, reckless imports, multiplexes, malls and artificial glitter has lessons for all.

The crisis is in the making for almost a decade, largely due to the country's excessive dependence of imports and borrowings for

a raft of massive infrastructure project. It highlights how unbridled borrowing for big-ticket infra projects, such as those under China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), can lead to complications. The government's tax cuts and switch to organic agriculture further squeezed the revenues.

On the Indian front, the working class protest called by dozens of labour unions representing both public and private sectors highlights the difficult situation that stalks the country with more privatisation, striving to bypass the minimum wages and less jobs. The unions say the protest was against a new labour law that allows contract employment, gives employers greater leeway in setting wages and extending working hours. Sale of PSUs throws more out of jobs.

The government has repeatedly been telling the unions that it is trying to create jobs, continuing with free food grains and edible oil dole at least till September for 80 crore people belonging to families of farmers and labourers. This is a heavy burden on the exchequer. The government committed to welfare is spending almost Rs 4.5 lakh crore since 2020 through a

regime of high inflation and not so high production as purchasing power capacity has reduced.

Sri Lanka, the workers' stir and the global economic crisis testify that the 1991 privatisation prescription of the IMF-World Bank is not a solution. The G-20 prescription of monopolisation and centralisation of the economy, at the cost of the labour, has caused more problems for real growth though it multiplies profits of MNCs and large companies control the economies. This has led to an inequitable growth and the pandemic has come as a further destroyer of whatever little was left.

The world did not learn from the follies of 2007-08 sub-prime crisis. It also shows that a globalised war by the US in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and the Middle East has helped none, but the arms' lobby. This weakened the economies of the super power and its NATO allies. Shaky European economies are afraid of going to a war with Russia or even check its aggression in Ukraine. The Americans are against Joe Biden administration rushing to another war as they don't want any more body bags. The US today has almost \$27 trillion of

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

Building the green-recovery consensus



Lolwah Al-Khater & Brian Finlay

TO MAKE THE RECOVERY GREEN AND SUSTAINABLE, WE PROPOSE A GLOBAL GREEN HYDROGEN ALLIANCE TO FACILITATE MORE EFFICIENT, CLIMATE-FRIENDLY METHODS OF PRODUCING HYDROGEN

While Russia's invasion of Ukraine is capturing global headlines, COVID-19 continues to wreak socioeconomic havoc around the world. The pandemic has taken more than six million lives, pushed 124 million people into extreme poverty, and impeded progress toward achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Fortunately, around five billion people have now received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, and the WHO and Gavi have set a goal of vaccinating 70% of people in all countries by this July.

Notwithstanding the horrific war in Ukraine, the pandemic and its lasting toll will continue to top the list of pressing global concerns alongside climate change. The effects of the latter crisis are already being felt daily, as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Sixth Assessment Report shows. Just recently, extreme temperatures and droughts have ravaged West Asia and North Africa. Rising sea levels are threatening many island states and low-lying countries. Catastrophic flooding has inundated parts of Europe and China. And wildfires have torn across the American West and large swaths of Australia.

Scientists now warn that "business as usual" will likely increase the average global temperature,

relative to the pre-industrial level, by a catastrophic 3-4° Celsius by the end of the century. To keep global warming at a far safer level, below 1.5°C, carbon dioxide emissions will need to fall by 45% (from 2010 levels) by 2030, and then to net zero by 2050.

What does this mean in practical terms? To make the recovery green and sustainable, we propose a Global Green Hydrogen Alliance to facilitate more efficient, climate-friendly methods of producing hydrogen. Once established, the next steps would include setting up a global inventory of green hydrogen programmes, protecting intellectual property and licensing rights while expanding global access, and encouraging alliance-wide standard setting for safe storage and transportation. A fair and inclusive recovery requires more investment in human capital - particularly to upgrade workers' skills - and an emphasis on supporting the people who are most at risk. Planning processes should privilege public and private financing for low-carbon activities and infrastructure that have the greatest potential to generate jobs for young people and other vulnerable groups facing employment challenges.

To ensure that the recovery supports health and well-being, we need a Global Fund for Social

Protection to assist developing-country governments in providing adequate social programmes. Such a fund would boost coordination efforts and mobilise domestic and external resources to provide a buffer against economic shocks, including those induced by climate-related environmental disasters.

Finally, to realise the potential of digitalisation in advancing the recovery, we need to promote large-scale investment in information and communications-technology infrastructure, both to achieve digital equity and to leverage the economic, health, and environmental potential of new technologies. International organisations and governments should work with businesses to provide effective and reliable digital connectivity, including through targeted investments in the steady digitalisation of most (if not all) public services.

Several significant international meetings will be held over the next seven months, each of which will provide an opportunity to take steps toward a shared recovery. But marshaling governments, businesses, and civil society behind a coherent, representative, and sustained global implementation strategy will require a culminating meeting. That is why we are calling for a "Green Pandemic Recovery

Summit," to be orchestrated by the United Nations and the G20. A two-day event, timed to coincide with the annual UN General Assembly in September, would help to ensure that political leaders at the highest levels commit to pursuing sustainable and equitable socioeconomic development in the post-COVID era. The trillions of dollars spent by wealthy countries during the pandemic shows that there are financial tools available to tackle serious challenges. What is needed is political will, creative market incentives, and a practical blueprint, with clear goals, timelines, and programming ideas.

Resources drawn from related initiatives can help. People and countries are understandably still focused on the pandemic, the fear that humanity is nearing the point of no return with respect to climate change, the war in Ukraine, and other global threats. Fortunately, we already have the multilateral institutions that we need to forge a global political consensus for tackling these overlapping crises. We now must leverage these tools accordingly.

Lolwah Al-Khater is Assistant Foreign Minister of the State of Qatar. Brian Finlay is President and CEO of the Stimson Center. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

Lavrov's India visit

Sir, Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov arrived in India after having finished a two-day visit to China. His visits to the two countries appear to indicate that Russia's economy is in jeopardy. The high-level talks come in the backdrop of indications that India could buy greater volumes of discounted Russian oil and both sides were keen on having a ruble-rupee arrangement for bilateral trade. This is possible and India must take the step for discounted oil. But the question is, if India buys this discounted oil, will the prices of petrol and diesel fall in the country? The answer is no! Because the experience of the COVID-19 era shows that even when the price of crude oil in the international market was very low, diesel and petrol were sold to the public at higher prices in India. The second point is Sergey Lavrov also highlighted that Russia is committed to continue cooperation in the defence sector with India. That means Russia has reminded India that trade with Russia in the field of defence should not be reduced. The Russian Foreign Minister also stressed the need for mediation between Russia and Ukraine and the possibility of resolving the dispute. This is just an excuse. The question of mediation is ridiculous when the whole of Ukraine is under Russian attack.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

Winning is a habit

Sir, Australia won a record-extending seventh Women's World Cup title after defeating England in the final with an emphatic 71 run win. The Australian women's team cultivated a winning habit and that helped them win 38 matches in 39 outings in the last 4 years in the women's world cup. They played to a plan and achieved an incredible win. Australian women's cricket team's winning run is a testament to the side's belief and fitness, and no wonder there is a sense of invincibility whenever they step out onto the field. Meg Lanning's side scripted yet another chapter in their glorious history as they defeated England in the summit clash of the ICC Women's World Cup. In the final, Alyssa Healy was at her best as she scored 170 runs to help Australia post 356/5 in 50 overs. Alana King and Jess Jonassen spun a web to take six wickets between them to help Australia win a record-extending seventh Women's World Cup title. The Australian approach to the game proved that winning is a habit.

CK Subramaniam, NAVI MUMBAI

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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national

of the day quote

For the first time, government high schools are being set up in tea gardens with 97 of them scheduled to start academic session next month

People have formed a BJP government again, and in Uttar Pradesh, it is after 37-38 years that any party has formed its government for the second time in a row. This has been possible only because of the blessings of the people of the state

Most of the crimes against Tribal and Dalits are happening in Rajasthan. Congress leaders should be made to sit at home

SHORT TAKES

Judge killed in road accident

Bhopal: A judge posted in a district court was killed while his colleague and one other were seriously injured after the car in which they were travelling rammied into a tractor-trolley near Chhatrapur district headquarters in Madhya Pradesh. As per the police, driver of the speedily driven car lost control over the vehicle and it rammied into a stationary tractor-trolley parked on the roadside on Sagar-Kanpur highway on Saturday. One of the trio died on spot, while two others were critically injured, the police said.

Two non-locals shot at in J&K

Srinagar: Militants Sunday evening shot at and injured two non-local persons in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said. "At about 7.15 pm, terrorists fired upon two non-local persons namely Dheeraj Dutt and Surinder Singh -- both residents of Pathankot, Punjab, at Nowpora in Litter area of Pulwama," a police official said. He said they were shifted to District Hospital Pulwama in injured condition, where from Singh was referred to SHMS hospital in Srinagar.

4 LeT associates arrested in J&K

Srinagar: Four Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) associates were arrested Sunday in Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora district where the security forces busted a terror module. "These terror associates were providing logistics and transportation to terrorists in the districts. On specific inputs, the security forces recovered one Chinese grenade in Ashtango village of Bandipora and arrested terror associates identified as Irfan Ahmad Bhat, Sajad Ahmad Mir and Irfan Ahmad Jan.

Fire erupts in Sariska forest

Jaipur: A major blaze has again been reported at the Sariska forest in Rajasthan Sunday evening, officials said. The fire has spread at around 5-6 km of the forest's area. A 25-member team of State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) has been rushed to the forest to bring the fire under control, SDRF Commandant Pankaj Chaudhary said. Just a few days ago, a major fire had broken out and later spread at around 20 km area in Sariska tiger reserve. Later, IAF helicopters were pressed into service to douse the fire.



The government is "hell-bent" on ensuring the economic disempowerment of Jammu and Kashmir and the valley is being "drained" of its wealth

MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP PRESIDENT

AI TO REDUCE FLIGHTS TO LANKA

Air India Sunday said it will reduce its India-Sri Lanka services from 16 flights per week currently to 13 flights per week from April 9 due to poor demand. Sri Lanka is currently experiencing its worst economic crisis in history



Women faced depression, food insecurity during pandemic

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi/New York, April 3: Though national lockdowns during Covid were potentially crucial to preventing the spread of the deadly infectious disease, these were associated with increased rates of depression and anxiety as well as food insecurity among women in India and other parts of the developing world, finds a research.

The study, led by researchers at the University of California San Diego in the US, found that women whose social position may make them more vulnerable - those with daughters and those living in female-headed households - experienced even larger declines in mental health as a result of lockdowns.

The team conducted telephonic surveys of 1,545 households across



RESEARCH FINDING

six states in Northern India, namely Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra, in August 2020, near the height of the first Covid-19 wave in India.

The findings, to be published in

a forthcoming issue of the Journal of Economic Development, revealed that women reported a 38 per cent increase in depression, a 44 per cent increase in anxiety and a 73 per cent increase in exhaustion.

"Not having access to work and socialisation outside the home can be very detrimental for women's mental health in developing countries," said Gaurav Khanna, Assistant Professor of economics at the varsity's School of Global Policy and Strategy.

The pandemic resulted in dramatic losses of income for women. In the survey, roughly 25 per cent of households reduced the number of meals consumed, compared to a normal month. However, these declines primarily impacted women because in many cultures throughout the developing world, women's food intake is the first to be limited when food is scarce.

"We found in our study, the consequences of lockdown policies are exacerbated for women. We hope policymakers in developing countries and beyond know what

the implications are for these policies, especially for those in vulnerable positions because if there is another wave, communities could be faced with similar lockdowns," Khanna added.

The paper also outlines policy recommendations that could help address the mental and physical health consequences experienced by women during the pandemic.

For example, in certain parts of India, the government did distribute food to rural areas, which helped prevent malnutrition and food insecurity. Counselling and helpline services offered over-the-phone can also help address the pandemic's mental health impacts, the authors noted. The findings also have implications for women all over the world who experience lockdowns, they said.

Several crude bombs found in Bogtui village

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, April 3: Several crude bombs were recovered on Sunday near the residence of Palash Sheikh, the prime accused of the March 21 carnage in Bogtui village of West Bengal's Birbhum district.

The bombs were later defused. The villagers had informed the police about the bombs. The personnel from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the bomb squad of West Bengal Police reached the spot and cordoned off the area. A team of the state fire services department also reached the spot.

The police dug out a container and recovered at least 20 crude bombs. The bomb squad personnel carried the crude bombs to an adjacent open space and defused them one by one. The police have started search operations in different pockets of the village to track more hidden bombs.

Since the March 21 massacre that killed nine persons, including the deputy chief of the local Boroshal Village panchayat, Vadu Sheikh, the accused Palash Sheikh has been missing. The members of



The personnel from the CBI and the bomb squad of West Bengal Police reached the spot and cordoned off the area

The police dug out a container and recovered at least 20 crude bombs. The bomb squad personnel carried the crude bombs to an adjacent open space and defused them one by one

The police have started search operations in different pockets of the village to track more hidden bombs

the special investigation team (SIT) of the state police as well as sleuths of the CBI have been carrying out massive search operations in search of Palash Sheikh.

Both Vadu Sheikh and Palash Sheikh were actively associated with the Trinamool Congress. Following the March 21 carnage, the leaders of the opposition parties in the state including the BJP, Left

Front and Congress have been highlighting the internal feud within the state's ruling party.

Meanwhile, the members of the CBI team probing the Bogtui massacre have received information about certain vehicles, including a motorcycle through which the bombs and inflammable items used for the massacre, were ferried to Bogtui village on March 21.

Panel seeks inclusion of Covovax in vax drive

India's drug regulator had approved Covovax for restricted use in emergency situations in adults December 28 and in the 12-17 age group, subject to certain conditions, on March 9

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 3: The COVID-19 Working Group of the NTAGI has recommended inclusion of the Serum Institute's Covovax in the national vaccination programme for those aged 12 years and above, official sources said Sunday.

India's drug regulator had approved Covovax for restricted use in emergency situations in adults December 28 and in the 12-17 age group, subject to certain conditions, on March 9.

The COVID-19 Working Group has now recommended to the Standing Technical Sub-Committee of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) that Covovax be included in the national vaccination programme for those aged 12 years and above, sources said.



Serum Institute of India (SII) Director for Government and Regulatory Affairs Prakash Kumar Singh had written to the Union Health Ministry recently, requesting for Covovax's inclusion in the immunisation drive.

"A meeting of the COVID-19 Working Group of the NTAGI took place on April 1 during which data of Covovax was reviewed, after which it recommended that the vaccine can be included in the national COVID-19 vaccination programme for inoculating those aged 12 years and above," one of the sources said.

Singh had stated that the Pune-based firm wanted to provide Covovax to private hospitals at Rs 900 per dose plus GST and was waiting for directions to supply it to the Centre. However, the price of the vaccine for the government was not mentioned.

India began inoculating children aged 12-14 from March 16. Biological E's Corbevax is being used to inoculate them.

Recite Ram Katha, Hanuman Chalisa: Congress to workers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, April 3: Gearing up for the next year's Assembly polls in Madhya Pradesh, the Congress is trying to widen its appeal among masses by planning to celebrate the upcoming Ram Navami and Hanuman Jayanti and has asked its cadres to recite Sundarkand (a part of Ramayana) and Hanuman Chalisa.

The ruling BJP has ridiculed the move as "hypocrisy" saying Congress leaders had termed Lord Ram as an imaginary character. A letter, issued on behalf of MP Congress president Kamal Nath, directed the party leaders and workers to hold religious programmes on April 10 and April 16 to mark Ram Navami and Hanuman Jayanti, respectively.

"On both these auspicious religious festivals, recitation of Lord

Ram Katha, programmes of Ramlila and worship of Lord Ram should be organised. Besides, the recitation of Sundarkand and Hanuman Chalisa should be organised on Hanuman Jayanti," stated the letter issued by Chandraprabhash Shekhar, a vice-president in-charge of the organisation.

Nath will hold a religious programme on Hanuman Jayanti at Chhindwara, his home turf, it said. Queried about the Congress move, MP Congress general secretary and media in-charge KK Mishra said that this is not the first time that such directives were issued.

"PCC president Kamal Nath is a devotee of Lord Hanuman and has been holding such programmes in Chhindwara for the past several years. Congress leaders had organised similar programmes last year," he said.



A fruit juice vendor waits for customers at his shop on a hot day in Kolkata, Sunday

PTI PHOTO

BOOSTING ECONOMY

Govt mulls tourism network along Ganga

The 2,520-km-long Ganga flows through major cities such as Varanasi, Haridwar, Prayagraj, Kolkata, Patna, Kanpur and Ghazipur, and since 2014, the government through its Namami Gange Programme has pumped in funds to clean up the river

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 3: The government is planning to create a tourism network to promote not only sites

of historical and mythological importance along the Ganga, considered holy among the Hindus, but also to boost the economy of the regions surrounding the river, officials across ministries working on the project said.

The 2,520-km-long Ganga flows through major cities such as Varanasi, Haridwar, Prayagraj, Kolkata, Patna, Kanpur and Ghazipur, and since 2014, the government through its Namami Gange Programme has pumped in funds to clean up the river.

Declared a flagship scheme, the programme has a budget outlay of Rs 20,000 crore. "Looking at the tourism part of it, the Ganga river is blessed with a lot of historical places, and whether it was Ramayana or Mahabharata, many



of it happened in the Ganga basin. Then there is Kashi and Prayagraj, which are mythologically and religiously very important," a senior official in the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) said. "Then there are products unique

to these regions like sarees and special cuisines. We can integrate all these and can conduct a tourism festival as part of the 'Azadi ka Mahotsav'. We are trying to do that. So, we will provide all the information, and tourism department

would be doing it. The NMCG has proposed such a festival," the official said.

Sources indicated that the tourism ministry's proposed Ganga Circuit to develop and promote sites along the Ganga in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Bihar is still on the drawing board and not ready for approval.

However, officials said that meetings have been held with the NMCG and a blueprint will be finalised soon. Under the Namami Gange Programme, the plan is to encourage self-sufficiency and create an environment for the maintenance of the river to which livelihoods are linked, the officials at the NMCG said.

"We have constructed many ghats along the river. One hun-

dred and sixty four ghats have been built but there is no one to manage and maintain these. Then we thought why don't we link these ghats to local livelihoods? We can ask some unit to conduct 'aartis' there every day so there is something to attract tourists. Then we can also have 'haats' (markets) there. Farmers can come every week to sell their produce at these ghats. We are calling that programme 'ghat mein haat', the official said.

He also said once footfall of tourists rises, revenue can be generated even from car parking. Informal employment can also be generated through vendors, the official said. States too have started working to ensure that areas around the river become hubs of activity.

Raj parrots BJP script at rally, sparks political ire

In a Macaque-shaming somersault, Raj slammed Uddhav for not respecting the peoples' mandate in favour of Sena-BJP in the 2019 Assembly elections

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, April 3: A huge political row was ignited in the state Sunday after Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) President Raj Thackeray's stinging direct attack on his estranged cousin and Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, and attempt to stake a claim on Hindutva, at his large Gudi Padwa day rally, here late Saturday night.

In a Macaque-shaming somersault, Raj slammed Uddhav for not respecting the peoples' mandate in favour of Shiv Sena-Bharatiya Janata Party in the 2019 Assembly elections and choosing to ally with Nationalist Congress Party-Congress to head the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government.

"He has betrayed the peoples' verdict. He claims there was a closed-door understanding with Amit Shah to share the post of CM. Why he remembered it only after the elections," boomed Raj.

He also targeted Congress and NCP Presidents on various counts, blaming the latter for introducing divisive politics in the state after launching the NCP.

A strong critic of the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Raj's 2019 election meetings were an audio-visual treat as he barked 'Laav re te video' (Play that Video) and carried out a serial expose on the saffron party amidst thunderous applause, but managed to get only one MLA elected.

As expected, top MVA leaders starting with Sena MP Sanjay Raut, NCP chief Pawar, Deputy CM Ajit Pawar, Supriya Sule, Congress' Nana Patole, Ashok Chavan, Atul Londhe,



Raj Thackeray addresses public meeting on the occasion of Marathi New Year, Gudi Padwa, at Shivaji Park, in Mumbai

On Saturday, an apparently weary Raj urged the gathering of 'Hindus' not to forget his sermons and give an opportunity to the MNS to rule the state in 2024 and help take it towards progress

He also demanded that the MVA government should immediately ban loudspeakers at mosques or he would counter them by playing Hanuman Chalisa at double volume near the mosques

ex-Mumbai Mayor Kishori Pednekar and others clobbered Raj Thackeray for his unbridled remarks.

Surprisingly, Asaduddin Owaisi, President of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) - which recently sought an alliance with the MVA but was spurned - issued a gag order on his party from reacting to the MNS chief's comments.

Referring to the MNS head's flip-flops vis-a-vis the BJP in the past,

Pawar Sr knowingly said in Solapur that Raj is 'inconsistent', who says things and scoots for 3-4 months after that.

Raut charged Raj with being a 'megaphone' of the BJP who has cut his wisdom-teeth belatedly and wondered why he chose to raise the MVA government formation after two-and-half years.

Taking a swipe at Raj's infamous ED notice in August 2019 and his succulent grilling for over 9 hours by the agency sleuths, an amused Sule asked whether he got 'scared' of just one ED notice.

Leader of the Opposition Devendra Fadnis, without displaying emotions, wholeheartedly lauded Raj saying how those who are capable of forming the government are abandoned and three parties (MVA) are running the regime, while BJP President Chandrakant Patil said he was reminded of the late Sena founder Balasaheb Thackeray

Sawant allots portfolios, retains Home, Fin

Rohan Khaunte is entrusted with the plum Tourism dept while Vishwajit Rane, who had unsuccessfully lobbied for the CM's post, has been given crucial Health and Town and Country Planning portfolios

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Panaji, April 3: In his second term as the chief minister of Goa, Pramod Sawant has retained key Home and Finance portfolios while distributing ministries to his eight colleagues in the state cabinet.

Rohan Khaunte is entrusted with the plum Tourism, Information and Technology and Printing and Stationary departments.

Vishwajit Rane, who had unsuccessfully lobbied for the CM's post, has been given crucial Health and Town and Country Planning Portfolios along with Urban Development, Women and Child, and Forest departments.

A notification allotting portfolios to the eight MLAs of BJP, who took oath March 28 along with Sawant, was issued Sunday.

Sawant has retained the Home, Finance, Personnel, Vigilance and Official Languages departments.

Panaji MLA Atanasio Monserrate, who defeated former chief minister the late Manohar Parrikar's son Utpal from the Panaji seat, has been allotted Revenue, Labour and Waste Management portfolios.

Senior legislator Mauvin Godinho has been allotted Transport, Industries, Panchayat and Protocol ministries while Ravi Naik has been given the



Agriculture, Handicrafts, and Civil Supplies portfolios, as per the notification.

The crucial Public Works Department (PWD) portfolio has been allotted to Nilesh Cabral. He will also handle the departments of Legislative Affairs, Environment, and Law and Judiciary.

Subhash Shirodkar has been allotted Water Resources, Cooperation and Provedoria (Institute Of Public Assistance) portfolios.

Govind Gaude will handle Sports, Art and Culture and RDA ministries.

Rane, Godinho, Cabral and Gaude were part of the Sawant-led cabinet from 2019-22, while Khaunte was a minister in the Parrikar-headed government and was dropped from the cabinet in 2019.

The chief minister can induct three more ministers into the state cabinet.

Goa BJP chief Sadanand Shet Tanavade had last week said that a decision on three cabinet berths lying vacant will be taken "within a month or two".

In the recently concluded elections in Goa, the BJP won 20 seats, one short of the majority in the 40-member House. Three independent MLAs and two legislators of the Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party (MGP) have extended their support to the BJP.

Tiger back to haunt Goa's socio-political landscape once again

An all India Tiger Estimation survey, which is being readied by the state Forest Department, has once again started a conversation over formalising the presence of the national animal in Goa



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Panaji, April 3: The mighty tiger, a recurring motif in Goan mythology and forest legends, has once again come back to haunt the state's socio-political landscape.

Over the last decade and more, the state's ruling political classes - irrespective of party affiliation - have tried to ignore the presence of tiger movement in the state, even as an all India Tiger Estimation survey, which is being readied by the state Forest Department, has once again started a conversation over formalising the presence of the national animal in Goa.

As soon as wildlife officials started preparing the groundwork for the survey in the Mhadei wildlife sanctuary over the last fortnight, Goa Minister Vishwajit Rane, in whose assembly constituency the sanctuary is located, said that he would urge the Chief Minister to cancel the survey on account of popular opposition.

"I will write to the PCCF not to conduct any survey. There is no need for a survey. I will inform the Chief Minister and then move a note. I will urge the Chief Minister to stop the survey," Rane said. The BJP MLA is the second senior-most minister in the Pramod Sawant-led cabinet after the Chief Minister himself.

In more than a decade, five tigers have been killed in the Mhadei wildlife sanctuary itself. The first reported tiger poaching incident oc-

curred in 2009, when a tiger was snared in a metal trap, which cut through its torso. In 2020, four tigers were killed by poisoning, leading to the arrest of four persons.

The possibility of relocating their homes as well as diminished access to forest areas due to the potential setting up of a Tiger Reserve, fuss over forest department permissions related to construction and repair of homes, as well as less access to forest produce including cashew plantations which grow in adjacent patches has led to popular opposition to the setting up of a Reserve in Goa.

According to Forest Department officials, the spread of the Tiger Reserve could also encompass three other wildlife sanctuaries, which run contiguous to each other and fringe several mining leases which ring the already existing sanctuaries.

Setting up of a Tiger Reserve would make Goa's forests secure forever and enhance the state's fauna and forest cover for decades to come, a forest official said on condition of anonymity.

Goa's increased forest cover and protection to its green cover can be credited to retired General JFR Jacob's tenure as a Governor in 1999, when an elected government was not in place. The Governor announced the formation of the two sanctuaries in Mhadei and Netravali, a move which according to Rane was not in the interest of the people living in the areas.

OBJECTS FALL FROM SKY IN TWO MAHA VILLAGES

IRON RING, CYLINDER-LIKE THING FOUND IN 2 VILLAGES IN MAHARASHTRA'S CHANDRAPUR DISTRICT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nagpur, April 3: A metal ring and a cylinder-like object were found in two villages in Sindewahi tehsil in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra where unidentified burning objects had fallen from the sky, an official said Sunday.

Chandrapur Collector Ajay Gulhane told PTI that local people spotted an iron ring lying in an open plot in Ladburi village in Sindewahi tehsil around 7.50pm Saturday.

The metal ring was not there earlier so it can be said that it fell (from the sky) yesterday, he said. Gulhane said the disaster management control room in Mumbai was informed and a team may visit the spot in the Chandrapur district.

He said a cylinder-like object was found in Pawanpar village,



also in Sindewahi tehsil, Sunday morning. "It is a cylinder-like thing measuring 1 to 1.5 feet in diameter. It has been collected for examination. We had sent talathis

(junior revenue officials) to every village in the district to find if more parts of objects, if any, are lying scattered," the Collector said.

On Saturday, several social media users had reported seeing unidentified burning objects falling from the sky in parts of Maharashtra as well as in some districts of Madhya Pradesh. Officials had said that an aluminium and steel object reportedly fell at Ladburi village in Sindewahi tehsil around 7.45pm.

Such sightings were reported in Buldhana, Akola and Jalgaon districts of Maharashtra around 7.30pm, and also from Barwani, Bhopal, Indore, Betul and Dhar districts of neighbouring Madhya Pradesh.

Experts speculated that they could be meteorites entering the Earth's atmosphere or the pieces of rocket boosters which fall off after a satellite launch.

At Mumbai Metro flag-off, Uddhav slams bullet train

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, April 3: Flagging off the two new Mumbai Metro corridors - Line 2 and Line 7 - Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray Saturday slammed the Centre for creating obstacles on projects related to Mumbai, and questioned the utility of the upcoming bullet train project.

While the Centre is eager for the bullet train project, it has taken over the land intended for the International Finance Centre in the prime Bandra Kurla Complex, he said of the pet project of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"If you have love for Mumbai then why don't you give us the Kanjurmar (salt-pan) lands for the Mumbai Metro Rail project? Railway land is not being transferred for the Dharavi redevelopment project, land is not being given to us for a pumping station," Thackeray said here.

He added how Maharashtra contributes the highest amount of GST in the country, yet the state's dues are still not cleared on time.

The first bullet train (for India) should have been started between Mumbai and Nagpur, not between Mumbai and Ahmedabad... Tell me, how the bullet train between Mumbai and Ahmedabad is going to be useful to you

UDDHAV THACKERAY | CM, MAHARASHTRA

"We are not begging, we are only firmly demanding our share of the taxes, but it is being consistently denied to us," rued the CM.

Taking a swipe at the state Bharatiya Janata Party leader who accused him of claiming credit for the two new lines of Mumbai Metro, Thackeray retorted saying if they had so much concern for the city, then why are roadblocks being created for the state's important infrastructure projects.

Earlier, Thackeray flagged off two new Metro Line 2A and Line 7, both in the suburbs - on the occasion of Gudi Padwa.

After 2 yrs, Ramzan Bazar to serve goodies to foodies!

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, April 3: After an unprecedented 'shutdown' for two consecutive years (2020-2021) due to the Covid-induced restrictions, Mumbai's famed Ramzan food market in and around Mohammed Ali Road is all ready to buzz just like it did before in its around 250-year-old history.

The Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government has lifted all the pandemic related curbs from this month, and the annual food market is set to manifest itself in full glory at Mohammed Ali Road, Minara Masjid, Bhendi Bazaar, and other bylanes, to whip up the favourite goodies for the foodies, from the first day of the holy Ramzan month of fasting.

Local Congress MLA Amin Patel is the moving spirit behind the 'revival' of the food bazaar that is 'house-full' from sunset to sunrise, making it a memorable, adventurous culinary night-out for the thousands of patrons from Mumbai, other states and even foreigners for the entire month.

For the past two Ramzans, the market was closed and deserted; the

centuries old glitter and lights were missing as people crouched indoors during the first and second waves of the pandemic, unwilling to take chances.

"We are ready to roll out the red carpet for our beloved patrons and food-lovers whose presence we missed the past two years," said Abdullah Rehman Khan, owner of the decades-old landmark 'Mashaallah Cuisine', which nestles under the shadow of the 25-decade-old Minara Masjid, where the trend started in a small way.

Khan reveals a bonus this time as many unheard and untasted varieties will be introduced for the vegetarians, non-vegetarians, sweet-lovers and snackers, with the specialised 'Khansamas' (traditional Master Chefs) wracking their creative skills to dish out brand new mouth-watering savory delights.

Electronics engineer Mohsin Shaikh - who runs the 100-year-old family business, 'Minara Paan Shop' - is optimistic that the Ramzan food market reopening will signal the beginning of good days again for lakhs of families who depend on it for survival.

There will be the usual select, en-



IN THE PAST SIX-SEVEN DECADES, IT ACQUIRED A CULT-STATUS FOR ITS SHEER FOOD VARIETY, THE UNIQUE PREPARATION STYLES, UNMATCHED TASTE, ATTRACTING FOOD-BUFFS FROM ALL OVER INDIA AND ABROAD

The food market - with 90 per cent non-vegetarian offerings - attracts around 40,000 people daily, the number zooms up to 100,000 on weekends, and the month closes with a stupendous 1.50 million hungry but satisfied customers in the swarming district

ting, aromatic 400-plus non-vegetarian items, over 100 assorted desserts and beverages, employing more than 5,000 people, many more indirectly, all supporting their families back home, helping churn the economy in these tough times, said Shaikh, whose outlet is renowned for the 50-plus 'tobacco-free' yummy paan concoctions.

Veteran Urdu scribe Aejez A

Ansari, a resident of Nagpada, said the Ramzan market's history is intertwined with the awe-inspiring Minara Masjid, where it started, initially with just a handful of tiny food stalls that gradually mushroomed over the decades and centuries.

Khan said certain dishes are specially prepared or available here only during Ramzan, many of which are 'secret family recipes'

handed down from generations which people flock to savour.

Around 25 per cent of the crowd are Muslims, 60 per cent non-Muslims and the rest are tourists or foreigners.

The main market spawns around one km on each side of Minara Masjid, the rest is a spill-over that emerges to cater to massive Ramzan demand. There are around 100-plus food stalls in the main market, and the rest 400-odd sellers. It's a veritable 'national integration through food' celebration during Ramzan, Khan said.

Die-hard food connoisseurs, some drive down from neighbouring states and others fly down from places like even Delhi, Kolkata, Jaipur, Bengaluru, Goa and Hyderabad, besides the locals, return home pleased, with tasty and tall tales of their wild nights of gluttony here.

The food bazar has spawned many clones in Mumbai and other cities, but people like Khan swear that the 'ronak' (splendour) of the Mohammed Ali Road market surpasses that of the Ramzan mega-food congregations in Istanbul, Dubai, Cairo, Jakarta or Casablanca...!



The Centre plans to open additional one-stop centres in those districts of the country where the crime rate against women is high
SMRITI IRANI | UNION MINISTER

'SCHOOL CHALO ABHIYAN' IN UP FROM TODAY

To ensure 100 per cent enrolment in primary and upper primary schools in Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will launch the 'School Chalo Abhiyan' from Shravasti district April 4



of the day quote

The refinery work is in progress. It has been delayed for five years by the BJP. We inaugurated the project in 2013 with a target of completion in 2017. But the BJP government did not take interest in the project for the five years of its term

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two-pronged approach of development and dialogue with insurgent groups in dealing with various challenges in the region has paid dividends

No one will be allowed to harm Haryana's interests. We are ready to make any sacrifice to protect the state's interests

Guj court acquits two of murder after victim found alive

Accused Madan Pipladi and Suresh Batela were arrested on the basis of an FIR lodged at Navsari rural police station in Gujarat July 6, 2016 for the alleged murder of Nagulal Gayari

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Navsari, April 3: A court in Gujarat's Navsari has acquitted two persons after finding out that the man, for whose alleged murder they were arrested six years ago, was alive.

The court of additional sessions judge Saranga Vyas in an order issued on March 30 also directed the

investigating officer - the then inspector of Navsari (rural) police station - to pay Rs 50,000 compensation to each of the two men for his 'careless investigation' that caused mental and physical agony to them and also hurt their social reputation.

Accused Madan Pipladi and Suresh Batela were arrested on the basis of an FIR lodged at Navsari rural police station in Gujarat on

July 6, 2016 for the alleged murder of Nagulal Gayari. Gayari was presumed dead and the body recovered by the police was mistakenly identified as that of his by his family members due to resemblance.

The accused were kept in jail for nearly three months before being released on bail, while the trial against them continued under sections 302 (murder), 201 (destruction of evidence), and 114 (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), before the court acquitted them five days back.

Police had arrested the duo after wrongly identifying the body of a



murder victim to be that of Gayari's, who had been missing for some time. Meanwhile, Gayari's family members took the body to their native place at Mandasaur district in Madhya Pradesh and performed the last rites.

It was only a few hours after performing the last rites that Gayari's brother learnt about him being alive and residing with his relative. They promptly informed this to the police. Despite this, the police went ahead and filed a charge sheet against the duo claiming that they murdered Gayari, who worked in the same factory as theirs and lived nearby, for allegedly trespassing into the house of one of the accused one night.

Gayari later confessed to the police of having entered the house of an accused one night looking for food as he was hungry, but escaped after his wife woke up.

Fearing consequences for trespassing, Gayari escaped from Navsari the same night and went to live with his relatives.

In the charge sheet, the police said that the main accused conspired with the other one and a minor to strangle the victim to death using a nylon rope before throwing it on the side of the road out of animosity against Gayari for trespassing into his house. As per the court's order, as many as 19 witnesses and 35 documents were produced before the court as evidence, including documents identifying the victim as Nagulal Gayari.

Controversy over Chandigarh: Punjab, Haryana lock horns

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chandigarh, April 3: Amid the adoption of an unanimous resolution by the Punjab Assembly to stake claim over Chandigarh, a longstanding dispute, Haryana Sunday also announced to convene a day-long special session of the Vidhan Sabha April 5.

Though the reason for calling the session has not been officially announced, officials admit it is to stake claim for Chandigarh, the joint capital of both states.

A cabinet meeting was held Sunday under the Chairmanship of Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar. It was decided in the meeting that a special session of Haryana Vidhan Sabha will be called on April 5 at 11 a.m., an official statement said.

A letter in this regard will be sent to the Governor and the Speaker, it added. Khattar has already condemned the Punjab assembly's resolution to transfer Chandigarh to the state. "Condemnable. They (Punjab) should not have done this," Khattar told the media.

"If they want to do something like this, they should first go to Supreme Court over resolving Satluj Yamuna Link Canal (SYL) issue. The Hindi-speaking areas were not given to Haryana, which



A cabinet meeting was held Sunday under the Chairmanship of Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar. It was decided in the meeting that a special session of Haryana Vidhan Sabha will be called April 5 at 11 am, an official statement said



The Punjab Assembly on April 1 unanimously adopted the resolution, moved by the leader of House and Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, urging the Centre to transfer Chandigarh to Punjab

delayed the rest of the issues. They should say that they are ready to give Hindi-speaking areas to Haryana," said Khattar, adding Chandigarh is and will remain the capital of both states.

Justifying further, he said Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh came into existence through the Punjab Reorganization Act passed in 1956. "There is a provision in this

Act that 60 per cent of employees of Chandigarh will be from Punjab and 40 per cent of employees will be from Haryana. Since that time, Chandigarh is the capital of Haryana and Punjab," he said.

The Chief Minister said not only Punjab and Haryana, but the people of Himachal Pradesh should also ask for their shares in Chandigarh.

'CBI NO MORE A CAGED PARROT'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 3: The CBI is no more a "caged parrot" but is truly performing its duty as India's top criminal investigating agency, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju asserted, saying there was a time when people sitting in the government sometimes used to become a problem in investigations.

He also said that the challenges some officers had faced in the past are "no more in existence".

The minister's remarks defending the agency came close on the heels of Chief Justice of India N V Ramana saying that the CBI's credibility has come under deep public scrutiny with the passage of time as its actions and inactions have raised questions in some cases. In a tweet on Sunday, Rijiju said, "CBI is no more 'Caged Parrot' but truly performing its duty as India's top criminal investigating agency".

Hyd pub raided, 2 held

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, April 3: Two persons were arrested Sunday after a raid on an elite Hyderabad pub, where white powder suspected to be cocaine was found, police said.

Tollywood actor Naga Babu's daughter and actor Niharika Konidela and singer Rahul Sipligunj were among more than 100 people briefly detained by police during the raid on Pudding & Mink Pub at Radisson hotel in posh Banjara Hills. While pub manager Mahadaram Anil Kumar and partner Abhishek Vuppala were arrested, third accused Arjun Veeramachineni was absconding, police said.

The raid was conducted after police received credible information that the pub was running at 1.40 a.m. with a huge crowd and some drugs were also consumed by some of the customers. The Task Force, along with local police, raided the pub at 2 a.m. hours and found more than 100 persons consuming liquor in the pub. On thorough checking

of the premises, five small packets containing white powder suspected to be cocaine were found in one of the plastic containers used for holding drink straws present on the bar counter in the custody of its manager Anil Kumar.

The partners of the Pudding & Mink Pub allow only a few selected elite customers and their guests to have access to their pub with the sole intention of earning money and they run the pub till the early hours (4 a.m.) An app is being maintained wherein a code is generated for each customer and the customers can have access to the Pub only by entering the code at the main entrance," police said.

A case under Section 8(c), 22(b) and 29(1) of NDPS Act was registered at Banjara Hills police station and investigation was taken up by the inspector. Those found partying also include daughter of a former Director General of Andhra Pradesh Police and a son of an MP belonging to TDP and children of some other well-known personalities.

Army chief to visit Singapore

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, April 3: Indian Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane is on three-day visit to Singapore to enhance military co-operation.

He has proceeded on Singapore visit from April 4 to April 6. During the visit, he will be meeting senior military and civilian leadership of the country. On April 4, General Naravane will lay a wreath at the Kranji War Memorial.

The Army Chief is scheduled to call on the Minister of Defence, Chief of Singapore Army and other senior dignitaries where he will discuss avenues for enhancing India-Singapore defence relations.

He will also visit the Infantry Gunnery Tactical Simulation and Wargame Centre, Regional HADR



Coordination Centre, Info Fusion Centre and the Changi Naval Base. Last year in December, Gen Naravane went on a week-long visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia, the first ever trip by an army chief to both West Asian states to significantly boost security ties.

Bureaucrats worried over unviable populist schemes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 3: In a marathon meeting of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with senior bureaucrats, a few officials raised concern over populist schemes announced by several states, claiming they are economically unsustainable and could take them down the same path as Sri Lanka, sources said on Sunday.

Modi held the four-hour-long meeting with secretaries of all departments at his camp office at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg, Saturday.

The meeting was also attended by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister PK Mishra and Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba along with other top bureaucrats of the Union government.

During the meeting, Modi categorically told bureaucrats to come out of the mentality of managing shortages to the new challenge of managing surplus.

He told them to give up the old story of citing "poverty" as an excuse for not taking up major development projects and asked them to adopt a bigger perspective, the sources said.

Citing the teamwork shown by the secretaries during the COVID-19 pandemic, Modi said they should act as secretaries of the government of India and not merely as secretaries of their re-



Modi categorically told bureaucrats to come out of the mentality of managing shortages to the new challenge of managing surplus

spective departments and should work as one team.

He also asked secretaries to give feedback and suggest loopholes in policies of the government, including those which are not related to their respective ministries. More than two dozen secretaries expressed their views and shared their feedback with Prime Minister Modi, who heard them with an open mind, the sources said.

This was the ninth such meeting of the Prime Minister with secretaries since 2014.

SHORT TAKES

CBI to interrogate Anubrata April 6

Kolkata: With the single and division benches of the Calcutta High Court having refused to give legal shield to Trinamool Congress strongman and the party's district president in Birbhum, Anubrata Mandal alias Keshto, there is little chance for him to avoid facing the CBI this week in ongoing probe in cattle and coal smuggling. The CBI has summoned Mandal to its office at Nizam Palace in central Kolkata on April 6. This is the sixth summon sent to him.

Eight arrested

New Delhi: In a major operation, the Delhi Police have busted a multi-crore Chinese loan Application fraud and extortion racket and arrested eight people from different parts of the country, an official said Sunday. Deputy Commissioner of Police (IFS) K.P.S. Malhotra said that the accused were allegedly extorting and abusing innocent people in the name of providing and repaying loans. Sharing complete details of the case, the DCP said a complaint was lodged at the IFSO unit of the Special Cell by a woman alleging that she was being abused and threatened by some unknown persons who were sending her morphed and vulgar photographs to her family, friends and relatives through social media.

3 killed in accident

Raigarh: Three friends were killed after their motorcycle collided head on with a truck in Chhattisgarh's Raigarh district Sunday, police said. The accident took place around noon near Koni turn on Sarangarh-Baramkela road when the trio were heading to Malda village in Sarangarh area on a motorcycle, an official here said. The deceased were identified as Neelambar Bariha (26), Deenbandhu Bariha (30), natives of Malda and Chandrasen Chauhan (35) of Saraipali (Mahasamund district), he said.

Tiger found dead

Balaghat (MP): A sub-adult tiger was found dead in Lalbarra forest area of Madhya Pradesh's Balaghat district Sunday, a senior official said. The villagers spotted the carcass in the forest of Chikhlabaddi village under Lalbarra range Sunday morning and informed the Forest Department team, he said. The feline, around two-years old, is suspected to have died in a territorial fight as the carcass had a number of injury marks, said Chief Conservator of Forest (CCF), Balaghat, Narendra Kumar Sanodia.



Battle for Gujarat begins

If the Aam Aadmi Party is trying to make inroads in Gujarat Assembly polls slated for this year end, Prime Minister Modi has decided to undertake a tour of his home state every month to consolidate BJP's winning streak since 1995. A jittery Congress, after its rout in the recent Assembly polls, is also gearing up to prevent poaching of MLAs and workers which is in full swing. Rahul Gandhi held a meeting with the Gujarat Congress

leaders. But nothing concrete emerged to take on the saffron party. Of the 77 MLAs that the Congress won in 2017 Assembly polls, 11 have already quit and joined the BJP and brought its strength down to 66. It now transpires that more MLAs are being wooed by the BJP and even AAP which is emerging fast on the scene.

Sinha gets key PESB post

In a surprise development, the Modi government appointed former adviser to the PMO and former Union Secretary (Rural Development) Amarjeet Sinha as a Member of the Public Enterprise Selection Board (PESB). Sinha's tenure was curtailed in the Prime Minister's Office last year. Now Amarjeet Sinha has been rehabilitated in the all powerful body, PESB, which looks after appointments and postings in all Public Sector Undertakings. Sinha joined office last week.

Sonia's Rae Bareilly waterloo

After losing Amethi Lok Sabha seat in 2019 where Rahul Gandhi suffered a humiliating defeat at the hands of BJP's Smriti Irani, the threat is now looming large over Congress' last bastion in UP, Rae Bareilly. In a shocker, the Congress lost all five Assembly seats falling in the Rae Bareilly Lok Sabha constituency in the recently concluded Uttar Pradesh polls. For decades, the Congress dominated Amethi, Rae Bareilly and nearby constituencies. But 2019 changed everything and now a real threat has emerged to the Congress president herself for a seat in Lok Sabha from North India in general and UP in particular. It would be worthwhile to mention that even in 2019 Sonia Gandhi won the seat as neither SP nor the BSP fielded their candidates to indirectly help her. It is ironic that in the 2022 UP Assembly polls,

the Congress could barely win 2 seats and lost deposit in 387 assembly constituencies out of 399 it contested. The Congress is in disarray and there is no hope of its revival in North India unless the Gandhis are able to put their own house in order first.

Soul-searching by BJP too

The BJP may have won the Assembly polls in four states; UP, Uttarakhand, Goa and Manipur. But its top leadership has not reconciled to the fact that not even 2% of the Muslims voted for the saffron party. This is despite the fact that most of the welfare schemes of the Prime Minister benefited members of all communities across the board. An internal booth-wise report was assessed by the party's chieftains in UP surprised the Central leadership. It clearly

Another battle ahead

The dust of Assembly polls in five states had not even been settled and the country is set to witness another bout of elections. As many as 62 more Rajya Sabha seats are falling vacant after the biennial polls for 13 seats get over. This will take place in May-June before the Presidential polls. Seven nominated MPs are retiring next month. Of all the states, the most interesting battle will be witnessed in Maharashtra where six Rajya Sabha seats are falling vacant shortly.

international



Today, a man obsessed with power trampled the Constitution
NAWAZ SHARIF | FORMER PAKISTAN PM

PRINCE HAMZAH RELINQUISHES TITLE

The half-brother of Jordan's king relinquished his princely title Sunday, a year after a rare palace feud saw him placed under house arrest. Prince Hamzah posted the letter on his official Twitter account, saying he gave up his title because his values "are not in line with the approaches, trends and modern methods of our institutions."



of the day quote

We are citizens of Ukraine and we don't want to be subdued to the policy of Russian Federation



VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY | UKRAINE'S PRESIDENT

Help us to recognise from afar those in need, struggling amidst the waves of the sea, dashed against the reefs of unknown shores



POPE FRANCIS

The US remains fully committed to providing a full range of economic and military support to Ukraine in its war against Russia



RON KLAIN | WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF

SHORT TAKES

1 killed, 10 hurt at Dallas concert

Dallas: One person was killed and 10 others were injured during a shooting at an outdoor concert in Dallas, police said. At about 11:36 pm Saturday, officers were called to a field in southeast Dallas where a concert was being held, police said in a statement. At the field, officers found that 10 people who had been attending the concert, including three juveniles, had been shot, police said. Authorities didn't immediately release the name of the person who was killed. All the people who had been shot were taken to hospitals. Their conditions were not immediately known. No arrests have been made as police continue to investigate what prompted the shooting. Saturday night's shooting happened two weeks after 10 people were shot March 19 during a spring break party at a Dallas event venue.

Hungarians head to polls

Budapest: Polls opened across Hungary early Sunday as voters in the Central European country faced a choice: take a chance on a diverse, Western-looking coalition of opposition parties, or grant nationalist Prime Minister Viktor Orban a renewed mandate with a fourth consecutive term in office. The contest is expected to be the closest since Orban took power in 2010, thanks to Hungary's six main opposition parties putting aside ideological differences to form a united front against his right-wing Fidesz party. Recent polls suggest a tight race but give Fidesz a slight lead, making it likely that undecided voters will determine the victor in Sunday's vote. Opposition parties and international observers have pointed out structural impediments to defeating Orban by electoral means.

First fuel ship in Yemen's Hodeida

Cairo: A tanker carrying badly needed fuel arrived in Yemen's blockaded port of Hodeida Sunday, as a cease-fire meant to stop the fighting in the war-torn country for two months entered its first full day. The truce agreement, which took effect Saturday evening, allows for shipments of fuel to arrive in Hodeida and for passenger flights to resume from the airport in the capital of Sanaa. Both Hodeida and Sanaa are held by the Iranian-backed Houthi rebels. The agreement comes after a significant escalation in hostilities in recent weeks that saw the Houthis claim several attacks across the country's borders, targeting the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

Russian retreat leaves trail of dead civilians



A woman walks as smoke rises in the air in the background after shelling in Odessa, Ukraine, Sunday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bucha (Ukraine), April 3: Ukrainian troops are finding brutalised bodies and widespread destruction in suburbs of the capital as Russian soldiers withdraw and Moscow focuses its attacks elsewhere, including missile strikes Sunday that targeted fuel and ammunition supplies in southern and eastern Ukraine.

Associated Press journalists in Bucha, a small city northwest of Kyiv, saw the bodies of at least nine people in civilian clothes

who appeared to have been killed at close range. At least two had their hands tied behind their backs. The AP also saw two bodies wrapped in plastic, bound with tape and thrown into a ditch.

Authorities said they were documenting evidence as Ukraine's military reclaims territory and discovers indications of execution-style slayings to add to their case for prosecuting Russian officials for war crimes.

'Scene from a horror movie' Oleksiy Arestovych, an adviser to Ukrainian President Volodymyr

Zelenskyy, said scores of killed civilians were found on the streets of Bucha and the Kyiv suburbs of Irpin and Hostomel in what looked like a "scene from a horror movie." Arestovych said some people were shot in the head and had their hands bound, and some bodies showed signs of torture, rape and burning.

The capital city's mayor, Vitali Klitschko, said civilians were "shot with joined hands" and told German newspaper Bild that "what happened in Bucha and other suburbs of Kyiv can only be

described as genocide."

A day earlier, AP journalists witnessed Ukrainian soldiers gingerly removing at least six bodies from a street in Bucha with cables in case the Russians had booby-trapped corpses with explosives before their withdrawal. Local residents said the dead people were civilians killed without provocation, a claim that could not be independently verified.

Klitschko called on other nations to immediately end Russian gas imports, saying they were funding the invasion of Ukraine, now in its 39th day.

"Not a penny should go to Russia anymore. That's bloody money used to slaughter people. The gas and oil embargo must come immediately," the mayor said.

Charles Michel, president of the European Council, wrote on Twitter that he was shocked by the "haunting images of atrocities committed by Russian army" in the capital region. The EU and non-governmental organizations were assisting in the effort to preserve evidence of war crimes, according to Michel, who promised "further EU sanctions" against Russia.

Sunday morning, Russian forces launched an airstrike on the Black Sea port of Odesa, in southern Ukraine, sending up clouds of dark smoke that veiled parts of the city. The Russian military said the targets were an oil processing plant and fuel depots around Odesa, which is Ukraine's largest port and home to its navy.

Lankan cops fire tear gas to stop protests



REUTERS

Colombo, April 3: Police fired tear gas at hundreds of protesting students in central Sri Lanka Sunday, a federal lawmaker said, as soldiers manned checkpoints in the capital to enforce a curfew imposed to curb public outrage triggered by an economic crisis.

Lakshman Kiriella, MP from the second-largest city, Kandy, said police used tear gas to scatter students protesting against the government near the University of Peradeniya.

"These students have come out in defiance of the curfew and police have fired tear gas to disperse them," said Kiriella, from the opposition Samagi Jana Balawegaya party. The university is on the outskirts of Kandy, where the students had been held back by police, he said. Police officials in Kandy did not respond to calls from Reuters seeking comment.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa declared a state of emergency Friday as the Indian Ocean island nation grapples with rising prices, shortages of essentials and rolling power cuts. On Saturday, the government implemented a countrywide curfew as protests turned violent. It is to run until till 6 a.m Monday.

SOCIAL MEDIA RESTORED

In the capital Colombo Sunday, some two dozen opposition leaders stopped at police barricades on the way to Independence Square, some shouting "Gota(baya) Go Home".

"This is unacceptable," said opposition leader Eran Wickramaratne leaning over the barricades. "This is a democracy."

Small groups in Colombo were standing outside their homes to protest, some holding handwritten banners, others with national flags. In the afternoon the government lifted a block it had placed on social media platforms hours earlier.

'All orders, actions initiated by Pak PM subject to court order'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, April 3: Pakistan's Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial said Sunday that all orders and actions initiated by the prime minister and the president regarding the dissolution of the National Assembly will be subject to the court's order as he adjourned for one day the hearing of the high-profile case.

Pakistan President Arif Alvi earlier dissolved the National Assembly (NA) on advice of Prime Minister Imran Khan, minutes after Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri blocked a no-confidence motion against the embattled premier.

Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial took notice of the situation and a three member bench held the initial hearing despite the weekend and issued notices to all the respondents, including President Alvi and deputy speaker of the NA. The court ordered all parties to

avoid taking any unconstitutional measures and adjourned the hearing until Monday. Chief Justice Bandial said that all orders and actions initiated by the prime minister and the president regarding the dissolution of the NA will be subject to the court's order.

Earlier, the Opposition had demanded the top court to intervene and Shehbaz Sharif, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, announced his party's decision to challenge the dissolution of the NA. "We are going to challenge the ruling by the deputy speaker and advice by the prime minister to dissolve parliament in the Supreme Court," he said.

The political situation was in favour of opposition until Khan came up with the notion of a conspiracy hatched by America to oust him from power for following an independent foreign policy on Ukraine.

Taliban ban drug cultivation

REUTERS

Kabul/Peshawar, April 3: The Taliban announced Sunday a ban on the cultivation of narcotics in Afghanistan, the world's biggest opium producer.

"As per the decree of the supreme leader of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, all Afghans are informed that from now on, cultivation of poppy has been strictly prohibited across the country," according to an order from the Taliban's supreme leader Haibatullah Akhundzada.

"If anyone violates the decree, the crop will be destroyed immediately and the violator will be treated according to the Sharia law," the order, announced at a news conference by the Ministry of Interior in Kabul, said.

The order said the production, use or transportation of other narcotics was also banned.

Drug control has been one major demand of the international community of the Islamist group, which took over the country in August and is seeking formal international recognition in order to wind back sanctions that are severely hampering banking, business and development.

The Taliban banned poppy growing towards the end of their last rule



in 2000 as they sought international legitimacy, but faced a popular backlash and later mostly changed their stance, according to experts.

Afghanistan's opium production - which the United Nations estimated was worth \$1.4 billion at its height in 2017 - has increased in recent months, farmers and Taliban members told Reuters.

The country's dire economic situation has prompted residents of south-eastern provinces to grow the illicit crop that could bring them faster and higher returns than legal crops such as wheat.

Covid: Shanghai orders twin tests for all citizens

AGENCIES

Beijing/Shanghai, April 3: China's business capital Shanghai Sunday ordered the city's entire 26.3 million people to undergo twin tests to stop the spread of coronavirus, as the country reported 13,146 new COVID-19 cases, the highest daily increase in the number of infections in the latest outbreak.

Shanghai will conduct city-wide antigen testing Sunday and nucleic acid testing Monday amid efforts to contain the recent resurgence of COVID-19 cases in the metropolis, according to the local authorities.

The testing measures are aimed at completely eliminating potential risks, cutting off the chain of transmission, curbing the spread of the virus, and achieving dynamic zero COVID-19 cases as soon as possible, the official media quoted Wu Qianyu, an official with the Shanghai Municipal Health Commission, as saying.

Shanghai reported 438 confirmed locally transmitted COVID-19 cases and 7,788 asymptomatic carriers Saturday. Wu said Shanghai was building more temporary hospitals to accommodate COVID-19 patients and major exhibition sites.

Talks on new UN climate report going down to the wire

Last month, the science panel outlined how further temperature increases will multiply the risk of floods, storms, drought and heat waves worldwide

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Berlin, April 3: Negotiations between scientists and governments over a key United Nations climate report were going down to the wire Sunday as officials from major emerging economies insisted that it should recognise their right to development.

The latest report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a UN-backed science body, is meant to show the paths by which the world can stay within the temperature limits agreed in the 2015 Paris accord.

The agreement aims to cap global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) this century.

However, with temperatures already more than 1.1C higher than the pre-industrial baseline, many experts say that is only possible with drastic cuts to greenhouse gas emissions.

The closed-doors meeting was meant to wrap up Friday so that the report could be presented to the public Monday.

But several observers, who spoke only on condition of anonymity because of the confidential nature of the proceedings, told The Associated Press that the talks were still far from finished with less than 24 hours to go before the publication deadline.

One senior climate scientist said about 70 per cent of the text had so



far been agreed and there was still hope the negotiations might finish Sunday.

India has emerged as a key voice

pushing for recognition in the report that developing countries have contributed a far smaller share of the carbon dioxide emis-

sions already in the atmosphere than industrialised nations and should therefore not need to make the same steep cuts.

India, which remains heavily dependent on coal, also wants poor countries to receive significantly more financial support to cope with climate change and make the transition to a low-carbon economy.

Others, such as oil exporter Saudi Arabia, argue that fossil fuels will still be needed for decades to come and phasing them out too quickly could hurt the world's poorest.

The text being negotiated is a summary for policymakers that will serve as the basis for government talks at international cli-

mate meetings such as the upcoming UN summit in Egypt this fall.

The underlying science report outlining the world's progress in cutting emissions is not subject to negotiation, but it cannot be published until the summary is agreed.

A previous installment last year warned that there is no doubt the rapid climate change seen in recent decades is caused by humans and some effects of global warming are already inevitable.

Last month, the science panel outlined how further temperature increases will multiply the risk of floods, storms, drought and heat waves worldwide.

of the day quote

Midcap and smallcap stocks tend to outperform in a classical bull market, and I believe they may continue to outperform in FY23 as well, as the Indian economy is ready for multiyear growth despite short-term hiccups

PARTH NYATI | FOUNDER, TRADINGO

At one point of time we were at ₹500 crore... Hopefully, in FY22-23 everything comes back to pre-pandemic (levels) and the target we have internally set is ₹500 crore in the next five years up from around ₹200 crore in FY21-22

ATUL THAKKER | MD, MINOSHIA INDIA

The demand from the corporate sector has also started gaining, except pick up from the manufacturing sector. My sense is that with a capex push from the government in the Budget, it would stimulate demand from manufacturing

AS RAJEEV | MD, BOM

SHORT TAKES

McCap of top-10 valued cos soars

New Delhi: The top 10 valued domestic firms added a whopping ₹2,61,767.61 crore to their total market valuation last week in tandem with a buoyant trend in equities, with HDFC Bank and Reliance Industries emerging as the biggest gainers. Last week, the Sensex zoomed 1,914.49 points or 3.33 per cent. From the top-10 pack, the market valuation of HDFC Bank zoomed ₹41,469.24 crore to reach ₹8,35,324.84 crore. In the ranking of top-10 firms, Reliance Industries retained the most valued company tag, followed by Tata Consultancy Services, HDFC Bank, Infosys, ICI Bank, Hindustan Unilever, State Bank of India, Bajaj Finance, HDFC and Bharti Airtel.

Koo treads beyond eminence badge

New Delhi: Twitter-rival Koo is planning to introduce the 'identification tick' option on a voluntary basis for all its general users as the homegrown microblogging platform broadens its verification programme beyond the current yellow badge given to eminent accounts. Koo co-founder and CEO Aprameya Radhakrishna told PTI that while the platform aspires to expand into other countries, it will not hasten to do so. The overseas expansion plans are not an immediate priority. Instead, Koo will have a razor-sharp focus on ensuring market leadership on its home ground India and will strive to make sure that all its learnings about adapting to local cultures and ethos are complete within India and for the current test base in Nigeria.

AC makers expect robust growth

New Delhi: The prices of residential air conditioners may go up by around 5 per cent as the industry faces soaring input costs even though the makers are looking for double-digit growth this year with early onset of summer spurring demand. Buoyed by the recent prediction by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) about the summer temperature to stay "above normal" in April and May, leading air conditioner (AC) makers, including Voltas, Hitachi, LG, Panasonic and Godrej Appliances are expecting pent-up demand of the last two seasons that saw market disruptions due to Covid-19 pandemic.



“We will continue to export wheat in a big way and meet the needs of the countries that are not getting their supplies from the conflict areas, and my own sense is that this time we will probably exceed our wheat exports (of) over 100 lakh tonne comfortably”

PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

AS MONACO ENTER CRYPTO SPACE

French club AS Monaco announced a partnership with Capital Block to develop NFTs (non-fungible tokens), marking the latest foray of a soccer team into the world of cryptocurrency and digital coins



Exports at record high of \$418 billion in FY22

India's merchandise exports had breached the targeted \$400 billion mark March 21 this year. The key export sectors, which contributed to record healthy growth, include petroleum products, engineering, gems and jewellery, chemicals and pharmaceuticals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 3: India's merchandise exports spurted to a record high of \$418 billion in the 2021-22 fiscal on higher shipments of petroleum products, engineering goods, gem and jewellery and chemicals, according to official data released Sunday.

Outbound shipments touched an all-time monthly high of \$40.38 billion in March 2022, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal told reporters here. Exports stood at \$35.26 billion in March 2021.

Merchandise exports were worth \$292 billion in 2020-21.

India's merchandise exports had breached the targeted \$400 billion mark March 21 this year. The key export sectors, which contributed to record healthy growth, include petroleum products, engineering, gems and jewellery, chemicals and pharmaceuticals.

"Merchandise exports from India have reached \$417.8 billion in the current financial year. This figure excludes the figures from non-EDI Ports and adding that, it is likely to exceed \$418 billion, an all-time high in India's export history," the Commerce and Industry Ministry said in a statement.

Goyal said that efforts by exporters and industry associations,



coordination among different departments and state governments have resulted in this achievement.

Commodities that recorded a positive growth in exports during April 2021-March 2022 over the previous fiscal include petroleum, cotton yarn/fabrics/madeups, handloom, gems and jewellery, engineering goods (\$111 billion as against \$76 billion), electronic engineering products (\$15.58 billion as against \$11 billion), leather goods, chemicals, plastic and marine products, it said.

Agriculture exports have crossed \$48 billion during April 2021-March 2022. "We will continue to export

India to continue wheat export in a big way, minister says

Rising exports to help India's aim to reduce trade gap

The top export destinations are the US, the UAE, Bangladesh, the Netherlands, Singapore, Hong Kong, the UK, Belgium and Germany

wheat in a big way to meet the needs of the countries which are not getting their supplies from the conflict area," Goyal said referring to the war in Ukraine. He expects India's wheat exports to grow to over 10 million tons in the financial year that started April 1 from 7 million tons a year earlier.

Despite the record exports, India is facing a widening current-account balance due to growing gap between imports and exports and falling foreign investments. The current account, a broad measure of the country's overseas trade and services flows, was in a deficit of \$23 billion, or 2.7% of GDP, RBI said.

AP cancels Adani bids to supply imported coal

REUTERS

New Delhi, April 3: India's southern Andhra Pradesh has cancelled bids made for two separate tenders by India's Adani Enterprises to supply imported coal as the prices quoted were too high, two state government officials told Reuters.

India has asked utilities to step up coal imports to address a domestic shortfall. However, expensive imports could add to the financial woes of state government-owned, debt-laden power distributors, which have overdue payments of nearly \$15 billion to power generators.

Adani, India's largest coal trader, offered to supply last month 500,000 tonne of South African coal at ₹40,000 per tonne and another 750,000 tonne at ₹17,480 in January, the officials said.

Benchmark South African coal prices started rising in January to hit a monthly high of \$176.50 per tonne in the wake of an export ban by Indonesia, extending the rise to a record \$441.65 per tonne in March due to the Russia-Ukraine war.

Both tenders were cancelled because the prices quoted were too high, the officials said. Adani was the only bidder for the 500,000 tonne tender, while Agarwal Coal, which had also bid for the 750,000 tonne tender, had quoted a higher price than Adani, they said.



It is the first time in recent years that a major government tender for imported coal has been cancelled over high prices

India has cut supplies to the non-power sector as it faced two of its worst power shortages in recent years in October and March, despite record production by state-run near-monopoly Coal India Ltd.

One of the officials, B Sreedhar, managing director at Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corp Ltd, said the current power shortage was not as bad as the one in October, but said the state was living a "hand-to-mouth existence".

Andhra Pradesh, which faced an electricity deficit of 7% during the last three days of March, floated a tender this week "for urgent procurement" of 100,000 tonne of imported coal, the officials said.

FY23 growth estimated at 7.4%: Ficci

WHILE THE THREAT FROM THE PANDEMIC IS STILL LOOMING, THE CONTINUATION OF RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT IS POSING A SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGE TO GLOBAL RECOVERY, THE SURVEY NOTED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 3: India's GDP is estimated to grow at 7.4 per cent in the financial year 2022-23 with rising prices triggered by the Russia-Ukraine conflict posing as the biggest chal-



lenge to the global economic recovery, Ficci's Economic Outlook Survey released Sunday said.

According to the survey, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is likely to start a rate hike cycle in the second half of 2022, while a repo rate hike of 50-75 bps is expected by the end of the current fiscal.

"The latest round of Ficci's Economic Outlook Survey puts forth an annual median GDP

growth forecast for 2022-23 at 7.4 per cent with a minimum and maximum growth estimate of 6 per cent and 7.8 per cent respectively," the industry body said.

The median growth forecast for agriculture and allied activities has been put at 3.3 per cent for 2022-23. Industry and services sectors are estimated to grow by 5.9 per cent and 8.5 per cent, respectively. However, it said, the downside risks

to growth remains escalated. Rising international commodity prices is the biggest risk emanating from the ongoing conflict as Russia and Ukraine are global suppliers of key commodities, it said. The conflict, if continues for a longer period, will further hit supplies of major raw materials, including crude oil, natural gas, food, fertilizers, and metals, it added.

The economists who participated in the survey have also opined that the global inflation is likely to peak out in the first half of 2022 and moderate thereafter.

With India being a net importer to meet its energy requirements, the sharp rise in crude prices represents a significant shock to India's macro-economic framework. Moreover, the impact on economy is expected to be more serious if the conflict prolongs, the survey said.

Peak power demand up 12% at 198.47GW



New Delhi: Peak power demand met and the highest supply in a day rose by 12 per cent to 198.47 GW April 1 compared to the year-ago same day, showing impact of early onset of summer and improvement in commercial and industrial consumption after easing of lockdown curbs by states. According to the power ministry data, the peak power demand met was 177.20 GW April 1, 2021. The data shows that during the entire month of April in 2021, the peak power demand was recorded at 182.37 GW. It was 132.73 GW in April 2020, a tad lower than 176.81 GW in April 2019.

IOC to invest ₹840cr to set up POL plant

Guwahati: PSU major Indian Oil Corporation Sunday said it will invest nearly ₹840 crore in expanding its Petroleum, Oil and Lubricant (POL) storage capacities, including setting up a greenfield facility, in the Northeast. The company is planning to take its POL capacities to 5,530 Thousand Metric Tonnes Per Annum (TMTPA) by 2030 from the existing 3,160 TMTPA, Indian Oil Corporation Executive Director (IndianOil-AOD) G Ramesh told PTI. "We have two major projects coming up in the POL segment. The first one is the setting up of a greenfield depot at Sekerkote in Tripura. This will entail an investment of around ₹540 crore and will be completed by 2024," he said.



Impact of sub-limits on health insurance policies

Today, having a health insurance policy has become an absolute necessity. The rising medical cost and increasing health issues have accentuated the need for a well-designed health insurance policy to ensure that all our hard-earned savings are not spent on paying medical bills during the time of crisis. However, merely having an insurance policy is not enough; we must know and understand the important features of the policy to truly know the extent of our cover and avoid surprises later. Today we will discuss one crucial feature of health insurance policy, sub-limit.

Sub-limit is defined as the monetary cap placed in your policy; this cap is explicitly expressed as a fixed amount in the policy. In a few cases the sub-limit is also expressed as a percentage of the sum insured.

To give you an example, the sub-limit may be mentioned as ₹ 30,000 for ailment A or maybe mentioned as a percentage, like 1% of the total sum insured for ambulance charges. Sub-limits are placed for specified ailments or treatment, as well as for certain benefits. Additionally, sub-limits are also imposed on pre and post-hospitalisation expenses as the number of days or % of sum insured. Sub-limits confine the liability of the insurer to the mentioned amount, irrespective of the sum insured. So, if the sum insured of your policy is ₹5 lakh and there is a sub-limit of ₹50,000 for ailment A. It implies that the liability of your insurer for ailment A is limited to ₹50,000 and the cost over and above the defined limit has to be borne by the customer for the said ailment. Broadly,

there are three kinds of sub-limits, and they are as follows:-

Sub limits on ailments

This refers to the cap on specific ailments, these caps or generally imposed on common ailments like cataract, sinus, kidney stones, piles, knee ligament procedures, tonsil, sinus, maternity to name a few. The list of ailments and the sub-limit varies from insurer to insurer and product to product;

TA Ramalingam, Chief Technical Officer, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance

you must go through this list carefully to understand the extent of the coverage provided by the insurer against the respective treatment in the particular policy.

Sub limits on benefits

This commonly includes sub-limits on room rent expenses or ICU charges in case of hospitalisation, a limit on ambulance charges, OPD, domiciliary hospitalisation. If you opt for a room rent sub-limit, it means that your insurer will cover the expenses of the room rent, only to the limit of the pre-defined limit. Usually, the room rent sub-limit is expressed as a certain percentage of the sum insured. Supposed your sum insured is ₹5 lakh and the room rent sub-

limit is 2% of the sum insured, then you will be eligible for ₹10,000 room rent. A few insurers also put a cap on the type of room, like a twin-sharing room or general room, or single private AC room.

Sub limits on pre and post hospitalisation

Pre-hospitalisation costs refer to the expenses that one has to incur before getting hospitalised like diagnostic tests and X-rays; while post-hospitalisation expenses are the costs that one has to bear after getting discharged from the hospital, like tests during the recovery, therapies, and consultation fee. Such pre and post-hospitalisation expenses are usually subject to sub-limits for the number of days. Most insurers extend pre-hospitalisation cover to 30 days before the hospitalisation and 90 days cover for post-hospitalisation.

Further basis your location you can decide on appropriate sub-limit to reduce cost of your insurance. Suppose in your city the maximum room rent charges are ₹5,000 you may select appropriate sub-limit product ensuring reduction in premium.

While evaluating various health insurance policies, it is important to take note of the sub-limits mentioned in the policy wordings. While they may help bring down the insurance premium, they also restrict the coverage and increase the out-of-pocket expenses.

It is advisable to look for policies that have the higher sub-limits or preferably no sub-limits in order to get a full-blown cover, even though it might be slightly more expensive than a policy with lower sub-limits.

ICC WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

Australia in seventh heaven

Healy named 'Player of the Tournament'

Australia, the only unbeaten team in the tournament, came out determined to stamp their authority for one last time in the tournament and they certainly did that with the bat. The victory continued Australia's dominance of the 50-over format with their seventh title from 12 World Cups

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Christchurch, April 3: Australia bossed their way to a record-extending seventh Women's World Cup title with a crushing 71-run win over traditional rivals England, stamping their undisputed dominance in the tournament after a breathtaking hundred from Alyssa Healy in the final here Sunday.

Playing the innings of her life, Healy put England attack to sword with a sensational 170 off 138 balls that powered Australia to a massive 356 for five.

Defending champions England needed something more than special to pull off the record chase but kept losing wickets throughout the innings which ended at 285 in 43.4 overs.

Natalie Sciver, who scored an unbeaten 148 off 121 balls for her second successive hundred against Australia in the competition, eventually ran out of partners.

Australian pacer Megan Schutt (2/42) bowled a brilliant new ball spell removing last match centurion Danielle Wyatt (4) and Tammy Beaumont (27) with her lethal inswingers before leg-spinner Alana King (3/64) turned the ball on a bat-



AOTEAROA • NZ 2022
Australian players celebrate after defeating England in the final of the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup match in Christchurch, New Zealand

ting beauty to end with three crucial wickets including that of England skipper Heather Knight (26).

Healy's opening partner Rachael Haynes (68 off 93) and Beth Mooney (62 off 47) also batted with confidence as Australia put on board the highest team total in a World Cup final in women's cricket and second-highest behind the Australian men's team's effort of 359 for two against India in 2003.

To put Australia's achievement in perspective, it was their sixth win in seven World Cup finals, making Meg Lanning's unit one of the greatest teams of all time. Australia

had won their first trophy on points back in 1973.

Though England ended runners-up, it was still a remarkable campaign for the defending champions that came into the final after five wins in a row following defeats in its first three games. They always had run rate under control in the massive chase but the lack of partnerships cost them the game.

Sciver, who smashed 15 fours and a six in her epic knock, fought till the end alongside number 10 batter Charlotte Dean (21 off 24) but they were left to do too much in the end. The duo shared a 65 run-stand

BRIEF SCORES

Australia: 356/5 (50 overs)
Alyssa Healy 170, Rachael Haynes 68, Beth Mooney 62; Anya Shrubsole 3/46

England: 285 all out (43.4 overs)
Nat Sciver 148 not out; Alana King 3/64, Jess Jonassen 3/57

for the ninth wicket to take the game deep.

Earlier, Healy forged a 160-run stand with Haynes before sharing 156-runs with left-handed Mooney who was sent in ahead of skipper Meg Lanning to maintain the left

and right combination.

A packed and a neutral crowd at Hagley Oval was in for a treat with Healy showing devastating form en route to her second consecutive hundred in the knock-out stage, having scored 129 against West Indies in the semifinal.

Healy flaunted her 360 range of strokes in a sensational effort, scoring runs at will against a bowling line-up that had no answer to her brilliance. For the major part of her innings, Healy exposed all three stumps to make room for herself and hit bowlers over the mid-off fielder.

Healy's mesmerising knock is now the highest-ever individual score in a World Cup final across men's and women's cricket. Adam Gilchrist (149, 2007), Sciver (148 in this game), Ricky Ponting (140, 2003) and Viv Richards (138, 1979) are behind Healy in the elite list

CHRISTCHURCH: Australian wicket-keeper-batter Alyssa Healy was named 'Player of the



Tournament by the ICC following her team's 71-run over England in the Women's World Cup final here Sunday. Healy added her name to the prestigious roll-call of previous winners, joining former Australia captain Karen Rolton (2005) and international stars (England's Claire Taylor in 2009, New Zealand's Suzie Bates

I'm 32 and I've seen it all. Our team sets out to win events like these and everyone is sort of keen to get out there and do just that, grateful for the opportunity. Proud of the batting unit. We have done some amazing things this whole tournament, so to be able to do it one more time on the biggest stage was impressive

Harmanpreet's hat-trick helps India beat Eng

England had the better share of possession in the match, but it was India who had the last laugh

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, April 3: Drag flicker Harmanpreet Singh scored a hat-trick and in the process completed a century of international goals as India beat England 4-3 in an FIH Pro League match here Sunday.

Harmanpreet Singh converted penalty corners in the 25th, 26th and 42nd minutes as India came back from a goal down to register their sixth match in 10 outings. Former skipper Manpreet Singh scored the other goal for India as they consolidated their position at the top of the table with a clinical performance.

For England, Liam Sanford, David Coudon and Sam Ward scored off penalty corners but in the end, their efforts proved insufficient as India emerged the winner.

India, who had won the first clash in the double-header 3-2 in sudden death shoot-out on Saturday, thus consolidated their position atop the league table, moving to 21 points from 10 matches. Germany, India's next opponents a couple of weeks



FIH PRO LEAGUE

later, are second with 17 points from eight matches. England were placed 7th with seven points from six matches. England went ahead in the sixth minute when Liam Sanford converted a penalty corner. But the Tokyo Olympics bronze medallists equalised on the stroke of the first quarter as Manpreet scored off a rebound during an indirect penalty-corner routine.

England had more ball position in the first half but India created

better chances. They had 18 circle penetrations to seven by the visitors and had taken six shots at the goal as compared to three by England.

The second half was more evenly matched and though England were more attacking, the Indians held their own. England made it 3-2 in the 38th minute when David Coudon scored off a penalty corner. Harmanpreet made it 4-2 and completed his hat-trick in the process, going from 99 to 102 career goals.

Junior Women's WC

India stun Germany

POTCHEFSTROOM: The Indian women's hockey team stunned formidable Germany 2-1 to register its second consecutive win in pool stages and assure its place in the quarterfinals of the FIH Junior World Cup here Sunday. India, who thrashed a lowly Wales 5-1 in its opening Pool D match Saturday, scored through two penalty corner conversions by Lalremsiami (2nd minute) and Mumtaz Khan (25th) to emerge winners. Germany's lone goal was scored by Jule Bleuel in the 57th minute. The Indian will finish off their pool engagements against Malaysia April 5 before the quarterfinal round which starts April 8. The Indians are currently atop Pool D with two wins from as many games ahead of second-placed Germany. Two teams each from pools will qualify for the knock-out rounds.

Madrid win at Celta 2-1



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Barcelona, April 3: With Karim Benzema back from injury, Real Madrid got back on the road to winning the Spanish league after the France striker scored two penalties in a 2-1 win at Celta Vigo.

Benzema, who also had another spot kick saved in Vigo Saturday, missed Madrid's 4-0 defeat to Barcelona before the two-week in-

ternational break as he recovered from a left-leg injury.

Celta took the game to the league leaders, only to be undone by some rash defending in its area and some borderline calls by the referee. The third penalty that set up Benzema's 70th-minute winner came after a questionable foul when Ferland Mendy stumbled over the leg of Kevin Vazquez. Celta also had a

goal waived off in the first half after a video review.

The first two were penalties, but the third was not, Celta striker Iago Aspas said. Mendy was going full steam and ran over our defender. I think it was a foul in our favor.

Madrid opened a 12-point gap over Sevilla and Atlético Madrid and a 15-point gap over Barcelona. Next up, Madrid visits London Wednesday to start its Champions League quarterfinal with Chelsea. João Félix and substitute Luis Suárez each scored twice to help Atlético beat Alavés 4-1 and maintain its winning streak before visiting Manchester City Tuesday in Europe's last eight.

Benzema's brace took his tally to 34 goals across all competitions, his best scoring mark since he joined Madrid 13 seasons ago. His previous best was 32 in 2012. He has eight more league games and the remainder of the Champions League to add to his haul.

Benzema also equaled Alfredo Di Stéfano as Madrid's third-highest scorer in the Spanish league with 216. He trails only Raúl González (228) and Cristiano Ronaldo (312).

ORLEANS MASTERS

Mithun settles for silver



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Orleans, April 3: Indian shuttler Mithun Manjunath settled for a silver medal after losing to home favourite Toma Junior Popov in the men's singles final of the Orleans Masters 2022 badminton tournament here Sunday.

Playing in his first BWF final, the 79th ranked Indian shuttler lost to the world No 32 Frenchman 11-21, 19-21 in 50 minutes at the Palais des Sports arena. This was also the first meeting between the two players.

The 23-year-old Manjunath began the match cautiously as both players were tied at 6-all after early exchanges. However, Junior, the defending champion, used his reach to good effect and went into the break leading 11-6.

From there on, it was one-way traffic as Indian failed to counter a series of smashes from the former junior European champion to go 1-0 down. Manjunath tried to force Popov into playing longer rallies in the second game and the plan worked. A number of unforced errors by the Frenchman helped him take a 12-6 lead.

However, the French shuttler mounted a comeback with some sharp returns and successfully defended his BWF Super 100 crown.

Up until the final, Manjunath enjoyed a fine run in the tournament. The unseeded Indian stormed through five rounds which included a win against world No 22 Hans-Kristian Solberg Vittinghus of Denmark in the round of 16, an olympics.com report said.

Manjunath emerged as India's best hope after B Sai Praneeth, the top seed at the tournament, crashed out early in the pre-quarters. The women's doubles pair of Ashwini Bhat K and Shikha Gautam were the only other Indian players to make it to the semi-finals at the Orleans Masters 2022. Notably, the top Indian players like PV Sindhu, Saina Nehwal, Kidambi Srikanth and Lakshya Sen did not compete in the tournament.

Kings thrash CSK by 54 runs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 3: Twenty20 nomad Liam Livingstone justified his Rs 11.50 crore price-tag with a smashing all-round show while rookie seamer Vaibhav Arora announced his arrival on the big stage during Punjab Kings' comfortable 54-run decimation of Chennai Super Kings in an IPL match here Sunday.

Livingstone with a 32-ball-60 laid the platform but Chennai Super Kings bowlers made a brilliant comeback at the death, restricting Mayank Agarwal led side to 180 for 8 after 20 overs.

Later, little known Himachal Pradesh seam bowler Arora (40-21-2) performed as if he owned the stage, dismissing Robin Uthappa and Moeen Ali with CSK managing only 126 in 18 overs at the end of the chase.

After his batting, Livingstone (3-0-25-2) then became man with a "golden wrist" as his leg breaks got him a couple of wickets and he also took the final catch to cap off a dream night.

This is CSK's third defeat in as many games and unless Deepak Chahar makes a speedy comeback, things aren't looking great for the 'Yellow Brigade' and its de-facto skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni. A couple of more defeats could



really put them under huge pressure and within a sniffing distance of point of no return. Arora got good support from his former SD College Chandigarh teammate Arshdeep Singh (2/13 in 2 overs) during the initial period in which his skipper Agarwal bowled him out. Rahul Chahar (3/25 in 4 overs) was steady during back-10 and his three wickets included the wicket of Dhoni.

In a jiffy, CSK were 36 for five be-

fore Dhoni (23 off 28 balls) joined Shivam Dube (57 off 30 balls), who did entertain the Brabourne crowd with lusty blows but it was always a game of catch-up for them.

Before his exploits with the ball, Livingstone, one of the most destructive T20 batters across global leagues, finally came good with five fours and an equal number of sixes, sending the CSK bowlers on a leather-hunt during the initial overs.

Dravid will do remarkable job as India coach: Ganguly

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, April 3: BCCI president Sourav Ganguly believes his former teammate Rahul Dravid has all the attributes for becoming successful in his current role as the coach of the Indian cricket team.

Ganguly feels Dravid's "intense, meticulous and professional" attitude are just the ingredients a coach needs to be successful in the high-pressure India job.

"He (Dravid) is as intense, as meticulous and as professional as he was during his playing days," the former India captain said on the sidelines of a promotional event here Saturday.

"The only difference is that now he does not have to bat at No 3 for India which I feel was harder since he had to face the best bowlers of the world which he also did exceptionally well for a long period of time," he added. "As a coach also he (Dravid) will do a remarkable job as he honest and he has the talent."

Being the BCCI chief, Ganguly was instrumental in roping Dravid as India coach, replacing Ravi Shastri after the T20 World Cup last year.

"He will make mistakes as everybody does but as long as you try



He will make mistakes as everybody does but as long as you try doing the right things you will achieve success more than others

doing the right things you will achieve success more than others," Ganguly said.

The BCCI top official, however, refused to compare Dravid with his predecessor Shastri. "They are different people with different personalities. One is at you all the time which is his strength while the other will quietly do his job in spite of being one of the greatest of all time," Ganguly said.