



INTERNET ON FIRE

Actor Richa Chadha sets the mercury soaring with her recent weight loss pictures that she shared on Instagram

LEISURE P2



LANKA CRISIS DEEPENS

Rajapaksa's govt in trouble after the newly-appointed FM resigned & dozens of lawmakers walked out of the ruling coalition

INTERNATIONAL P10



LAKSHYA ADVANCES

Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen came from a set down to beat Choi Ji Hoon and advance to the Korea Open 2nd round

SPORTS P12

Govt bans 22 YT channels

This is the first time that action has been taken against the Indian YouTube-based news publishers since the notification of the IT Rules, 2021 in February last year

AGENCIES

New Delhi, April 5: The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) has directed the blocking of 22 YouTube (YT)-based news channels, of which four are from Pakistan, for allegedly spreading fake news to mislead viewers.

This is the first time that action has been taken against the Indian YouTube-based news publishers since the notification of the IT Rules, 2021 in February last year, it said.

In an official statement, the ministry said that it issued an order to block 22 YouTube channels, three Twitter accounts, one Facebook account and one news website.

With this action, the ministry has, since December 2021, issued directions for blocking 78 YouTube-based news channels and several other social media accounts on grounds related to national security, sovereignty and integrity of India, public order, etc.

The blocked YouTube channels had a cumulative viewership of over 260 crore, the ministry said in an official statement, adding that they were spreading fake news and coordinated disinformation over social media on subjects sensitive from the perspective of na-

tional security, India's foreign relations, and public order.

"Through the recent blocking order, 18 Indian and four 4 Pakistan-based YouTube news channels have been blocked," the ministry said, without naming them.

According to the ministry, multiple YouTube channels were used to post "fake news on various subjects such as the Indian Armed Forces, Jammu and Kashmir, etc." "The content ordered to be blocked also included certain anti-India content posted from multiple social media accounts operated in a coordinated manner from Pakistan.

"It was observed that a significant amount of false content was published by the Indian YouTube channels related to the ongoing situation in Ukraine, and aimed at jeopardising India's foreign relations with other countries," it said.

The ministry said that the blocked Indian YouTube channels were using templates and logos of certain TV news channels, including images of their news anchors to mislead the viewers to believe that the news was authentic.

"False thumbnails were used, title and thumbnail of the videos were frequently altered to increase the virality of content on social media. In certain cases, it was also observed that systematic anti-India fake news was originating from Pakistan," it said.

"The Government of India remains committed towards ensuring an authentic, trustworthy, and safe online news media environment, and thwarting any attempts at undermining India's sovereignty and integrity, national security, foreign relations, and public order," the ministry said.

Fake certs: 8 BJB students in soup

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 5: At least eight students of BJB Autonomous College here have landed in soup as the institution has approached the Badagada police accusing the pupils of taking admission to the premier educational institution by furnishing fake disability certificates.

On the basis of a complaint lodged by the principal of BJB Autonomous College, Badagada police has registered a forgery case under relevant Sections of the IPC. "A probe is on. Necessary action will be taken. So far, we haven't detained or arrested anyone in this connection," said a senior police official Tuesday.

The college authorities are also examining if some more students are involved in the offence.

The incident came to the fore when the college authorities were carrying out regular checks of the documents submitted by the students. "After a thorough check, the college principal found that the disability certificates of the students are forged ones," said an official.

JSW Cement
The Leaders' Choice
1800 266 266 1 (toll free)

THE OLDEST MARUTI SUZUKI DEALER IN ODISHA

Celebrating **34** YEARS OF LEGACY AND EXCELLENCE

ROYAL PLATINUM DEALER

SKY AUTOMOBILES
Central India's Oldest Maruti Dealership

CHHATTISGARH | ODISHA

ODISHA: BERHAMPUR | BHANJNAGAR | BHUBANESHWAR | CHANDIKHOL | CUTTACK | DHENKANAL | JAJPUR | KAMAKHYANAGAR | NARSINGHPUR | PARALAKHEMUNDI | PHULBANI | SALEPUR

CHHATTISGARH: RAIPUR (Mohaba Bazaar) | AVANTI VIHAR | ABHANPUR | BALODA BAZAAR | DHAMTARI | JAGDALPUR | KANKER | KASDOL | KHARORA | KONDAGAON | SARAIPALI | SARSIWA | TILDA

MARUTI SUZUKI ARENA | NEXA | TRUE VALUE | MARUTI SUZUKI COMMERCIAL

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Petrol is very cheap, sir! It's 390 less than ₹500 per litre you are willing to pay!!

ATM with over ₹20L burgled

Bhubaneswar: Miscreants decamped with an automated teller machine (ATM) here after failing to break it open and extricate cash worth over Rs 20 lakh stashed inside, an official said Tuesday. Police said at least three masked men raided the ATM kiosk of SBI at Indira Housing Colony under Dhauli police limits here late Monday night. According to Dhauli IIC Chittaranjan Rout, the burglars destroyed the CCTV camera installed inside the kiosk before committing the crime. They must have failed in their efforts to break open the ATM and remove the cash before fleeing with the machine weighing around 3.5 quintal, Rout said. Police sources said the ATM was replenished with Rs 25L around 1:30pm Monday. The ATM had over Rs 20 lakh when it was burgled.

4 of family perish in Ganjam road mishap

Aska: Four members of a family, including a five-year-old child, died Tuesday after their motorcycle was hit by a minivan in Ganjam. The deceased were identified as Jayaram Nayak, 54, his married daughter Lakshmi Patra, 29, another daughter Rinki Nayak, 26, and Biswajit Patra, 6, his grandson and Lakshmi's son. The deceased were natives of Munigadi village under Gangapur police limits. The accident occurred at Indhanapur when they were returning from Munigadi in the district.

MARKET WATCH

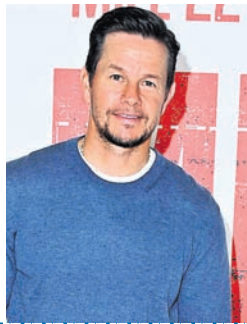
INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	60176.50	↓ 435.24
NIFTY	38067.90	↓ 567.30
DOLLAR	76.75	↓ ₹0.42
EURO	82.97	↓ ₹0.51
GOLD	₹51,438	↓ ₹95
SILVER	₹66,231	↓ ₹64

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	35.2°C	34.5°C
TEMP MIN	25.1°C	25.5°C
Humidity	71%	70%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

Forecast: Dry weather mostly

leisure



MARK WAHLBERG DRANK OLIVE OIL TO GAIN WEIGHT

Actor Mark Wahlberg, 50, had to pile on 30lbs in six weeks to play real life boxer-turned-priest Father Stuart Long in *Father Stu* and he admitted the process wasn't fun and he doesn't imagine anyone would envy the eating regime he had to follow for the project.

WHY PRINCESS DIANA WAS NOT INTERESTED IN TOM CRUISE

Princess Diana once took her two sons, Princes William and Harry, to the set of the Tom Cruise's 1996 action blockbuster *Mission: Impossible*. Though they got to meet the actor, now 59, Diana had no romantic interest in him because she was unimpressed by his 5ft 7in stature.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
Today you will land up in a tricky or hazardous situation. You will feel compelled to wade against the tide, which may not be such a productive thing, says Ganesh. Nothing seems to be going your way. Take some time off for yourself to relieve the stress.

TAURUS
Your vision today will have a hue of green as you will draw to money like a fly to sweets. Taste the power of money with fortune as the monkey on your back. You may buy a pendant or a necklace today and your haggling skills will save you from being swindled, says Ganesh.

GEMINI
You will feel out of sorts today. This could result in distances between you and your loved ones. You may fall into the wrong sorts of debates on account of your ill-temper. You need to keep a curb on your emotions to perform better, says Ganesh.

CANCER
You are most likely to appear edgy and hypercritical to others, says Ganesh. Remain your typical poised self. Try not to be harsh to others, if you wish to save your relationships and sustain a reputable image. Avoid clashes with your superiors and colleagues. Take a deep breath the moment you feel you are losing the grip on your emotions, and then this too shall pass!

LEO
Chess is a good start, but it is nothing compared to the strategic intrigues of your day today. Arguments will lead to further arguments, and nowhere else, reminds Ganesh. So, it only makes sense to counter a disagreement with an agreement. But then again, total agreement is doubly secretive.

VIRGO
You will shine exceedingly well in all the activities that you undertake today. Your dream of starting business operations on foreign shores will fructify today, says Ganesh. You may pay more attention to your personal appearance, which will boost your morale considerably.

LIBRA
Call it your generous side, but today is the perfect day to give back to all those from whom you have received so far. With roots set firmly in community service, it might do you well to extend that helping hand and return something back to them, preferably in the double. Go along with the spirit of an early thanksgiving today.

SCORPIO
An upcoming project of a new joint venture will capsize your personal life and keep you on your toes today, says Ganesh. You may not find the results in proportion to the efforts that you put in, but be patient because everything will fall in place only in due time.

SAGITTARIUS
Murmurs of discontent will reach your ears, especially from those very near. But if you go about pleasing one and all, you may not defuse the bomb completely. Exercise caution, and a lot of patience, says Ganesh. Your tolerance will not only help you overcome the problem, but also help you in addressing dissent in your cadres.

CAPRICORN
There are good days and bad days; your day today will oscillate between the two extremes, says Ganesh. While on the one hand, your mind will be flooded with negative feelings that will make you feel miserable, on the other, your efforts at work will yield good results in the future.

AQUARIUS
You are already overloaded with work. On the top of it, people around you will conveniently put their share of load on your back, and you will take it most of the times. You, however, will not get bogged down by the additional responsibilities.

PISCES
Are you fretting over the obstacles you are facing on the business front? Ganesh tackles the root of your problem and advises you to be patient and have faith in your undertakings. Good things will come your way, in good time. You may find it hard to accomplish even run of the mill tasks that you do easily everyday and this could be because of the unfavorable alignment of the stars but this is only a matter of time and this too shall pass.

Sivani's music video garners 1M views



Bhubaneswar: Actor Sivani Sangita, known for her glamorous roles and natural acting on big screen, was on cloud nine after her first music video *Prema Heigala Janili* crossed one million views on YouTube.

The *Sister Sridevi* actress made her singing debut with this music album, composed by Prem Anand which was released during Dussehra on the YouTube channel of Amara Muzic Odia.

An elated Sivani, who cut a cake to celebrate the milestone, says: "This thing might be very small for many, but it means a hell lot to me. It has touched many hearts and I have got responses more than I ever expected. Thank you so much everyone from the core of my heart."

She adds, "In the music video I see myself as a singer rather than an actor. It really means a lot because people recognised me as a singer through the video."

On the work front, Sivani is gearing up for the release of her movies *Dil Mora Manena*, *Bidyarana* and *Kiss Miss*.

PNN



Jokes on *The Kashmir Files*. Twinkle slammed for being 'insensitive'

Mumbai: Author and former actor Twinkle Khanna is being slammed on social media for making a tongue-in-cheek remark about the film *The Kashmir Files* in her Sunday column for a leading daily.

In her satirical column published April 3 she wrote about how she was planning to register 'Nail Files', a title inspired by Vivek Agnihotri's recently released film based on the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from the Valley in the 1990s.

The potential 'Nail files' may revolve around a 'disastrous manicure', which she said would be 'better than putting the final nail into the communal coffin.'

Soon after, the 47-year-old, the wife of Akshay Kumar, was called out on social media by users who described her as a 'shallow' film personality 'devoid of morals'. Filmmaker Ashoke Pandit, a Kashmiri Pandit, appealed to the columnist to not be insensitive towards the plight of the community.

Another user wrote, "She does seem daft and insensitive to say this. All the Bollywood fraternity are shallow and devoid of morals." Akshay Kumar, known for his pro-establishment stand as opposed to his wife's, had last month at an event said Mr Agnihotri has brought a "harrowing truth to light" through his film. AGENCIES

Richa's sultry images leave jaws dropped

Mumbai: Actor Richa Chadha has set the internet ablaze in a cut-out black shimmer dress after her weight loss journey. Fans and celebrities alike praised her when she posted a series of photos from a recent photoshoot.

The actress is seen in the photos wearing a black thigh-high slit gown with a plunging neckline that extends up to her waist, halter neck straps, sequin embellishments, a flowing floor-length hem, and cut-out at the waist. Amritraj Bora created her outfit.

She captioned her post as "I love doing photo shoots where the photographer and I have a friendship, (like in this case)...while shooting this particular one I felt like I was playing a character. Distinct from the films I do... but interesting still..."

She further added, "PS - healthy weight loss means you don't lose muscle, like in my case the gluteus maximus is intact #richachadha #richandfamous #hollywood #photoshoots."

Richa is currently shooting for her next, *Fukrey 3* and will reprise her role as *Bholi Punjaban* and will soon start shooting for Sanjay Leela Bhansali's *Heera Mandi*, followed by season 2 of *The Great Indian Murder*. IANS

Grammy Glory PM's praise makes Ricky 'speechless'

Mumbai: Bangalore-based music composer and environmentalist Ricky Kej, who won his second Grammy for his new-age album *Divine Tides*, was left 'speechless' after he received a congratulatory message from Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his win.

Modi, taking to Twitter, wrote: "Congratulations for this remarkable feat and best wishes for your future endeavours!"

An awestruck Kej replied: "Wow. speechless! To receive praise from the Hon'ble Prime Minister himself! Thank you @narendramodiji, I hope I made you proud. You set me on the path of Environmental Consciousness 7 years

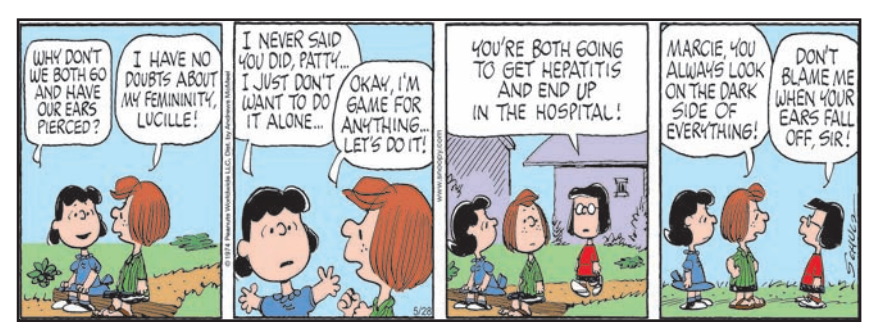
ago when I won my 1st GRAMMY Award, and here I am today :-). Thanks for your blessings."

Kej won his first Grammy in 2015 for his album *Winds of Samsara*, when none other than celebrated Hollywood composer Hans Zimmer congratulated him.

The dentist-turned-composer, who has also done ad jingles and written the scores of many Kannada films, Monday greeted the audience with a namaste as he stepped on to the stage at the MGM Grand Marquee Ballroom, venue of the 64th Grammy Awards in Las Vegas. IANS



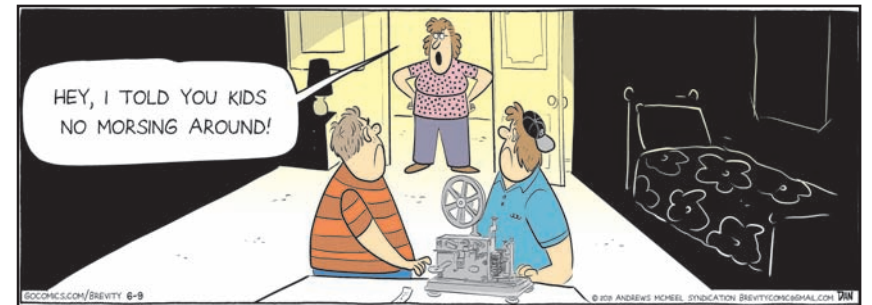
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

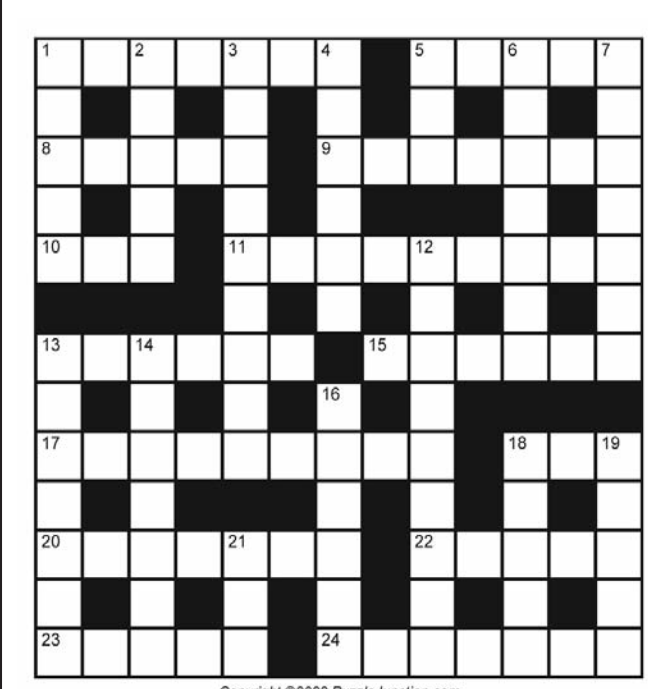


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



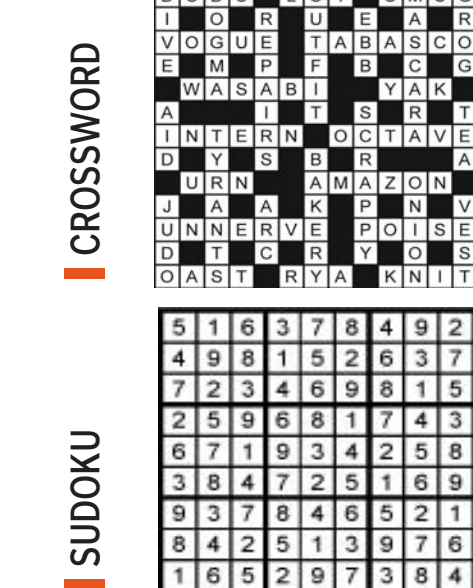
- Across**
- 1 David Niven and Ronald Colman each played him
 - 5 Like some bodies on a beach
 - 8 "Peer Gynt" dramatist
 - 9 Plea reply, at times
 - 10 Personals, e.g.
 - 11 Playground structure (6,3)
 - 13 Latin dance (3-3)
 - 15 African antelope
 - 17 Listen in, on the Q.T.
 - 18 Unruly crowd
 - 20 In plain sight
 - 22 Brief brawl (3-2)
 - 23 Horse-drawn wagon
 - 24 Grassy knoll
 - 2 Dukes (4,5)
 - 3 Arctic wear
 - 4 Tranquil
 - 5 Buffoon
 - 6 Trattoria order
 - 7 Catch-22
 - 12 City street features
 - 13 Old World herb
 - 14 Personal guru
 - 16 Pressing
 - 18 Slogan
 - 19 Ice unit
 - 21 True laurel
- Down**
- 1 Side dish

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

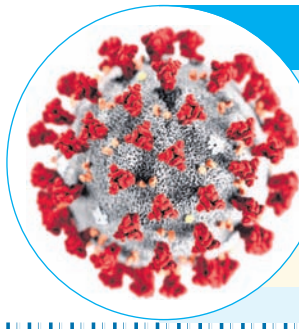


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



UTKAL DIWAS FETE

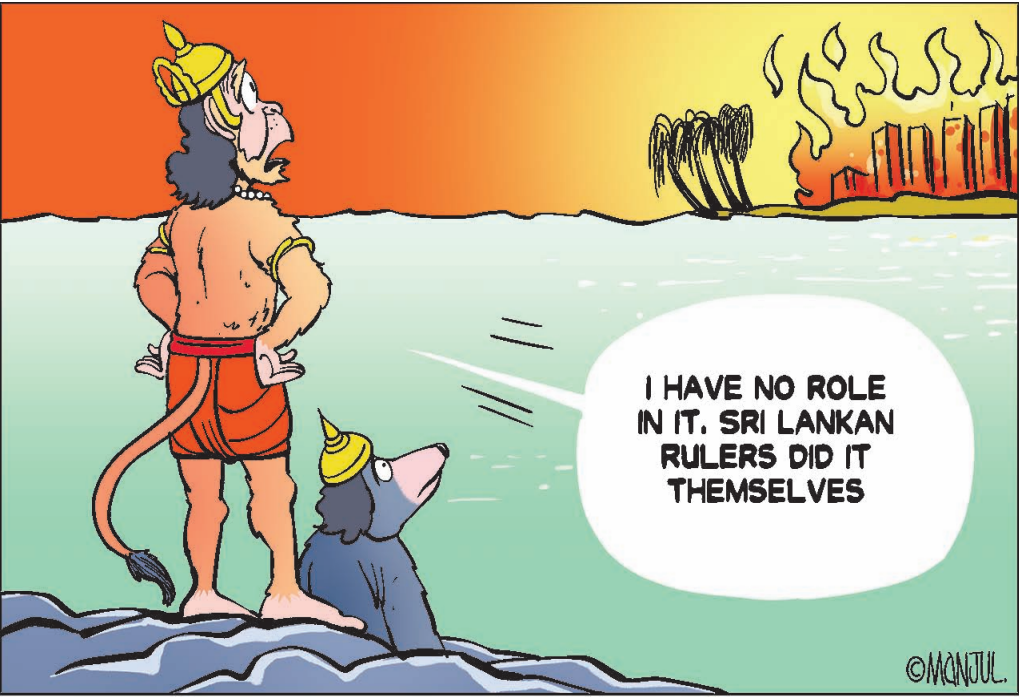
The residents of Z1 Apartments in Bhubaneswar celebrated Utkal Diwas with much fanfare. Ex-DGP Nimai Charan Padhi inaugurated the celebration while state anthem Bande Utkal Jananee was sung on the occasion



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	49,32,97,552	42,89,28,395	61,80,727
India	4,30,29,839	4,24,96,369	5,21,416
Odisha	12,87,757	12,78,367	9,121

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Fake doc's 2nd wife held for abetting his fraud

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, April 5: The second wife of fake doctor Ramesh Chandra Swain has been arrested from Jharkhand on charges of helping him to get married multiple times and duping the other women, police said here Tuesday.

Swain, the 66-year-old man from Kendrapara district, had as many as 18 wives across seven states over 38 years. He allegedly duped the women of lakhs of rupees by posing as a doctor.

Swain's second wife, a medical practitioner, was arrested Monday for allegedly helping him in the fraud.

She is being brought to Odisha Tuesday on a transit remand, a police officer said.

The woman was employed at Jamnagar in Gujarat and was absconding since Swain's arrest February 23 this year.



FILE PHOTO
Fake doctor Ramesh Chandra Swain

SWAIN HAD AS MANY AS 18 WIVES ACROSS SEVEN STATES OVER 38 YEARS. HE ALLEGEDLY DUPE THE WOMEN OF LAKHS OF RUPEES BY POSING AS A DOCTOR

SWAIN'S SECOND WIFE, A MEDICAL PRACTITIONER, WAS ARRESTED MONDAY FOR ALLEGEDLY HELPING HIM IN THE FRAUD

Earlier, the police had arrested another woman who claimed to be Swain's sister while probing the fraud committed by the 66-year-old. The police came to know about his second wife's involvement during Swain's interrogation, sources said.

A father of five children, Swain had married his first wife in 1982 and second wife in 2002.

Between 2002 and 2020, he befriended other women through matrimonial websites and mar-

ried them. Police said he used to target middle-aged single women who sought companionship on matrimonial websites.

After getting married, he used to leave them after taking away their money.

According to police, Swain posed as a doctor posted as a deputy director general under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Complaints were not lodged due to the social standing of his wives

as many of them were lawyers, doctors, and teachers, the police said.

A case had been registered against Swain at the Mahila Police station here under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Swain's activities came to fore after a school teacher from Delhi, who was married to him, lodged a complaint at Mahila Police Station here in July 2021 alleging that the accused had married her in New Delhi in 2018 and kept her in Bhubaneswar.

She came to know about his multiple marriages and then sought the help of the law enforcers.

Immediately after the case was registered at the police station, Swain fled from the city and stayed with another wife in Assam.

The fake doctor was nabbed when he returned to his apartment in the city about six months later.

4 new bridges for state approved

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, April 5: The state is all set to have four high level bridges, as the Union Road Transport and Highways Ministry has approved their construction under the Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF) with an allocation of Rs 18.3 crore.

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, in a letter to BJP MP Basant Panda, said that infrastructure development had been at the core of the government's efforts to fuel economic growth. "In our pursuit towards this mission, my Ministry has undertaken the construction of a number of highway projects with enhanced focus on providing better connectivity to remote areas in Odisha," the Union minister said.

The ministry has approved the construction of bridges over Hati River to connect Kolanpur block HQ, over Tel River to connect Kalahandi Dist to Bolangir Dist, over Tel River to connect Sub-Division HQ and another bridge over Tel River to connect Gudtula District Kalahandi to Kundabar, Lahsunbahali District Bolangir.

Build VSS memorial at Asirgarh fort: BJD MP

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, April 5: BJD MP Prasanna Acharya Tuesday urged the Centre to construct a memorial of Veer Surendra Sai at the Asirgarh fort in Madhya Pradesh, where the freedom fighter had spent his last days.

Speaking during the zero hour in the Rajya Sabha, the BJD MP said that Sai had raised his sword against the Britishers at the age of 17 only and that he had fought against the foreign rulers throughout his life.

"We know that Nelson Mandela was imprisoned by the foreign rulers for 26 years. It is said that it is the highest period of incarceration of any freedom fighter. But Sai spent 36 years in British prison in two phases. He started his war against the

Britishers much before the 1857 mutiny and he died in the prison at the age of 74 after he was blinded by the captors," Acharya said.

The BJD MP said Sai had spent his last days at the Asirgarh Fort jail in Madhya Pradesh. "Many memorials have been erected in

his honour in Odisha but as yet, there is no memorial in the memory of this great freedom fighter at the place where he had spent his last days," Acharya said.

"I would request the Centre and the Madhya Pradesh government to kindly construct a memorial in the Asirgarh Fort where this great son of India had spent his last days under the British rule. It will inspire the progeny and it will inspire the younger generation of this country," he said.



ODISHA IN PARLIAMENT

Over 10L Olive Ridleys lay eggs on Odisha coast

AGENCIES

Berhampur/Kendrapara, April 5: More than 10 lakh Olive Ridley turtles have crawled ashore this year to the two major mass nesting sites in state to lay eggs in one of the largest congregations of the vulnerable species, officials said.

The number was much less last year since no mass nesting had taken place at Rushikulya in 2021. Around 7.30 lakh turtles had turned up for mass nesting in both Gahirmatha and Rushikulya in 2020.

The migratory turtles, deriving their name from the olive-green shell, travel from the South Pacific Ocean and turn up in millions every year at the Odisha coast, the largest mass-nesting site for the species.

This year, incidentally, the congregation at the Rushikulya estuary (river mouth) in Ganjam district was more than Gahirmatha, one of the world's most important nesting beaches for the sea turtle species.

According to a forest official, a record number of 5.5 lakh turtles congregated at the Rushikulya estuary during the eight-day mass nesting that ended Sunday.

"The nesting, which began on the five-km-long island near the Rushikulya river mouth on March 27, broke all the records at the rookery," Berhampur Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Amlan Nayak said.

The previous highest at Rushikulya was 4.82 lakh in 2018. There was sporadic nesting last year, but no mass nesting, Nayak said.

"We can't say why more turtles preferred the Rushikulya rookery. It's a natural phenomenon," Nayak said.

Around five lakh marine turtles arrived at the Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary in Kendrapara district this year, for over four days since March 25, Rajnagar Mangrove (Wildlife) Divisional Forest Officer JD Pati said.

In Gahirmatha last year, around 3.5 lakh Olive Ridleys, the most abundant and one of the smallest sea tur-



Species in the world, had turned up en masse from March 9-23.

Meanwhile, at least a dozen female adult turtles, out of around 500 tagged by the Zoological Survey of India in the Rushikulya rookery last year to study their nesting behaviour, have returned to the same beach to lay eggs, scientists said.

The Olive Ridley falls under the vulnerable category of the International Union for Conservation of Nature's red list of threatened

species. Illegal egg harvesting, turtle poaching and nest destruction by humans are some of the threats they face besides climate change and coastal erosion that is shrinking their breeding zones.

According to the World Wide Fund for Nature, the turtles breed in very few places, and therefore, any disturbance in even one nesting beach could have huge repercussions on their population.

During 'arribada' or the arrival, the female turtles generally reach the beaches in the dead of the night. Usually, each female turtle lays around 120-150 eggs and returns to the sea.

They usually mate between November and January and the breeding period lasts till May.

The hatchlings emerge from these eggs after 45-60 days and grow up without their mothers. Various reports suggest that out of every 1,000 hatchlings which enter the sea, only one manages to reach adulthood.

AP aims to grab Kotia for rich mineral, says Utkal Sammilani

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 5: The members of Utkal Sammilani Tuesday objected to Andhra Pradesh (AP) government's decision of adding 28 Odisha Villages of Kotia cluster to its newly demarcated map.

The AP government has created 13 new districts by dividing 13 existing districts and expanding its periphery with the inclusion of Kotia into its state. With this, a total of 26 districts were formed in AP. According to reports, 28 border villages in Kotia cluster now come under a new district known as 'Manyam'.

Utkal Sammilani, which campaigns for the unification of the state of Odisha, said that the fight with AP over Kotia was underway in the Supreme Court. AP had moved the court against Odisha seeking a stay on conducting Panchayat elections in Kotia, but the apex court rejected its petition.

"The neighbouring state is targeting to merge Kotia for its rich mineral and mining resources. However, Kotia belongs to Odisha and we will never let the region go to AP. Kotia was in Odisha, is and will remain in the state in future," said Dilip Das Sharma, president of Utkal Sammilani Mancheswar branch.

Utkal Sammilani also criticised Andhra Pradesh Governor and former Odisha minister Biswabhusan Harichandan for allowing this thing to happen. The official announcement comes after the governor's approval. Utkal Sammilani has demanded that the Odisha government submit its data to the court for the protection of Kotia and conduct Chief Secretary level meeting and register its protest.





Attention : Users of Electricity

There are many common causes and signs of electrical fire/ accident. Let us be aware of it.

Here are a few tips to keep your family safe.

- Do not allow children to play in proximity to small or large electric appliances.
- Replace any light switches that have a tendency to flicker.
- Replace any light switches that are hot to the touch.
- Avoid overloading extension cords, sockets and plugs.
- Do not ever force a three-prong plug into a two-receptacle socket.
- Know where fuse boxes and circuit breakers of your home/office/ work place are located as well as how to operate them properly.
- Never attempt electrical repairs or rewiring without proper knowledge and experience.
- Do not put water on an electrical fire; use a dry fire extinguisher.



GRIDCO
Empowering Odisha

GRIDCO Limited

A Government of Odisha Undertaking

Regd. Office:
Janpath, Bhubaneswar - 751022

PUNEET SAGAR ABHIYAN: 01-05 APRIL 2022

NCC GROUP HEAD QUARTERS, CUTTACK, APRIL 05, 2022 - Enthusiastic Cadets belonging to Units under NCC Group Headquarters, Cuttack yet again performed selfless service in spreading the message of clean beaches and clean oceans. As reported earlier, **Puneet Sagar** is a nation-wide campaign by NCC focussed towards cleaning and recycling of plastic from our beaches and riversides. The 2022 chapter of **Puneet Sagar Abhiyan** was launched concurrently whole over Odisha by NCC Directorate Odisha and NCC Group Headquarters, Cuttack spearheaded the campaign in 13 districts



The highlights of the 5 days campaign were visit of cadets to waste recycling plants, interaction with tourists and shop owners and taking pledge to keep the beaches free of litter. Drawing and poster making competitions

Ground at Cuttack daily. United Nations Development Programme Coordinators also shared their experiences with the cadets and a community resolve was taken to prevent pollution of beaches, river fronts and water bodies.



helped generate new ideas and slogans for taking the movement further forward. The last day of the campaign culminated with National Maritime Day Celebrations. A large number of NCC Cadets, UNDP representatives, NCC alumni and dignitaries converged near the Maritime Museum at Cuttack and were also seen cleaning Mahanadi Riverfront. The move was appreciated by health enthusiasts who visit the nearby Balyatra

The reporter heard useful ideas and quotes about clean beaches, clean rivers etc. Twitterati was abuzz with snippets of the event conducted all across the country. NCC Officials present at the venue were also seen sharing plans about sustained campaigns to keep our oceans, seas and water bodies clean. Seeing young children championing the cause of clean oceans, it seemed a clean India revolution in waiting.

Advt.

Runway cleared for Amarda airstrip



Bhubaneswar, April 5: Hurdles have been cleared to operationalise the Amarda Road Airstrip near Rasagobindapur in Mayurbhanj district under the RCS-UDAN scheme.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has recommended and submitted the proposal to the Ministry of Defence (MoD) to grant 'no objection certificate' to the state government for the use of Amarda airstrip and working permission to develop a civil enclave at the airstrip.

This was informed by Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation, VK Singh in Rajya Sabha recently. Singh said the state government had sought permission of MoD to use Amarda airstrip for operations under UDAN. Subsequently, the Ministry of Civil Aviation also requested MoD to consider the request of the state government for granting permission to develop a civil enclave at the airstrip, he said.

The Amarda airstrip belonging to DRDO is included in the UDAN scheme document. Bhubaneswar to Amarda (Rasagobindapur) and vice-versa route was offered as a state sponsored route under bidding

round UDAN 4.1, said the Union Minister.

The Airports Authority of India (AAI), the implementing agency, has received one bid on the route. Further, the Amarda Road Airstrip is developed under "Revival of un-served and underserved airports" scheme, he added.

In February, Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra had written a letter to Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar seeking NoC from the DRDO for the commencement of commercial flight operation from the airstrip.

The airstrip, once operationalised, will facilitate tourism connectivity to important places like Similipal National Park, Kuldiha Sanctuary and Chandipur & Talsari Sea beach, boost economic growth through trade, provide jobs, increase revenues from taxes and foster the community relationship with the neighbouring states and communities.



BJP activists hold a demonstration near Ram Mandir in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday, seeking stern action against the persons involved in the vandalism at Srimandir kitchen

One detained over Srimandir vandalism

Bhubaneswar, April 5: The Puri police have detained one suspect on the case registered on vandalism of 'Rosaghara' (kitchen) at Srimandir in Puri. "The suspect identified in CCTV footage has just now been detained.

Further interrogation is underway," Puri police said in a tweet. In a first, over 40 chullahs (earthen ovens) were found damaged when the doors of the 'Rosaghara' were opened Sunday morning for preparation of Mahaprasad. This incident triggered displeasure among the lord's devotees across the country and strong action was demanded against the culprits. Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra Monday visited Srimandir along with Director General of Police Sunil Kumar Bansal following Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's directive to take stock of the investigation into the vandalism at the shrine's kitchen.

Additional stoppages for eight pairs of trains



Similarly, this train from Puri will arrive at Bagdihi at 2029 hrs and will leave at 2030 hrs towards Hatia. The train from Hatia will arrive at Bagdihi at 0546 hrs and will leave at 0547 hrs towards Puri on an experimental basis for a period of three months.

Also, 18477/18478 Puri-Yog Nagari-Puri Kalinga Utkal Express will stop at Bamra Station on an experimental basis for a period of six months. This train from Puri will arrive at Bamra at 0958 hrs and will leave at 1000 hrs towards Rishikesh. Similarly, this train from Rishikesh will arrive at Bamra at 1350 hrs and will leave at 1352 hrs towards Puri.

12871/12872 Howrah-Titilagarh-Howrah Ispat Express will stop at Rengali on an experimental basis for a period of six months. This train from Howrah will arrive at Rengali at 1520hrs and will leave at 1522hrs towards Titilagarh. On its return journey, this train from Titilagarh will arrive at Rengali at 0840hrs and will leave at 0842hrs towards Howrah.

13351/13352 Dhanbad-Alappuzha-Dhanbad Express will stop at Rengali on an experimental basis for a period of six months. This train from Dhanbad will arrive at Rengali at 2203hrs and will leave at 2205hrs towards Alappuzha. This train from Alappuzha will arrive at Rengali at 2333hrs and will leave at 2335hrs towards Dhanbad.

Puri-Cuttack-Puri MEMU, Bhubaneswar-Keonjhar-Bhubaneswar MEMU, Palasa-Cuttack-Palasa Passenger and Kharagpur-Khurda Road-Kharagpur Fast Passenger. 18451/18452 Hatia-Puri-Hatia Tapaswini Express will stop at Rengali Station on an experimental basis for a period of six months. This train from Hatia will arrive at Rengali at 2140 hrs and will leave at 2142 hrs towards Puri. Similarly, this train from Puri will arrive at Rengali at 0440 hrs and will leave at 0442 hrs towards Hatia.

OSWALI attracts firemen from Andhra, Nagaland



OSWALI attracts firemen from Andhra, Nagaland

Bhubaneswar, April 5: Minister of State for Home Divya Shankar Mishra Tuesday said Odisha State Watermanship And Life Guard Institute (OSWALI) had become a centre of attraction for other states like Andhra Pradesh and Nagaland to train firemen.

Describing the importance of the centre, Mishra said: "It has become such a centre of excellence that other neighboring states such as Andhra Pradesh and Nagaland send their fire officers to train there. In addition, similar training is being provided to the volunteers of the Home Guard under the Odisha Police."

Mishra visited the OSWALI at the World Heritage Konark-Puri Marine Drive Tuesday. He inspected all activities at OSWALI. OSWALI, Ramachandi, Puri was made functional with an objective to impart watermanship training to both fire service personnel as well as lifeguards.

The training centre, set up in 2015 on the banks of the Kusabhadra River at Ramchandali, has earned a reputation across the country for its work. Here, firefighters selected from different districts of the state

receive training on the skills in groundwater, including watermanship, swimming, rowing, scuba diving, water rescue techniques and other advanced equipment.

The state government has lauded the skills, courage and service of the Odisha Fire Team in the wake of the recent natural disasters in the country.

According to a report, a total of 5,024 personnel have been trained so far, accounting for 60 per batch. Currently, the centre operates in temporary tents in a unique natural environment off the coast of the Bay of Bengal.

The state government last year had sanctioned Rs 2.93 crore for the development of its sustainable infrastructure. The process is underway to build a 100-seat barrage and administrative building as soon as possible. "However, the Puri district magistrate has now provided two acres of land for the construction of the site and an additional two acres of land is reserved for which talk with Gop Telsildar is in process," said chief fire official in a statement.

HC notice to 3 civic bodies over untreated effluents



HC notice to 3 civic bodies over untreated effluents

Cuttack, April 5: The Orissa High Court issued notices to three civic bodies Tuesday to inform about the steps taken by them for setting up sewage treatment plants.

The direction came after a report submitted by the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) stated that rivers flowing through major cities of the state have turned toxic, due to unabated release of untreated sewage and effluents.

The civic bodies of Bhubaneswar, Sambalpur and Rourkela were issued notices by a division bench headed by Chief Justice S Muralidhar.

The bench was adjudicating a petition, which had alleged that untreated sewage released into the Kathajodi river in Cuttack polluted the river alarmingly.

The Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) had, however, assured the court that it is taking necessary steps to divert the sewage to a nearby treatment plant.

The court expressed displeasure over the civic bodies' practice of releasing sewage and effluents into the river without bothering to set up sewage treatment plants.

It ordered the officials of the three civic bodies to remain physically present in the court during the next hearing Friday.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By the virtue of an affidavit Dt.5.4.22 before the Court of Executive Magistrate, Bhubaneswar, I Susanta Das, At/P.O.-Kharinasi, Via: Mahakalapara, Dist.-Kendrapara have changed my name from Sushanta Das to Susanta Das for all purposes.

LOST

I Lingaraj Mishra, S/o Late Bhagaban Mishra, R/o. of Kasijagannathpur, P.o. Khadipada, Ps- Puri, Dist. Puri do hereby declare that the sale deed of my property situated under mouza-Kasijagannathpur, vide plot No. 421 bearing sale deed No. 948 of 1975 was lost somewhere and is not traceable. This was not mortgaged in any financial institution.

15 NEW COVID CASES IN STATE

Bhubaneswar, April 5: Odisha recorded 15 coronavirus cases Tuesday, while there was no Covid-19 fatality for the fifth straight day, the Health Department said.

Two children were among those who were afflicted with the disease, according to a bulletin.

The active Covid-19 cases dropped to 261 and 52 more patients have recuperated. The daily positivity rate was 0.08 per cent and the infections were detected out of 16,859 sample tests, it added.

Odisha had reported five Covid-19 cases and zero fatality Monday. The Covid-19 toll remained at 9,121 and these have been confirmed as coronavirus deaths after an audit. Fifty-three other coronavirus patients have died due to comorbidities so far, according to data.

The state has logged 12,87,757 cases, out of which 12,78,322 people have recovered so far.

150 pupils from 19 nations form association in Odisha

Bhubaneswar, April 5: They've flown down to Odisha like the circling flocks of migratory birds over Chilka, and now they have decided to call India's best kept secret their home. Nearly 150 students from 19 different countries studying in various universities of Odisha have formed the Federation of International Students Association-Odisha (FISA).

The platform for foreign students was launched at a meeting held at the Institute of Technical Education and Research (ITER), faculty of engineering and technology of Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA), with presentations by students from different countries marking the event.

Students studying in IIT-Bhubaneswar, International Institute of Information Technology (IITM), CV Raman Global University, Centurion University, KIIT University, Utkal University and SOA attended the programme.

Meenakshi Mishra, regional director of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) addressed the



Guides undergo training at a camp of Cuttack district Scouts and Guides in the Silver City, Tuesday

Late Captain Ashutosh Kumar's bust unveiled at Sainik School

Bhubaneswar, April 5: 'Bronze Bust Unveiling Ceremony' of Late Captain Ashutosh Kumar, Shaurya Chakra (Posthumously) was conducted at Sainik School campus in City, Monday.

Paying tributes to the martyred Captain, Brigadier Vignesh Mahanti, Sena Medal, Commander, Chhattisgarh and Odisha Sub Area (COA) reiterated the famous lines of Field Marshal Sir Philip Walhouse Chetwode: "The safety, honour and welfare of your country come first, always and every time; the honour, welfare and comfort of the men you command come next; your own ease, comfort and safety come last, always and every time."

The Commander motivated the cadets to join the officer cadre of the Armed Forces and said that the supreme sacrifice made by Captain Ashutosh Kumar would surely motivate the young cadets in the school to pursue a career in the Armed Forces.

He urged the cadets to make use of the facilities in the school and transform themselves as good and useful citizens of the country. The Commander congratulated the school for the success of its two cadets at the SSB Interview and

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieman-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

WOMEN POWER

AADHAAR SEEDING NORM SNATCHES POOR'S RICE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rasulpur, April 5: Non-linking of Aadhaar cards with bank accounts has taken a heavy toll on deprived scores of people under this block of availing benefits under National Food Security Act (NFSA), as per a report.

More than 2,000 beneficiaries under this block have been deprived of NFSA rice from their dealers due to failure of linking Aadhaar cards with bank passbooks. Public distribution system (PDS) dealers said that they have stopped supplying rice to the beneficiaries as per a government order.

The order has been issued by the state Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare department following which a large section of people, mostly elderly persons, has failed to get rice.

Moreover, the agencies that are in charge of rice distribution are openly asking the dealers to stop supplying rice to the beneficiaries who do not have Aadhaar cards or bank passbooks.

Residents said that the number of excluded beneficiaries might increase further as a majority of them does not have Aadhaar cards or bank passbooks.

This is in violation of norms as the rule mandates that no beneficiaries under the scheme should be deprived of getting rice. Earlier, the state government has filed an affidavit in the Orissa High Court promising not to deprive any beneficiary of rice for such reasons.

The rule also mandates inclusion of the names of all eligible people and rejection of the names of ineligible.

However, it is hardly followed as the website on food security has remained non-functional for long. As a result, officials have failed to



REPRESENTATIVE PHOTO

PDS DEALERS SAID THAT THEY HAVE STOPPED SUPPLYING RICE TO THE BENEFICIARIES AS PER A GOVERNMENT ORDER

THE PROBLEM CROPPED UP AFTER THE GOVT MADE AADHAAR-BANK ACCOUNT LINK COMPULSORY FOR THE BENEFICIARIES

BENEFICIARIES HAVE LODGED SEVERAL COMPLAINTS WITH THE BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER (BDO) AND DISTRICT LEVEL OFFICIALS BUT TO NO AVAIL

security scheme. However, now a total of 1,47,103 from 44,280 families have been included under various food security schemes. The seeding of Aadhaar numbers with the passbooks of beneficiaries has given rise to the problem.

Block supply officials said that Aadhaar numbers of 31,504 families have been validated with their bank passbooks. At least 137 families including 39 under Antodaya Anna Yojana and 98 with priority household (PHH) ration cards do not have Aadhaar cards yet. Taken together, over 2,500 families are yet to validate their Aadhaar numbers with their bank passbooks.

The beneficiaries have lodged several complaints with the block development officer (BDO) and district level officials but to no avail.

Rasulpur block supply officer Tunarani Sahu said she would look into the issues but Aadhaar seeding is mandatory for availing rice under the schemes.



Members of Jay Maa Mangala women SHG checking the quality of paddy for procurement at a mandi in Balishankara block of Sundargarh district, Tuesday. The district administration has handed over the paddy procurement charge to the women SHGs which collected over 1 lakh quintal of paddy from farmers of seven blocks

OP PHOTO

SHORT TAKES

Woman dies, hubby hurt in jumbo attack

Talcher: A woman died while her husband was critically injured after a wild elephant attacked them at Santhapada village under the police limits in Angul district late Monday night. According to reports, the deceased Kanchan Munda, 55, was fast asleep with her husband Mukunda Munda, 60, when a tusker broke into their house in search of food and attacked them. Kanchan died on the spot while Mukunda was rescued by locals and rushed to the nearest hospital. On being informed, forest officials rushed to the spot.

Breach in Jambhira dam's main canal

Baripada: A 10-ft wide breach occurred on the embankment of the main canal of Jambhira dam at Khaikia under Suliapada block of Mayurbhanj district, later Monday night. The water has damaged crops in nearby farmlands. Locals alleged that substandard canal work has resulted in the breach. "We had apprised the Irrigation department authorities of the poor work during canal construction, but the latter did not pay heed," locals rued. Meanwhile, the department has started preliminary work for the canal repair.

'Similpal fire fully controlled'

Baripada: The fire in Similpal National Park has been "totally" controlled this season, a top forest official said Tuesday. Fire incidents were noticed in Nawana range of Similpal north division March 29 and were doused immediately. The blaze had engulfed several areas of Similpal forest and the authorities battled to prevent a repeat of the devastating inferno that wreaked havoc there a year ago.

Dalit girl's body carried on bike



PNN/AGENCIES

Kendrapara, April 5: In a tragic incident, a Dalit man was forced to carry his 8-year-old daughter's body on a bike from Kendrapara district headquarters hospital (DHH) to his village Tuesday.

Baisakhi, the daughter of Sunakar Kandi of Chhachina village in Derabish block, around 75 km from Bhubaneswar, was bitten by a snake Monday night. She later died at the DHH. With a 'Mahaprayan' remaining out of bounds, the girl's father and uncle were forced to carry the body from the DHH to their village, a distance of

Gobinda, Radhe in ADJ court

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kantabanji, April 5: Gobinda Sahu, the prime accused in the sensational murder of Mahaling school teacher Mamita Meher, and his associate Radheshyam Chandi were Tuesday produced before the Additional District Judge (ADJ) court here in Bolangir district.

The duo was brought to the court amid tight security. Fearing any untoward incident, a thick blanket of security was thrown near the court premises.

According to Gobinda's advocate Durga Padhi, during the last hearing they had informed the court that they would submit the call records and other important documents before the court. On the other hand, Gobinda had prayed to the court to direct the police to

MAMITA MURDER

produce some necessary papers related to the case.

Meanwhile, Bolangir police has submitted a chargesheet at Bangomunda JMFC court.

Police prepared the chargesheet of over 2,000 pages having information about the case diary, statements of all the accused, witnesses, circumstantial evidence, scientific documents, crime map, arrest memo and crime details.

Earlier, the court of Additional District and Sessions Judge had turned down his bail plea.

The court had rejected the bail application after listening to contentions made by Gobinda's lawyer and the public prosecutor. The judge did not entertain Gobinda's bail petition.

Robbers drop cash to grab ₹12L from officer

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, April 5: In a bizarre incident, two looters dropped a cash bundle to lure a forest official and cunningly fled with his bag containing Rs 12 lakh in Uditnagar area of the district Tuesday.

According to sources, Dasarathi Sen, a forest official of Uditnagar forest division, withdrew Rs 12 lakh from a bank. He kept it in a bag and set off for his office.

In the meanwhile, two bike-borne miscreants, who were following him, came from behind and told Dasarathi that he had dropped a bundle of cash on the road. When Dasarathi went to pick up the cash lying on the street, the duo snatched the cash-filled bag from him and fled. Dasarathi filed an FIR with Uditnagar police who began a probe.

Mining mafia thrive in 16 dists

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, April 5: The unholo nexus between some influential mining companies and local leaders have contributed to rampant illegal extraction of valuable minerals in 16 districts of Odisha, a report said. It also said there is a race among several mafia groups as to who can earn more through such illegal activities.

Jajpur, Bolangir, Bhadrak, Bargarh, Boudh, Deogarh, Dhenkanal, Gajapati, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Keonjhar, Khurda, Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur and Nuapada are the 16 districts where such illegal mining is rampant with very little action against the miscreants. Sources said most of the mafia groups in these districts have political

blessings. Penalty to the tune of around Rs 19,86,50,543 was collected in 14 districts of Odisha from FY 2015-16 to FY 2021-22 as various 'companies' were found indulging in illegal extraction and sale of minor minerals. A total of Rs 6,10,00,562 as penalty was collected in Balasore district alone. It amounts to about 30.70 per cent of the total collection in Odisha. This proves the rampant illegal mining prevalent in the district.

Illegal mining in Dankari hill in Jajpur district is a burning example of indifference of the district administration to curb it. The administration has moved Supreme Court against previous order of National Green Tribunal (NGT) to collect a penalty of Rs 25 crore from lessee.

DEMAND NOTICE Punjab National Bank. Circle Sastra Centre, Sambalpur: Circle Office, Balaji Midtown, 1st Floor, Deheripali, P.O.: Budharaja, Sambalpur-768004. Demand Notice U/S 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI). Whereas the undersigned being Authorised Officer of Punjab National Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (2) of the said Act and read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, had issued a demand notice in the following date against the under mentioned Borrower calling upon him to discharge the liabilities in full within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

DEMAND NOTICE UNION BANK OF INDIA REGIONAL OFFICE: CUTTACK M-14, Baramunda Housing Board Colony, Bhubaneswar- 751003. Enforcement of Security Interest Action Notice in connection with the Credit facilities enjoyed By the following borrower/guarantors with our Concerned Branches: Classified as NPA. We have to inform the below mentioned Borrower/Guarantors that their A/c mentioned below have been classified as NPA account pursuant to their default in making repayment of dues/installment/interest. Demand Notice u/s 13 (2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 was issued by the Authorized Officer against the following Borrower/Guarantors of Union Bank of India, Concerned Branches but the same could not be served on the below mentioned parties. The outstanding amount in their accounts are shown in the below column against their names. The details are given below:

BHUBANESWAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE. Bid Reference No.: BMC-EED-II-01/2022-23 Dt.04.04.22. Tender Call Notice No.: No. 19718 Dtd.04.04.22. Period of Works: 6 Nos. Bid Value: Rs.5,57,337/- to Rs.48,98,626/- Period of Completion: 30 to 120 days. Start: 11.00 A.M. of 06.04.2022. End: 5.00 P.M. of 19.04.2022. Opening: 11.00 A.M. of 20.04.2022.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, KALAHANDI (R&B) DIVISION, BHAWANIPATNA. E-Procurement Notice. Bid Identification No. BC KLD-01/2022-23. Name of the work: 05 (Five) numbers of Building work. Estimated Cost: Rs.10 lakhs to Rs.15.00 lakhs. Period of Completion: 02 (Two) Calendar Months. Date and time of availability of bid document in the portal: 11.00 hours 13.04.2022 to 17.00 hours of 21.04.2022. Last date/time for receipt of bid in the portal: 17.00 hour of 21.04.2022.

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, MALKANGIRI ODISHA, PIN - 764045, Ph.: 06861-230244. Letter No. 738/Mpl./2022. Date: 04.04.2022. No. C-17: ଏକାଧାରୀ ଚୌକ ପରିଷଦ, ମାଲକାନଗିରି ଜରଫୁ ଚୌକ ପରିଷଦ ଦ୍ୱାରା ଅନୁଷ୍ଠିତ ଏକାଧାରୀ ଏବଂ ସର୍ବସାଧାରଣମାନଙ୍କ ଅବସ୍ଥିତି ନିମନ୍ତେ ଶୋଭା ଦିଆଯାଉଛି ଯେ ମାଲକାନଗିରି ଚୌକ ପରିଷଦ D.N.K. ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ଶଠ (ସବାବର ଗୋଟି) ପିଠି/ଖୋଲା ବୋକାନ, D.R.D.A. ଜଳ ବିକ୍ରୟ ୦୭ (ସାତ ଗୋଟି) Vending Zone ଟିକା ଗ୍ୟାରେନ୍ଟି (Reclamation Colony) ନିକଟସ୍ଥ ନୂତନ ତିଆରି ହୋଇଥିବା ୧୭ (ସବାବର ଗୋଟି) ବୋକାନ ଗୁଡ଼ିକ, ଜରଫୁ କଲୋନା ନିକଟସ୍ଥ ନୂତନ ତିଆରି ହୋଇଥିବା ୪ (ଚାରି ଗୋଟି) ବୋକାନ ଗୁଡ଼ିକ ଓ ବିନ୍ଦୁ ପକ୍ଷୀମାନଙ୍କ ଶିଖି ରଖାଯାଇ ନିକଟରେ ୦୨ ଗୋଟି ବୋକାନ ଗୁଡ଼ିକକୁ ରଖି ସୁସ୍ଥରେ ଆବଶ୍ୟକ କରିବାକୁ ନିଷ୍ପତ୍ତି ଗ୍ରହଣ କରାଯାଇଛି । ଏହି ସେଠାରେ ଏକାଧାରୀ ଏବଂ ସର୍ବସାଧାରଣମାନଙ୍କ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ପ୍ରକାରର ନିତ୍ୟ ବ୍ୟବହାର ଦ୍ରୁତ ବ୍ୟବସାୟ କରିବାକୁ ଉତ୍ସୁକ ଅଟନ୍ତି, ସେମାନେ ଚୌକ ପରିଷଦ ମାଲକାନଗିରି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମରେ ଟ.୧୦୦୦.୦୦ ଟଙ୍କା (ଏକ ହଜାର ଟଙ୍କା) ନଗଦ ଭେଦ ବାହାର କରି ଦରଖାସ୍ତ ପତ୍ର ସହିତ ସର୍ତ୍ତାବଳୀ ପାଇପାଇରେ, ଦରଖାସ୍ତ ଗ୍ରହଣର ଶେଷ ତାରିଖ ୦୨/୦୪/୨୦୨୨ ଅବସରୁ ୫ ଘଟିକା ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଧାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରାଯାଇଅଛି, ଧାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ବ୍ୟବସାୟ ଓ ସମୟ ସମ୍ମତ ଭାବେ ଡାକ ଯୋଗେ ଆସିଥିବା କୌଣସି ଦରଖାସ୍ତ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରାଯିବ ନାହିଁ ।

Let nothing short of perfection be your ideal in work and you are sure to become a true instrument of the Divine.

THE MOTHER



Going Green

The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), in its latest report released April 4, has made one departure from what it has so long been doing for the past few years. Instead of predicting doom for reckless plunder of nature and emission of greenhouse gases by mainly developed countries, the report this time has drawn the world's attention to how governments and people can effectively tackle the issue. Of course, the dire predictions are there. For example, continued heating of the planet, the report says, means that this year will probably be one of this century's coolest. Despite the climate pledges by governments, global heating would be 1.5 degree C above pre-industrial levels, making a mockery of the target promised in the 2015 Paris agreement. Greenhouse gas emissions are rising to the extent that during the past decade, on average, annually they were at their highest levels in human history. The coming decades are going to see temperature rise of more than 3 degree C. This would make large parts of the world too hot to work in. Severe crop failures will become common, while disappearing ice caps would submerge major cities. Governments have hitherto been far too hesitant to confront vested interests and are protecting investments in fossil fuels.

This cannot go on, says António Guterres, the UN Secretary General. He painted a gloomy future remarking the world "is on a fast track to climate disaster." Nations and corporations, he bluntly said, are not just turning a blind eye to a planetary disaster but adding fuel to fire. There is very little time left to implement policies that promote greener lifestyle choices and cheaper renewable solutions that would generate jobs, energy security and price stability, he warned.

However, UN scientists - over 700 spread across the globe working for the IPCC - have unveiled a plan that they believe would help people avoid the worst impacts of rising temperatures. The report virtually calls for a revolution in how we produce energy and power our world. In order to stave off global warming at the most dangerous level, carbon emissions can be allowed to peak within three years from now and then they must fall by 43 per cent by the end of this decade. That is not enough. Technology to pull CO2 from the air will still be needed to keep temperatures down.

The researchers have prescribed several key ideas that must be adhered to for keeping the world safe. The first of these is that the use of fossil fuels will have to stop and alternative, sustainable energy sources such as solar and wind power generation are to be tapped. To achieve 1.5 degree C, the world must reduce annual carbon emissions by about 50 per cent by 2030 and completely stop them by 2050. Methane emissions have to be reduced by a third by 2030 and almost half by 2050. This will need deep cuts in fossil fuel use. Decarbonisation of road transport, industry, mining and manufacturing powered by renewable sources has to be ensured. UN's scientists argue that energy efficiency and conservation are central to achieving a greener and safer future.

Much of the carbon dioxide already in the atmosphere was released by rich countries that burned coal, oil and gas to industrialise more than a century ago. The IPCC report says about 40 per cent of emissions since then came from Europe and North America. Only about 12 per cent can be attributed to East Asia, including China. It is in the wealthiest 10 per cent of households, which contribute between a third and 45 per cent of climate-changing fumes, where change will have to be effected fastest. There is an imperative need for better crop management and faster use of solar and wind energy. An interesting finding in this respect is that diets high in plant protein and low in meat and dairy are responsible for lower greenhouse gas emissions. It is heartening, the report says, that such diets are increasingly becoming popular.

The pandemic offered an opportunity to shift from fossil fuels, but it has been missed by most governments. The UN body also welcomed the significant decrease in the cost of renewable energy sources since 2010, by as much as 85 per cent for solar and wind energy, and batteries.

One of the big differences between this report and the previous releases is the emphasis on ideas of reducing people's demand for energy in the areas of shelter, mobility and nutrition. This covers wide areas, including low carbon diets, food waste, how we build our cities, and how people are encouraged to use more carbon friendly transports. Electric cars can make a big difference to emissions from transport but need investment for the technology. The IPCC believes changes in these areas could limit emissions from end-use sectors by 40-70 per cent by 2050, while improving well-being.

That is, indeed, a highly ambitious target, but the report suggests it is doable if proper incentives and nudges are given by governments. Answering an often asked question about availability of money for tackling climate change, the IPCC report says there is far too much money still flowing towards fossil fuels and not to clean energy climate solutions. If fossil fuel subsidies from governments were removed, this would reduce emissions by up to 10 per cent by 2030, according to Greenpeace.

These are sensible recommendations. As the IPCC Chair Hoesung Lee has emphasised we are at a crossroads and the decisions we make now can secure a liveable future.

WISDOM CORNER

Hope is important because it can make the present moment less difficult to bear. If we believe that tomorrow will be better, we can bear a hardship today.

THICH NHAT HANH

A little more persistence, a little more effort, and what seemed hopeless failure may turn to glorious success.

ELBERT HUBBARD

Hope is like the sun, which, as we journey toward it, casts the shadow of our burden behind us.

SAMUEL SMILES

WORDSWORTH

Smithereens

It's an excellent word to describe the action of pummelling something forcibly, with that sm sound at the start that also appears in words such as smack, smite and smash. When an object has become smithereens, it has been thoroughly reduced to little bits. There's nothing half-hearted about the activity, which most often appears in phrases such as blown to smithereens, split in smithereens and your smashed to smithereens.

Another: The party is in danger of being blasted to smithereens at next year's General Election (The Sun, 26 Feb. 2015). That huge tribe variously called Smith, Smyth, or Smythe, whose family name has been taken from a worker in iron, need not worry that they are being accused of mayhem by proxy. Though there has been some small doubt about the origin of smithereens, and Ivor Brown speculated in Words in Our Time in 1958 that smithereens might be from the detritus of blacksmithing, the experts are now sure that there's no link to blacksmiths. The -een ending at once makes us think of Ireland and of colleen, poteen, shebeen and other words that derive from the Irish diminutive ending -in. (A colleen is a young woman, poteen for illicit alcohol is literally a little pot and a shebeen, in which such liquor was sold, takes its name from the Irish word for a small mugful; but note that tureen, canteen, velveteen, sateen and some other words aren't from Irish, but from French.) Most dictionaries assert that smithereens is indeed Irish, from smidirin, a diminutive of smiodar, a fragment. The Oxford English Dictionary, in an old entry, wondered if smither could have been taken to Ireland by incomers and been extended by the -een ending, with the Irish form smidirin coming along later. As smithereens was first recorded decades after smithereens, it's just as likely matters are the other way around, with its being an abbreviation of smithereens. Nobody believes either situation now: the two words were probably of independent formation, though they may well have influenced each other.

TWIDDLING WITH STATISTICS

FOCUS VOTE-ON-ACCOUNT



Santosh Kumar Mohapatra

THE STATE'S DEPENDENCE ON CENTRAL TRANSFERS HAS REDUCED WITH THE STATE'S OWN REVENUE CONTRIBUTING ABOUT 58 PER CENT TO THE TOTAL REVENUE POOL

March 30, Odisha Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari presented an interim budget for Rs 2 lakh crore and from that outlay, a vote-on-account of Rs 1.06 lakh crore for the first four months (April to July) was presented for seeking approval of the House to defray expenses on payment of salaries, pensions, interests, ongoing schemes and projects. He has said to have focussed on industries as well as MSME sector, social sector, employment generation, and higher investment in infrastructure.

According to Article 114 of the Constitution of India, the government cannot withdraw any amount of money from the Consolidated Fund, prior to it being passed by the Parliament in case of the country and by Assembly in case of any state. Appropriation Bill gives power to the government to withdraw funds from the Consolidated Fund of India for meeting the expenditure during the financial year.

Hence, each year, the incumbent finance minister presents the budget in the month of February which contains a blueprint of the government's revenue and expenditure for the coming fiscal year. The Appropriation Bill is passed before commencement of the new financial year. If for any reason, the government fails to present a full budget, an interim budget or vote-on-account is presented. An interim budget is presented by the government when it does not have time to present a full budget mostly when election is around the corner.

Many people use the term interim budget and vote-on-account interchangeably. However, they have significant differences. A vote-on-account is a grant in advance for the government to function properly. It allows the government to meet its required expenses. An interim budget includes both receipts and expenditures, while the vote-on-account lists only the expenditure and cannot make changes to the tax regime. The vote-on-account is a formality and is passed without any discussion. An interim budget is technically just like the full budget, but only for a temporary period.

Normally, the budgetary outlay is decided in tandem with an expected rise in nominal GSDP



The nominal GSDP in 2021-22 might be overestimated to show that the target of various deficits and debts as a percentage of GSDP has been archived

growth. Economic Survey presented before budget mirrors the state of economy. Due to the pandemic-induced recession, in 2020-21, nominal GSDP was forecasted to shrink to a negative 2.24 per cent against the earlier projected rise of 11.7 per cent. However, it has shrunk by 0.64 per cent. The annual average growth of nominal GSDP over the last 10 years stands at 10.90 per cent.

While estimating the total outlay for 2021-22, the finance minister had assumed that nominal GSDP will grow at 10.5 per cent to reach Rs 5.86 lakh crore. According to the Economic Survey-2021-22, nominal GSDP of the state at current prices in 2021-22 (AE) is estimated at Rs 6,38,342 crore with a growth of 17.58 per cent over 2020-21 (RE).

Similarly, the real GSDP was forecasted to shrink to a negative 4.92 per cent against the initial projected rise of 7 per cent. However, it has shrunk to a negative 5.35 per cent, when the national average has shrunk to a negative of 6.6 per cent. The annual average growth of GSDP in real terms over the last ten years stands at 6.48 per cent. The real GSDP or GSDP at constant (2011-12) prices stands at Rs 4,27,592 crore for 2021-22(AE), as per the advance estimates with a growth of 10.11 per cent over 2020-21.

The budget document has

adopted the formula prescribed by the 14th Finance Commission for the estimation of GSDP for the budget year based on the average growth of the three preceding years. As mentioned in budget documents, based on this formula, GSDP for the year 2022-23 works out to Rs 6.26 lakh crore, which is 2 per cent lower than the GSDP for the year 2021-22 (AE). However, the finance department has not accepted this and stated that this abnormality is because of the inclusion of the COVID-hit year of 2020-21 in working out the average growth.

Accordingly, the budget assumes a nominal GSDP growth of 12.7 per cent and real GSDP of 9 per cent -9.5 per cent in 2022-23. Thus, the estimated nominal GSDP of Rs 7.19 lakh crore for 2022-23 is used for working out all monitorable fiscal indicators. This raises questions about the purity of data. How a formula used earlier can be wrong again. If wrong, past estimation might be wrong too. Actually, the nominal GSDP in 2021-22 might be overestimated to show that the target of various deficits and debts as a percentage of GSDP has been archived.

The budgetary outlay - which will be revised in the final budget - for the entire year 2022-23 is estimated to be Rs 2,00,000 crore, which is about 17.6 per cent more than the previous annual budget.

The budget seems to be expansionary. Budget outlay for 2021-22 which was estimated to be Rs 1.70 lakh crore has shrunk to Rs 1.65 lakh crore in a revised estimate. It may be noted that in addition to Rs 1.70 lakh crore, the finance minister had presented a supplementary budget of Rs 19,380 crore December 1, 2021, which proved redundant.

The state's own tax/GSDP ratio is estimated at 6.40 per cent in 2021-22 and has increased by 6.50 per cent in the revised estimate. However, it is estimated to be 6.39 per cent in 2022-23. Similarly, the non-tax/GSDP ratio which was estimated to be 9.80 per cent in 2021-22 was found to have increased to 13.5 per cent in revised estimate and is estimated at 13.1 per cent in 2022-23. The massive rise was seen as the state's own non-tax revenues have increased from Rs 57500.00 crore in 2020-21 to Rs 86052.01 crore in 2021-22 due to a rise in mining royalties. But this is not sustainable as mineral resources are not unlimited.

Grant-in-aid from the Centre of which the state had expected to get Rs 37963.32 crore in 2021-22, was reduced to Rs 21646.98 crore in the revised estimate and the state is expected to get Rs 32788.64 crore only in 2022-23. The Centre's apathy is crippling state finances too as the former is generating more resources through cesses and surcharges in which states have no share. However, the finance minister underlined that the state's dependence on central transfers has reduced with the state's own revenue contributing about 58 per cent to the total revenue pool.

The revenue receipt for 2022-23 is estimated at Rs 1,63,967 crore and the revenue expenditure is at Rs 1,44,349 crore. The revenue surplus is of the order of Rs 19,618 crore, which would be 2.7 per cent of the GSDP. The estimated fiscal deficit of Rs 21,588 crore amounts to 3 per cent of the GSDP. It is also estimated that the debt-GSDP ratio will be 15.35 per cent in 2022-23 which was 15.64 per cent at the end of 2021-22. Though fiscal rectitude is maintained, doubt on calculation of nominal GSDP creeps in mind.

The writer is an Odisha-based economist and columnist. Views are personal.

IN JEST THIS

Major regrets over Will Smith's slap

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has concluded its formal review of the incident involving actor Will Smith and comedian Chris Rock at the 94th Oscars March 24, 2022, and issued the following statement:

The Academy would like to apologise once again to the millions of viewers from around the world who were exposed to violence and foul language March 24 without buying a movie ticket. We do not condone violence and foul language in any form that is totally free to consume.

When violence and foul language are freely available, they become normalised. We do not want to live in a society where it's considered normal behaviour to slap Chris Rock.

Indeed, slapping any comedian is unacceptable behaviour. Comedians should be free to make jokes of all kinds, even those in poor taste, without the threat of being slapped. If people get slapped whenever they produce something

in poor taste, there'd be a lot of red faces at Taco Bell.

As everyone is aware, the incident at the Oscars occurred while Mr. Rock was presenting the award for best documentary. He made a "G.I. Jane" joke about Will Smith's wife, Jada Pinkett Smith, alluding to her shaved head but unaware that she suffers from alopecia, a disorder that causes hair loss. Mr. Smith walked onto the stage to let Mr. Rock know about his wife's condition by means of a slap. He returned to his seat and issued a verbal warning to Mr. Rock, using language unsuitable for children and offensive to innumerable adults in households around the world.

Mr. Smith's actions were disgraceful and reprehensible. This was the first time in the history of award shows that a presenter has been slapped by an award nominee, not counting the annual award show of the World Wrestling Federation.

Mr. Smith's actions were deeply shocking and traumatic, not just for

viewers at home but also for thousands of guests in the Dolby Theater who witnessed his actions in-person and have been forever scarred by the image of one celebrity slapping another. Many of them feared for their safety, wondering if Mr. Smith had lost his mind and would go on a slapping spree.

The Academy would like to apologise again to Mr. Rock and commend him for his resilience. While many hosts may have recoiled or retaliated, Mr. Rock kept his composure. Had he chosen to retaliate, we might have witnessed a brawl on stage, resulting in an arrest or two.

No arrest took place, of course. The Los Angeles Police Department was prepared to make an arrest, but Mr. Rock declined to press charges. He made this decision on his own free will—as far as we know—without threat of another slap.

As everyone is aware, Mr. Smith remained in the theater for the rest of the ceremony. This was a mistake on our part. We asked Mr. Smith to leave and he refused. At

this point, we could have summoned security and had Mr. Smith forcibly removed. But after consulting Mr. Rock, we decided not to do so. It is important to note that while we were consulting Mr. Rock, Mr. Smith did not make any slapping gestures in our direction. Mr. Smith also reassured us that there would be no more slapping whatsoever. We asked him to swear to this, but Mr. Rock intervened, saying that Mr. Smith had done enough swearing already.

We realised our mistake when Mr. Smith won the "best actor" award and used his acceptance speech to justify his actions. He received a standing ovation, which sent the wrong message to the audience. Slapping should never be rewarded with clapping.

Mr. Smith has since apologised for his actions and turned in his resignation from the Academy. At the next board meeting April 18, the Academy may take disciplinary action against him. We are waiting to hear from Mr. Rock on how to proceed.

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

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Worsening situation

Sir, From shortage of food, fuel and medicine to long daily power cuts, to cancellation of exams due to lack of ink and paper, the problems affecting Sri Lanka are myriad. Huge piles of foreign debt, soaring inflation and depleting foreign currency reserves - the island nation is a textbook example of a country that could ever go wrong and get into all sorts of trouble. Sri Lanka's economy is fundamentally flawed. The country has been spending far greater than what it actually earns. Its economy doesn't produce much wealth, but has the consumerist stomach of a rich and fertile nation. When the 2019 Easter bomb-blasts and two rounds of the pandemic literally dried up Lanka's tourism, the country had no cash. On the top of it, the government's flawed policy of organic farming cropped its meagre agriculture too. It is really unfortunate that the emerald island, which is known for its beautiful beaches, heritage buildings and delicious food, is now in shambles.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Needless complacency

Sir, In the wake of decrease in COVID-19 infections, some states have dispensed with mandatory wearing of masks. The governments of Maharashtra and Delhi have relaxed the restrictions on compulsory wearing of mask in public places. A sudden drop in positive cases has made these governments make such a decision. They are under the impression that the virus has weakened and it is not likely to return. However, those who know the characteristics of the virus will never show complacency. Scientists and experts have predicted that many countries may face the fourth wave of the pandemic. Many European countries, China and the USA are faced with rise in cases. A new variant of the virus called Deltacron has been identified by scientists. To make matters worse, a new variant XE which is more dangerous than any strain of COVID-19 has been found in the UK. While a majority of people believe that the pandemic may turn into an endemic, scientists are warning against completely doing away with mandatory wearing of mask. Wearing of mask is a precautionary measure against the pandemic. Some countries that had done away with it paid a heavy price for that mistake. As there is no evidence of complete disappearance of the virus, we need to be alert. Given that protection from the vaccine is temporary, the virus may return by changing into another variant.

Venu GS, KOLLAM (KERALA)



The Delhi government will prepare a summer action plan to fight pollution in the Capital on the lines of a similar plan being implemented in the winter season

GOPAL RAI | MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & WILDLIFE, DEVELOPMENT AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION IN GOVERNMENT OF DELHI

SELF ENUMERATION IN NEXT CENSUS

The upcoming census will be digital for the first time and people will have the option of self enumeration, Lok Sabha was informed Tuesday



of the day quote

Let me tell you that crime cannot be extirpated completely from society but can be effectively brought under control through proper policing. Bihar police is doing that

NITISH KUMAR | BIHAR CM

As per the data of the National Crime Records Bureau, crime has come down in Rajasthan in 2019-20 and 2020-21. But opposition party leaders are deliberately misleading the people

ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CM

Art historians should interpret our glorious past in ways that help resurgence

R N RAVI | TN GOVERNOR

Haryana passes tit-for-tat resolution against Punjab



The Haryana government had summoned the one-day Assembly session just days after the Punjab House passed a resolution seeking the immediate transfer of the Union Territory of Chandigarh to the Aam Aadmi Party-run state

The tit-for-tat resolutions follow the recent row after Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced that the central service rules would now apply to the employees of the Union Territory of Chandigarh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, April 5: The Haryana Assembly Tuesday passed a resolution seeking the completion of the SYL canal and the transfer of Hindi-speaking areas from Punjab, while denouncing the neighbouring state for staking claim over Chandigarh.

The Haryana government had summoned the one-day assembly session just days after the Punjab House passed a resolution seeking the immediate transfer of the Union Territory of Chandigarh to the Aam Aadmi Party-run state.

"This House notes with concern the resolution passed in the Legislative Assembly of Punjab on 1 April, 2022 recommending that the matter for transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab be taken up with the Central government," the

Haryana resolution said.

"This is not acceptable to the people of Haryana," it said, adding that Haryana continued to retain its right to the joint capital of the two states. The resolution, moved by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, was adopted unanimously after a three-hour debate. It was backed across party lines in Haryana.

Participating in the discussion, former Haryana chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda slammed the resolution passed by the Punjab Assembly. "The Punjab resolution has no meaning, it is only political gimmick," the Leader of Opposition in the Haryana Assembly said.

"Punjab's role as an elder brother is acceptable, but if it tries to play the role of the big brother, that is not acceptable to us," the Congress leader said. The resolution urged

the Centre not to take any steps that would disturb the "existing balance" till all issues between the two states are settled.

Punjab has made similar moves in the past as well, staking complete control over Chandigarh. And Haryana has harped on Punjab's reluctance to share river waters through the long-delayed Satluj Yamuna Link (SYL) Canal project. The tit-for-tat resolutions follow the recent row after Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced that the central service rules would now apply to the employees of the Union Territory of Chandigarh. The new AAP government saw this as an attempt by the BJP-led Centre to diminish the state's say in the UT.

But like Punjab, the Haryana resolution has raised objections over the recent amendment by the Central government on the appointment of members of the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB).

It said the amendment went against the spirit of the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966 which treats river projects as common assets of the successor states of Punjab and Haryana. "Under these circumstances, this House resolved to urge the Central government not to take any steps that would disturb the existing balance and to maintain harmony till all the issues emanating from the reorganisation of Punjab are settled."

The resolution urged the Central government to take measures for the construction of the SYL canal in compliance with the directions of the Supreme Court.

Cong revival essential for democracy: Sonia



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, April 5: Congress interim President Sonia Gandhi while addressing the parliamentary party Tuesday said that the revival of the party is essential for democracy and the results of elections were "shocking" and "painful".

In her address she said, "Our dedication and determination, our spirit of resilience is under severe test. Unity at all levels of our vast organisation is of paramount importance and speaking for myself, I am determined to do whatever is needed to ensure it. Our revival is not just a matter of importance to us alone... it is, in fact, essential for our democracy itself and indeed for our society as well."

"I am very well aware how disappointed you are at the recent election results. They have been both shocking and painful. The Congress working committee

The Congress lost polls in all the five states which went for polls in February-March

(CWC) has met once to review our performance. I have met with other colleagues too. I have received many suggestions on how to strengthen our organisation. Many are pertinent and I am working on them."

She said that it was important to put forth a roadmap and for that a Shivir (meeting) should be held. "That is where the views of a larger number of colleagues and party representatives will be heard. They will contribute to put forward a clear roadmap on the urgent steps to be taken by our party on how best to meet the challenges we are confronted with," she said.

42 terrorists killed: J&K DGP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, April 5: Jammu and Kashmir's Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh Tuesday said 42 terrorists have been neutralised in the last three months, and in 2021 a total of 32 foreign militants were eliminated in various anti-terror actions.

He said this while talking to reporters after the wreath-laying ceremony of a CRPF personnel killed in a terrorist attack at Maisuma in Srinagar on Monday. He said a larger number of Over Ground Workers (OGWs) of terrorists have been kept out of circulation.

"Terrorists are enemies of people, their handlers across the border can't digest the fact that people in Kashmir are leading a peaceful life," he said.

Speaking about the recent terrorist attacks on non-Kashmiri workers in the valley, the DGP said these attacks show the insane nature of terrorists. "If an animal turns mad, you are aware of the treatment it meets in the end," he said. He said the Kashmiris appreciate the contribution of non-local workers. "Everyone has been condemning the attacks, necessary action would be taken in these incidents," he said.

Saudi to decide on Haj Yatra date: Naqvi

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, April 5: Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi Tuesday said that it was for the Saudi Arabian government and not the Government of India to decide the date for Haj Yatra.

Responding to a mention during the Zero Hour by Trinamool Congress MP Nadimul Haque, he said that the Haj Yatra could not be done for two consecutive years because of the Covid-19 pandemic from other countries, including India.

"We are trying for this year, and the Saudi government has to decide when this pilgrimage will commence. We have all prepared for this year," he added.

"The Haj yatra is an international journey, and the government will follow what the Saudi Arabian government decides, and how many people will go from India," Naqvi further said.

He also said that over two lakh people have gone on the Haj Yatra during the Modi government.

While raising this issue, the Trinamool MP also said that it was believed that this yatra will be commenced this year as the pandemic effects are at the minimum, he also wanted to know when the nine members from the states will be nominated to the newly constituted Haj Committee. The Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu asked the Minority Affairs Minister to have consultation with Nadimul Haq for other related issues on the Haj Committee.

SHORT TAKES

Bizmen arrested

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Tuesday arrested two Maharashtra based businessmen -- Satish Uke and Pradip Uke -- in a money laundering investigation pertaining to usurping of properties using forged documents. According to an ED official, the accused were produced before the PMLA Court in Mumbai and remanded to ED custody till Wednesday.

MBA graduate held

New Delhi: An MBA graduate was arrested in the national capital for cheating people on the pretext of doubling their money in no time, an official said Tuesday. The accused, identified as Rajat Aggarwal (25), has completed MBA (Finance and Marketing) from Chaudhary Devilal University, Sirsa in 2021 and is also a budding singer. Furnishing details, DCP Sameer Sharma said a case under section 420 of IPC was registered in Cyber Police Station Outer District, Delhi on the complaint of a woman complainant, who alleged that one Instagram ID 'divya_garg_2' contacted her regarding doubling her money and later induced and cheated her of ₹1.70,000. The payments were made through the UPI mode and in three transactions i.e ₹1,00,000, ₹40,000 and ₹30,000.

3 killed, 30 hurt

Ayodhya: Three passengers have been killed and over 30 injured when a bus, they were travelling in, overturned on Tuesday near Mumtaz Nagar in Cantt Kotwali area of Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh. According to reports, the accident took place when the bus driver tried to overtake another vehicle and lost control.

PM to visit J&K

Jammu: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Jammu and Kashmir April 24 on his first visit to the Union Territory after the abrogation of Article 370, BJP general secretary (Organisation) Ashok Koul said Tuesday. Koul said this while addressing a function of Kashmiri Pandits.

Over 25,000 foreigners overstayed in 2021: Govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 5: Over 3.93 lakh foreigners were overstaying in the country till December last year, Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said Tuesday.

The minister said 25,143 foreigners overstayed after expiry of visa in 2021, 40,239 foreigners overstayed in 2020 and 54,576 overstayed in 2021.

"The overall total number of overstaying foreigners (including the above), overstaying from the period prior to 2019 and up to December 31, 2021 is 3,93,431," he said in a written response to a question in the Lok Sabha.

Rai said legal action under the Foreigners Act, 1946 is also taken based on merit of each case which includes placing the names of foreigners in the 'Black List' after ensuring their deportation from India.

Further, law enforcing agencies maintain a vigil to intercept foreigners overstaying in India and take action on anti-national, anti-social or any criminal activities as per the law of the land, he said.

MATCHING STEPS



NCC cadets take part in the inaugural ceremony of the three-day long celebrations of the 41st Annual Day of Dera Natung Government College (DNGC), in Itanagar, Tuesday

SC to hear plea against electoral bond scheme

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, April 5: The Supreme Court Tuesday agreed to hear a plea against the laws allowing political parties' funding through the electoral bond scheme.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, representing the NGO Association for Democratic Reforms, sub-



mitted before a bench headed by Chief Justice N.V. Ramana that it is a critical

issue, which requires urgent hearing. He cited a news report where a Calcutta-based company paid ₹40 crore through electoral bonds to ensure that no excise raids are conducted on it.

The Chief Justice replied that if it was not for Covid, then the court would have heard the matter. The bench, also comprising Justices

Krishna Murari and Hima Kohli, assured Bhushan an early listing of the matter.

In 2017, the NGO had filed a plea alleging subversion of democracy through illicit and lack of transparency in the accounts of all political parties. The government notified the Electoral Bond Scheme on January 2, 2018. In March, last year, the NGO

filed an interim application, in its pending petition, claiming there was a serious apprehension that any further sale of electoral bonds before the upcoming state elections in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Assam, would further increase illegal and illicit funding of political parties through shell companies.

Over 600 govt social media accounts hacked since 2017: Govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 5: Over 600 social media accounts of the central government were hacked in the last five years, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur told the Lok Sabha Tuesday.

Responding to a query on the hacking of government's Twitter handles and e-mail accounts, the minister said since 2017, 641 such accounts have been hacked. Altogether 175 accounts were hacked in 2017, 114 in 2018, 61 in 2019, 77 in 2020, 186 in 2021 and 28

so far this year, he said in a written reply.

Thakur said the information was made available by Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) to the Ministry of Electronics And Information Technology (MeitY).

Responding to the query on steps being taken by the government to prevent such intrusions in future, the minister said in order to enhance cyber security, CERT-In was set up. It issues alerts and advisories about latest cyber threats and countermeasures on a regular



basis to ensure safe use of digital technologies.

"CERT-In has issued 68 advisories for organizations and users

for data security and mitigating fraudulent activities." On observing compromise of websites/e-mail/ Twitter accounts, CERT-

In notifies the affected entities along with remedial actions to be taken. CERT-In coordinates incident response measures with affected entities, service providers, sectoral Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs) as well as Law Enforcement Agencies," the minister said.

CERT-In is operating an automated cyber threat exchange platform for proactively collecting, analysing and sharing tailored alerts with organisations across sectors for proactive threat mitigation actions by them.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
P.H. DIVISION, BHUBANESWAR, SAHID NAGAR, ODISHA
Phone/Fax: 0674-2540578(O)/e-Mail: eephiiibbsr@ori.nic.in
Office Order No. 7941 Dt.04.04.2022
Bid Identification No. EEPHBBSR-62(3)/2021-22 Dt.20.12.2021
No. C-22: The Tender ID: 2021_PHEO_75047_1 for the work "Improvement of Water supply to Nayagarh Municipality (Storage Reservoir at distribution Zone - IV, V, VI & IX) is hereby cancelled as per decision of Tender Committee.
Sd./- Superintending Engineer
P.H. Division, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-13205/11/0001/2223

BHUBANESWAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
No. C-21 E-Mail: ee1@bmc.gov.in
E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

- Bid Reference No. : BMC-DIV-1/01-2022-23 Dt.04.04.22
- Tender Call Notice No. : 19751 Dtd.04.04.2022
- No. of Works : 25 (Twenty Five)
- Bid Value : Rs. 3,71,429/- to Rs. 79,40,623/-
- Period of Completion : 15 days to 60 days

Date and time Schedule

Start	End	Opening
11.00 A.M. of 07.04.2022	5.00 P.M. of 22.04.2022	04.30 P.M. of 25.04.2022

6. Tender details can be seen for the e-Procurement portal <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in> & BMC Website <https://www.bmc.gov.in>.

Sd./- Executive Engineer
BMC Division - 1
OIPR-13002/11/0006/2223

Delimitation Commission meets public for feedback



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, April 5: The Delimitation Commission, which is on a two-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir to meet public and civil society groups for receiving suggestions and objections on its draft proposal, Tuesday held discussions with scores of representatives and individuals here.

Scores of individuals and groups including from many political parties, and Panchayati Raj Institutions members, met the commission, which has been tasked to redraw the boundaries of assembly and parliamentary constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir.

On Monday, the commission, headed by Justice (retired) Ranjana Prakash Desai, had meetings with public, civil society groups and political parties from all districts of the Jammu region.

The commission met delegations in two sittings. The first was from 10 am to 12 noon where people from Srinagar, Budgam, Anantnag, Kulgam, Pulwama and Shopian met the commission.

The second sitting was from 12 noon to 2 pm during which people from Ganderbal, Bandipora, Kupwara and Baramulla participated. The members of the public

Delimitation Commission and the Election Commission. We have raised the issue of many areas being joined with far away constituencies across the UT. We want them to be reconsidered," he said.

The Apni Party leader said the party has also demanded an increase of an assembly constituency in Srinagar as the city has a huge population. He said the approach of the commission was positive.

"They had called us today to discuss those issues. We raised our issues, we feel the approach of the commission is positive and we hope that our issues will be taken care of," he told reporters outside the venue. A civil society delegation from Budgam said they received a good response from the commission on their issue. However, many individuals said they were not allowed inside the venue despite being invited for the discussions.

Ali Mohammad, Sarpanch from Litter area of Pulwama said while he was called for the meeting, but he was not allowed inside the venue. "They do what pleases them, this is just for formality," he said.

The Commission was set up March 6, 2020, with one year term. However, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, its term was extended March 6, 2021, by one year.

and political parties raised various demands in terms of carving out new segments of assemblies and also raised objections about the draft in which various areas have been merged with other areas of assembly and parliamentary constituencies.

Apni Party state secretary, Muntazir Mohi-ud-Din, who met the commission, said the commission's draft proposal has created inconvenience to people in many areas.

"Some areas have been cut off from their constituencies and joined with others, which has created problems for the people. We had already given representations to the commission through the deputy commissioners of the concerned districts, as well as to the

A farcical exercise: Awami Itehad Party

Srinagar: Awami Itehad Party Tuesday rejected the draft proposal of the Delimitation Commission for Jammu and Kashmir, terming it "a farcical exercise" to benefit the "B-Teams" of the BJP. AIP leader Sheeban Ashai's remarks came on a day when the commission was in the valley for meetings with public and civil society groups for receiving suggestions and objections on its draft delimitation proposal for the union territory. "We have not met the Commission as we did not want to legitimise this farcical exercise by any means. When there is a total freeze on delimitation exercise till 2026 all over India, then why this exercise taking place in Kashmir?" Ashai told reporters here. He said the commission's draft is worth "total rejection".

MLA rebukes Cong circular to observe upcoming Navami

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, April 5: Bhopal Central MLA and Congress leader Arif Masood Tuesday said the party was setting a wrong precedent by asking its cadres to celebrate the upcoming 'Ram Navami and Hanuman Jayanti' and recite Sundarkand (a part of Ramayana) and Hanuman Chalisa.

Masood wondered why such directives were not issued for Congress workers about celebrating Ramadan and festivals of other faiths. A circular, issued on behalf of MP Congress president Kamal Nath, April 2 directed the party leaders and workers to organise religious programmes April 10 and April 16 to mark Ram Navami and Hanuman Jayanti, respectively, a move which is seen as Congress' outreach to the Hindu community ahead of next year's MP assembly elections.

"I have questioned the circular issued by Congress to its leaders. Being a political party, Congress should not have issued such a circular. We take along all the religions," Masood told reporters.

He said that his colleagues in Congress and other acquaintances celebrate Ram Navami with fervour but there was no need to issue any circular.

"If we issue a circular to celebrate Ram Navami and Hanuman Jayanti then such a letter should also be issued about Ramadan and festivals of other faiths. This is not a good tradition for a political party," he said. When contacted, Madhya Pradesh home minister Narottam Mishra took a dig saying, "Masood's objection is justified. The Congress is only concerned for Muslims by raising a boogie of BJP." Masood is not able to digest that Congress leaders who used to organise 'Iftar' (meal eaten by Muslims after sunset during Ramadan) parties are now visiting temples, Mishra told reporters.

India lost 39 tigers so far this year; MP tops with 14 deaths

Madhya Pradesh, like in the previous years, led the list, followed by Maharashtra with 10, and Karnataka with six tiger deaths

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, April 5: Tiger state Madhya Pradesh has lost 14 tigers in the last four months in different wildlife habitats of the state, including four between April 1 to 4.

Of the total tigers reported dead, 10 had lost their lives within the earmarked area of tiger reserves, while four were reported dead outside the area.

According to the National Tiger Conservation Authority's (NTCA) report, three tigers were reported dead in Pench Tiger Reserve, two each in Bandhavgarh, Sanjay Tiger Reserve, Kanha Tiger Reserve and one in Satpura Tiger Reserve. The remaining four big cats were reported dead outside the wildlife habitat areas.

The NTCA report also suggests that of the 14 big cats lost between January 1 and April 4, six were female and three male, while the identity of five remained unknown.

Of the three tigers who died in the last four days, two were found dead in Satpura Tiger Reserve (STR) in Narmadapuram (Hoshangabad) district and the third in Balaghat. A senior officer in STR said the carcass of a female cub, aged around 5-6 months, was spotted by a forest patrol in Mogra area of Pachmarhi range Saturday. The officer said that there were multiple injuries on her body, suggesting a possible attack by an adult tiger.

Another tiger aged around eight years was found severely injured



Due to extreme weather during the summer, patrolling by forest officers decreases. As during autumn, visibility in the forest increases many times more than other seasons due to the fall of leaves. Another reason is that during the summer wild animals would be found near water ponds which provides ample opportunity for poachers to target animals

AJAY DUBEY | WILDLIFE ACTIVIST

and gasping for breath. Wildlife vets tranquilised and took it for treatment, but it could not survive. "The tiger died in the cage while being taken for treatment. Both the tigers died due to territorial fights with another tiger," the officer said.

The death count of tigers in Madhya Pradesh remained higher than other states despite the state government spending a handsome amount of money every year for conservation, security and monitoring. As per the state government report, around Rs 28.30 lakh was spent during 2018-19, while this amount was Rs 22.49 lakh in 2019-20. Similarly, the state government spent Rs 26.42 lakh and Rs 12.88 lakh in the financial years 2020-21 and 2021-22 respectively.

The NTCA's data shows that overall, 39 tigers were reported dead across the country in the last four months. Madhya Pradesh, like in the previous years, led with 14

tiger deaths, followed by Maharashtra with 10, while Karnataka was at third place with 6 tiger deaths.

Ajay Dubey, a wildlife activist, said that due to the absence of accountability of the field officers, MP has been reporting the maximum number of deaths of tigers. He claimed that during the summer, the number of deaths of tigers or other wild animals witnessed a sharp increase due to various reasons.

"Due to extreme weather during the summer, patrolling by forest officers decreases. As during autumn, visibility in the forest increases many times more than other seasons due to the fall of leaves. Another reason is that during the summer wild animals would be found near water ponds which provides ample opportunity for poachers to target animals," Dube added.

RAMADAN MUBARAK



Muslim devotees offer prayers at a shrine on the 3rd day of holy month of Ramadan, in Srinagar, Tuesday

PTI PHOTO

No respite from heatwave in next few days in MP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, April 5: Heatwave continued in Madhya Pradesh Monday as the average temperature in several parts of the state either touched or crossed the 42 degrees Celsius mark, forcing people to state indoors in the day time.

The maximum temperature in Khajuraho, Narmadapuram, Rajgarh, Damoh, Khandwa, Khargone and Nawgaon touched the 43 degrees Celsius mark Monday, even as the heatwave continued in Chhindwara, Rewa, Sidhi, Guna, Rajgarh, Damoh, Sagar, Satna, Jabalpur, and Gwalior.

According to the Met department, the maximum temperature in the four major cities -- Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur and Gwalior -- was recorded at a little over 40 degrees Celsius. The heatwave is being caused by dry winds blowing into the state from Rajasthan and Gujarat. Similar conditions are likely to continue over the next four days, said PK Saha, a meteorologist with IMD's Bhopal office. On Sunday, the Met department had issued heatwave alert for places like Chhindwara, Chhatrapur, Damoh, Rajgarh, Dhar, Khandwa, Khargone, Guna, Gwalior, Ratlam, Narmadapuram and Shajapur.

J&K: Rally decries militant attacks on Valley pandits

Led by the Muthi Migrant camp president Anil Bhan, over 300 Kashmiri pandits took out a rally to protest against the selective attacks on the Hindus in the Valley

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, April 5: The displaced Kashmiri pandits of the Muthi migrant camp here Tuesday held protests against the selective targeting of their community members and non-locals by terrorists in Kashmir.

Terrorists fired at a Kashmiri pandit and two labourers from Bihar in South Kashmir Monday, leaving them injured.

Led by the Muthi Migrant camp president Anil Bhan, over 300 Kashmiri pandits took out a rally to protest against the selective attacks on the Hindus in the Valley. Raising anti-Pakistan and anti-terrorist slogans, they demanded justice for the community member.

We want justice. Terrorists in Kashmir responsible for the selective attacks on Hindus particu-

larly a Kashmiri pandit, who was living in the valley for the past 32 years, must be eliminated, Bhan told reporters here. He said such incidents are aimed to trigger panic and fear among those KPs living in the valley to force their exodus.

"Terrorists are creating fear to force the rest of non-migrant Kashmiri pandit families numbering over 800 to leave their homes as was done in 1990. We want a full-fledged security set up around them," Bhan added.

He said the aim of these selective attacks is to prevent Kashmiri pandits to return to their homes and hearths. He demanded a probe by a commission into the killings and the exodus of Kashmiri Hindus from the valley.

Protests were also held in the Jagti camp on the outskirts of Jammu city against the selective attacks by terrorists to instill fear among the minority Hindus in the valley. They also burnt an effigy of Pakistan. On Monday evening, Terrorists fired at a Kashmiri pandit, Bal Krishan, in Chotigam village of Shopian district, leaving him injured. It was followed by another attack on two labourers from Bihar: in Lajoora village of Pulwama district, leaving them injured.

MP students to get digital locker facility

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, April 5: The Madhya Pradesh government is set to introduce a digital locker system in all colleges and universities of the state to provide marksheets, certificates, migration transcripts etc to the students digitally.

The higher education department of the state government has initiated the digital locker system, which will be made available at all the universities of the state.

Every student will have an account on the digital locker system, said an official in the higher education department, adding that the Barkatullah University has been made the nodal varsity for this system. The official informed that in the first phase, marksheets will be made available through the digital locker system, while in the subsequent phases, documents like

degrees, duplicate marksheets, migration transcripts etc. will be made available to the students through the system.

The Barkatullah University in Bhopal, which is the nodal agency for the system, has prepared data for the academic year 2019-20 and 2020-21 to provide the marksheets to the students through the new system which would be made operational soon, the official said.

The official added that the new system will eliminate the problem of missing certificates. The marksheet and degree will be made available to the students on the day of the declaration of result.

It would be possible to provide certificates to the students in a very short time. Also, having digital signatures in the certificates will increase the accountability of the employees to deliver the services in a time-bound manner, the official said.

GI tag to boost Kashmiri carpet industry

A geographical indication (GI) is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, April 5: Kashmir created history last month when for the first time GI-certified Kashmir silken carpets were exported to Germany, valued at around 40,000 Euros. Last year Srinagar scored a place in the United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in Crafts and Folk Arts Category for 2021. Following this development by Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, launched Geographical Indication (GI) for the famed hand-knotted

Kashmiri Carpets and granted the carpet trade a new lease of life.

Kashmiri hand-knotted carpets, locally known as 'Kalbaffi', date their origin back to the 15th century. Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin brought in carpet weavers from Persia and Central Asia to train the locals. These carpets are weighed in gold owing to the fineness of the weave and quality of wool and silk yarn.

The GI label will assist the tourism industry by projecting a positive image of Kashmir. It's a useful market-access tool as it adds value to the items that are designated this title, allowing them to access larger markets.

The QR-code on all items will reveal information such as the name of the artisan, district of manufacture, knots per square inch, and the raw material used, among others. The GI branding will fetch the carpets their worth and will raise their standards to the Iranian and Turkish knot-



ted carpet varieties. Kashmir has long suffered due to misbranding of products in the international market claiming that they are Kashmir-brand. The cheap quality knock-offs in the international market eroded the trust of buyers. GI-tagging is a one-stop solution to all those problems that have low-balled the price of the original Kashmiri carpets. This initiative

will motivate the younger generation to move to carpet weaving and shift their attention from the widespread terrorism in the valley to income generation.

In 2020-21, Germany emerged as the biggest importer of Kashmiri carpets worth Rs 115 crore. The UAE was the second biggest market at Rs 36 crore; and the US at Rs 34 crore. The Netherlands imported

artwork worth Rs 22 crore. The Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC), set up by the Ministry of Textile, has proposed the formation of a carpet village in the Sonawari area to regulate this business and secure jobs for the weavers. The village is envisioned to be a one-stop-shop for all carpet and weave needs for outsiders. The designs would be copyrighted for future generations. The tourism sector will highly benefit through this too as people will witness the art first-hand and it will increase their confidence in the product.

GI tag has been embraced by many colonies across the world as a mark of the originality of their produce. Switzerland does it for their watches, Russia for its Bashkir honey, Georgia for Tushuri Guda cheese, and the French for their specialty wine. It will be a guarantee to the buyers that their carpet was actually woven in Kashmir and by a Kashmiri.

of the day quote

The deputy commissioners must regularly convene outdoor meetings, especially in villages, to ensure on-the-spot redressal of people's grievance

BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CM

Everyone has the right to follow and spread his/her religion. But today the kind of statements that are being made to create a divide between communities, police department officials will definitely think over the issue

DILIP WALSE PATIL | MAHARASHTRA HOME MINISTER

Investors should feel like coming to Maharashtra. They should get the ease of doing business here in the state. We are taking the steps to remove the speed breakers from the paths of investors and making their pathways smooth

UDDHAV THACKERAY | MAHARASHTRA CM



The zero-tolerance policy of the BJP government is just a sham. Under the protection of power, the administration is engaged in oppressing the innocent and the poor, and bulldozers are being run on farmers

AKHILESH YADAV | SP PRESIDENT

TAJ CITY GETS RELIEF FROM COVID

No new case of Covid-19 has been reported in the Taj city in the first four days of April. The city is breathing free and the marriage season is again back on track



ED attaches assets linked to Raut Jain's assets seized

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Mumbai, April 5: The Enforcement Directorate has provisionally attached assets worth more than ₹11.15 crore of Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut's wife and two of his associates in a money-laundering investigation linked to certain land deals, the agency said on Tuesday.

Raut, who has been accusing the BJP-led Union government of misusing central agencies against its opponents, alleged that it was an act of vengeance and said the ED's claims against him will fall flat.

The attached properties are in form of lands held by Pravin M Raut, former director of Guru Ashish Construction Pvt Ltd, in Palghar and Thane districts, a flat in Mumbai's suburban Dadar area of Sanjay Raut's wife Varsha Raut and eight plots at Kihim beach in Alibaug jointly held by Varsha Raut and Swapna Patkar, the agency said in a statement.

Swapna Patkar is the wife of Sujit Patkar who, according to the ED, is a close associate of Sanjay Raut, Shiv Sena's Rajya Sabha MP and party spokesperson. In the Alibaug land deal, apart from the registered value, "cash" payments



The MVA government hit out at the Centre, alleging that the action against Raut was driven by political vendetta

Maharashtra Home Minister Dilip Walse Patil alleged that attempts are being made to destabilise the MVA government in the state

were made to the sellers, the agency found. It said the total value of the attached assets is ₹11,15,56,573.

The ED action linked to alleged irregularities in the re-development of a Mumbai 'chawl' and other similar instances, comes in the backdrop of several leaders of the Sharad Pawar-led Nationalist

Congress Party (NCP) also facing the heat from the central agency. The Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress are part of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in Maharashtra.

Raut termed the ED action an attack on the "middle-class Marathi mannos" and asserted he will not be cowed by such moves and resist any act to pressure him. Talking to reporters in New Delhi, Raut pointed out that the ED action came on a day when the Mumbai Police formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe allegations of extortion against the central agency's officers.

The MVA government too hit out at the Centre, alleging that the action against Raut was driven by political vendetta. Maharashtra Home Minister Dilip Walse Patil alleged that attempts are being made to destabilise the MVA government in the state

In a statement, the ED said it has issued a provisional order under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act for the attachment of the assets

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 5: Assets worth ₹4.81 crore of the family and companies "beneficially owned and controlled" by Delhi minister and AAP leader Satyendar Jain have been provisionally attached in connection with a money-laundering probe against him, the Enforcement Directorate said Tuesday.

Jain, 57, is the minister for health, power, home, PWD, industries, urban development, flood, irrigation and water in the Arvind Kejriwal-led government. The ED had in 2018 questioned the AAP MLA from Shakur Basti in connection with the case. He had worked in the Central Public Works Department and later quit his job to set up an architectural consultancy firm.

In a statement, the ED said it has issued a provisional order under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) for the attachment of the assets.

The "attached immovable properties worth ₹ 4.81 crore belong to Akinchan Developers Pvt. Ltd., Indo Metal Impex Pvt Ltd, Paryas Infolutions Pvt. Ltd, Manglayatan Projects Pvt. Ltd., J.J. Ideal Estate Pvt. Ltd., Swati Jain, wife of Vaibhav Jain, Sushila Jain, wife of Ajit Prasad Jain, and Indu Jain, wife of Sunil Jain."

The probe found that "during the period 2015-16, when Satyendar Kumar Jain was a public servant, the companies beneficially owned and controlled by him received accommodation entries to the tune of ₹ 4.81 crore from shell (paper) companies against cash trans-



ferred to Kolkata-based entry operators through the hawala route." "These amounts were utilised for direct purchase of land or for repayment of loan taken for the purchase of agricultural land in and around Delhi," the ED said.

According to the officials, the named persons in the attachment order are associates and family members of Jain.

The money laundering case against the AAP minister stems from an August 2017 FIR filed by the CBI against him and others on charges of alleged possession of disproportionate assets.

The CBI has claimed that Jain purchased 200 bighas of agricultural land in the names of companies controlled by him in Delhi in five years preceding 2018 and "laundered black money" to the tune of several crores of rupees.

It had alleged that Jain controlled these companies in the past either in the form of being one of the directors or by holding one-third of shares of these companies in his name or in the names of his family members or others.

The laundered funds were allegedly used to purchase over 200 bighas of land in Auchandi, Bawana, Karala and Mohammed Mazvi villages in Delhi between 2010 and 16, the CBI had said. The Income Tax department too had probed these transactions and issued an order attaching 'benami assets' allegedly linked to Jain.

SHORT TAKES

Delhi teen found

New Delhi: A 15-year-old girl who went missing from the national capital was finally found in Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal district, an official said Tuesday. According to the official, a complaint regarding the missing teenager was received March 2, following which the police registered an FIR under section 363 (Punishment for kidnapping) of the Indian Penal Code at the Mehrauli police station.

Drugs seized

Aizawl: The Mizoram police arrested a drug peddler and seized a large quantity of drugs, smuggled from Myanmar, valued at over ₹30 crore, police said Tuesday. Police officials said that acting on secret information, a team of CID officers detained an illegal drug dealer at Vaivakawn in Champhai district late on Monday night and recovered one lakh highly addictive methamphetamine tablets, weighing 9.602 kgs, from him. The value of the drugs, smuggled from neighbouring Myanmar, would be at least ₹30 crore in the international market.

Bengal govt seeks report

Kolkata: The West Bengal government Tuesday sought a report from the Aliah University over allegations of a now expelled student heckling, threatening and abusing the university Vice Chancellor, Mohammad Ali. The incident is said to have taken place on April 1. A video that went viral next day showed a student -- Giasuddin Mondal, having close links with the ruling Trinamool Congress, heckling, threatening and abusing Ali. On April 3, Mondal was arrested from his rented accommodation in Kolkata's Salt Lake area.

AP CM Jagan to reshuffle Cabinet

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh cabinet reshuffle is likely on April 11. The State Cabinet will meet on April 7, where Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy will inform his Cabinet colleagues about the reshuffle. He may take resignations of the ministers who are going to be dropped. He will assure them that their services will be utilised for other purposes like strengthening the party organisation. After the Cabinet meeting, the Chief Minister will meet Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan on April 8 to handover the resignations of the ministers and will also submit list of the new ministers to be inducted in the Cabinet.

Tired of waiting, options open: Ahmed's son

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, April 5: Faisal Patel, son of late Congress leader Ahmed Patel, is "upset" for being ignored by the party's top brass and has said that he is tired of waiting and keeping his options open.

"Tired of waiting around. No encouragement from the top brass. Keeping my options open," Faisal said in tweet on Tuesday. However, when IANS contacted Faisal, he said he did not want to comment any further and "options open" could mean anything.

Sources close to him say that he is waiting for a call from the top brass to work for the party in the state or at national level but since the demise of his father he is not being given any formal work in the party. Even he has not joined the party officially.

Earlier on March 27, Faisal had announced that he will be touring the seven Assembly seats of Bharuch & Narmada districts from April 1, adding that his team will assess the current reality of the political situation.

However, responding to a query about when he will join the party, Faisal had said that he is not joining politics at the moment and is not sure about joining the party yet.

He had further suggested that if he joins the politics, he "may not enter into electoral politics but work for the party".

Gujarat would go to polls by the end of the year and Congress is busy in preparing for the Assembly elections. Rahul Gandhi has taken several meetings to "galvanise" the state unit and the party has appointed Raghu Sharma along with four Secretaries to strengthen the party's preparations in the state. Ahmed Patel was considered as one of the "most powerful" aides of Sonia Gandhi.

UPPING THE ANTE



AIADMK supporters during party's state-wide protest against the hike in property taxes announced by the Tamil Nadu government, near the Trichy Junction railway station

ISRO scientists to inspect objects that fell from sky

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 5: A team of ISRO scientists are visiting Chandrapur district in Maharashtra to inspect some objects, believed to be remnants of a booster rocket, that streaked across the night sky over parts of central India last week.

The space agency decided to depute a team of scientists for "inspection and further scientific inquiry" after the district collector of Chandrapur reached out to ISRO to examine a metal ring and a cylinder-like object that were found in an open field in Pawanpur village.

As requested by the district administration, a team of scientists from ISRO is visiting Pawanpur for inspection and further scientific inquiry," the space agency said in a Facebook post.

On April 2, several social media users posted videos and pictures of unidentified burning objects falling from the sky in north Maharashtra as well as some districts of Madhya Pradesh.

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

A local government official in eastern Maharashtra's Chandrapur district said an "aluminum and steel object" reportedly fell at Ladburi village in Sindewahi tehsil around 7.45 pm.

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

Bill to unify Delhi MCDs passed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 5: Parliament Tuesday passed the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill-2022 to unify three civic bodies in the national capital, with the Rajya Sabha giving its nod through a voice vote after negating all amendments sought by the opposition.

According to the bill, passed by Lok Sabha last week, the unification of the municipal corporations will ensure synergised and strategic planning and optimal utilisation of resources.

Replying to the discussion on the bill, Home Minister Amit Shah said it has been necessitated after the AAP-led Delhi government meted out step-motherly treatment to the civic bodies.

Shah said that it was a mistake to trifurcate the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) into three bodies in 2012 but added that they could still have functioned normally, had the AAP-led Delhi

Harsh Jain is India's new envoy to Ukraine

New Delhi: Diplomat Harsh Kumar Jain is set to take charge as India's new envoy to Ukraine, the Indian embassy in Ukraine said Tuesday. The embassy tweeted a photo of Charge D' Affaires Ambarish Vemuri welcoming Jain "who arrived in Warsaw today to take up his assignment as the new Ambassador of India to Ukraine". At present, the embassy is operating from Warsaw in Poland amid the Russia-Ukraine war. Jain succeeds Partha Satpathy as the Indian envoy to Ukraine.



government not treated them in such a manner:

"This bill is in no way an attack on the federal structure," Shah said, allaying concerns raised by some opposition members. Delhi is only a union territory and not a full state, he said, adding that Parliament has competence to

frame laws for Delhi and that is why it has brought this bill.

Dismissing the opposition charge that the ruling dispensation at the Centre brought in the bill out of fear of losing the civic elections, Shah said the BJP has no such phobia and is ready to contest the polls soon after delimitation.

States, UTs reported 5,21,358 Covid deaths till April 4: Govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 5: The Centre Tuesday informed Parliament that confirmed death due to oxygen shortage has not been reported by any state or union territory although over 5.21 lakh fatalities due to COVID-19 have been recorded in India.

It told the Rajya Sabha that it had asked states to provide details of people who have died because of shortage of oxygen. "As on April 4, 2022, states/UTs have reported a total of 5,21,358 deaths due to COVID-19 in the country," Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Bharati Pravin Pawar told the Upper House.

Replying to supplementaries during the Question Hour, she said, "Twenty states/UTs have responded

and none of these have reported confirmed death due to oxygen shortage." She said that some states are even now updating and reporting deaths due to COVID-19 on the ministry's web portal.

To a query by Congress MP Shaktisinh Gohil that the government had promised ₹4 lakh as compensation for Covid deaths and why this money was not being given, Bharati said the government has issued guidelines transparently. She said arrangements had been made to protect and take care of patients through insurance schemes for poor patients.

The minister also said ex gratia payments had been examined at central, state and district levels and it has been determined that the amount to be given is not ₹4 lakh. "An ex gratia of ₹50,000 as per cen-



tral, state and district levels. The NDMA has proposed ₹50,000 compensation and not ₹4 lakh for each victim of COVID-19," she told the House.

The minister also said that during COVID-19, the government has

taken a number of measures and a budget of ₹64,000 crore has been sanctioned for strengthening health infrastructure. "So far we have 300 plus laboratories, over five lakh oxygen-supported beds, 1.5 lakh ICU beds, over 4,000 PSA plants,

In a written reply, Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said that over 180 technical guidelines/ advisories/ SoPs/ plans have been issued to states and Union Territories by his ministry

over 60,000 ventilators and all emergency facilities have been upgraded." Pawar also said that a new biosafety level (BSL)-3 mobile laboratory is also being added for detection of new strains and viruses. In a written reply, Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said that over

180 technical guidelines/ advisories/ SoPs/ plans have been issued to states and Union Territories by his ministry.

This includes technical guidance on issues ranging from surveillance and containment of COVID-19, travel advisories, clinical management protocols for managing COVID-19 cases in adults and children, rational use of medical oxygen, SOPs for safe resumption of activities in workplaces, markets, religious places among others.

According to him, to address the surge in demand for medical oxygen, the Union government had supported the states in terms of increasing the availability, streamlining the distribution and strengthening the oxygen storage infrastructure in the country.

international

of the day quote

One-quarter of humanity -- two billion people -- are living in conflict areas today and the world is facing the highest number of violent conflicts since 1945 when World War II ended

We have been raising this issue for last three-and-a-half years that this government and the Prime Minister (Imran Khan) is illegal

Immediately after the announcement of the working visit of Imran Khan to Moscow February 23-24 this year, the Americans and their Western associates began to exert rude pressure on the prime minister, demanding an ultimatum to cancel the trip

MARIA ZAKHAROVA | SPOKESPERSON OF THE RUSSIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SHORT TAKES

\$ now over 300 SL rupees for 1st time

Colombo: Sri Lanka banks Tuesday said the US dollar reached over 300 against the country's rupee, LKR, for the first time, as the island nation is facing a severe economic crisis with the shortage of foreign exchange. Local media reports quoting some local banks said the selling rate of one \$1 had reached 310 LKR, while some banks were selling at 312 LR, reports Xinhua news agency. Economists said this was the first time in Sri Lankan history that the US dollar hit the 300 mark against the LKR.

India, S'pore to boost ties

Singapore: India and Singapore Tuesday reaffirmed their strong and long-standing defence ties as Indian Army chief General M M Naravane held talks with top Singaporean military leadership and discussed the roadmap to further enhance bilateral military cooperation. The Chief of Army Staff, who is on a three-day visit to the city-state, called on Singapore's Minister for Defence, Dr Ng Eng Hen, and discussed regional geopolitical developments. In the meeting, "the strong & long-standing bilateral defence relationship between both Nations was reaffirmed," the Indian Army's Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADG PI) tweeted.

5 killed as train strikes vehicle

Budapest: A train derailed and overturned after striking a vehicle in southern Hungary early Tuesday, leaving five people dead and others injured, police said. The accident occurred just before 7 am in the town of Mindszent. Police said a flatbed truck carrying workers drove onto the train tracks and was struck by a train, which derailed from the force of the collision. Seven men were travelling in the truck at the time of the collision, according to Hungarian state news agency MTI.

Lebanon eases Covid measures

Beirut: Lebanese Health Minister Firas Abiad announced that the Covid-19 measures have been eased amid a remarkable drop in infections in the country. The Covid-19 ministerial committee cancelled all measures imposed on restaurants and cafes with regard to the number of clients they are allowed to receive, Xinhua news agency quoted Abiad as saying.



Yesterday I returned from our city of Bucha, recently liberated from Russian troops not far from Kiev. There is not a single crime that they would not commit there. The Russian military searched for and purposefully killed anyone who served our country

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYI | UKRAINE PRESIDENT

FOOD CRISIS IN WEST AFRICA

West Africa is facing its worst food crisis in a decade due to increasing conflicts, droughts, floods and the war in Ukraine, as per reports. The number of West Africans needing emergency food assistance has nearly quadrupled from 7 million in 2015 to 27 million this year in nations including Burkina Faso, Niger, Chad, Mali and Nigeria, where thousands have also been displaced because of rising Islamic extremist violence



LANKA CRISIS

Rajapaksa's grip on power weakens

LANKA'S RULING COALITION LOST ITS PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY AS FORMER ALLIES URGED THE PRESIDENT'S RESIGNATION, FOLLOWING DAYS OF PROTESTS OVER THE ISLAND NATION'S CRIPPLING ECONOMIC CRISIS



AGENCIES

Colombo, April 5: Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's government Tuesday faced more trouble after the newly-appointed Finance Minister Ali Sabry resigned and dozens of lawmakers walked out of the ruling coalition amid nationwide protests over the country's worst economic crisis. President Rajapaksa had appointed Sabry after sacking his brother Basil Rajapaksa, who was at the centre of anger within the ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) coalition.

In a letter to the President, Sabri said that he took up the job as part of a temporary measure. "However, after much reflection and deliberation and taking into consideration the current situation, I am now of the view for Your Excellency to make suitable interim arrangement to navigate the unprecedented crisis fresh and proactive, and unconventional steps needs to be taken including the appointment of a new finance minister," Sabry said in the letter.

He was among the four new min-

isters appointed by the President who dissolved his cabinet Monday and sought to form a unity government.

Meanwhile, a group of over 50 lawmakers who supported the government Tuesday decided to function as an Independent Group in Parliament unless the government resigns and hands over the ruling powers to a capable group, former state minister Nimal Lanza was quoted as saying by the Daily News.

Former minister Wimal Weerawansa also announced MPs who were part of the government from 10 parties will leave the government and remain independent. A four-day session of the Parliament started Tuesday morning during which the Opposition raised objections to going ahead with the day's agenda in the absence of relevant cabinet ministers. It was the first session since a state of emergency was declared by President Rajapaksa last week.

"We have a problem in continuing with the day's agenda as subject ministers have not been named," Opposition's senior leader Ranil Wickremesinghe told the Speaker. Another opposition leader

Anura Kumara Dissanayake said that Parliament must appoint a replacement for the deputy speaker as Ranjith Siyambalapatiya had resigned following the government ally and former president Sirisena's Sri Lanka Freedom Party's decision to act independent of the ruling coalition.

Main opposition leader Sajith Premadasa urged the government to pay heed to the protesters whom he said have suffered with hardships experienced recently. Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeyawardene summoned a meeting of the party leaders to decide on a two-day debate on the current economic and political crisis which will be held Wednesday and Thursday.

The ruling coalition, which had won 150 seats in the 2020 general elections and went on to increase its numbers through defections from the Opposition, lost the support of at least 41 MPs.

The names of the 41 lawmakers to leave the coalition were announced by party leaders in Parliament.

They have now become independent members, leaving Rajapaksa's government with fewer than the 113 members needed to maintain a majority in the 225-member house. The government, however, claimed that it commands simple majority. Sri Lanka is currently experiencing its worst economic crisis in history.

With long lines for fuel, cooking gas, essentials in short supply and long hours of power cuts, the public has been suffering for months.

IVANKA SET TO TESTIFY BEFORE JAN. 6 PANEL

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, April 5: Ivanka Trump, former President Donald Trump's daughter and among those closest to him during the insurrection at the Capitol, is set to testify Tuesday before the Jan. 6 committee, according to three people familiar with the situation.

Ivanka Trump is expected to testify virtually as the panel works to compile a record of the attack, the worst in the Capitol in more than 200 years, when the former president's supporters interrupted the Electoral College count and tried to halt the certification of the 2020 election for Joe Biden.

Ivanka's decision to cooperate is significant for the committee, which has been trying to secure an interview with her since late January. The panel has conducted some 800 interviews, but the one Tuesday with the former president's daughter, a trusted aid, is among the most high profile as the committee races to complete its work. Her testimony, like others before the committee, will be private. Public hearings are expected to begin this summer.

Elon Musk could bring Twitter an edit button



ASSOCIATED PRESS

San Francisco, April 5: Elon Musk, the billionaire Tesla CEO and power Twitter user who is now Twitter's largest shareholder and newly appointed board member, may have thoughts on a long-standing request from users: Should there be an edit button? On Monday evening, Musk launched a Twitter poll about whether they want an edit button, cheekily misspelling "yes" as "yese" and "no" as "on."

More than 3 million people had voted as of Tuesday morning. The

poll closes Tuesday evening Eastern time. Twitter's CEO, Parag Agrawal, retweeted the poll with a seeming reference to an earlier tweet by Musk, saying "The consequences of this poll will be important," he wrote. "Please vote carefully." Musk had used the same language in a March tweet describing another one of his polls that asked whether Twitter adheres to free speech principles.

Twitter spokesperson Catherine Hill declined to comment on whether Agrawal was joking, and did not answer whether Twitter would follow the results of Musk's poll. Musk tweeted Tuesday that he was looking forward to making "significant improvements to Twitter in coming months!" Many Twitter users — among them, Kim Kardashian, Ice T, Katy Perry and McDonald's corporate account — have long begged for an edit button. The company itself recently teased users with an April Fool's Day tweet saying "we are working on an edit button."

Alleged militia leader on trial at ICC's 1st Darfur trial

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Hague, April 5: An alleged leader of a Sudanese militia known as "devils on horseback" took a "strange glee" in his ruthless reputation during the Darfur conflict, the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court said Tuesday as the suspect's trial opened.

The 72-year-old defendant, Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman, also known as Ali Kushayb, pleaded innocent to all 31 charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity. "I reject all of these charges," he told the court in the first ICC trial to deal with atrocities by Sudanese government-backed forces in the Darfur province nearly two decades ago.

Prosecutor Karim Khan called the trial "an important moment in trying to wake peace from its slumber and try to move it, mobilize it, into action."

He noted that Russia voted for a United Nations Security Council mandate in 2005 that sought an ICC investigation in Darfur. Prosecutors say al-Rahman was a senior commander in the janjaweed militias during the Darfur conflict that erupted when rebels from the territory's ethnic central and sub-Saharan African community launched an insurgency in 2003, complaining of oppression by the Arab-dominated government in the capital, Khartoum. Then-President Omar al-Bashir's government responded with a scorched-earth campaign of aerial bombings and raids by the janjaweed, who often attacked at dawn, sweeping into villages on horseback or camelback.

Pak SC seeks record of NA proceedings on no-trust motion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, April 5: Pakistan's Supreme Court Tuesday sought the record of the proceedings of the National Assembly conducted on the no-confidence motion filed against Prime Minister Imran Khan before adjourning the hearing till Wednesday, prolonging the political and constitutional crisis in the country.

National Assembly Deputy Speaker Qasim Khan Suri Sunday ruled that the no-confidence motion was linked with a "foreign conspiracy" to topple the government and hence was not maintainable. Minutes later, President Arif Alvi dissolved the National Assembly on advice of Prime Minister Khan.

The apex court within hours took suo motu notice of it and a five-member bench started hearing the case Monday. The bench is headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial and includes Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Mohammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Munib Akhtar and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail.

During the second day of the hearing Tuesday, the court directed the government to present minutes of the proceedings in the National Assembly after the no-confidence motion was presented by the Opposition.

Chief Justice Bandial said that the court did not interfere in matters of state and foreign policy and



I demand Chief of Army Staff and the Director General of the ISI to take notice of this issue and produce evidence in the Supreme Court if we have committed treason

SHEHBAZ SHARIF | LEADER OF OPPOSITION'S NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

only wanted to ascertain the constitutionality of the steps taken by the deputy speaker for the dismissal of the no-confidence motion and subsequent dissolution of the National Assembly.

"Our sole focus is on the ruling of the deputy speaker... it is our priority to decide on that particular issue," Chief Justice Bandial was quoted as saying by the Express Tribune newspaper.



KISS OF RESPECT

Britain's Prince Charles with Queen Letizia of Spain arrive for a visit to Auckland Castle in Bishop Auckland, County Durham, England

PTI PHOTO

'Russia regrouping to try to take Donbas'

REUTERS

Brussels, April 5: Russia is likely to launch a new offensive in Ukraine's eastern Donbas region in the next few weeks, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said Tuesday, adding that allies had time to help prepare the Ukrainian military.

Speaking a day before NATO foreign ministers gather in Brussels to discuss more financial, military and humanitarian support for Ukraine, Stoltenberg said Russia was planning a "very concentrated" offensive.

"We now see a significant movement of (Russian) troops away from Kyiv to regroup, re-arm and re-supply and shift their focus to the east," Stoltenberg told a news conference. "In the coming weeks, we expect a further Russian push in



eastern and southern Ukraine to try to take the entire Donbas and to create a land bridge to occupied Crimea," he said before Wednesday's meeting of NATO foreign ministers.

Stoltenberg's comments appeared to confirm Moscow's announcement in late March that it was refocusing on "the complete liberation of the Donbas", an industrial region partly under Russian-backed separatist control since 2014.

Stoltenberg said it would be a new, crucial phase of Russia's February 24 invasion, which the

Kremlin calls a "special military operation". "Repositioning of the Russian troops will take some time, some weeks," he said. He said that: "In that window, it is extremely important that NATO allies provide support". Foreign ministers Wednesday and Thursday are set to discuss how to send more anti-tank weapons, ammunition and medical supplies to Ukraine, Stoltenberg said. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba is expected to attend part of the two-day meeting in Brussels.

EU targets coal, vodka, vessels in new Russian sanctions sweep

AGENCIES

Brussels April 5: The European Commission proposed sweeping new sanctions against Russia Tuesday including banning coal imports and halting trade worth nearly 20 billion euros (\$22 billion) in retaliation over possible war crimes in Ukraine.

Here is a rundown of the measures, which must be approved by all 27 European Union states.

They could be adopted this week.

IMPORT BAN
The proposals include banning imports of coal, wood, cement, liquors and seafood worth about 9.5 billion euros (\$10.4 billion) a year, according to the European Commission. A source said the restrictions would also hit caviar,

vodka, rubber and chemicals. Coal alone is worth 4 billion euros a year, the Commission said. As a comparison, the EU imported about 100 billion euros of oil and gas from Russia last year. The Commission said it was working on possible sanction on oil, as well.

EXPORT BAN
Brussels is proposing a ban on exports to Russia worth another 10 billion euros a year, including of advanced semiconductors, quantum computers, and other electrical and transport equipment. The export of technology for liquefied natural gas (LNG) would also be banned, according to a source.

SHIPPING
Russian vessels and trucks would be prevented from accessing the EU, further crippling trade. Energy



products, food and medicines would be exempted, meaning for example that LNG cargoes from Russia would not be affected.

Applying the sanctions may be complicated, officials have repeatedly said because it is not always easy to identify the origin of a cargo ship. The new sanctions would effectively halt transport of goods by road and sea. The EU has already banned air traffic with Russia.

Zelenskyy at the UN accuses Russian military of war crimes

Bucha: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has told the UN Security Council that the Russian military must be brought to justice immediately for war crimes. In a video appearance Tuesday, Zelenskyy accused the Kremlin's troops of the worst atrocities since World War II and said they are no different from other terrorists like the Islamic State extremist group. The Ukrainian leader made his plea via video Tuesday as grisly evidence continued to emerge of civilian massacres carried out by Russian forces on the outskirts of Kyiv. The images, particularly from the town of Bucha, have stirred global revulsion and led to demands for tougher sanctions and war crime prosecutions against Russia. Zelenskyy showed the UN's most powerful body brief video footage of bloody corpses that ended with the words "Stop Russian Aggression."

sanctions list already comprises hundreds. In addition to this, separatist leaders would also be added.

COMPANIES
The Commission also proposed

a ban on participation of Russian companies in public procurement in the EU and the exclusion of all financial support to Russian public bodies.

business

of the day quote

Prices will be firm, I can't say by how much. They can't go down from here, can only go up



RS SODHI | AMUL MD

With the current situation, work and learn-from-anywhere will be the new reality, and we are building technology ecosystems of the future to deliver experiences that are more connected and productive



ALOK OHRIE | DELL TECHNOLOGIES INDIA MD

With our Indian seafarers working throughout the world in pandemic times, we set an example for the world of our rich ancient Indian ethos and philosophy of Vasudaiva Kutumbakam or the entire world is one family



SARBANANDA SONOWAL | UNION MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Zomato shares dip over CCI probe

New Delhi: Shares of food-aggregator Zomato declined Tuesday after the Competition Commission of India ordered a thorough investigation into the conduct of online food delivery platforms Zomato and Swiggy. The two online food delivery platforms are allegedly involved in delayed payment cycles and exorbitant commissions. At 3.26 p.m., the shares traded at ₹83.75, down 2.9 per cent. Following a complaint from the National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI), the CCI said that it is of the view that there exists a prima facie case with respect to some of the conduct of Zomato and Swiggy, "which requires an investigation by the Director General (DG), to determine whether the conduct of platforms have resulted in contravention of the provisions". The NRAI represents over 50,000 restaurant operators across the country.

MakeMyTrip buys BookMyForex

New Delhi: As India reopened international travel last month after two years of the pandemic, MakeMyTrip's fintech arm TripMoney Tuesday said it has acquired a majority stake in BookMyForex, India's leading online foreign currency exchange services provider, for an undisclosed sum. With this move, BookMyForex's suite of services, including currency exchange that offers real-time exchange rate, multi-currency prepaid forex cards, cross border remittances as well as other ancillary products, will soon be available for MakeMyTrip and Goibibo customers. "The acquisition of a majority stake in BookMyForex is in line with our strategic vision to build a travel super app offering a complete suite of services for the discerning traveller," said Rajesh Magow, Co-Founder and Group CEO of MakeMyTrip.

Funskool India to make 'Sequence'

Chennai: Toy manufacturer Funskool India Ltd Tuesday said it has acquired the rights from international brand Goliath to manufacture and distribute popular game 'Sequence' in the country. 'Sequence' is a combination of board and car game, can be played by two to 12 players. It was developed by Doug Reuter in 1981. "Funskool India always wants to bring the best of toys and games and this association with Goliath is another step towards it. We have always been a frontrunner in developing a catalogue of varied toys," Funskool India Ltd., CEO, R Jeswant said.



We are not the only country impacted by the war
HARDEEP SINGH PURI | PETROLEUM MINISTER

HDFC BANK'S \$40 BILLION DEAL MAY FACE REGULATORY HURDLES

If it clears the hurdles to the deal, HDFC Bank will shrink the gap in size with state-run lender and bigger rival State Bank of India, and pull further away from peers such as ICICI Bank and Axis Bank



Mumbai, April 5: India's largest private lender HDFC Bank's \$40 billion acquisition of its biggest shareholder could face regulatory hurdles due to the stake it would give the bank in the insurance sector, analysts said.

Sources told Reuters last year that the Reserve Bank of India, which acts as regulator for the financial industry, wants banks to limit ownership stakes in insurance companies.

HDFC Bank's acquisition of HDFC Ltd, announced Monday, will create an entity with a combined balance sheet worth \$237 billion and will include the target's insurance and other financial subsidiaries.

HDFC Life and HDFC ERGO are

among the leading life and general insurance companies in the private sector, and analysts say the RBI is unlikely to be comfortable with the size of the insurance operations the deal will give the bank.

HDFC Bank's management said Monday that they have asked the regulator for clarity on complying with its rules, but analysts believe it may not be easy to come by.

"Considering there are lot of subsidiaries that need to be merged, there could be some regulatory overhang, particularly in the insurance business where the central bank is not very comfortable with banks increasing their stake," said an analyst at a domestic brokerage house.

HDFC Bank did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment Tuesday. The RBI also did not respond to a request for comment.

One way of folding the subsidiaries into HDFC Bank could be to create a holding company structure, but that could have a negative impact on the balance sheet in the short term, analysts said.

"If a holding company structure is enforced then the equation changes. Cost goes up as stamp duties and taxes will go up," Macquarie said in a note Tuesday.

In the short term, return on equity (RoE), a key financial metric, will also go down as a result of meeting certain regulatory requirements, the Macquarie note said.

As a shadow bank - a finance company outside the scope of traditional banking regulation - HDFC Ltd has a higher cost of funds compared to the bank.

Post merger, the entity may therefore in the short term also see a higher cost of funds, which could affect its margin, said a portfolio manager at a retail brokerage firm.

"Due to this and other ambiguities regarding the deal and the performance, the stock may not see a big valuation re-rating immediately," he added.

Rising costs subdue March auto sales

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, April 5: Rising vehicle prices, coupled with high fuel costs, subdued India's March automobile retail sales on a year-on-year (YoY) basis, the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) said Tuesday.

FADA data showed a YoY fall of 2.87 per cent in overall automobile retail sales during the month under review. The overall retail sales fell to 16,19,181 units last month from 16,66,996 units sold during the corresponding month of 2021.

Also, last month's overall retail sales figure, when compared to the March 2020 period, showed a decline of 29.99 per cent. In March 2020, the overall vehicle retail sales stood at 23,12,868 units. On a YoY basis, passenger vehicle (PV) retail sales last month fell by 4.87 per cent to 2,71,358 units last month from 2,85,240 units sold during the corresponding month of last year. Similarly, two-wheeler retail sales YoY declined last month by 4.02 per cent to 11,57,681 units. Besides, tractor retail sales fell by 8.16 per cent to 63,920 units.

However, commercial vehicle (CV) retail sales rose by 14.91 per cent to 77,938 units last month from 67,828 units sold during the



corresponding month of last year.

In terms of FY22 data, total vehicle retail increased by 7 per cent on YoY basis but fell by 25 per cent when compared to FY20 which was largely a pre-Covid year. Furthermore, except tractors' sales, which fell by 1 per cent, all other categories like '2W, 3W, PV and CV' grew by 4 per cent, 50 per cent, 14 per cent, and 45 per cent on a YoY basis, respectively.

"The 2W segment which was already a non-performer due to rural distress, saw further dampening due to rise in vehicle ownership cost coupled with rising fuel cost," said FADA President Vinkesh Gulati.

"PVs continues to see high demand and long waiting period as semi-conductor availability still remains a challenge even though supplies slightly improved from previous month. The Russia-Ukraine war and China lockdown will further dent supplies."

Individual investors can use UPI for up to ₹5L payment in public issues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 5: Capital markets regulator Sebi Tuesday said individual investors applying in public issues of equity shares and convertibles can use Unified Payment Interface (UPI) for application amount up to ₹5 lakh.

Also, they have been asked to provide their UPI ID in the bid-cum-application form submitted with any of these entities - syndicate member, stock broker, depository participant and registrar to an issue and share transfer agent.

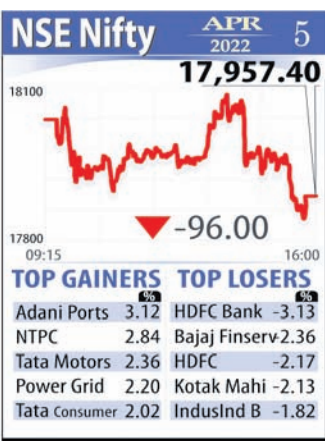
The new guidelines will come into force for public issues opening on or after May 1, 2022, Sebi said in a circular. The decision has been taken after National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) reviewed the systemic readiness required at various intermediaries to facilitate the processing of applications with increased UPI limit.

As on March 30, 2022, more than 80 per cent of Self Certified Syndicate Banks (SCSBs)/Sponsor Banks/UPI Apps have conducted the system changes and have complied with the NPCI provisions.

In December 2021, NPCI enhanced the per transaction limit in UPI from ₹2 lakh to ₹5 lakh for UPI-based Application Supported by Blocked Amount (ASBA) in Initial Public Offers (IPOs).

MARKETS SNAP 2-SESSION RALLY

HFDC TWINS SLIP ON PROFIT-BOOKING



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 5: Equity benchmarks took a knock Tuesday after two days of sharp upmoves as investors pocketed gains in banking and financial stocks after their recent rally.

HDFC twins, which topped the gainers' chart in the previous session after announcing their mega merger, were the biggest drags Tuesday.

Investor focus also returned to the Russia-Ukraine war and rising oil prices, which hobbled global markets, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex slumped 435.24 points or 0.72 per cent to finish at 60,176.50. Similarly, the NSE Nifty tumbled 96 points or 0.53 per cent to 17,957.40.

HDFC Bank was the top loser in the Sensex pack, skidding 2.98 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finserv, HDFC, Kotak Bank, Reliance Industries, IndusInd Bank and Bajaj Finance.

On the other hand, NTPC, PowerGrid, ITC, Titan, TCS and Nestle India were among the gainers, surging up to 3.40 per cent.

Of the Sensex constituents, 17 shares closed lower while 13 were in the green.

"Main indices took a breather after yesterday's rally and as the global market moderated. But broad market continued its positive trend. Mid and smallcaps have become attractive after the consolidation of the last 5 to 6 months.

"Such a trend to outperform can be expected with volatility in the short to medium term as Russia-Ukraine war, rate hikes and inflation are factored in the current market price," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said markets may consolidate after the recent surge and it would be healthy.

"However, there'll be no shortage of trading opportunities, thanks to scheduled events like MPC's monetary policy review meet and the beginning of the earnings season. Participants should focus on the sectors/themes which are playing out well and utilise the pause to accumulate quality stocks on dips," he added.

BIZ BUZZ

Kharbanda among Top 50 General Counsels in India

BHUBANESWAR: Advisor (Legal) of Jindal Steel & Power (JSP) Manish Kharbanda has been featured in the recently published Forbes Legal Powerlist 2022 as one of the Top 50 General



Counsels in India. He received this prestigious recognition for his performance and leadership in legal advisory services. He has been selected for this prestigious honour by a committee of the very best lawyers and judges in India. Kharbanda is a seasoned professional with several years of work experience in some of the best companies in corporate India.

Toyota Kirloskar showcases 'The Cool New Glanza'

CUTTACK: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) Tuesday showcased its newly launched The Cool New Glanza at Esprit Toyota in Cuttack. The launch took place in the presence of popular Odia actor Bobby Mishra along with Esprit Toyota's CEO Rajesh Gandotra and TKM affiliates. The Cool New Glanza is the most exciting and much-awaited offering in the hatchback segment of Toyota. Toyota's most affordable offering in India, the Cool New Toyota Glanza is all-set to win customers with additional affordable variants, advanced features, dynamic look, sporty design and low cost of maintenance, making it a perfect value proposition in the segment. This is Toyota's most affordable offering in the Indian market, with prices starting from Rs. 6,39,000 all India ex-showroom.



BigBasket strengthens presence in Bhubaneswar

BHUBANESWAR: BigBasket (www.bigbasket.com), India's largest online supermarket, is witnessing increased traction in daily orders in Bhubaneswar. The company's current orders in the city stand around 18,000 per month with ₹1.63 crore revenue. BigBasket aims to increase this to ₹5 crore per month within the next 6 months. With a strong base in Bhubaneswar, the company will also start catering to the people in neighbouring cities including Puri, Cuttack and Kalinga Nagar. Being the capital of Odisha, Bhubaneswar is an important market for BigBasket. It is also a crucial education and business hub. Besides, the strategic location makes it an extremely lucrative opportunity for the company with regard to the increase in revenue and customers.



Malabar Gold and Diamonds to launch new store in Cuttack



CUTTACK: Malabar Gold and Diamonds, one of the largest gold and diamond retail chains in the country, will launch its new store in Cuttack April 9. Film actor Sabyasachi Mishra will inaugurate the new store. Located at Cantonment Road, Cuttack, the new store launch is in line with the brand's aggressive retail expansion plans. Preview sale for customers will start from April 6 onwards. The new store will provide a world-class ambience and a wide variety of collections to customers in Cuttack. Besides its famed signature collections like Mine Diamonds, Precia gemstone jewellery, Era uncut jewellery, Ethnic handcrafted designs and more, the store displays an exclusive collection of traditional designs and elegant contemporary collections.

CM inaugurates Utkal Hospital and Comprehensive Cancer Center

BHUBANESWAR: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday inaugurated Utkal Hospital and Comprehensive Cancer Center, Bhubaneswar in presence of Aditya K. Samal, Chairman, Utkal Hospital, Pragnan Gharai, MD, Utkal Hospital, Dr Alok Lodh, COO, Utkal Hospital and Dr Ranjan Ku Mohapatra, Director Medical Services, Director Oncology, Utkal Hospital and Board of Directors, Utkal Hospital, Bhubaneswar. On this occasion, Aditya K Samal said: "Today is a very special day for Utkal Hospital. We are very much delighted. This is purely doctors' hospital as they have given their personal touch to build it. As first hospital of the country we empanelled BSKY with a dedicated floor."

India Inc raises record green capital of \$19 bn in 2021

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 5: India Inc has raised a record USD 19 billion in green capital in 2021, led by Wall Street major Bank of America, which is only a fraction of the USD 1 trillion that global corporations raised in green financing in the year.

While corporate India raised USD 19 billion in green capital in 2021, Bank of America participated in USD 15.65 billion. Globally, the Wall Street major was part of a fourth of the USD 1-trillion green funding drive, helping mop up USD 250 billion, the bank said.

In the country, it was part of the eight deals/issuers worth USD 15.65 billion, which included loans,

M&As, debt capital and equity capital market funding, it added.

It can be noted that BofA had in April 2021 set a target of helping mobilise USD 1.5 trillion in sustainable financing by 2030 and also announced its exit from funding carbon-based companies.

Comparative numbers are not available as the lender has not been categorising fund-raise differently.

The biggest domestic issuer was the USD 8-billion listing of ReNew Power in the US in February 2021, followed by SoftBank selling SB Energy's Renewable Power Portfolio to Adani Green Energy in May for USD 3 billion. TPG Rise Climate Fund's USD 1 billion investment in the passenger electric vehicle busi-



ness of Tata Motors in October and Greenko Power raising USD 1 billion via Reg S bond sale in December. The other deals included Pipe RMG Acquisition Corporation's USD 855 million Spac deal in August,

chemicals leader UPL's USD 750 million sustainability linked loan in March, Axis Bank's USD 600 million Reg S perpetual bond sale in September, and Global Power Synergy's USD 450 million invest-

ment in Avaada Energy dated in July, BofA Securities in a statement said on Tuesday.

The bank also said it is accelerating the capital mobilisation and deployment plans as part of its USD 1.5 trillion sustainable finance target by 2030.

At USD 250 billion, this is an all-time high and a significant increase over 2020 levels. As part of our USD 1.5 trillion by 2030 sustainable finance goal announced last April, we have made tremendous progress towards mobilising and scaling capital deployment to drive environmental and social change in line with the UN's sustainable development goals, it said in a statement issued from its headquarter-

ment in Charlotte, North Carolina.

BofA's sustainable finance strategy permeates every aspect of how it delivers for its clients, employees and communities, and it is committed to a more inclusive, net-zero society for all. Its sustainable finance focus is long-standing and continues to play a catalytic role in scaling its environmental transition and inclusive social development goals across the globe, said Paul Donofrio, its vice-chair said.

Bank of America provides lending, capital raising, advisory and investment services, along with other financial and risk management solutions, for clients transitioning to a low-carbon, inclusive economy.

DK, SHABBAZ LIFT RCB MI face uphill task vs KKR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 5: A sensational display of hitting from Dinesh Karthik (44 n o, 23b, 7x4, 1x6) and Shahbaz Ahmed (45, 26b, 4x4, 3x6) helped RCB recover from a mini batting collapse and record a four-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals in the IPL here Tuesday.

Jos Buttler (70, 47b, 6x6) hammered half a dozen sixes in his unbeaten knock as Rajasthan Royals grafted their way to 169/3 after RCB opted to bowl.

Losing four wickets in a space off 11 balls, RCB were in all sorts of trouble at 62/4 before Karthik and Ahmed took the game away from the opposition with a 67-run partnership off just 33 balls. Karthik eventually got the team home in 19.1 overs.

It was RCB's second win in three games while it was the first loss of the season for the Royals after consecutive victories.

At 55 for no loss in the seventh over, RCB were on course in the run chase before the game turned on its head with the Royals taking a flurry of wickets.

The wily Yuzvendra Chahal (2/15), playing against a team he played for seven seasons, was largely responsible for the RCB collapse. He forced an error from Faf du Plessis (29), who mistimed a leg break to be caught at long-on, before cleaning up left-hander David Willey (0) with a classical leg-break.

Chahal also effected the run out of Virat Kohli (5) after a brilliant take and throw from Royals skipper Sanju Samson. Trent Boult (2/34) then getting rid of Sherfane Rutherford made it 87/5, leaving RCB in a lot of trouble.

That was when Karthik, who has shown stellar form this season, came into the middle and brought back RCB into the contest with some sensational strokes including a reverse sweep off Ravichandran Ashwin whose fourth over went for 21 runs.

Karthik did the bulk of the damage batting alongside Ahmed as they brought up their 50-run stand off just 21 balls.

Earlier, Buttler, fresh off a hundred in the previous game, had to work hard in his innings on a slow Wankhede pitch. He had the support of Shimron Hetmyer (42 n o, 31b, 4x4, 2x6) at the other end as the duo shared an unbeaten 83-run stand off 51 balls.



Shahbaz Ahmed (L) and Dinesh Karthik during their match-winning partnership

Royals did not have the best of times in Powerplay, reaching 35/1. Buttler and Devdutt Padikkal (37) started playing their strokes after the Powerplay and shared a 70-run stand to give the innings a move on.

RCB fielding also helped the Royals as they dropped Buttler twice in the same over bowled by Akash Deep. After his former RCB teammate Harshal Patel (1/18) sent Padikkal back to the dressing room, Samson (8) fell to a soft dismissal off Wanindu Hasaranga (1/32), leaving the Royals at 86/3 in the 12th over.

In the slog overs, Royals found it tough to get the big hits with RCB bowlers using the conditions effectively. Buttler took a step back and let the hard-hitting Hetmyer go for the boundaries. However, the English wicketkeeper was back to

his fluent best, hitting Mohammad Siraj for successive sixes in the 19th over to get to his half century. Hetmyer finished the innings in style with a six over deep square leg as the final over yielded 23 runs. Buttler did not hit a single four in his unbeaten effort.

BRIEF SCORES

RAJASTHAN ROYALS 169/3 (Jos Buttler 70 n o, Shimron Hetmyer 42 n o, Devdutt Padikkal 37, Harshal Patel 1/18, Wanindu Hasaranga 1/32) **lost to ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE 173/6** (Shahbaz Ahmed 45, Dinesh Karthik 44 n o, Faf du Plessis 29, Anuj Rawat 26; Yuzvendra Chahal 2/15, Trent Boult 2/34) by 4 wickets.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, April 5: Mumbai Indians' domestic bowlers will look to step up as they take on a buoyant Kolkata Knight Riders in the IPL here Wednesday, looking to turn things around after back-to-back defeats.

MI have so far looked like anything but IPL's five-time champions, losing both their opening games – first against Delhi Capitals by four wickets and then against a resurgent Rajasthan Royals by 23 runs.

And skipper Rohit Sharma will seek improvements on multiple fronts to effect a turnaround when they face KKR, who come into the game after beating Punjab Kings by six wickets.

For MI, pacer Basil Thampi and spinner Murugan Ashwin have proved to be weak-links as they yielded 73 runs in 3 overs during RR's innings and the duo will need to produce a better show on Wednesday.

In fact, Australian seamer Daniel Sams too went for runs and remained wicketless in the last two matches. The trio will have to quickly recover from their forgettable outing against RR and bowl in the right areas if they have to contain the KKR batters.

Jasprit Bumrah, with his three-for, however, showed why he is the best in the business, particularly at the death and MI would be hoping for another stellar show from him.

For a turn-around, Rohit himself will have to be at his brutal best and hammer his favourite opposition, against whom he has a formidable record.

Opener Ishan Kishan has been rock solid. If Mumbai have to post



score or chase a big total, which is likely at the MCA stadium in Gahunje, Rohit and Kishan would need to fire on all cylinders.

MI has badly missed the services of Suryakumar Yadav, who is known for playing many a match-winning knocks for the franchise. Yadav has recovered from his finger injury but it remains to be seen whether he plays or not with Rohit remaining non-committal about his availability.

While the emergence of unheralded N Tilak Varma was a big positive, the team still couldn't chase down a total of 193. And the likes of Anmolpreet Singh, Tim David and West Indian Kieron Pollard will need to shoulder responsibility.

For KKR, the biggest asset is star all-rounder Andre Russell coming back to form. His six-hitting prowess was on display against Punjab Kings and he would be keen to continue from where he left.

But their top-order, comprising Ajinkya Rahane and Venkatesh Iyer, faltered against Punjab and the

duo would want to give the side a good start.

Skipper Shreyas Iyer has been getting starts, but a big score is due. Ditto for Sam Billings. Nitish Rana too has been far from his best and needs to go all guns blazing.

KKR pacer Umesh Yadav has been impressive and could pose a potential threat to MI batters but he would need support from Tim Southee and Shivam Mavi, while the eight overs from Varun Chakravarthy and Sunil Narine can change the match situation.

Mumbai have won 22 times against KKR, while KKR has been victorious only seven times, and they would want to add a win to their tally.

TODAY'S MATCH

MI vs KKR
Time: 07:30 pm
TELECAST
Star Sports channels & Hotstar

Hazlewood availability unlikely before April 12

Mumbai: Australian pacer Josh Hazlewood hasn't yet joined the Royal Challengers Bangalore team bubble for IPL-15 and is unlikely to be available for at least another week. Hazlewood will be joining the franchise in next couple of days and will undergo a mandatory three-day quarantine before being available for selection. "Hazlewood would be joining the team in next couple of days. Unlike others, he didn't directly link up with his franchise post Pakistan series. He has taken a short break due to personal reasons," an IPL source told PTI on the condition of anonymity. The Australian players are supposed to be available after April 6 and had Hazlewood completed his quarantine by now, he could have played the game against Mumbai Indians April 9. However, since he would take another few days to arrive, the likely match for which he could be available post completion of quarantine is the one against CSK, April 12.

Maxwell to be available for MI tie, Apr 9: Hesson

Mumbai: RCB can avail the services of star Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell in its upcoming IPL match against Mumbai Indians April 9, said the team's head coach Mike Hesson. Despite joining the camp after completing his mandatory quarantine period, Maxwell will not be available for RCB's game against Rajasthan Royals Tuesday due to a clause laid down by Cricket Australia for its contracted players. Even though he was not part of the Australia squad that will complete its tour of Pakistan Tuesday with the lone T20 match in Lahore, Maxwell has to wait until April 6 to make his first appearance for RCB in ongoing edition of the lucrative T20 league.

David looks up to Pollard for improvement in game

Pune: Mumbai Indians' young recruit Tim David is keen to use legendary all-rounder Kieron Pollard's experience to improve his game and come out as a better player after IPL-15. "I think Polly's (Pollard) played over 10 years in the IPL, so there's a lot of experience there," David was quoted as saying in a note shared by the record five-time champions on the eve of their game against Kolkata Knight Riders. The Singaporean himself is a big-hitting all-rounder. "I think that happens over time naturally. You can't just get all of it like, on a notebook straightaway. It just happens with different questions here or there, different situations, different experiences at training and trying to run some ideas past him. Just get little bits here and there and hopefully, I can gain some of those experiences from him (Pollard), and maybe some that I can try and use in a game or that I can add to my game that can be successful," added David.

SHORT TAKES

Milan drop points at home in Serie A

MILAN: AC Milan missed the chance to pull three points clear at the top of Serie A as it was held to a 0-0 draw by Bologna. The result Monday left Milan just one point ahead of second-placed Napoli with seven matches remaining. Defending champion Inter Milan was four points behind its city rival but having played a match fewer. Milan had 33 efforts on goal but couldn't break the deadlock. The Rossoneri have managed 69 attempts in its past three matches but only scored twice. It was Bologna's first match since coach Sinisa Mihajlovic returned to hospital for treatment for leukaemia. He beat the disease in 2019.

ISSF World Cup to go on despite curfew

NEW DELHI: Indian shooters competing in the ISSF World Cup in Lima Tuesday woke up to scenes of protests that caused roadblocks and 'acts of violence' in Peru, leading to imposition of a curfew in the capital. Peruvian President Pedro Castillo imposed the curfew in Lima and neighbouring port city Callao, banning people from leaving their homes in an attempt to curb protests against rising fuel prices amid inflation. The Indian men's skeet team of Parampal Singh Guron, Amrinder Cheema and Muneek Battula, along with coach Vikram Chopra, stayed back to participate in their event, even as the others returned home after taking part in their respective competitions of the shotgun world cup.

Mithali slips, Smriti rises in ODI rankings

DUBAI: Mithali Raj dropped a place to seventh but star opener Smriti Mandhana moved up to ninth position in the ICC Women ODI batters rankings issued Tuesday. Besides the duo, vice-captain Harmanpreet Kaur climbed one place to the 14th spot. Australian keeper-batter Alyssa Healy jumped to the top of the batter rankings after her phenomenal 170 in the final against England. England spinner Sophie Ecclestone remained No.1 in the bowler rankings while Jhulan Goswami remained static at the fifth position.

Sen, Bansod advance in Korea Open

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Suncheon, April 5: World Championships bronze medalist Lakshya Sen and fast-rising Malvika Bansod progressed to the second round of the men's and women's singles competitions respectively after registering gruelling three-game wins at the Korea Open Super 500 badminton tournament here Tuesday.

While Sen staved off a spirited challenge from local hope Choi Ji Hoon 14-21, 21-16, 21-18 in just over an hour in his opening round match, Bansod rallied her way to notch up a stunning 20-22, 22-20, 21-10 win over World No.24 Han Yue of China.

Sixth seed Sen, who has been in sensational form in the last six months with back-to-back final finishes at German Open and All England Championships, will next meet Indonesia's Shesar Hiren Rhustavito.

Unseeded Bansod, who had reached the finals of Syed Modi Super 300 tournament in January, will face sixth seeded Thai Pornpawee Chochuwong in the second round.

However, it was curtains for Swiss Open finalist HS Prannoy as he went down meekly to



Malaysia's Cheam June Wei 17-21, 7-21 in 41 minutes.

In doubles, men's pairing of Krishna Prasad Garaga and Vishnuvardhan Goud Panjala lost 14-21, 19-21 to Pramudya Kusumawardana and Yeremia Erich Yoche Yacob Rambitan of Indonesia, while Bokka Navaneeth and B Sumeeeth Reddy went down 14-21, 19-21 to sixth seeded Malaysian pair of Ong Yew Sin and Teo Ee Yi.

Earlier, Sen found the going

tough against Choi, who kept things under control for most part of the opening game and even though the Indian clawed back to 14-14, the Korean reeled off seven points on the trot to take a 1-0 lead.

The 20-year-old from Almora, however, got his bearing back in the second game as he opened up a 11-7 lead at the interval and kept his nose ahead to take the match into the decider.

In the third game, Choi took a 8-3 lead early on but Sen made his way to make it 16-13 in his favour and stayed ahead in the crucial moments to shut out the match.

Bansod had enjoyed the lead for better portion of the opening game and also held four game points but she squandered it as Han earned the bragging rights.

After the change of sides, Bansod once again dominated the proceedings with a 11-4 advantage at the break and went to pocket three game points this time but Han once again caught up. However, the Indian didn't let it slip this time to take the contest to the decider.

In the third game, Bansod was more alert as she broke at 7-7 and then went on to score nine straight points to comfortably close out the match.

Rani returns, Savita to lead India vs Netherlands

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 5: Star striker Rani Rampal Tuesday returned to the national side after a lengthy injury lay-off as India Tuesday named a 22-member women's hockey squad for the upcoming FIH Pro League tie against World No.1 Netherlands.

The squad also includes two new faces in midfielder Mahima Choudhary and striker Aishwarya Rajesh Chavan, who will make their senior team debut in the double leg tie to be held at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar Friday and Saturday.

Rani, who led India to a historic fourth place finish in the Olympics

last year, has not played for the national team since the Tokyo Games due to several injuries, mainly hamstring problem.

Since then Rani has been undergoing rehabilitation at the SAI south centre in Bangalore but she is now fit to take the field again. Goalkeeper Savita will continue to lead India and will be assisted by Deep Grace Ekka.

India, though, will be without the services of Tokyo Olympians Salima Tete, Sharmila Devi and Lalremsiami who are representing India in the Junior Women's World Cup in South Africa.

The Indian women's team is currently placed fourth in the FIH Pro League standings with 12 points

from six games. Netherlands, on the other hand, are atop the table with 17 points from six matches.

THE TEAM

GOALKEEPERS: Savita (C), Rajani Etimarpu; **DEFENDERS:** Deep Grace Ekka (vice-captain), Gurjit Kaur, Nikki Pradhan, Udita, Rashmita Minz, Suman Devi Thoudam; **MIDFIELDERS:** Nisha, Sushila Chanu Pukhrabam, Jyoti, Navjot Kaur, Monika, Namita Toppa, Sonika, Neha, Mahima Choudhary; **FORWARDS:** Aishwarya Rajesh Chavan, Navneet Kaur, Rajwinder Kaur, Rani Rampal, Mariana Kujur. **STANDBYS:** Upasana Singh, Preeti Dubey, Vandana Katariya.

AGENCIES

Madrid, April 5: In a repeat of the 2020-21 Champions League semifinals, Chelsea and Real Madrid will lock horns in the last eighth of this year's competition, with the first leg taking place at Stamford Bridge Wednesday night.

Thomas Tuchel's side made it past Ligue 1 champions Lille 4-1 on aggregate to book their spot in the quarters, while Carlo Ancelotti's men produced a phenomenal comeback against Paris Saint-Germain.

The continued uncertainty surrounding the Chelsea ownership debacle is doing the Champions League holders no favours, but the Blues' defence of their crown is going swimmingly so far, with a dissatisfactory Lille side no match for their English counterparts in the knockout rounds.

Chelsea already had one foot firmly in the last eight after claiming a 2-0 win versus Les Dogues on home soil before their trip to the Stade Pierre-Mauroy, where Burak Yilmaz's spot kick gave Lille a slight glimmer of hope before Christian Pulisic and Cesar Azpilicueta quickly dashed the Dogues' dreams.

Up until the weekend, Chelsea had done a stellar job of focusing on their on-field endeavours, but Tuchel was at a loss to explain his side's capitulation against Brentford, as the Bees ran out 4-1 winners at Stamford Bridge to leave the home fans shell-shocked in their seats.

Seeing their six-game unbeaten run in all competitions come to an end in such bitterly disappointing fashion is not what the doctor ordered before a meeting with Real Madrid, but not since the 2010-11 sea-

son have the Blues been knocked out in the Champions League quarter-finals – going down to Manchester United that year.

The Blues' defence was breached at will by Brentford at the weekend, but Tuchel's side enter the first leg having won each of their last five home games in the Champions League with five clean sheets to boot, with the first game in that sequence coming against their Spanish capital counterparts.

PSG's penchant for seemingly impossible Champions League collapses has defined their European endeavours over the past few seasons, and Real Madrid became the latest side to frustrate Les Parisiens further with a phenomenal comeback in front of the Santiago Bernabeu crowd.

A side with 13 European crowns to their name dumping out a PSG side still searching for their maiden Champions League honour was an obvious result on paper, but one certainly could not have foreseen the drama that unfolded in the Spanish capital before Real were brought crashing back down to earth.

Being thrashed 0-4 by Barcelona in El Clasico was a sure-fire way to dampen the spirits, and Real were far from their best against Celta Vigo at the weekend, but a pair of Benzema penalties ultimately got them over the line for a sixth win in seven matches.

Victory at Celta also represents a third away win on the bounce for Los Blancos, who went down 0-2 to Chelsea at Stamford Bridge last term following a 1-1 stalemate at the Estadio Alfredo Di Stefano, but the Blues will step out onto more daunting turf for the second leg this year.



DEADLY DUO: Karim Benzema (L) and Vinicius Junior would pose threats to Chelsea defense during their two-legged tie