



BRIMMING WITH CONFIDENCE

Actor Mrunal Thakur says, she doesn't fear being typecast as she knows how to differentiate between various roles

LEISURE P2



RAJAPAKSA WON'T QUIT

Despite losing the majority in Parliament, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa Wednesday refused to give up power

INTERNATIONAL P10



SINDHU, SRIKANTH ADVANCE

PV Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth march into the pre-quarterfinals with comprehensive wins at Korea Open

SPORTS P12

FUEL FIRE



Youth Congress activists protested against daily hike in petrol and diesel prices at Baramunda in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday. OP PHOTO

NEET ON JULY 17, REGISTRATION BEGINS

New Delhi: Medical entrance exam NEET will be conducted July 17 and the registration process began Wednesday, according to the National Testing Agency (NTA). The National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) will be held in 13 languages at centres across the country. "The last date for submission of online application form is May 6. Candidates must strictly follow the instructions given in the information bulletin and on the NTA website. Candidates not complying with the instructions shall be summarily disqualified," a senior NTA official said. Last year, the NEET-Undergraduate exam was held September 12, with over 95 per cent of the registered candidates appearing for it.

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MAN HELD FOR TEMPLE KITCHEN VANDALISM

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, April 6: A 30-year-old man was arrested in connection with the vandalism at the holy kitchen in Puri's Jagannath temple, police said Wednesday. The suspect, identified as Jagan Mohapatra, was arrested from Puri-Khurda Road Tuesday night, Puri's Superintendent of Police KV Singh said.



The accused in police custody

"The man has confessed to the crime," he said. During preliminary interrogation, he revealed that he vandalised the 'chullhas' as he was "feeling uneasy about something" after visiting the temple, the officer said. The suspect did not find the condition in the periphery of the temple conducive and later

he entered inside the kitchen and vandalised the chullhas, the SP said. The suspect, a resident of

Begunia area in Khurda district, will be produced in a court and the police would seek his remand for further interrogation, Singh said.

He was identified from the CCTV footage of the incident that triggered a furore. Later, his photo was circulated to all the police stations in the state. Four security personnel of the temple, who were seen in the CCTV footage driving him out after the incident, were also interrogated, the police said. A five-member police team was formed to arrest him, they said. Forty 'chullhas' or earthen ovens that are used to cook 'mahaprasad' at the temple's holy kitchen were found vandalised Sunday morning.

Aakar Patel stopped from flying to US



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, April 6: Amnesty International India chair Aakar Patel alleged Wednesday that he was stopped from leaving India for the US at the airport here as Immigration officials told him that the CBI has issued a lookout circular against him. "I don't know why I am on the lookout circular. I did not know about it that I could not fly. I missed my flight and now I am back home. They (Immigration officials) did not let me go," Patel told PTL.

Fuel prices hiked by over 10% in 16 days

BHUBANESWAR: Petrol and diesel prices Wednesday were hiked again by 86 paise and 85 paise a litre respectively in Bhubaneswar, taking the total

CITY FUEL PRICES	
PETROL	₹112.50/litre
DIESEL	₹102.24/litre

increase in rates in last 16 days to over 10%. Rates have been increased across the country and they vary from state to state depending upon of local taxes.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



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MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	59610.41	↓ 566.09
NIFTY	17807.70	↓ 149.70
DOLLAR	76.27	↑ ₹0.52
EURO	82.90	↑ ₹0.64
GOLD	₹51,770	↑ ₹399
SILVER	₹66,486	↑ ₹288

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
MAX	35.2°C	34.4°C
MIN	24.8°C	24.8°C
Humidity	81%	78%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Dry weather mostly	

AZAAAN ROW

Police notices to K'taka mosques

After controversies surrounding hijab, halal meat and banning Muslim vendors from temple fairs, a row over 'azaan' has been raging in the polarised south Indian state

AGENCIES

Bangalore, April 6: Amid calls for exclusion of Muslim traders from temple premises and Hindu religious fairs and halal meat ban by right wing groups, mosques in Karnataka have started receiving notices from the police to use their loudspeakers within the permissible decibel levels.

The move comes after some right-wing outfits launched a campaign demanding shutting down of such loudspeakers, saying they caused disturbance for people living in surrounding areas.

In Bangalore alone, about 250 mosques have received such notices and the mosque authorities have started installing devices that keeps the sound within the permissible level, sources said.

Karnataka Director General of Police (DGP) Praveen Sood has directed all the police commissioners, inspectors general of police and the superintendents of police to check violation of noise pollution rules by 'religious institutions', pubs, night clubs and other institutions and at functions. Some outfits had submitted



memoranda to various police officers Tuesday requesting them to check the 'misuse' of loudspeakers from mosques which, they alleged, has been going on even in the silent zones such as hospitals, important government offices, schools and colleges.

The outfits alleged that the blaring loudspeakers of mosques disturb sleep in the morning causing discomfort to students, patients, elderly people and those who work at night.

Following the direction from the DGP, the Bangalore police started issuing notices to the mosques.

Khateeb-o-Imam of Jama Masjid in Bangalore, Maqsood Imran said the mosques in Bangalore have started installing devices on their loudspeakers after the city police served them notices.

"Over 200 to 250 mosques in Bangalore have received the notice. We have been told to maintain the sound level. They have said that the directions issued by the Supreme Court need to be adhered to and if the orders are not followed then action will be initiated," the Imam told PTL.

He added that the mosque authorities have started fitting the device with the amplifier, which ensures that the sound does not cross the permissible level.

"We also want to ensure that the Supreme Court order is followed. That's why we have readied the device and started fixing it in all the mosques. That device has already been installed in our Jama Masjid," he said.

The Opposition Congress has slammed the ruling BJP after calls for exclusion of Muslim traders from temple premises and halal meat ban by right wing groups were made. Last month, a major controversy erupted in the state over Muslim girls wearing hijab in educational institution.

Now cops can collect convicts' biometrics

AGENCIES

New Delhi, April 6: The Parliament Wednesday passed the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill, 2022, empowering police to obtain physical and biological samples of convicts and those accused of crimes, with Home Minister Amit Shah assuring the Rajya Sabha that biometric data of political detainees will not be collected and the proposed law will exclude brain mapping and polygraph test from its ambit.

The Rajya Sabha passed the Bill by a voice vote after Home Minister Amit Shah allayed

Unconstitutional, says Opposition

New Delhi: Several Opposition parties Wednesday slammed as 'unconstitutional' and 'draconian' the Bill that allows legal sanction to the police to take physical and biological samples of convicts as well as those accused of crimes and claimed it could be misused. Taking part in the discussion on the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill, 2022, Congress leader P Chidambaram and other Opposition members favoured sending the bill to a select committee for further deliberations, but the demand was rejected. Chidambaram claimed during the debate that the provisions in the bill can be misused as the police can arrest and take fingerprints and DNA samples of even those who are taking part in political rallies. "This Bill is unconstitutional. This is illegal. We are deceiving ourselves if we are passing a Bill. This Bill has a huge net, which can embrace anyone in this country. And you know what happens when a law of this (kind) is applied, the worst sufferers will be the disadvantaged, oppressed and the poor," he said.

concerns raised by the opposition which claimed that the

draft law was draconian. Earlier, the Bill was passed by Lok

Sabha. The Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill, 2022 replaces the Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920. Shah said the Bill has been brought in to ensure that police and investigators remain two steps ahead of criminals. He said the biometric data of political detainees will not be collected if they have been detained during participation in any agitation.

"I want to assure that this is not going to violate privacy of anyone," Shah said. He said the data collected will remain completely secure and the government will make sure there are no loopholes in the Bill.

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KIM FEELS AT 'PEACE' WITH PETE DAVIDSON

Kim Kardashian admits she feels at 'peace' in her new relationship with Pete Davidson following her divorce from Kanye West. "Now, I'm very happy and content. And, it's such a good feeling to be at peace," said the 41-year-old reality star.

SHEERAN WINS 4-YEAR LEGAL BATTLE OVER SHAPE OF YOU

The four-year legal battle between British musician Ed Sheeran and songwriters Sami Chokri and Ross O'Donoghue over plagiarism charges against the former for his chartbuster Shape of You has come to an end, with a court ruling in Sheeran's favour, reports *Variety*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You are not so much in a mood to socialise today. Something unsavoury may also be hard to overcome. Although you are industrious, Ganesh advises you not to bite off more than you can chew. A bit of faith in providence can go a long way in your life.

TAURUS
Ganesh sees you preferring your outer appearance, having a good time over getting internally organized. You will seek your comfort level from creature comforts, not from within. You are due to spend most of the day, dressed in your best and going out to your favourite haunts for good food and company.

GEMINI
It is possible that the start of the day may not see you in the best of moods and some mental distress is the likely reason behind it. You need to consult an expert to find out the best way out of your current predicament. You will feel the need to do things that appeal to you in the evening, in a bid to elevate your mood, says Ganesh.

CANCER
Today is the day to quit a few bad habits that you had till yesterday. A change in appearance somehow tops your list of things you want to change in yourself. It may be because you are hopelessly in love, or impress a few people at a party.

LEO
Mental well-being radiates from physical health, says Ganesh, and today, you seem to be inching closer to a synthesis of the two. It is very likely that you shall remain physically alert and spiritually awake today. Career-wise, you may find yourself going for a few interviews.

VIRGO
All you barons of business should expect a profitable and progressive day today. Financial institutes will sanction your loans. But also make sure to pay due interest to the love interest in your life, for without their love and support, there is nothing much of interest in life, is there?

LIBRA
To be or not to be? Well, that may not be your precise state of mind, but Ganesh does see possibilities of you being puzzled and perplexed today when it comes to professional issues. Chances are that in the afternoon, you may happen to run into an unpleasant situation, so just keep your cool. In any case, things shall get better by the evening.

SCORPIO
You shall be a live wire today - full of energy and zest. Freelancers will take imagination to new levels when working. At work, your inspiration will kick-start an epidemic of vigour and high-performance. Surprises in the evening will end the day on a high note, says Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
Stormy weather predicted by Ganesh for you today. The day will be riddled with impracticalities. In the afternoon, you may change that hairdo to something new. Pay special attention to that long overdue work too. Don't drag your feet any more, advises Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
You will try finding the logic and reason behind everything you do and observe today, says Ganesh. Work may leave you a little stressed and worried, but the hope of having something better in the future will keep you going in your endeavours, come hell or high water.

AQUARIUS
Positive thinking and intellectual dexterity will get you going today. A jive session, with pizza and punch, will get your afternoon rolling. Ganesh suggests arranging an evening with your loved ones, where you bask in the warmth of their affection.

PISCES
You are likely to be filled with overwhelming ambition today. You will be driven and prepare meticulously to tackle your projects. Evening should see you in the company of like-minded individuals, busy with intellectual activities, says Ganesh.

No fear of being typecast: Mrunal

Mumbai: Actress Mrunal Thakur, who will be soon seen in cricket drama *Jersey* opposite Shahid Kapoor, believes that getting typecast in the industry should be the least of worries for an actor.

For her, script selection rests on how relatable or interesting the role that's being offered is, the strengths of that character and most importantly the story being told.

Mrunal said: "For an actor to be cast in films with a great script and a great team backing it is of utmost importance. I don't fear being typecast because I know as an actor what and how I can differentiate the roles I'm essaying."

She explained: "I personally think that to play a similar character can actually pose a good challenge for me, because then it's my calibre as an actor to bring something fresh to the screen."

And she concluded: "I personally feel very blessed and fortunate to get all kinds of roles that come my way. It is about giving your 100 per cent on screen and leaving the rest for the audience - and that is exactly what I do."

Jersey, directed by Gowtam Tinnanuri, is set to debut in theatres April 14.



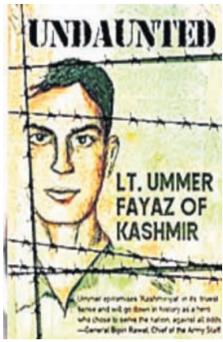
Martyred Kashmiri Army officer's life to be adapted for big screen

Mumbai: *Undaunted: Lt Ummer Fayaz of Kashmir*, the book by Bhaavna Arora, which chronicles the life of Kashmiri Army officer Lt Ummer Fayaz, will be adapted for the big screen.

Fayaz set an example for fellow Kashmiris to break the cycle of violence with his shortlived tenure in the Army. Brutally murdered by armed militants, his death shook the entire nation.

Commenting on the development, Bhaavna said, "Undaunted is one of those books that is really close to my heart. I could not have thought of anyone better than Jay Shewakramani to back the cinematic adaptation of the same. He is as versatile as a producer as I am as an author. I am really looking forward to watching Lt Ummer Fayaz come alive on screen!"

The rights



for the screen adaptation of the yet-to-be-titled film have been bagged by producer Jay Shewakramani, who has produced *Jawaani Jaaneman*.

While talking about the project, Shewakramani, said, "The moment I read *Undaunted*, I knew I had to adapt it for the big screen. The journey of hero Lt Ummer Fayaz is so inspiring that everyone needs to hear it and experience it."

Parineeti flaunts her singing skills

Mumbai: Actress Parineeti Chopra recently flaunted her singing skills as she shared a social media video crooning the song *Kuch Khaas Hai* from her cousin Priyanka Chopra's film *Fashion*.

Parineeti took to her Instagram handle Tuesday and posted a video of her from the sets of *Colors* reality show *Hunarbaaz* where she can be seen singing the song along with its original singer Neha Bhasin.

Sharing the promo, the actor, who is also a judge on the show wrote in the caption, "Aaaaah me and singing. My meditation.. So much fun doing what I love the most! And this time with you @nehabhasin4u. We should do this more often! @colorstv."

Following the duet performance, co-judges Karan Johar and Mithun Chakraborty gave her and Neha a

standing ovation. On social media too, the two were showered with compliments. Neha Dhupia wrote, "Uff! Lovely both of you @parineetichopra @nehabhasin4u." Saba Pataudi wrote, "Fabulous."

Meanwhile, on the film front, Parineeti will be seen in Sandeep Reddy Vanga's film *Animal*, alongside Ranbir Kapoor; Anil Kapoor and Bobby Deol.



Art Vision's 'Remembering Guruji' today

18TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF GURU KELUCHARAN MOHAPATRA

BHUBANESWAR: City's premier cultural organisation Art Vision, founded by eminent Odissi danseuse Ileana Citaristi, every year organises *Remembering Guruji* to mark the death anniversary of legend Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra. The 18th edition of this event will be held here at Odissi Research Centre Auditorium Thursday at 6.30 pm.

The programme aims to showcase some of the choreographic masterpieces composed by the Guru in their pristine form by some of his senior disciples.

"Guruji used to say that he will remain alive in his students. His legacy is only expanding over the years across the globe. We have been lucky to learn from him and to be with him for so many years. Now, we have the responsibility to pass on his skills the way he taught us," said Citaristi.

"This year the exponents set to perform include Sikata Das from Cuttack, Nandini Ghoshal and Rina Jhana from Kolkata, who started learning from Guruji in the early 80s when he was associated with the Padatik Dance Centre in Kolkata," she added.

Sangeeta Gosain (vocal), Satchidananda Das(mardala), Ramesh Chandra Das(violin) and Srinivas Satapathy(flute) will be accompanist in the event, to be live-streamed on the Facebook page of Art Vision, said the organisers.



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

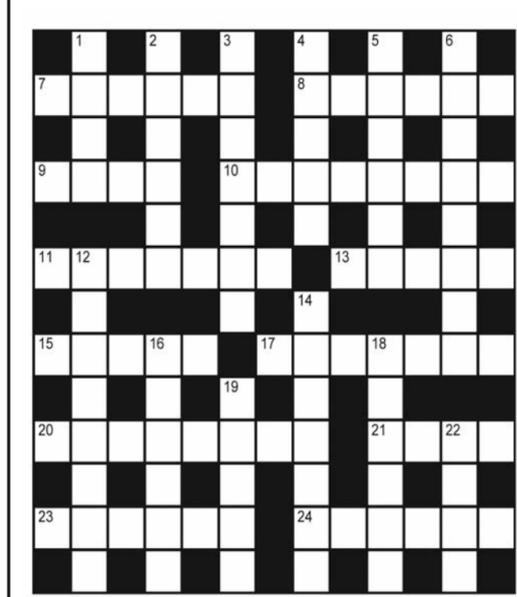


BREVITY



FUN post

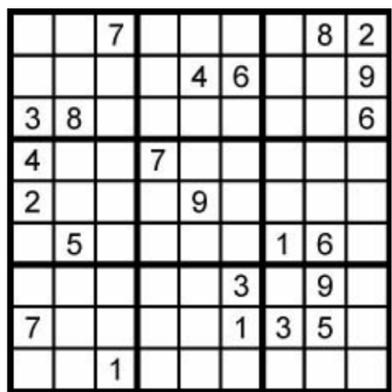
CROSSWORD



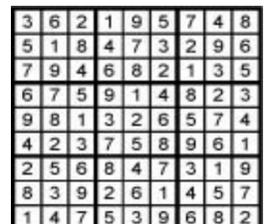
- Across**
- 7 Ancient military hub
 - 8 Ask over
 - 9 Advantage
 - 10 Summit
 - 11 High spirits
 - 13 Tract of level wasteland
 - 15 Impertinent
 - 17 Some flights
 - 20 Wealthy
 - 21 Detest
 - 23 Gentle
 - 24 Seldom
 - 4 Economy-size
 - 5 Fly
 - 6 Kind of heel
 - 12 Child's game
 - 14 Deform
 - 16 Strait of Dover port
 - 18 Orbit
 - 19 Military wear
 - 22 Narrative
- Down**
- 1 Potato
 - 2 Set straight
 - 3 Fizzig

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

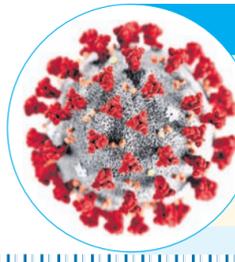


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



ASSUMING OFFICE

IAS officer Vir Vikram Yadav takes charge as the chief administrator of Srimandir in Puri, Wednesday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	49,45,03,191	43,00,25,229	61,85,114
India	4,30,30,925	4,24,97,567	5,21,487
Odisha	12,87,773	12,78,419	9,121

Does Lokayukta have teeth: SC

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, April 6: The Supreme Court (SC) Wednesday refused to entertain a plea by Gopalpur MLA Pradeep Panigrahi seeking restraint on Lokayukta from passing any order in upcoming proceedings and questioned, "Does Lokayukta have teeth?"

A two-judge bench of Justices Ajay Rastogi and Bela M Trivedi adjourned the matter for hearing on April 20. The counsel appearing for Lokayukta sought adjournment Wednesday as senior counsel Ravindra Srivastava, representing Lokayukta before the court was not available due to Covid related complications.

Meanwhile, a counsel appearing for Panigrahi pleaded the court to restrain Lokayukta from passing any substantive order till April 20. However, the bench questioned: "Does the Lokayukta have any teeth?" To this, the counsel said that the Lokayukta Act in Odisha was very powerful.



"Nothing. There are only two states where the Lokayukta is strong - Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh," the bench observed. Earlier, the Lokayukta had told the SC that "huge" incriminating evidence was unearthed during the preliminary inquiry against Panigrahi in a corruption case. Significantly, Odisha Lokayukta had filed a special leave petition in the SC challenging the orders of the

Orissa High Court (HC) which ruled that the Lokayukta could not order vigilance department of the state to conduct a preliminary inquiry against Panigrahi as the vigilance department was the complainant in the matter. The SC had April 23 last year stayed the Orissa HC order restraining the vigilance department from conducting inquiry against Panigrahi in the graft case

There are only two states where the Lokayukta is strong - Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh, said the apex court while hearing a petition against MLA Pradeep Panigrahi

and had issued notice in April. It is to be mentioned here that Lokayukta in December 2020 had directed the state vigilance to probe into the corruption charges made against arrested Panigrahi. The Lokayukta had also asked the vigilance directorate to conduct a preliminary inquiry against Panigrahi and submit a report within two months. The anti-corruption ombudsman issued the direction after accepting the recommendation of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik who had referred the case of corruption charges leveled against the lawmaker December 7, 2020.

Koraput Central University has 89% vacancies: BJD MP

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, April 6: Raising concern over high vacancies in Koraput Central University, BJD MP Sujeeet Kumar said in the Rajya Sabha that of the 137 out of 154 sanctioned teaching posts, 89 per cent are lying vacant in the varsity.

The BJD MP said the teacher-student ratio was also very high in the Central University of Odisha as compared to the national average

While speaking during the zero hour in the Rajya Sabha, the BJD MP said the teacher-student ratio was also very high in the Central University of Odisha as compared to national average. "The national average of teacher-student ratio is 28, the recommended average is 25 and in the Central University of Odisha in Koraput, it is 55," he said. "You have heard it correct. Eighty-nine per cent teaching posts are vacant. And it is not any private institute or any Tom, Dick, and Harry college. It is the Central University of Odisha in Koraput where 89 per cent of the teaching posts are lying vacant. It may be

BJD reiterates plea for inclusion of Ahimsa in Preamble

NEW DELHI: The BJD Wednesday reiterated its demand for the inclusion of Ahimsa in the Preamble and said that it would strengthen the country's position as a leader of peace. BJD MP Chandrasekhar Sahu, while speaking on the Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Amendment Bill, 2022, said that his party had always supported any step taken towards national security and global peace.

"In fact, our Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has advocated for the inclusion of Ahimsa, that is, non-

violence in the Preamble to our Constitution. It will strengthen India's position as a leader of peace," he said. Sahu said that the Bill sought to provide for provisions against the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems so as to fulfill India's international obligations. The United Nations Security Council's targeted financial sanctions and recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force have mandated against the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destructions and their delivery systems, and this Bill had been brought in this background, he said. "The present Bill is in our national interest and in accordance with our international obligations. I, on behalf of my party Biju Janata Dal, support this Bill. We always support any step in the direction of our national security and global peace," Sahu said.



ODISHA IN PARLIAMENT

₹17,670cr central loans to state in 8 yrs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 6: The Centre has provided loans and advances to the tune of Rs 17,670.07 crore to the Odisha government during past eight years, Union Minister of State (MoS) for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said in Rajya Sabha recently.

He said the Centre has released the loans and advances in between 2014-15 and 2021-22 financial years. While Rs 529.10 crore has been provided to Odisha during the financial year 2014-15, Rs 739.43 crore re-

leased in 2015-16 and Rs 902.98 crore in the next fiscal, Chaudhary said. The borrowing amount fell down to Rs 848.35 crore in 2017-18. The state has been provided with Rs 983.06 crore and Rs 969.64 crore as loans and advances during the 2018-19 and 2019-20 fiscal respectively. The borrowing amount has increased substantially during the financial years 2020-21 and 2021-22 as the state got back to back loans from the Centre in lieu of a shortfall in GST compensation. The Centre has released Rs 1,517.52 crore in 2020-21 and Rs

7,569.99 crore (provisional) in the year 2021-22, as per the Minister's reply. By the end of March 2021, the total outstanding loan of Odisha against Centre was Rs 11,998.09 crore, he added. In another written reply, Chaudhary said 15th Finance Commission recommended that the normal limit for net borrowings of state governments may be fixed at 4 per cent of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) in 2021-22, 3.5 per cent in 2022-23 and be maintained at 3 per cent of GSDP

from 2023-24 to 2025-26. The commission has also recommended an extra annual borrowing space for the states at 0.50 per cent of their GSDP in between 2021-22 to 2024-25 fiscals, based on performance criteria in the power sector. Based on the recommendation of the Finance Commission, Net Borrowing Ceiling (NBC) of states for the financial year 2021-22 was fixed at 4 per cent of GSDP while the same for 2022-23 financial year has been finalised at 3.5 per cent of the GSDP, he said.

Major infra boost for Satya Nagar



LAKE NEUTRAL PROJECT
Tender for development work at the south side of the natural drainage no. 10 near Satya Nagar has been finalised while the same for the north side of the channel towards Maharishi College will be finalised soon, said the BSCL. Around Rs 15 crore will be spent on the development of the south side of the channel with the deadline being set as six months from April, it added

area will feature a practical landscape that is both extensive and simple to maintain. This will provide pedestrians with unfettered access and visual continuity. Heritage gardens and public areas will be created along the roadway. There will be cycle lanes and resting spots. To improve the landscape setting, native plantings will be promoted," stated BSCL General Manager Kamaljit Das. According to him, the components that have been planned to be developed include a 4-lane carriageway, a 2.5-metre footpath for pedestrians, a 2.5-metre wide cycle track, 8-metre wide public realm with recreational space and a 5-metre wide native plantations and street trees, roadside gardens and public plazas

along with storm water drains and a retaining wall. It can be mentioned here that the development of the Lake Zone was one of the key smart city projects in Bhubaneswar Town Center District (BTCDD) area, which the BSCL had envisaged for revival of drainage channel no. 10, a major storm water drainage channel in the city. The BSCL, which had planned separate storm water channels and sewage channel and water treatment plant, initiated the project in 2017. It had planned to spend Rs 63 crore on the project. However, the project work was stalled due to delay in land acquisition, onset of Covid-19 pandemic and other official rigmarole, sources said. According to BSCL sources, the tender for development work at the south side of the natural drainage no. 10 near Satya Nagar has been finalised while the same for the north side of the channel towards Maharishi College will be finalised soon. Around Rs 15 crore will be spent on the development of the south side of the channel with the deadline being set as six months from April. "The government has set a target to beautify the road, which will serve as an alternative approach to the Satya Nagar area. We have asked the agency and officials to ensure completion of the work within the deadline," said BSCL CEO Sanjay Kumar Singh.

POST NEWS NETWORK

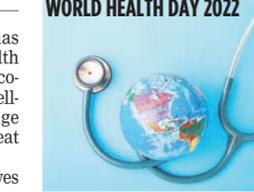
Bhubaneswar, April 6: The Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited (BSCL) has decided to accelerate drainage development work at Satya Nagar in the capital city here in a bid to beautify the area and manage urban flooding in the rainy season.

As part of Lake Neutral project, the BSCL has decided to expedite work for the south side of the natural drainage no 10 at Satya Nagar. According to sources, the authorities have set a goal of developing new infrastructure on a stretch of 1.1 km in the locality. "The proposed new infrastructure within the lake region runs along the lake's southern perimeter. The built

Prioritise equitable health for healthier, greener world: WHO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 6: The WHO has called for prioritising equitable health and accelerating steps to protect ecological systems and health to build well-being societies with climate change emerging as the single biggest threat facing humanity. Asserting that nearly 13 million lives are lost every year due to avoidable environmental causes, Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, the Regional Director of WHO South-East Asia Region, said climate change is putting health, well-being, and sustainable development of billions of people at risk. "It imperils decades of progress in reducing disease-related morbidity and mortality. We must act now to keep humans and our planet healthy," she said. According to a WHO statement, climate change is expected to cause an additional 2,50,000 deaths annually between 2030 and 2050.



The world health body urged governments and people to take measures to protect 'Our planet, our health,' the theme of World Health Day 2022. The WHO South-East Asia Region, home to over two billion people, is highly vulnerable to climate change and has the highest estimated number of deaths due to it, the statement noted. Intense rainfall, frequent floods, forest fires and droughts triggered by climate change are already impacting health and livelihood and causing huge sufferings, mental health issues, deaths and displacement, globally and in the region, it noted. Rising temperatures are also leading to the outbreak of infectious disease, heat strokes, trauma and even death from extreme heat. Crop failure linked to climate change is driving malnutrition and under nutrition. The same pollutants poisoning the air are also impacting health. Over 90 per cent of people globally breathe polluted air resulting in 7 million deaths every year, including 2.4 million deaths in the Southeast Asia Region, the WHO statement said. The Covid-19 pandemic has further exposed the inequitable and unsustainable nature of existing political, social, and commercial decisions, it mentioned. "We have a once-in-a-century opportunity to drive transformative, lasting change. The Covid-19 pandemic has shown us that if decision-making is transparent, evidence-based, and inclusive, people will support bold and far-reaching policies that protect their health, families and livelihoods," said Khetrpal Singh.

placement, globally and in the region, it noted. Rising temperatures are also leading to the outbreak of infectious disease, heat strokes, trauma and even death from extreme heat. Crop failure linked to climate change is driving malnutrition and under nutrition. The same pollutants poisoning the air are also impacting health. Over 90 per cent of people globally breathe polluted air resulting in 7 million deaths every year, including 2.4 million deaths in the Southeast Asia Region, the WHO statement said. The Covid-19 pandemic has further exposed the inequitable and unsustainable nature of existing political, social, and commercial decisions, it mentioned. "We have a once-in-a-century opportunity to drive transformative, lasting change. The Covid-19 pandemic has shown us that if decision-making is transparent, evidence-based, and inclusive, people will support bold and far-reaching policies that protect their health, families and livelihoods," said Khetrpal Singh.

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Now, 'sex sorted semen' to boost dairy industry



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 6: Fisheries and Animal Resources Development Minister Arun Kumar Sahoo launched 'Sex Sorted Semen' under the artificial insemination programme aimed at advancing the dairy development in the state Wednesday.

In an event organised at Krushi Bhavan, Bhubaneswar, minister stated that sex sorted semen technology would enhance the milk production in the state through the production of around 90 per cent of female calves.

Bovine breeding over the past two decades has played a key role in boosting farmers' income in the state. The state government has taken a number of measures for the development of livestock farmers, and dairy development has been identified as an engine of

growth for farmers, women self-help groups and entrepreneurs.

Milk production in the state has increased around threefold during the last two decades. It has increased from 8.75 lakh metric tons in 2000 to over 23.73 lakh metric tons in 2021.

Genetic improvement of breed through artificial insemination is taken up in a mission mode. Currently, around 15 lakh cows are being inseminated annually, free of cost. In order to control foot and mouth disease in cattle, the immunisation of livestock population is being taken up as a campaign, twice a year.

Fodder cultivation is encouraged through the promotion of high yielding species of annual and perennial fodder species. Under the Mukhyamantri Krushi Udyog Yojana, a subsidy of up to Rs 50 lakh is being provided to farm-

ers and entrepreneurs to set up new dairy units and milk processing plants. Over 2.63 lakh farmers of the state are now able to sell their milk to Odisha State Cooperative Milk Producers Federation (OMFED) through 3,700 milk producers' cooperative societies.

The Fisheries and Animal Resources Development Department is focusing on cattle breed improvement programmes to increase milk production with the use of semen of high genetic potential bulls. While using normal unsexed semen, the male to female calves born is of the ratio of 50:50.

Over the years, there has been less demand for male calves, and farmers leave them to stray, causing increase in stray cattle population. Sex-sorted semen technology will ensure up to 90 per cent chance of production of female calves with high genetic merit along with the reduction of male progeny, thereby reducing the burden of farmers to manage male bull calves.

Principal Secretary, Department of Fisheries and Animal Resources Development R Raghu Prasad said the sex sorted semen programme will be implemented in all districts. The state government will be providing 75 per cent subsidy to the dairy farmers. While the cost of a single dose of sex sorted semen is Rs 715, the government provides it to dairy farmers at Rs 180.

CRAFTS FAIR



People visited stalls at Toshali National Crafts Fair in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

OP PHOTO

Centre seeks clarifications on Lingaraj Temple Ordinance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, April 6: The Centre has sought clarifications on certain clauses of the state government's Shri Lingaraj Temple Ordinance as it feels the proposed law is outside the competence of the state legislature as it could conflict with the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 (AMASR Act).

As the ordinance covers 12 Centrally-protected monuments, including the Shri Lingaraj Temple and three ancient tanks, the Centre is of the opinion that it is outside the "legislative competence" of the state legislature and could lead to conflict with the AMASR Act, a letter shared with the media Tuesday read.

The Raj Bhavan received a letter from the Ministry of Home Affairs March 23 which was forwarded to chief secretary Suresh Chandra



Mohapatra March 31.

The ordinance was passed in the state Cabinet in December 2020 to bring the Lingaraj Temple and its eight associated shrines in Bhubaneswar under a separate law.

Currently, the Lingaraj Temple is governed by the Odisha Hindu Religious Endowment Act, 1951, which is a common legislation for most shrines.

The temples and tanks, seeking to be covered under the ordinance, are centrally protected monuments.

The state's ordinance has faced objections from the Ministries of Culture and Rural Development

(Department of Land Resources).

The ordinance has provisions of forming a 15-member committee with a senior Hindu IAS officer to be appointed as its chief administrator on the lines of Jagannath Temple in Puri, which is governed by the Shri Jagannath Temple Act, 1955.

According to the 1958 Act, new constructions are not allowed in the prohibited area (100 meters from a protected monument).

Areas within 200 meters are identified as regulated area where permission from the competent authority, on recommendation from the National Monuments Authority, is required to undertake construction-related activities, including repairs.

As certain clauses of the ordinance seek to conserve and repair the temples or tanks, the Centre feels it will be in conflict with the Central act.

Sambalpur-Puri Inter City to resume from Sunday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 6: The East Coast Railway has decided to resume the service of Sambalpur-Puri-Sambalpur Inter City Express from April 10.

18303 Sambalpur-Puri Inter City Express will leave Sambalpur at 0600hrs (06.00 am) and will reach Puri at 1250hrs (12.50 pm).

In the return direction, 18304 Puri-Sambalpur Inter City Express will leave Puri at 1545hrs (03.45 pm) and will reach Sambalpur at 2200hrs (10.20 pm).



This train will have stoppages at Jujomura, Rairakhol, Bamur, Boinda, Jarapada, Angul, Talcher Road, Meramandalli, Dhenkanal, Naraj Marthapur, Mancheswar, Bhubaneswar and Khurda Road between Sambalpur and Puri from both the directions having two AC chair cars, five second class seating, five general second classes and two guard-cum-luggage vans.

The railway has also decided to run 18514/18513 Visakhapatnam-Kirandul-Visakhapatnam Express from bi-weekly to daily w.e.f. April 7 from Visakhapatnam and w.e.f. April 8 from Kirandul. The stoppage, timings and composition of this train will remain unchanged.

Hooch trade thrives in Angul as Excise dept lies in slumber

POST NEWS NETWORK

Boinda, April 6: Illegal liquor trade in Kishorenagar block of Angul district continues unabated as the Excise department is in deep slumber.

The Excise department lacks its own police station, said sources. A new building which was constructed two years ago, after dismantle of its then existing police station here, is yet to be inaugurated.

The earlier excise police station was running from a rented house. Later, it was decided to construct a new office building at a staggering Rs 33 lakh.

If reports are to be believed, illegal trading of spurious liquor is rampantly going on in every village under Boinda, Handapa and Kishorenagar police limits of this block which has become a matter of concern for the residents.

According to sources, Boinda excise police station was set up to



curb illegal trade of hooch in 23 panchayats of the block. Initially, it operated with an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) and two constables. However, the house was demolished in 2016 to facilitate the expansion work of NH-55 in Angul district.

Subsequently, a land was identified at Jamunali for the purpose and the new building was constructed. After completion, it was handed over to Rural Development department in June 2021.

When contacted, Boinda Excise inspector Balbir Gadnayak said, "Application for the supply of electricity to the new building has been

submitted to authorities concerned. The excise police station will start functioning in full-fledged manner after completion of the construction of the compound wall."

It is pertinent to mention here that as many as 105 bootleggers were arrested by Boinda, Handapa and Kishorenagar police in between April 2021 and February 2022. Altogether 141 cases have been registered. About 3,380 litres of country-made liquor (Mahuli), 130 litres of juice extracted from date palm (Taadi) and 25 litres of foreign liquor were seized in connection with the cases.

Furthermore, over 41,000 kg Mahula Pocha (a typical sedative drink) was seized during the same period.

The narcotics are being sold in Kishorenagar block through grocery, betel shops and eateries. Regular raids are not being conducted in the absence of a full-fledged police station, reports said.

16 fresh Covid cases reported in state

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 6: Odisha reported 16 new Covid-19 cases Wednesday.

The cases were more than the previous day, with the tally rising to 12,87,773, a health department bulletin said.

The death toll remained at 9,121 as no fresh fatality due to the in-



fection was recorded for six consecutive days, it said. Besides, 53

other coronavirus patients have died due to comorbidities.

At least 45 more people recuperated from the disease in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of recoveries to 12,78,367.

Odisha now has 232 active cases. The daily positivity rate stood at 0.09 per cent as the new infections were detected from 18,407 sample tests, the bulletin said.

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'Develop Dhabaleswar with Odisha's art, architecture'



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 6: Famous Dhabaleswar Shiva Temple of Athagarh block in Cuttack district should be developed using Odisha's traditional art and architecture, said Asit Kumar Tripathi, Principal Adviser to the Chief Minister, Wednesday.

Tripathi was chairing a high-level review meeting on the overall development and beautifica-

tion of the infrastructure of the Dhabaleswar Shiva Temple.

"This 11th century Shaivapith is a symbol of Oriya culture. Millions of devotees congregate here on the night of Maha Shivaratri. The temple is important for tourism. If the spiritual and natural environment is created with all the basic amenities in place, it will attract devotees and tourists not only from Odisha but also from outside the

Tripathi was chairing a high-level review meet on the development and beautification of the Dhabaleswar shrine

state," said Tripathi.

Earlier, Food Supply and Consumer Welfare Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain had proposed that the stone packing to be set up around the temple situated near Mahanadi River be protected. On the basis of this, Tripathi advised the Water Resources Department to complete the survey on the environmental situation as soon as possible.

The Department of Tourism had provided Rs 16 crore for the development and beautification of the resort, while the Water Resources Department has proposed Rs 24 crore for the construction of stone packing and construction of outer ring road alongside the river.

Centre okays bridge across Hirakud Dam

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, April 6: The Centre has approved the proposal for construction of a high-level bridge across Hirakud Dam, Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari said Tuesday. A total budget of Rs 274 crore has been allocated for the high-level bridge as per the sanction order issued by the government.

Besides, the Central government has approved the 'strengthening of Patnagarh-Padampur Road from 0/00 km to 38/625 km, Gadkari informed through a letter in response to request from Bargarh MP Suresh Pujari.

The Union government has also given green signal to widening and strengthening of Bargarh-Bhatli-Ambabhona Road from 0/00 km to 20/100 km. The cost of all the three projects will be met from the Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF). A total allocation of Rs 368.5 crore has been earmarked for the three projects.

The bridge over the Hirakud Dam will connect Dangaghat under Bhikampalli area of Jharsuguda's Lakhanpur block and Jarimuli ghat under Ambabhona in Bargarh.

Ruling BJD sweeps Dhamnagar NAC polls

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 6: Ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) candidate Nibedita Jena was declared elected chairperson of Dhamnagar Notified Area Council (NAC) in Bhadrak district Wednesday.

Jena defeated her nearest BJP rival Puspashree Mohanty by 1,046 votes. The BJD candidate secured 6,026 votes while Mohanty got 4,980 votes. Congress candidate Pramila Sethi finished third by securing 2,214 votes.

BJD candidates also won in nine out of the 11 wards of the Dhamnagar NAC where polling was held in two phases (March 24 and April 5). BJP nominees secured two other seats.

BJD's vote share in Dhamnagar NAC was 45 per cent followed by BJP's 37 per cent and Congress 17 per cent, the State Election Commission (SEC), Odisha said.

During the polling on March 24, elections in six booths of four wards under Dhamnagar NAC were disrupted due to disturbances.



The SEC had ordered re-poll in the six booths which was held April 5. The final results were declared on Wednesday after counting of votes cast in the re-poll.

With the election of Jena, the BJD has won in 74 seats in the chairpersons' elections out of 106 posts, while BJP won 16 posts and Congress seven, SEC sources said. This apart, BJD candidates have also won three mayor elections held in Bhubaneswar, Berhampur and Cuttack Municipal Corporations.

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Locals smell scam in MDM rice supply

At least 9,000 quintal rice was officially supplied to schoolkids every month, but in reality rice for scores of children has been pilfered

BUNGLING DURING PANDEMIC



REPRESENTATIVE PIC

allowed to supply rice from July 2020 to December 2021. Later, the MDM wing of the district education department was given the responsibility. However, it was alleged that the officials looking after rice supply at the block education office misappropriated the grain in connivance with supply agencies.

At least 9,000 quintal rice was officially supplied to the kids monthly, but in reality rice for scores of children has been pilfered. The irregularities will run into crores, said sources.

Betanoti block have taken up the issue with S&ME Minister Samir Ranjan Dash.

Reports said around 2,97,945 children are studying in 4,043 schools under 26 blocks in the district for whom approximately 300 quintal rice is needed for their noon meals every day. Owing to Covid restrictions, the schools had to remain shut since March 24, 2020. However, the government wanted to supply per head quota of rice to the children. It directed the S&ME department to deliver the rice to the children at their doorstep.

The supply was more or less seamless for around three months. The Civil Supplies department was

"Attempts are being made to hush up the scam," some teachers on condition of anonymity said, and added that in many cases teachers had been forced to make register entry of rice supply.

Locals have sought detailed information about the rice supplied to the schoolchildren from the district education office, but to no avail. District education officer Nabakishore Giri said, "I can only say about it after verifying files of the rice supply from the staffers concerned," he added.

Hemanta Das, president of the district Congress unit, asserted that irregularities to the tune of crores will come out if a proper investigation is carried out.

FESTIVAL OF PENANCE



Devotees performed 'Bali danda' as part of rituals for the 'Danda Yatra' festival in Bisamkatak of Rayagada district, Wednesday

OP PHOTO

2 dead, over 50 ill after having prasad

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dharakote, April 6: Two persons died and over 50 others were taken ill of diarrhoea due to alleged food poisoning after consuming 'prasad' and 'pana' during traditional Danda Nacha festival at the village god-dess. The disease was also found to have spread in various parts of the district are busy celebrating the famous Danda Nacha festival.

The disease is said to have spread after the villagers consumed 'prasad' and 'pana' during the three-day Danda Nacha festival and the 'Chaiti Parva' of the village goddess. The disease was also found to have spread in neighbouring Baradabilli and Olamba villages.

Medical officer MVK Ashok of Dharakote CHC set up a temporary medical camp at the Anganwadi centre of Bakharkata village and started treatment of the affected villagers.

The medical team also asked the villagers not to panic and admit themselves for treatment. A mobile health team and officials of district infectious disease department also carried out an assessment to find out the reason behind the outbreak of water-borne infection.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

1) Tender Notice No. SBP-ELECT-2022-T-131
NAME OF WORK : A) ELECTRICAL WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH INTERLOCKING OF MANNED LC GATE NO. JT-13, JT-29, RV-38 & RV-137 OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION. B) ELECTRICAL WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH INTERLOCKING OF LC GATE NO. RV-25.
Approx Cost of the work (₹): 10,28,287.67, EMD (₹) : 20,600.00, Completion period of the work : Six calendar months from the date of issue of LOA.
Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1530 Hrs. of 22.04.2022

2) Tender Notice No. SBP-ELECT-2022-T-132
NAME OF WORK : ELECTRICAL WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH PROVISION OF LHS AT MANNED LC NO-RV-172 AT KM 2152/3 BETWEEN TITLAGARH - KESINGA STATIONS IN TITLAGARH - THERUBALI SECTION OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION.
Approx Cost of the work (₹): 4,59,134.99, EMD (₹) : 9,200.00, Completion period of the work : 03 Months from the date of issue of LOA.
Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1545 Hrs. of 22.04.2022

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POST-POLL SCENARIO

Political winds changing in Chikiti

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, April 6: The political scenario in Patrapur block under Chikiti Assembly segment in Ganjam district is witnessing a change as the BJP wrested the zilla parishad (ZP) zone no-34 from BJD after a period of two decades, a report said.

The block consists of 23 panchayats with the majority of voters being Telugu-speaking people and tribals. Among the 23 samiti members elected in the recently-held rural polls, 13 were supported by BJP.

The saffron party got a shot in the arm after a Congress backed samiti member supported the BJP. Moreover, the BJP bagging the chairperson and vice-chairperson posts in Patrapur block has dealt a heavy blow to the ruling party.

The changing political scenario in Chikiti Assembly segment is likely to queer the pitch of the ruling party in future.

Chikiti being a sensitive Assembly segment has witnessed tough battles between Chintamani Dyan Samantara of Congress and Chikiti queen and current BJD MLA Usha Devi at different points of time.

Chintamani contested elections seven times from 1980 to 2009 and won thrice to become the Speaker



THE SAFFRON PARTY GOT A SHOT IN THE ARM AFTER A CONGRESS BACKED SAMITI MEMBER SUPPORTED THE BJP IN THE RECENTLY-HELD PANCHAYAT POLLS

THE BJP BAGGING THE CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON POSTS IN PATRAPUR BLOCK HAS DEALT A HEAVY BLOW TO THE RULING PARTY

CHINTAMANI DYAN SAMANTARA'S SON MANORANJAN IS LEAVING NO STONE UNTURNED TO EXPAND THE BJP'S ORGANISATIONAL NETWORK IN THIS CONSTITUENCY

and Deputy Speaker of the Odisha Assembly. Similarly, Usha Devi contested elections from this Assembly segment for eight times from 1985 to



2019 and won six times. She became cabinet minister twice.

However, Chintamani did not contest the 2014 elections and left the seat for his son. His son Manoranjan contested on a Congress ticket and was defeated by Usha Devi. Later, Manoranjan joined BJP and fought with Usha Devi in 2019 elections.

However, he was defeated despite putting up a tough fight against the ruling party candidate. Being an ex-Congress man, Manoranjan managed to get all the Congress votes while the candidate fielded by the Congress lost his deposit.

Manoranjan is leaving no stone unturned to expand the BJP's organisational network in this constituency. The work of Manoranjan has borne fruit in panchayat elections for Patrapur block. This has



dealt a heavy blow to the BJD.

According to reports, Chikiti and Patrapur blocks were part of the Berhampur Assembly segment till 1961 election. Chikiti became a separate Assembly segment in 1967 and Dibakar Pattanik from Congress became its first MLA. Chikiti royal Sachhidananda Narayan Dev won twice (1971 and 1974) from Jan Congress and Congress.

Jagannath Pati from Janata Party won this seat in 1977 while Chintamani fought as an independent candidate in 1980 and won. He won for the second time in 1985. Usha Devi became an MLA for the first time on a Janata Dal ticket in 1990. Later, Chintamani won in 1995 as an independent.

Subsequently, Usha Devi continued her winning streak from this seat from 2000 to 2019.

Woman duped of ₹12.60 lakh on job promise

Ganjam: A woman was allegedly duped of ₹12.60 lakh by another woman on the pretext of providing her a government job in this town in Ganjam district, police said. The matter came to fore after victim Sanjukta Moharana of Samantara Sahi lodged a complaint in Ganjam police station. In her complaint, Sanjukta has alleged that Madhusmita Devata of Bajrang Sahi in Chhatrapur defrauded her of the money after promising her a government job. Ganjam police registered a case and started an investigation.

Rural projects under Vig lens

Banki: Following a directive from the Lokayukta, the Vigilance department has started investigations into alleged irregularities in MGNREGS and RURBAN projects at Dulanapur panchayat under Damapada block in Cuttack district. Locals had alleged large-scale irregularities in a number of projects being executed in the panchayat. A team of Vigilance officials led by Rabikant Suna and a senior engineer looked into works of 11 projects including Arpur playground and Hamera pond excavation. Local resident Dasarathi Pratihari and Congress activists of Damapada block have sent a memorandum to the secretary of the Panchayati Raj department regarding the corruption in the projects. Acting on the complaints, a team of officials led by a deputy secretary of the Panchayati Raj department had inspected several projects in November, 2021. However, no action was taken, locals alleged. Upset over delay in action against the guilty, Pratihari moved the Lokayukta in this regard.

Government of India
Ministry of Textiles
National Technical Textiles Mission

Invitation of Proposals for Research Projects

Ministry of Textiles, under the National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM), is inviting proposals for Research Projects from reputed Government institutes and research organizations. Details of identified Research topics and the General guidelines are available on the official website of Ministry of Textiles (<http://texmin.nic.in/technical-textiles-mission>).

The organizations/institutions proposing research projects are highly encouraged to partner with Industry for further commercial development of the research outcomes.

For further details, Dr. Mukesh Kumar Sinha, Joint Mission Director (Research and Innovation), Mission Directorate, NTTM may be contacted at m.ksinha@nic.in; nttm-textiles@nic.in
davn 41101/11/0001/2223

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL
EKLAVYA MODEL RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL
(Regd. Under OMTES & Managed by ST & SC Dev. Deptt. Govt. of Odisha)
AT/PO- RANKI, VIA-OLD TOWN, DIST- KEONJHAR, PIN-758002,
email-emrsranki@gmail.com
CBSE Affiliation No-1520001, School No-53101

Ref. No./EMRS/21 Date:.....

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders (in the prescribed form) are invited from the registered and reputed firms for Supply of various items and to provide different services viz. (1) Scout Uniform and other uniform accessories (2) Medicine (3) Reading Writing Material & Office Stationary (4) School Bag (5) Grocery Items (6) Vegetables Items (7) Non-Veg Items (Mutton, Chicken, Fish, Egg, Paneer, Mushroom, sweets) (8) Daily Used Toilet Items (9) Water Purifier (10) LPG Burner (Chulha) (11) Grass Cutter Machine (12) Computer Lab Equipments (Hardwires & Software's) (13) Air Conditioner (A.C.) (14) Computer Table & Chair (15) School Furniture (16) Sports Materials (17) Lab Equipments (18) Music, Audio, Visual Aid (19) Bedding Items (20) Sanitizing Materials (21) Hair Cutting (22) Refrigerator (Deep Freezer) (23) Solar Emergency Light (24) Incinerator Machine (25) Water Bottle, Tray & Tiffin Box (26) Wet Grinder (27) Photo Copier Machine (28) Text Book & Reference Book (29) Fire Extinguisher, (30) Hostel Furniture, (31) Garden Fencing Materials for the period of 1 (One) year. The tender forms can be obtained from the Office of the Principal from 06/04/2022 to 25/04/2022 between 07.00AM to 1.00 PM on all working days, on payment of Rs.200/- (Rupees Two Hundred only) in cash. The tenders completed in all respects along with requisite documents and Earnest Money would only be deposited by Regd./Speed Post or by hand in this School by 1.00 PM on or before 25/04/2022. Tenders will be opened before School Purchase Advisory Committee, on 27/04/2022 at 11.00 AM. Authority reserves the right to cancel the Tender fully or in part without assigning any reason thereof. The details available in District Web Site www.kendujhar.nic.in.

Sd/- Principal, EMRS, Ranki, Keonjhar

राष्ट्रीय परीक्षा एजेंसी
National Testing Agency
(An Autonomous Organization under the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, GoI)

Public Notice
Date: 06 April 2022
Inviting Online Application Form for
National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test [NEET (UG)]- 2022

The National Testing Agency is inviting Online Application for NEET (UG) - 2022 for admission to all seats of undergraduate medical courses in all medical institutions.

As per Section 14 of the National Medical Commission Act, 2019, NEET (UG) is to be conducted as a common and uniform National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) for admission to undergraduate medical education in all medical institutions, including those governed under any other law in force.

NEET (UG) - 2022 will be conducted in 13 languages i.e. English, Hindi, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu.

The NEET (UG)-2022 shall consist of one Question Paper containing 200 Multiple Choice Questions (four options with a single correct answer) from **Physics, Chemistry, and Biology (Botany and Zoology)**. The schedule of examination activities, are as follows:

Online Submission of Application Form	06 April to 06 May 2022 (up to 11:50 PM)
Last date of transaction of application fee	07 May 2022 (up to 11:50 PM)
Announcement of the Exam Centres	To be intimated later on website
Downloading of Admit Cards from NTA website	To be intimated later on website
Date of Examination	17 July 2022 (Sunday)
Duration of Examination	200 minutes (03 hours 20 Minutes)
Timing of Examination	02:00 PM to 05:20 PM (IST)

Candidates can apply for NEET (UG) - 2022 through the "Online" mode only through the website <https://neet.nta.nic.in/>. Candidates must ensure that the e-mail address and Mobile Number provided in the Online Application Form are their own or Parents/Guardians only as all information/communication will be sent by NTA through e-mail on the registered e-mail address or SMS on the registered Mobile Number only.

The Information Bulletin containing detailed information regarding syllabus, pattern of the examination, eligibility criteria to appear/admission, age, reservation, examination fee, cities of examination centre, etc. is available on website <https://neet.nta.nic.in/>

For further clarification, the candidates can also contact 011-40759000/ 011-69227700 or email at neet@nta.ac.in

(Dr. Sadhana Parashar)
Senior Director (Exams)

davn 21354/12/0002/2223



SRI AUROBINDO

Implosion of History

Philosophers are supposed to comprehend events and phenomena from a rather detached standpoint, keeping in mind useful theoretical models and precedents. But the situation in Ukraine has made detachment difficult for me. Not only does more than half my family come from Ukraine, but I have also long been preoccupied – philosophically and personally – with the issue of nuclear and radioactive threats, centering on the Chernobyl power plant and the use of nuclear weapons.

Nonetheless, today's circumstances demand clear thinking. As I argued in my 2021 book *Senses of Upheaval* in a chapter entitled "The Unfinished Collapse of the Soviet Union," we need to develop "a robust philosophy of history" capable of accounting for historical "gaps, protracted subterranean processes, and time lags between causes and effects."

The urgency of this task has now become painfully obvious. We are witnessing the outcome of the time lag between the official end of the USSR in 1991 and its unresolved legacies. These legacies are responsible not only for the war in Ukraine, but also for the simmering conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan in Nagorno-Karabakh, and for the tragic fate of Belarus. And constantly looming in the background is the Soviet nuclear arsenal, which Ukraine agreed to transfer to Russia soon after becoming an independent state.

But the historical implications of Russian President Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine are even more complex than the still indeterminate legacy of the Soviet collapse. To European observers, Russia's invasion is reminiscent of Nazi Germany's behavior in 1939. To the Ukrainians themselves, it invariably calls to mind previous national catastrophes, from the 1932-33 Holodomor and World War II to the nightmare of the 1986 Chernobyl disaster. And to the Russians, tighter censorship and other internal repressive measures have awakened the memory of Stalinism.

But this is not a case of history merely repeating itself. Repetition entails cyclicity and definite temporal rhythms, not to mention the completion of whatever is being repeated. Yet many of the issues underlying Putin's war are the comet tails of previous incomplete events – from the dissolution of the Soviet Union to the long-lingering effects of radioactive fallout.

What we are witnessing in Ukraine, then, is a tumbling of events into themselves – the convergence of different timelines in a single destructive phenomenon. Russia's invasion has roots in the Soviet collapse, the Chernobyl disaster, and the two world wars, as well as the Ukrainian genocide and Stalinist repression of the 1930s.

All this history is concentrated and condensed in the current war, much as an atomic bomb's fissionable material "is suddenly compressed into a smaller size and thus a greater density." The eruption of hostilities is, at its core, a historical implosion.

The three classical models for explaining the movement of history have included the conservative Fall, bemoaning the loss of past greatness; liberal Progress, celebrating the upward trajectory of living conditions and human freedom; and cyclical Repetition (sometimes combined with the first or second model in a spiral) of destruction and rejuvenation "by water or fire," as in Plato's *Timaeus*.

But implosion presents a fourth option, one that also borrows from physics to describe how history buckles under the weight of unresolved legacies. In a sense, the fourth model combines elements from the other three, pitting conservative against liberal visions and exhibiting aspects of repetition, owing to the centripetal forces unleashed in an implosion. That is why we hear simultaneous echoes of "the restoration" of Russia's glorious imperial past; of the "irrepressible" march toward market freedom and democracy in Ukraine; and of the tirelessly repeated mantra, "History repeats itself."

The implosion of history is also palpable in today's environmental crises. The sixth mass extinction that is now underway is not merely a repetition of the previous five. It also signals the historical collapse of the human species (along with countless other species). In the Anthropocene era, this collapse is self-induced and therefore bears all the marks of an implosion. The climate crisis and Putin's regime both stem from our own dependence on fossil fuels, suggesting that they belong in the same broader historical paradigm.

The perennial question of political action – "What is to be done?" – cannot be raised seriously without at least a rough understanding of the historical context. Is the war in Ukraine a temporary setback for freedom's continued march around the world? Is it a temporary obstacle to the atavistic restoration of imperial Russia? Does it invert WWII, with the homeland's defenders now in the position of occupiers? Or is something else afoot on Ukrainian soil in 2022?

One characteristic of the implosion of history is that it draws everything and everyone into its vortex. If the war in Ukraine is a telltale sign of this implosion, it is naive to think that the hostilities unfolding on Ukrainian soil are limited to that territory – even if it is still too early to talk about WWII.

The presence of the nuclear threat in the conflict – including both power plants and weapons – is symptomatic of the conflict's lack of temporal and spatial constraints. Just as Europe and the United States initially saw SARS-CoV-2 as a regional health problem in China, so now does NATO's "defensive" position overlook the transnational threat of nuclear fallout or the use of biological or chemical weapons.

The sooner the logic (or illogic) of historical implosion is grasped, the better we will be able to comprehend what must be done. We are at the end of an era defined by an acute sense that we have reached the "end of history." For now, all we can be sure of, as Bertolt Brecht put it, is that, "Because things are the way they are, things will not remain as they are."

The writer is Research Professor of Philosophy at the University of the Basque Country and author of the forthcoming Philosophy for Passengers (The MIT Press, 2022).

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Michael Marder

We are witnessing the outcome of the time lag between the official end of the USSR in 1991 and its unresolved legacies

DECODING RUSSIAN INVASION

FOCUS GEOPOLITICS



Dr. Ajay Patnaik

THE NATIONALIST TAKEOVER OF UKRAINE MADE THE RUSSIAN-SPEAKING POPULATION AND AREAS THE TARGET OF HUGE OFFENSIVE BY THE UKRAINIAN ARMY

It is now common knowledge that NATO's east-ward expansion towards Russia since 1999, adding 14 more members to the existing 16 since the end of the Cold War, has been the main reason behind Russia's actions in Ukraine, with which it shares a border of some 2,295 kilometres. NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, is a relic of the Cold War and was formed in 1949 to defend Western Europe and North America against the Soviet Union and its allies. Countering it was the Soviet Bloc's Warsaw Pact alliance, which was dissolved in 1991. The continuation of NATO and its expansion eastward created an imbalance that threatened post-Cold War global peace. This became clear from the unilateral bombing of Belgrade (1999) and the invasion of Afghanistan (2001) and Iraq (2003).

Along with NATO expansion, a spate of regime changes in the post-Soviet space, including a violent one in 2014 in Ukraine, created a spectre of encirclement for Russia. This process dates back to 2003, when a pro-Western regime came to power in Georgia after orchestrated protests aided and abetted by the West. Before the violent protests in 2014 in Kiev, a regime change had already taken place once in Ukraine in 2004. Viktor Yanukovich, the former Prime Minister who was ousted in 2005 came back as President of Ukraine in 2010 but was ousted again in 2014 because he was not seen as sufficiently pro-West and was perceived to be "soft" towards Russia. Earlier, during the beginning of the US invasion of Afghanistan, two American bases had come up in 2001 in neighbouring Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, which created more insecurity for Russia.

Vladimir Putin, unlike his predecessor Boris Yeltsin, decided to counter the Western moves through an integration process in Eurasia (comprising post-Soviet States). The two organisations – Eurasian Economic Union (2015) and Collective Security Treaty Organisation (2002) – have re-established Russian leadership in the post-Soviet space, even though only a few States have joined these initiatives. Ukraine, the most developed State after Russia in the region would have been a strong



Vladimir Putin, unlike his predecessor Boris Yeltsin, decided to counter the Western moves through an integration process in Eurasia comprising post-Soviet States

pillar of this integration process. Obviously, at a time when the West was pushing to take NATO to Russian borders, Viktor Yanukovich (the Ukraine President from 2010-2014) could not be relied upon to serve the purpose of orienting the post-Soviet States towards Europe. His removal in 2014 paved the way to draw Ukraine closer to the West and bring NATO right to the Russian border.

In a hard-hitting speech a decade-and-a-half back, at the February 2007 Munich Conference on Security, Putin criticised the United States' monopolistic dominance in global relations, and its "almost uncontained hyper use of force in international relations". The warnings in Munich did not stop NATO from encouraging Georgia to join the Alliance and a referendum was held there in 2008 to approve future integration with NATO. Ukraine since 2014 followed a similar trajectory when on February 7, 2019, the Ukrainian Parliament voted to change the Ukrainian constitution in order to help the country join NATO and the European Union, and on June 12, 2020, Ukraine joined NATO's enhanced opportunity partner interoperability programme. NATO recognised Ukraine's contribution that day in a Press Release that said: "This status is part of NATO's Partnership Interoperability Initiative, which aims to maintain and deepen cooperation between Allies and partners that have made significant contributions to NATO-led operations and missions ...

Allies highly value these significant contributions, which demonstrate Ukraine's commitment to Euro-Atlantic security."

At the June 2021 Brussels Summit, NATO leaders reiterated the decision taken at the 2008 Bucharest Summit that Ukraine would become a member of the Alliance. Ukraine began joint military exercises with the US and other NATO troops between September 20 and October 1, 2021. **What are Russia's objectives in Ukraine?**

In many post-Soviet States, the nation-building process has excluded ethnic minorities, their languages and cultures. The ruling nationalists have ignored the multi-ethnic character of post-Soviet states. This happened in Georgia, where two break-away regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia were sought to be forcibly integrated in 2008. This led to a 12-day war with Russia following which these two regions have become independent. Being on Russia's borders, South Ossetia and Abkhazia have become buffer areas, preventing any hostile forces and missiles being placed close to Russia.

Ukraine is facing a similar situation. It has strong divisions along geographical and cultural identities. The western part is more Europe-oriented and people there mainly follow Roman Catholicism. On the other hand, people in the eastern part of Ukraine are Russian-speaking or of ethnic Russian origin and follow Orthodox Christianity. The na-

tionalist takeover of Ukraine made the Russian speaking population and areas the target of huge offensive by the Ukrainian army and their right-wing supporters like the Azov battalion (a right-wing, neo-Nazi former paramilitary group that became a unit of the National Guard of Ukraine, based in Mariupol, in the Azov Sea coastal region) since 2014.

When Russia declared military operations in Ukraine, the twin goals it worked with were demilitarisation and "de-Nazification" of Ukraine. Having achieved a certain amount of success in terms of destroying much of the military infrastructure of Ukraine and pressuring President Volodymyr Zelensky to agree to a status of neutrality during the talks with Russia, Moscow is moving very systematically to achieve the other objective. It is around eastern and southern Ukraine that the Russian-speaking population mainly lives. Most of the Donetsk and Lugansk provinces, which are part of the Donbas region, have been taken from the Ukrainian forces. These areas along with southern cities like Mariupol and Odessa are the ones where since 2014 Ukrainian forces along with the ultra-nationalist battalions have inflicted maximum repression and damage. In the process of taking control of these areas, Russia would be inflicting greater damage on what it considers "neo-Nazi" groups.

When on April 1, 2022, Russia made freeing Donbas region one of its main objectives, it was also indicating that it is going to create a buffer along its land and maritime border with Ukraine. The southern part of Ukraine, especially its two main Black Sea ports of Odessa and Mariupol are of immense strategic importance, since Russia's main navy is located in the Sevastopol base on the Black Sea and Mariupol will create a vast land corridor between Crimea and Donbas. The buffer zone addresses the long-term security interests of Russia, even if in future Ukraine reneges on its promise of neutrality.

The writer is a retired Professor, Centre for Russian and Central Asian Studies at the Jawaharlal Nehru University
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SPECTRUM NAT'L HYDROGEN POLICY

Thrust on clean and cheaper energy

Dhurjati Mukherjee

HYDROGEN MAY NOT BE THE BEST FUEL FOR RUNNING CARS AT PRESENT BUT IT HAS AN ADVANTAGE OVER PLUG-IN VEHICLES IN HEAVY APPLICATIONS

The timing of the notification of National Hydrogen Mission couldn't have been better, in the backdrop of the Russian-Ukraine war, which has greatly impacted the energy sector. While the US, Japan and South Korea have already stopped or cut imports of Russian oil, there is pressure on Middle East countries to increase prices. However, Russia will try to stay in the game by increasing its supplies to China, India and other Asian countries by offering oil at discounted prices.

India, which imported 3 percent of its demand from Russia last year, has already ramped up purchases of crude. A recent Bloomberg report stated sanctions-hit Russia is offering its flagship Urals grade to India at "discounts as much as \$35 barrel on prices before the war to lure India to lift more shipments". India, considering other options is now putting special emphasis on hydrogen fuel. The first part of the National Hydrogen Policy has been notified, with a target production of five million tonnes of green hydrogen by the year 2030. In

the much-awaited policy, green hydrogen and ammonia manufacturers can purchase renewable power from the power exchange or set up renewable energy capacity or through any other developer, anywhere in the country.

In the recent Asia Economic Dialogue, organised by Pune International Centre and External Affairs Ministry, Reliance India Ltd Chairman, Mukesh Ambani observed that India must aim to end its dependence on coal and oil in the next two-three decades. Clean energy exports from India, he said could rise to half a trillion dollars in 20 years. In the Jamnagar oil refining complex, the plant currently converts petroleum coke into synthesis gas to produce blue hydrogen for \$1.2-1.5 per kg. This is much lower than green hydrogen produced with renewable resources which costs between \$3-6.55 per kg, according to the European Commission's July 2020 hydrogen strategy.

It is understood that the government would provide open access – connectivity to transmission lines

for renewable energy – within 15 days of the receipt of the application. Manufacturers can store their unconsumed renewable power up to 30 days, with the distribution company, the policy stated. It is interesting to note that the government intends to accord a waiver of inter-State transmission charges for 25 years to the manufacturers if the projects are commissioned before June, 2025.

Rising petroleum prices and air pollution had thrown open researchers and scientists to take a look at hydrogen way back in the late 1900s. A 1996 report of the US Senate Committee on energy and natural resources stated: "The most promising immediate use of hydrogen is for transportation... use of hydrogen leaves no ozone depleting chemicals, no acid rain, no nuclear waste". Compared with batteries, there are many advantages. While the tanks needed to store hydrogen are relatively heavy, battery packs for plug-in electric cars can weigh hundreds of kilos. It is understood that the smallest Tesla battery weights about half a tonne.

Yet, a few kilos of hydrogen pack more energy than a large battery – the Mirai's fuel economy proves it.

Clean electric energy is a critical input for GH production and such affordable energy has to be made available. Ambitious targets must be set for rapid expansion in electrolyser capacity while R&D has to be incentivized. This will enable development of automated and efficient manufacturing processes and adoption of technological advancements. With experiments in full scale, it is a matter of time before the greener kind of hydrogen made with solar or wind energy becomes cheap and abundant.

Needless to say, the induction of green hydrogen would obviously be a trend setter but all depends on how quickly the process of manufacture, transportation and storage is available in the country. It may start from next year and we should eagerly await encouraging news within a year or so. At the same time, emphasis on renewables as well as electric power should be maintained.

WISDOM CORNER

- An ounce of patience is worth more than a tonne of preaching. MAHATMA GANDHI
- My Best Friend is a person who will give me a book I have not read. ABRAHAM LINCOLN
- They always say time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself. ANDY WARHOL

WORDSWORTH

Adipocere

This is mostly met with by forensic medical experts, hence its other names of mortuary fat and grave fat. It's a greyish-white or yellow waxy substance that forms from the fat of certain parts of dead bodies, especially if they have been buried in wet places. Adipocere is familiar to investigators – it can make identifying a body and pegging its time of death tricky – but it is foreign to those who don't come into regular contact with decomposing bodies. The changes occur quickly and can accompany a form of natural mummification. It's known to occur in ancient bog bodies and in those preserved in ice, such as the Alpine man Ötzi. It's also encountered sometimes by archaeologists who are investigating relatively modern sites containing burials; an example was the difficult and harrowing excavation in the crypt of Christ Church Cathedral in Spitalfields, London, in the early 1980s.

Keep beaches clean

Sir, The beaches in Mumbai have a character of their own. Usually, they rightfully conjure images of large noisy rustic crowds. Some of the must visit beaches in Mumbai include Chowpatty Beach, Aksa Beach, Marve Beach, and Versova Beach. Mumbai is not only known as the financial capital of India, it is also the home to some of the most protected harbours in India. The Arabian Sea, the sands and the sight of the horizon and a perfect sunset, makes the beaches of Mumbai a must-visit tourist destination in Mumbai. In the midst of a fast-paced city lifestyle, Mumbai the city that never sleeps is the home to some of the serene and beautiful beaches that are worth visiting. Both the state and the Central government should be able to maintain these beaches and the beaches in Goa and other places to make it a tourist spot so that we can develop tourism on a big scale.
MR Jayanthi S Maniam, MUMBAI

Health Day thoughts

Sir, Today is World Health Day Covid Pandemic has taught us that health should be our priority, come what may. Regular exercise, meditation, Yoga is good for one's physical and mental wellbeing. It also helps us to deal with anxiety and depression. Every year it is celebrated with a different theme and this year's theme is 'Our Planet, Our Health'. This year's theme aims to direct global attention toward the well-being of our planet and its inhabitants. The other objective is to sensitise people on health related concerns that every human being is facing now and how to deal with them. The best investment one can do in life is to invest in health. It is that goal of life every person dreams to achieve but only a few get successes at. So let's take a pledge this year to take our best care and shun junk food.
Somya Agrawal, UJJAIN

No solution in sight

Sir, Sri Lanka slipped further into the abyss after President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's government was reduced to a minority in parliament. Tuesday, at least 41 Sri Lankan lawmakers walked out of the ruling coalition. To compound the problem, newly appointed Finance Minister Ali Sabry also resigned ahead of the crucial talks scheduled with the IMF for a loan programme. In addition, public unrest surged over the ruling family's handling of the debt-heavy economy and the Opposition called for Rajapaksa's resignation. The collapse of the country's medical system due to a lack of foreign currency reserves is also a grave concern.
N J Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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of the day quote

India's deal with the Philippines to supply the BrahMos missile is a bilateral transaction and it will not be impacted by the sanctions against Russia

SHAMBHU KUMARAN | INDIAN AMBASSADOR TO MANILA

The Directorate of Education and the municipal schools in Delhi will have to work together to bridge the learning gap among children that has arisen due to the prolonged closure of schools in view of COVID-19

MANISH SIDODIA | DELHI DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

There is no unity in the Congress and leaders have their own opinions. The Congress is scattering gradually because of the lack in the leadership quality, and on several occasions Congress leaders try to copy the BJP

SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN | MADHYA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Minor fire at AICC office

New Delhi: A minor fire broke out at the office of All India Congress Committee on Akbar Road here in Lutyen's Delhi Wednesday due to short circuit in an AC unit, officials said. A call was received around 7.30 pm and two fire tenders were rushed to the spot, fire officials said. Sources, however, said that the fire was minor and the AICC staff doused it using fire extinguishers from the party office. Officials said the fire was caused by an electric fault in the compressor of an air-conditioner.

3 more killed by wild elephants

Shahdol: Three more persons were trampled to death by wild elephants in Madhya Pradesh's Shahdol Wednesday, taking the toll in such incidents in the district to five in two days, officials said. On Tuesday morning, a couple, identified as Motilal Basor (60) and his wife Muliya Bai (55), was trampled to death under Amjhor forest range by a herd of wild elephants, which entered the state from Keshwahi in neighbouring Chhattisgarh Sunday night. Talking to PTI, district collector Vandana Vaidya said three more people - a couple and a woman - residents of Bansa village, were trampled to death Wednesday when they ventured into the forest of Jaisingh Nagar for collecting mahua flowers.



We are common people, we don't know how to do politics. Instead, we know how to work for people, build schools and end corruption. We have ended corruption in just 20 days in Punjab since Bhagwant Mann became the Chief Minister. Now, 'kranti' (revolution) should happen in Himachal Pradesh too

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

DELHI GOVT BUS CATCHES FIRE

An air conditioned bus of the Delhi Transport Corporation caught fire which spread and burnt down a few shops in southwest Delhi Wednesday, officials said. The fire department received information about the blaze in Mahipalpur area at 2.21 pm following which nine fire tenders were rushed to the spot, they said



Al Qaeda chief showers praise on K'taka college girl

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Bangalore, April 6: Al-Qaeda chief Ayman Al-Zawahiri has used the recent hijab controversy in Karnataka to target democracy in India, saying "we must stop being deceived by the mirage of the pagan Hindu democracy".

In a 8.43-minute video clip released by the terror group online, and verified by the American SITE Intelligence Group, Zawahiri also showered praises on Karnataka college student Muskan Khan for confronting a group of students opposing hijab in her college in early February.

However, Muskan's father distanced himself from Zawahiri's comments, terming them as "wrong" and said he and his family were living peacefully in India.



Meanwhile, Karnataka Home Minister Araga Jnanendra said the video statement only proves involvement of "unseen hands" behind the row. In the video clip in Arabic with English subtitles provided by SITE Intelligence Group that tracks online activity of white supremacist and jihadist organisations, Zawahiri also reads out a poem which he says he wrote for

HIJAB ISSUE



"our Mujahid sister" and for her "brave feat". "May Allah reward her for exposing the reality of Hindu India and the deception of its pagan democracy," he said in the video. "We must shake off the delusions that confound us... We must stop being deceived by the mirage of the pagan Hindu democracy of India, which, to begin with, was never more than a tool to op-

press Muslims," said Zawahiri, one of the world's most wanted terrorists. Addressing the Muslims of the Indian sub-continent, he said they must realise that in the real world there is no such thing as 'human rights' or 'respect of the Constitution' or 'law'. In Mandya in Karnataka, Muskan's father Mohammad Hussain Khan told reporters, "We don't know anything

about it (video), we don't know who he is. I saw him today for the first time. He has said something in Arabic... We are all living here with love and trust like brothers."

Asked about Zawahiri praising Muskan, he said, "People say whatever they want... This is unnecessarily causing trouble. We are living peacefully in our country, we don't want him to talk about us, as he is not related to us... It is wrong, it is an attempt to create division among us."

Observing that Muskan too has seen the video, Khan said whatever Zawahiri has said is 'wrong,' "... She (Muskan) is still a student, she wants to study," he said. Asked about demands from a section of people for an inquiry to find any links, Khan said let it be done, there is law, police and government for it.

More heat waves in April, warns IMD DG; issues alert for NW, central India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 6: Northwest India and adjoining parts of central India are predicted to see "more intense and frequent heatwave" conditions in April, India Meteorological Department Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said Wednesday.

"We are expecting that the temperature will be higher than normal in the entire northwest (NW) India and the adjoining central India, starting with Gujarat, Rajasthan and up to east Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh," he said at a virtual event on "Building Climate Resilience for the Most Heat Vulnerable".

The IMD had earlier predicted that April will be "more severe" than March and the temperatures will be higher than normal, Mohapatra said.

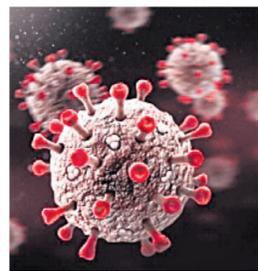
"The frequency of intense heatwave conditions will be higher in April as compared to March. And, we expect the heatwave conditions to continue till April 15 in some parts," he added.

The IMD in a statement said the ongoing heatwave spell started mainly over west Rajasthan and the adjoining areas of Gujarat and west Madhya Pradesh from March 27. It extended to east Rajasthan, south Haryana, Delhi and southern parts of Uttar Pradesh by March 29. Eight to 12 days long heatwave spells were observed over Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi, Punjab and parts of Gujarat in April 2017 and 2019.

Six to eight days long heat wave spells were observed over parts of the western Himalayan region covering Himachal Pradesh and Jammu in April 2017, the IMD said.

India recorded its warmest March in 122 years with a severe heatwave scorching large swathes of the country during the month.

Health Ministry denies detection of XE variant in India



AGENCIES

New Delhi, April 6: The Union Health Ministry Wednesday denied reports, which claimed that the first case of XE Covid variant in India has been detected in Mumbai. The clarification came shortly after reports, citing the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), claimed that a female costumes designer of South African origin has been found to be infected with the new XE variant in the city.

The FastQ files in respect of the sample, which is being said to be the XE variant, were analysed in detail by genomic experts of INSACOG who have inferred that the genomic constitution of this variant does not correlate with the genomic picture of the XE variant, said a source.

After the genome sequencing of the sample, evidence does not suggest that XE variant has been detected in India, the source added.

XE is a mutant hybrid of the two previous versions of the Omicron variant, BA.1 and BA.2, which is spreading across the world. It was first detected in the UK on January 19 and since then a few hundred sequences have been reported and confirmed.

According to Mumbai civic officials, a case of the Kappa variant

All you need to know about XE

New Delhi: Here are a few things to know about the new Covid variant. The World Health Organisation (WHO) had last week issued a warning against a new mutant that may be more transmissible than any strain of Covid-19 seen before. According to the WHO, XE has a community growth rate advantage of about 10 per cent as compared to BA.2 subvariant, which is already the most contagious. While XE only accounts for a small fraction of the cases, its extremely high transmissibility could mean that it becomes the most dominant strain in the near future. According to the UK Health Security Agency, XE comes with symptoms such as running noses, sneezing and sore throats, as opposed to the original strain of the virus which generally led to fever, coughs and a loss of taste or smell. And the NHS added shortness of breath, feeling tired or exhausted, an aching body, a headache, a sore throat, a blocked or runny nose, loss of appetite, diarrhoea, feeling sick or being sick.

was also detected during a sero survey and added the results came in genome sequencing of 376 samples, the 11th batch of testing in the local genome sequencing lab.

According to the survey, Omicron variant was found in 228 out of 230 samples (99.13 per cent cases) from Mumbai, the official said. The genome sequencing of 376 samples was conducted at the municipal Kasturba Hospital's Genome Sequencing Lab.

TOILING HARD



A female farmer uses a scarf to shield herself from the hot Summer Sun while harvesting wheat in a field, at a village in Gurugram, Haryana

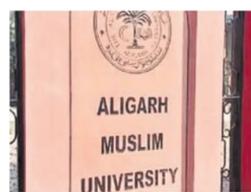
AMU suspends Prof for 'mythical reference of rape'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Aligarh (UP), April 6: Police Wednesday registered an FIR against an Aligarh Muslim University professor who referred to examples of "rape" in Hindu mythology during a forensic science class, provoking accusations of hurting religious sentiments.

The university has suspended the professor, who offered an apology for the "inadvertent mistake". According to AMU officials, Dr Jitendra Kumar, an assistant professor at AMU's Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, made the references to "rape" in mythology while conducting a class on medical jurisprudence.

He was served a show cause notice asking him to explain within 24 hours why disciplinary action should not be taken against him.



The university authorities also set up a two-member probe committee, but he was suspended pending the outcome of the inquiry, an official told PTI. This was because of the seriousness of the issue and preliminary evidence that indicated misconduct, the official said.

ular religion and it was done only to highlight that rape has been a part of our society since long."

He said it was "an inadvertent mistake" and assured that "no such incident will occur in the future". His lecture, which included a slide show, led to complaints that he had

hurt the religious sentiments of students and staff members.

A controversy erupted after someone posted a video clip of the lecture on social media. The AMU authorities acted after reporters approached them for comment Wednesday.

Diabetes, BP, asthma significantly high post Covid

The increasing risk of NCDs such as diabetes, BP, and cardiovascular diseases in India are majorly the result of physical inactiveness clubbed with genetic factors, revealed a report by Indus Health Plus. Regular preventive screening and a healthy lifestyle with physical activities may help curb the NCDs in the country



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, April 6: The prevalence and distribution of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, hypertension and heart disease, asthma, and obesity is significantly on the rise across the country after the two years of Covid-19 pandemic, according to a report, ahead of the World Health Day.

World Health Day is a global health awareness day celebrated every year

April 7. The Health of the Nation 2022 report, by Apollo Hospitals, indicated a national prevalence for diabetes mellitus of around 7 per cent, over 8 per cent for hypertension, and around 2 per cent for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease (COPD) and asthma.

NCDs pose devastating health consequences for individuals, families,

and communities with socio-economic costs that can derail India's achieving the target of reducing premature mortality from NCDs by one-third by 2030 in line with the United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In India, NCDs kill 6 million people every year of which around 23 per cent are between 30-70 years of age. "As we emerge from the shadow of

Covid, it is imperative to bring the focus back on the pandemic of NCDs, a focus that faced a disruption impacting diagnosis and treatment for millions of patients," said Dr Prathap C. Reddy, Chairman, Apollo Hospitals Group, in a statement.

"For a developing country like India, NCDs are a critical matter that need to be addressed. Considering our population of 1.2 billion, these are huge numbers that will increase the burden of disease and impact productivity and economic growth," he added. He suggested addressing the NCD challenge through promotion of healthy lifestyles, early diagnosis and management.

The increasing risk of NCDs such as diabetes, BP, and cardiovascular diseases in India are majorly the result of physical inactiveness clubbed with genetic factors, revealed a report by Indus Health Plus. Regular preventive screening and a healthy lifestyle with physical activities may help curb the NCDs in the country.

According to Dr Tilak Suvarna, senior interventional cardiologist, Asian Heart Institute, Mumbai, correcting six lifestyle choices such as un-

healthy snacking habits, excessive salt consumption, lack of physical activity, overindulging in alcohol, smoking and chewing tobacco, and excessive stress can help people live with not only a healthy heart but overall fitness and well being.

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
WATCO DIVISION, PURI, ODISHA
Phone: 06752-223447/ e-Mail: eephuri@gmail.com
No. C-28: INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)
Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. 01 of 2022-23 Dated. 04.04.2022

1. Name of the Work: - Provision for engagement of Security guard for the WTP and Intake well at Samanga, Puri.
2. Estimated Cost: - Rs. 14.29 Lakhs
3. Period of Completion: - 12 (Twelve) Months
4. Date and time of availability of bid documents in the portal:- 13.04.2022 (11.00 A.M.) to 22.04.2022 (5.00 P.M.)
5. Last Date / Time for receipt of bids in the Portal :- 5.00 P.M. of 22.04.2022
6. Date and time of opening of bids:- 12.30 P.M. of 25.04.2022
7. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid :- General Manager, WATCO Division, Puri, Phone: 06752-223447, Fax: 06752-223447 E-Mail: eephuri@gmail.com
8. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only.

General Manager, (WATCO, PURI)
OIPR-13206/11/0001/2223

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
KHURDA IRRIGATION DIVISION, KHURDA, Dist: Khurda, Odisha - 752056
Tel/Fax: 06755-296075 Mail id:- eekhurda Irrigation division@gmail.com
'e'-Procurement Notice No. KHD-01 OF 2022-23

No. A-24: 1. Name of the work 5 (five) nos. of Civil Works related to flood control works in River Embankment. 2. Tender Cost : Work varies from Rs. 23.04 lakhs to 39.78 lakhs. 3. Bid Document Cost : Rs. 6000.00. 4. Bid Security : Bid Security Declaration to be furnished as per Annexure-1 of Section-2 of Bid Document. 5. Class of Contractor : C & B Class (As applicable). 6. Period of Completion : Varies from 1 (one) to 6 (six) calendar months. 7. Other details are as follows. :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender Online for bidding		Date of Opening of Bid
		From	To	
Superintending Engineer, Khurda Irrigation Division, Khurda	KHD-01-01 of 2022-23 to KHD 01-05 of 2022-23 (5 Nos. of works)	08.04.2022	17.04.2022	18.04.2022 at 11.00 A.M.

8. e-mail id : eekhurda Irrigation division@gmail.com
9. If required lottery may be held on 25.04.2022 at 10.30 AM
Further detail conditions can be seen from the Govt. website www.tendersodisha.gov.in
Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Khurda Irrigation Division, Khurda
OIPR-32078/11/0001/2223

IPCC report features Kolkata 'Meat scare' in UP even as govt clarifies no ban

The objective of the IPCC, a United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change, is to provide governments at all levels with scientific information that they can use to develop climate policies

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, April 6: The UN panel's latest report on mitigation of climate change has showcased Kolkata in respect of shifting from private to public transport in Indian megacities.

Urban mobility transitions in Kolkata show interconnected policy and institutional and socio-cultural drivers for socio-technical change, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) said in its report.

It said that there are as many as 12 different modes of public transportation, each with its own system structure and offer means of mobility to the city's 14 million citizens.

Most of the public transport modes in the city are shared mobility options, ranging from a few people in a rickshaw to hundreds in metro or suburban trains, according to the IPCC report on Mitigation of Climate Change that was released Monday.

An important policy consideration has been to make Kolkata's mobility system more efficient and sustainable in terms of speed, reliability and avoidance of congestion, the report stated.

A key role is played by the West Bengal government in collaboration with other stakeholders to improve



the system as a whole and formalise certain semi-formal modes of transport.

It initiated infrastructural change in public bus systems, coordinated with private and non-governmental actors like autorickshaw operators and app-cab owners who hold crucial agency in offering public transport services in the city, it said.

Besides, new buses, including the fuel-efficient, comfortable and low-floor AC buses have been purchased by the public authorities in view of the city's hot and humid climate.

These have been promoted to middle-class workers in terms of

modernity, improved efficiency and comfort with an objective of shifting perceptions of public transport.

Rickshaws have been improved and cycling has been banned from busy roads.

These measures have contributed positively in bringing down the trend of greenhouse gas emissions per unit of GDP to half in a decade within the Kolkata metropolitan area, with potential for further reduction, the IPCC report said, citing a 2016 journal.

It also underscored barriers like the complex and multiple modes of transport with separate networks and the cycling ban.

Urban mobility transitions in Kolkata show interconnected policy and institutional and socio-cultural drivers for socio-technical change

As many as 12 different modes of public transportation, each with its own system structure and offer means of mobility to the city's 14 million citizens

These measures have contributed positively in bringing down the trend of greenhouse gas emissions drastically, with potential for further reduction

Barriers like the complex and multiple modes of transport with separate networks and the cycling ban were also underscored

The report said there has been opposition to some changes due to concerns about social equity as many of the new policies cater to the middle-class aspirations and preferences at the cost of less-privileged communities.

More thoughtful action at a policy level is required to sustain and coordinate the diversity of public transport modes through infrastructure design and reflecting on the overall directionality of change, it added.

The objective of the IPCC, a United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change, is to provide governments at all levels with scientific information that they can use to develop climate policies.

The report provides an updated global assessment of climate change mitigation progress and pledges, and examines the sources of global emissions. It explains the developments in emission reduction and mitigation efforts, assessing the impact of national climate pledges in relation to long-term emissions goals.

Lucknow, April 6: It is turning into a meaty issue and the scare over sale of meat in Uttar Pradesh is growing by the day.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Even though the state government Tuesday clarified that there was no order for the closure of meat shops during the ongoing Navratri festival (April 2 to 10), municipal bodies of various cities in Uttar Pradesh are imposing and then withdrawing ban orders, apparently to appease the majority community ahead of the municipal polls, scheduled to be held later this year.

Navneet Sehgal, additional chief secretary, information, said, "No order has been issued by the Uttar Pradesh government for the closure of meat shops during the nine-day-long Navratri festival."

Principal Secretary (Uttar Pradesh Food and Drug Administration) Anita Singh has also informed officers concerned that no such notification had been issued by the state government.

Deputy Commissioner, FDA, Hari Singh, said the department would clear to officers in all districts that no order for the closure of meat shops during Navratri was issued by the state government.

Officers were directed to ensure that cleanliness was maintained near religious spots where devotees assemble to offer prayers. Meat shops should not be located within 200 metres of religious spots. It's a routine order that is issued by the department every year during the festivity. Officers are also directed to check slaughter of certain animals, he added.

However, reports coming in from various districts claim that meat shops are remaining closed, causing inconvenience to Muslim consumers during Ramzan.



various districts claim that meat shops are remaining closed, causing inconvenience to Muslim consumers during Ramzan.

In Gorakhpur, Abdul Rehmani, a meat seller, admitted that he has not opened his shop since Saturday when Navratri began.

"Anonymous callers claiming to be members of the Hindu Sena, have warned me against opening the shop during Navratri. I do not want any trouble and I am willing to suffer losses. I will open my shop after Ram Navmi next week," he said.

In Lucknow, Mayor Sanyukta Bhatia directed LMC officials to shift meat shops in narrow lanes to commercial areas on the city's outskirts.

She said this was aimed at saving the population living in narrow lanes from communicable diseases. She added, "I have only asked the shops to be shifted, not closed. And there is no religious angle to it."

Civic bodies of various cities in UP are imposing and then withdrawing ban orders, apparently to appease the majority community ahead of the municipal polls, scheduled to be held later this year

Reports coming in from various districts claim that meat shops are remaining closed during Navratri, causing inconvenience to Muslim consumers during Ramzan

Meat sellers, however, question the timing of the order.

Kanpur mayor Pramila Pandey had said, "There will be complete closure of meat shops for nine days."

"I am observing fast and seeing animals being slaughtered openly does make one feel bad. It is not a matter of Hindu or Muslim, the order will be for all," she added, ignoring the FDA order.

Saeeda Naim, a homemaker, said that since most meat sellers had already shut shop due to the fear of backlash from fringe outfits, members of the Muslim community were facing problems during Ramzan.

Girl with Aadhaar name glitch gets school admission

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Badaun (Uttar Pradesh), April 6: After the intervention of the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister's Office, the five-year-old girl, who was named as 'Baby five of Madhu' in her Aadhaar card and thereafter denied admission to school, was finally given admission.

The state Education department officials and the school principal said the girl whose name is Aarti had been given admission.

Seema Rani, the principal of the school, added, "The woman had come April 2 for the admission of her daughter. We had asked to get the Aadhar card corrected. She has been admitted to the school."

In the Aadhaar card, instead of the name of the child, 'Madhu's fifth child' was found written, which left the school and the Badaun District Magistrate shocked. The girl's mother, Madhu had said, "I had gone to school to get my daughter admitted but the teacher mocked after her name in the Aadhar card that said 'Baby five of Madhu' and denied her admission." After the news went viral, CM Yogi Adityanath himself took cognizance of the matter and Aarti was admitted to the school.

BY POLL BUGLE ECI orders extensive webcasting

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, April 6: In order to ensure absolutely free and fair elections in the April 12 bypolls for West Bengal's Asansol Lok Sabha constituency and Ballygunge Assembly constituency, the Election Commission has ordered extensive webcasting of the polling process, officials said Wednesday.

A senior official from the office of the state's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) told media persons that webcasting will be done in 100 per cent booths in case of Ballygunge constituency, and 51 per cent booths in case of Asansol Lok Sabha constituency.

While Ballygunge Assembly constituency has a total 300 booths, the number in case of Asansol Lok Sabha constituency is 2,102. A total of 23 booths in Ballygunge have been declared as sensitive. The number of identified sensitive booth in case of Asansol is 680, the official said.

According to him, while Ballygunge will have 40 micro-observers, the number in case of Asansol will be 442. A total of 133 companies of central armed forces will be deployed for the bypolls,



Actress and TMC leader Sayantika Banerjee (R) with others during the election rally of TMC candidate Babul Supriyo for the upcoming Ballygunge Assembly constituency by-polls, in Kolkata, Wednesday

out of which 116 companies will be allotted for Asansol and the remaining 17 companies for Ballygunge.

Trinamool Congress has field singer-turned politician and two-time BJP Lok Sabha member Babul Supriyo from

Ballygunge. Former journalist, Keya Ghosh and Saira Shah Halim, the niece of legendary Bollywood actor, Naseeruddin Shah are the BJP and CPI-M candidates, respectively.

In Asansol, the Trinamool has fielded Bollywood star,

Shatrughan Sinha, while the BJP nominee is fashion designer-turned-politician, Agnimitra Paul, who is already a sitting BJP legislator from Asansol (South) Assembly constituency. The CPI-M candidate from Asansol is Partha Mukherjee.

28 yrs after crime, DNA test nails rape accused

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shahjahanpur (UP), April 6: A DNA test conducted 28 years after an alleged rape could send the accused to jail.

The DNA of the child conceived by the woman after she was repeatedly raped by two brothers in 1994, when she was just 13, matched with one of the accused, police said. The FIR against the accused - Hasan and Guddu - was lodged in March last year following a court order.

Superintendent of Police (city) Sanjay Kumar told PTI, The DNA test was conducted on the court's order. Samples of the victim's son and two accused were examined. The report confirmed that DNA of Guddu matches with the victim's son. Based on this information we have formed a team to arrest the accused.

According to police, the woman was staying in Shahjahanpur with

DNA of the child conceived by the woman after she was raped in 1994, at the age of 13, matched with that of one of the accused

her relatives back in 1994 and the accused lived in the same neighbourhood and were older to her.

The family members came to know about the rape when she got pregnant, police said, adding that the gave birth to the child the same year.

However, the baby was separated from her and adopted by a couple. Later, the woman got married but when the husband came to know about the rape incident, he left her, police said. The woman lived alone for several years till her son came in touch with her a couple of years ago after becoming aware about the incident. He supported and encouraged her to lodge an FIR, police said.

In 100 UP villages, people look up at stars

EVERY EVENING, VILLAGERS ARE MAKING BEELINES TO GAZE AT THE STARS AS BULANDSHAHR DISTRICT HAS 109 'HOUSE ASTRONOMY LABS' SET UP IN SCHOOLS WITHIN A SPAN OF SIX MONTHS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, April 6: More than 100 villages in Uttar Pradesh now have 'house astronomy labs' set up using panchayat funds at local government schools.

These labs are equipped with a telescope, spectrometer and a variety of pedagogical models depicting Newton's laws of motion.

According to the UP government spokesman, charts highlighting various aspects of astronomy have been put up everywhere.

Started as a pilot project Teacher's Day in 2021 at Sikandrabad (rural) in Bulandshahr, the district has 109 labs set up within a span of six months.

Abhishek Pandey, Chief Development Officer, Bulandshahr, said, "We had proposed this project to roughly 160 gram panchay-



ats and 100 agreed to set up these labs using their own funds. Each lab costs around Rs 2.5 lakh."

Pandey has been a champion of 'experiential learning' in schools and communities.



primary schools are built around the New Education Policy and are aimed at stoking space curiosity at the community level. The aim is to include both children and adults and explore possibilities of 'citizen science', he added.

That means general public en-

gagement in scientific research activities by using tools and resources provided to them, he said.

The labs have generated a great amount of interest in astronomy, both among children as well as adults. Every evening, village women make a beeline to gaze at

the stars.

The astronomy labs being established at primary and upper-primary schools are built around the New Education Policy and are aimed at stoking space curiosity at the community level. The aim is to include both children and adults and explore possibilities of 'citizen science'

ABHISHEK PANDEY | CDO, BULANDSHAHR

This endeavour has also led to the emergence of 'khagol doot' (astronomy messengers) among selected school students with a keen interest in science. These messengers act as guides and also help teachers in managing the labs.



The youths are ready to lay down their lives for the country. But this incompetent government is not ready for recruitment in the army. Neither employment, nor security RAHUL GANDHI | FORMER CONGRESS PRESIDENT

DELHI TO SRINAGAR IN JUST EIGHT HOURS

Union Minister for Road, Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said people will be able to reach Delhi from Srinagar in just eight hours in future after the completion of several infrastructure projects being carried out in Jammu and Kashmir



of the day quote

Such a dastardly attack on journalists and calling them by religious slurs is highly condemnable and the strictest action must be taken against all the accused. The Home Minister must ensure that the criminals spreading hatred and bigotry in our society are brought to justice and steps are taken to prevent the spread of such religious hatred in society

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | LEADER OF OPINION IN THE RAJYA SABHA

Today, we have crossed the 100-mark in the Rajya Sabha. Congress does not have a single MP from North East. The BJP has government in 12 states, while the NDA has government in 18 states

JP NADDA | BJP CHIEF

Instead of complaining about rising fuel prices, people should purchase e-bikes and electric cars

NILESH CABRAL | GOA'S LAW AND JUDICIARY MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

DMK, AIADMK lock horns

Chennai: The opposition AIADMK has locked horns with the ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu over the announcement that property taxes will be hiked. The AIADMK held protest marches across the state Tuesday against the rise in property tax with both the Chief Coordinator, O. Panneerselvam, and Joint Coordinator K. Palaniswami leading the marches in Chennai and Tiruchi respectively.

Lankesh murder: Trial to begin on May 27

Bangalore: Four years after two bike-borne men shot dead writer, activist Gauri Lankesh, the Special court of Karnataka Control of Organised Crimes Act (KCOCA) will begin the trial May 27. Lankesh was fired upon at her residence in Bangalore in 2017. Her sister Kavita Lankesh, a noted filmmaker, who is also an informant in the case, has been issued summons in this regard by the Special Court Judge Anil Bheemana Katti. She has also been directed to depose before the court May 27.

2 terrorists killed in J&K

Srinagar: Two terrorists killed on Wednesday in an encounter between terrorists and security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district were attempting to revive terror folds, officials said Wednesday. The terrorists, identified as Muzaffar Sofi of Ansar Gazwatul Hind (AGuH) and Umer Teli of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) were killed in Tral area of Awantipora. Both were involved in many terror crimes, and active in Srinagar before shifting to Tral in Pulwama.

Corporator held for threatening cops

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad Police Wednesday arrested a corporator for obstructing policemen from discharging their duty and for threatening them. Ghouseuddin Mohammed, a corporator of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) from Bholakpur division, was booked and arrested after Telangana minister KT Rama Rao asked the state police chief to act against the corporator who was caught on camera obstructing police personnel on duty, abusing and threatening them.

UKRAINE CRISIS

No solution in shedding blood: Jaishankar in LS



We encourage dialogue between Russia and Ukraine. What is India advocating in Ukraine? We are, first and foremost, strongly against any conflict. We believe that no solution can be arrived at by shedding blood and at the cost of innocent lives

S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 6: Asserting that India is strongly against the Russia-Ukraine conflict as no solution can be arrived at by shedding blood, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Wednesday said that if New Delhi has chosen a side, it is the side of peace and an immediate end to violence.

Replying to the discussion in Lok Sabha on the situation in Ukraine, Jaishankar said India encourages talks between Ukraine and Russia, including at the level of their presidents, and asserted that if New Delhi can be of any assistance in this matter, it would be "glad to contribute".

Jaishankar also said that attributing a political colour to India's actions in the wake of the Ukraine situation was uncalled for and unfair. All members would agree that India's approach should be guided by its national beliefs and values, national interest and by its national strategy, he said.

The remarks by the foreign minister came amid increasing disquiet in the West over India's indication to buy larger volumes of discounted crude oil from Russia.

On Monday, the White House reiterated the US view that it is not in India's interest to "accelerate or increase" imports of Russian energy and other commodities, while offering to work with New Delhi to help it reduce its reliance on imports from Moscow.

Jaishankar said India's approach will be to promote dialogue to end the conflict, mitigate economic distress for itself and the world, and to work with its partners to these ends.

Talking about the civilian killings in the Ukrainian city of Bucha, Jaishankar said India is "deeply disturbed" by the reports. "We strongly condemn the killings which have taken place there. This is an extremely serious matter and we support the call for an independent investigation," he said.

Elaborating on what India is advocating in Ukraine, he said, "we are, first and foremost, strongly

against the conflict, we believe that no solution can be arrived at by shedding blood and at the cost of innocent lives. In this day and age, dialogue and diplomacy are the right answers to any disputes."

One should bear in mind that the contemporary global order has been built on the UN Charter, on respect for international law and for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states, he asserted. "If India has chosen a side, it is a side of peace and it is for an immediate end to violence. This is our principled stand and it has consistently guided our position in international forums and debates, including in the UN," Jaishankar said.

On India's national strategy vis-a-vis the Ukraine situation, he said that in terms of diplomacy, India continues to press forcefully for an immediate cessation of hostilities and an end to violence.

"We encourage talks between Ukraine and Russia, including at the level of their presidents. Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) himself has spoken to them both in this regard. This was precisely the message that was conveyed to Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov when he was in Delhi. If India can be of any assistance in this matter, we will be glad to contribute," Jaishankar said.

Noting that the ground situation calls for urgent humanitarian relief, he said India has already provided 90 tonnes of relief material, and did so even while we were in the middle of an evacuation.

"Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko called me a few days ago to request a supply of more medicines, the House would be glad to know that this is underway and delivery should start very soon," he said.

'87 civilians, 99 security personnel killed in J&K since Art 370 scrapped'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 6: As many as 87 civilians and 99 security personnel have been killed in Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370 August 5, 2019, as compared to 177 civilians and 406 security personnel in the previous five years, Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai informed the Rajya Sabha.

The minister said the central government has a policy of zero tolerance against terrorism and there has been a substantial decline in terrorist attacks from 417 in 2018 to 255 in 2019, 244 in 2020 and 229 in 2021.

As many as 177 civilians and 406 security personnel were killed from May 2014 to August 4, 2019 in Jammu and Kashmir; while 87 civilians and 99 security personnel were killed from August 5, 2019 to November 2021, he said in a written reply to a question.

"A robust security and intelligence grid is in place to prevent any terrorist attack. In addition, day and night area domination, round the clock checking at Nakas, patrolling

and proactive operations against terrorists are being carried out," he said. Replying to another question, the minister said the Jammu and Kashmir government has reported having received proposals for investments worth approximately ₹51,000 crore since the abrogation of Article 370.

He said the union government has notified the new central sector scheme for industrial development of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir announced on February 19, 2021 to attract capital investment, with a financial outlay of ₹28,400 crore (upto the year 2037).

The scheme provides for four types of incentives namely (i) capital investment incentive, (ii) capital interest subvention, (iii) goods and services tax linked incentive and (iv) working capital interest subvention, he said. Moreover, Rai said, in order to boost industrial development in the Union Territory, the government of Jammu and Kashmir has also notified the J&K Industrial Policy, J&K Private Industrial Estate Development Policy and J&K Industrial Land Allotment Policy.

As many as 177 civilians & 406 security personnel were killed from May 2014 to August 4, 2019 in J&K, while 87 civilians and 99 security personnel were killed from August 5, 2019 to November 2021

Bill to Ban funding of WMDs gets LS nod

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 6: A bill which seeks to ban funding of weapons of mass destruction and also empower the Centre to freeze, seize or attach financial assets and economic resources of people engaged in such activities was passed by Lok Sabha Wednesday.

Responding to a discussion on the Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Amendment Bill, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said the passage of the amendment will strengthen India's national security and its global position.

The House passed the bill by a voice vote with members expressing unanimity that such a measure was the need of the hour. The Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act, passed in 2005, only banned manufacture of weapons of mass destruction.



"In recent times, regulations relating to proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems by international organisations have expanded," Jaishankar said in the statements of objects and reasons of the bill.

He noted that the United Nations Security Council's targeted financial sanctions and the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force have mandated against financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems.

'Dead', 'retired' cops among those transferred in MP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, April 6: In a bizarre development, two officers - one deceased and one retired - of the Madhya Pradesh Police were transferred by the Home Department, which later cancelled the order, calling it a 'typographical error'.

The error was detected in the transfer/posting order under which the Home Department had transferred 167 Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs) and Sub-Divisional Officers (SDOs).

In the list comprising the names of officers, an officiating DSP, Jitendra Yadav, was transferred from the 26th Battalion Guna to Gwalior. Yadav had died of Covid-19 about six months back.

Similarly, Shashibhushan Singh Raghuvanshi, who had retired about one-and-a-half years ago, was transferred from SDOP Kailaras in Morena district to the 18th Battalion of Shivpuri.

When the matter was brought to the notice of the Home Department, Under Secretary Annu Bhalavi issued an order cancelling both the transfers, calling them typographical errors.

Pawar meets PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 6: As the Enforcement Directorate stepped up heat on Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut, NCP supremo Sharad Pawar on Wednesday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and told him injustice was being done against the senior Parliamentarian and editor.

Pawar met Modi at the Prime Minister's Office in Parliament along with NCP Lok Sabha member P P Mohammad Faizal, who raised issues related to his constituency Lakshadweep.



Pawar said he flagged the issues of central agencies targeting Raut and the alleged inaction of Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari on the Maharashtra government proposal regarding nominations to the state Legislative Council.

"On what basis was action taken against Sanjay Raut? This is injustice. What was the provocation? Just because he is making some statements and criticisms does not mean action should be taken against him. What was the need," Pawar told reporters here.

"It is our duty to bring to the Prime Minister's notice the injustice being done to a journalist and a senior Parliamentarian," Pawar said. On Tuesday, the Enforcement Directorate had attached assets worth more than ₹11.15 crore of Raut's wife and two of his associates in a money-laundering investigation linked to certain land deals.

Hours before Pawar's meeting with the Prime Minister, the CBI took custody of former Maharashtra home minister and NCP leader Anil Deshmukh.

Deshmukh was taken into custody by the CBI team from the Arthur Road Prison in Central Mumbai and placed under arrest in connection with corruption allegations raised against him by former Mumbai police commissioner Param Bir Singh.

ADVENTURE ON WATER



Tourists are enjoying river rafting at the Beas River in Manali

PTI PHOTO

LEMONADE NOW AN ELITE DRINK IN JAIPUR

ONE LEMON IN JAIPUR IS BEING SOLD AT ₹30 WHICH IS GIVING NIGHTMARES TO THE MIDDLE CLASS WHO ARE USED TO DRINKING LEMON WATER IN THE AFTERNOON WHEN THE TEMPERATURE USUALLY CROSSES 40 DEGREES CELSIUS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, April 6: Lemon water, which is considered the common man's cold drink in summers, seems to have become an elite drink in the sizzling summer of the desert state as lemons sold for around ₹400 kg in Jaipur Wednesday.

On Tuesday, the lemon's rate was ₹340 per kg in Jaipur which increased by ₹60 in 24 hours Wednesday, Inder Gujjar, a vegetable vendor said, "There has been limited production of lemon here and hence it remains a limited supply of lemons here. Further, the steep rise in the price of diesel

has affected the normal supply of lemons from other states and hence the high rate."

The weather department has already given a heat wave warning for the next four days. The temperature here has been hovering at around 40 degrees. And in such hot weather, the lemons being sold at ₹400 per kg has given us a major jolt, said Mukta Mittal who went to buy vegetables Wednesday.

Everybody seems to be worried about the petrol-diesel prices, not about these basic vegetables which have become so expensive, she added. Vegetable vendors said, "With the rising temperature, the



price of lemons has jumped a lot. Till the last two weeks, the rate of

lemons ranged between ₹140-150 per kg which has suddenly shot

up to ₹220-400 per kg.

As the mercury has soared, people have started using lemons more, which is why there is a huge jump in their prices. In the local mandis, shopkeepers are giving one or two lemons worth ₹30. The demand for lemons has increased for the last several days."

The local mandis traders say that there is usually a jump in the prices of vegetables during the summer season. But at this time, there are many other factors triggering the increase in the price of lemons. The biggest reason for this is believed to be the increase in the prices of petrol and diesel. Due

to fuel increase, the cost of transport has risen and the prices of vegetables are also seeing an increase. Meanwhile agricultural scientists said that unseasonal rains and change in weather has affected the lemon crop production. Now there is a demand for lemons in summer, due to which the prices have increased and the supply remains less.

It's not only the lemons giving a pain to the middle class but also ginger, mostly recommended for tea during the pandemic, is being sold at ₹80-100 per kg. Also, ladyfingers, beans etc are equally high priced and available at ₹120 per kg.

international

of the day quote

We continue to work with them (India) to ensure that they understand that it's not in their -- we believe that -- it's not in their best interest to continue to invest in Russian equipment

China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners. History has proven once again that no matter how the international landscape may evolve, China and Pakistan relations will always stand unbreakable and rock solid

I have withdrawn the proposal because the completely wrong impression would have arisen that either the pandemic is over or the virus has become significantly more harmless than was assumed in the past

SHORT TAKES

Bennett's gov't loses majority

Jerusalem: Israel's fragile government Wednesday was reduced to a minority in the 120-member House with the ruling coalition's whip quitting on religious grounds, raising the possibility of elections in the Jewish nation in less than a year after Prime Minister Naftali Bennett took charge. Idit Silman of Prime Minister Bennett's Yamina party quit the government, surviving on a razor thin margin, over the question of "Jewish values" related to a dispute about Passover "matzo" rules.

HK's number 2 official resigns

Hong Kong: Hong Kong's No 2 official and a staunch supporter of a Beijing-backed crackdown on pro-democracy activists tendered his resignation Wednesday to pave the way for his run in the city's upcoming leadership race. John Lee, who is the city's chief secretary for administration, submitted his resignation to Hong Kong's leader Carrie Lam, according to a government statement. "If my resignation is approved by the Central People's Government, I shall plan to stand for the upcoming Chief Executive election," said Lee during a news conference.

Macron leads presidential race

Paris: President Emmanuel Macron is the clear favorite in France's presidential race Sunday yet a big unknown factor may prove decisive an unprecedented proportion of people say they are unsure who to vote for or don't intend to vote at all, bringing a large dose of uncertainty to the election. The pro-European centrist is still comfortably leading in the polls. His main challenger, far-right leader Marine Le Pen, appears on the rise in recent days. Both are in good position to reach the presidential runoff April 24, which would make them replay the 2017 election that Macron won handily.

Blast in Kabul mosque, 6 hurt

Kabul: At least six people were injured in a hand grenade explosion inside a mosque in Kabul Wednesday, sources said. "A man hurled a hand grenade inside Pul-e Khishti Mosque at midday. As a result, six people were wounded," Xinhua news agency reported citing the Afghan Interior Ministry's tweet. The wounded were shifted to hospitals and a suspected man has been arrested, according to the ministry.

DESPITE PUBLIC DEMAND & LOSING MAJORITY SL Prez refuses to step down

From beachside towns in the south to the Tamil-speaking north, more than 100 demonstrations have broken out across the island nation since last week. The unprecedented wave of spontaneous protests reflects people's anger at spiralling inflation, fuel shortages, power cuts and what they see as rulers' mismanagement of the crisis that has made it worse

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Colombo, April 6: Despite the week-long public protests across Sri Lanka and losing the majority in Parliament, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa Wednesday refused to give up power. The President's party Chief whip and reappointed Highway Minister Johnston Fernando said in Parliament that "President will not resign but face this".

Russian far-rightist Zhirinovskiy dies at 75, saluted by Putin

REUTERS

Moscow, April 6: Russian far-right politician Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, known for provocative stunts and anti-Western tirades that kept him in the public eye for more than three decades, has died after a long illness, the speaker of parliament said Wednesday. Zhirinovskiy, 75, was admitted to hospital earlier this year after contracting Covid-19, according to Russian media, and was too ill to speak out publicly on the war in Ukraine. But the grievances he had been voicing since the 1990s found an echo in President Vladimir Putin's increasingly bitter rhetoric in the run-up to the Feb 24 invasion, when the Kremlin leader repeatedly accused the West of cheating and deceiving Russia.

"Always, in any audience, in the most heated discussions, he defended the patriotic position, the interests of Russia," Putin said in a tribute. Zhirinovskiy was known for outrageous and headline-grabbing statements, including threats to launch nuclear weapons against various countries, seize Alaska from the United States, and expand Russia's frontiers to the point where its soldiers could "wash their boots in the warm waters of the Indian Ocean".

His death was announced in parliament, where lawmakers stood in silence to honour his memory. Leonid Slutsky, acting leader of Zhirinovskiy's Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR), said Patriarch Kirill, head of the Russian Orthodox Church, had asked to officiate at his funeral.

BRITAIN TO ABANDON GLOBAL LGBT+ CONFERENCE

Johnson's government had come under increasing pressure after his predecessor Theresa May vowed in 2018 to eradicate a procedure that aims to change or suppress someone's sexual orientation or gender identity



Sri Lanka's ruling dynasty faces political crisis
Rajapaksa's alliance now in a minority after lawmakers defect

High inflation and power cuts also fuel anger on the streets
President says not to blame for emergency meltdown

"The President has a mandate of 6.9 million people. As a government we want to say clearly that the President will not resign," said Minister Fernando adding that, "We will fight this." The minister was responding to the Opposition's demand that the current crisis could be solved if the President resigns. "If the President resigns we can appoint a President from Parliament," Lakshman Kiriella told the Speaker. Facing the worst ever economic crisis with dried up dollar reserves

and rocketing inflation, the Indian ocean island nation is going through a tough time without fuel, LP gas, electricity, food and medicine. Doctors have warned that the country is in a medical emergency with major essential drugs in shortage. Since Thursday, people are on the street demanding the resignation of the Rajapaksa family. Amid the public protests, Sunday the President made his cabinet resign and Tuesday the coalition parties with 41 out of 225 MPs in Parliament left Rajapaksa to stand as independents.

AUKUS to make hypersonic missiles

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

London, April 6: The United States, Britain and Australia said Tuesday they would begin collaborating on hypersonic missile strike and defence capacity, as rivals Russia and China advance rapidly in the cutting-edge technology.

The announcement was made by US President Joe Biden, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison as part of the new AUKUS alliance, which was formed last September. They pledged "new trilateral cooperation on hypersonics and counter-hypersonics, and electronic warfare capabilities".

Hypersonic missiles can travel more than five times the speed of sound and manoeuvre in mid-flight, making them much harder to track and intercept than traditional projectiles. They may carry conven-



tional or nuclear warheads. Hypersonics and related technologies were now "very much a part of what the AUKUS partnership is striving to deliver", Australia's Morrison told reporters Wednesday. But there were few details about what the leaders' hypersonic plan entailed. Australia and the United States were already working together on hypersonics, he said, although the

'TESTING EDIT BUTTON'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, April 6: Twitter has tweeted that it is indeed working on a way for users to edit their 280-character messages, although it says the project has nothing to do with the fact that edit-function fan Elon Musk was just revealed as the company's largest shareholder and now sits on its board.

Twitter Tuesday said it will test the feature in its paid service, Twitter Blue, in the coming months. It said the test would help it "learn what works, what doesn't, and what's possible". So it may be a while before most Twitter users get to use it, if they ever do. Twitter spokesperson Catherine Hill declined to say whether an edit feature might be rolled out for all users.

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". The official Twitter account said Tuesday that the April 1 tweet wasn't a joke and that it has been working on it since last year.



fore most Twitter users get to use it, if they ever do. Twitter spokesperson Catherine Hill declined to say whether an edit feature might be rolled out for all users.

TRANS CONVERSION THERAPY DISPUTE

BRITAIN TO ABANDON GLOBAL LGBT+ CONFERENCE

REUTERS

London, April 6: United Kingdom is set to abandon plans to hold a flagship conference designed to promote LGBT+ rights around the world following a dispute over conversion therapy for transgender people that has prompted charities and organisations to boycott the event.

Britain had been due to host the Safe to Be Me conference in London in June to urge governments to tackle inequality and discrimination, and enable people to live free from prejudice.

But a decision to ban conversion therapy for gay or bisexual people in England and Wales, though not for transgender people, has prompted charities to pull out of the event and the country's first LGBT+ business champion, Iain Anderson, to quit.



Anderson said in a public letter to Prime Minister Boris Johnson Tuesday that it was wrong to create dividing lines. "Now - more than ever - we need tolerance and respect in our national conversations," he said. Johnson said he was saddened

Each day, roughly, we are paying €1 billion to import Russian energy, and that's, obviously, a source of income that's used to finance the war

JOSEF BORRELL | FOREIGN POLICY CHIEF, EU

BIDEN-OBAMA FRIENDSHIP

In the final days of his presidency, Barack Obama surprised then-Vice President Joe Biden with the Presidential Medal of Freedom and moved his No 2 to tears by evoking the poetry of WB Yeats and declaring, "Think where man's glory most begins and ends, and say my glory was I had such friends"



BUCHA CRUELTY CHILLS SPINE

High-resolution satellite imagery has showed that many of the bodies had been lying in the open for weeks, during the time that Russian forces were in the town



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bucha, April 6: One blackened body had arms raised in supplication, the face contorted in a horrible scream. The skull of another had a bullet hole in the left temple. The small blackened foot of a child could be seen in the tangle of charred bodies piled together in Bucha, the town outside of Kyiv where graphic evidence of killings and torture has emerged following the withdrawal of Russian forces.

The six burned and blackened corpses were just the latest gruesome scene to emerge from Bucha as world leaders push for Russia to be held accountable, including for possible war crimes.

The pile of bodies, seen by journalists, was just off a residential street, near a colorful and empty playground, visible to passersby as they warily went outdoors to collect aid.

"It's horrible," said Ukrainian Interior Minister Denys Monastyrsky at the scene, which included other journalists. The minister said Russian President

Genocide and war crimes in Bucha: Zelenskyy
Russian media campaign falsely claims Bucha deaths are fakes

Recent news from the war in Ukraine, instead of bringing relief and hope, brought new atrocities, such as the massacre of Bucha. Stop this war! Let the weapons fall silent! Stop sowing death and destruction

POPE FRANCIS | HEAD OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Vladimir Putin should "go to hell." Ukrainian officials have said the bodies of at least 410 civilians have been found in towns around Kyiv that were recaptured from Russian forces in recent days. The Ukrainian prosecutor-general's office has described one room discovered in Bucha as a "torture chamber."

US sanctions Putin's daughters, banks

WASHINGTON: The United States targeted Russian banks and elites with a new round of sanctions Wednesday, including banning Americans from investing in Russia, in response to what President Joe Biden condemned as "major war crimes" by Russian forces in Ukraine. The new sanctions hit Russia's Sberbank, which holds one-third of Russia's total banking assets, and Alfabank, the country's fourth largest financial institution, US officials said. The United States is also sanctioning Russian President Vladimir Putin's two adult daughters, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov's wife and daughter, and senior members of Russia's security council, the officials said. Britain also froze Sberbank's assets, and said it would ban imports of Russian coal by the end of this year in the latest installment of sanctions coordinated with the United States and other Western allies to "starve Putin's war machine."

Shanghai eases child separation

REUTERS

Shanghai, April 6: Shanghai Wednesday made concessions on an unpopular Covid isolation policy that has separated children from their parents and sparked a public outcry, but extended a city-wide lockdown that has left some residents struggling to buy food. The lockdown of China's most populous city, which started in parts of Shanghai 10 days ago and has now confined nearly all of its 26 million residents at home, has massively disrupted daily life and business.

UNDER COVID POLICY



Public criticisms of the curbs, part of Beijing's Covid elimination strategy, have ranged from complaints over crowded and unsanitary quarantine centres to dif-

iculties in buying food or accessing medical treatment.

While Shanghai's case numbers remain small by global standards, the city has emerged as a test bed for China's "dynamic clearance" anti-COVID strategy, which seeks to test, trace and centrally quarantine all positive cases and their close contacts.

Analysts say the restrictions' impact on the economy is mounting, especially for small businesses, with nearly 200 million people across China under some sort of lockdown, according to estimates by Nomura.

We will have a ban on gay conversion therapy, which to me is utterly abhorrent, but there are complexities and sensitivities when you move from the area of sexuality to the question of gender

BORIS JOHNSON | PM, UK

to proceed". Some campaigners had argued against a ban for transgender people however because they said it could complicate discussions about gender identity with parents or health officials. Johnson said that the issue "wasn't something I thought I would have to consider in great detail", adding that while he was sympa-

thetic to people who wanted to change gender, he worried that children were not mature enough to consent to treatment without parental involvement.

"These are complex issues, and I don't think they can be solved with one swift, easy piece of legislation," he said. "It takes a lot of thought to get this right."

A lawmaker in Johnson's Conservative party, Jamie Wallis, said last week that he planned to change his gender identity to become Britain's first openly transgender member of parliament. He said he was bitterly disappointed at the conversion therapy decision.

"We had such a huge opportunity to prove the UK (and the Conservative Party) is a defender of freedom. As a Conservative member of the LGBT+ community, it is so wrong it has come to this," Dehenna Davison said on Twitter.

business



Russia continues to be a critical economic partner and efforts were underway to stabilise economic transactions between India and Russia

LEADING THE WAY

In a first, billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd has set up electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure at its Mumbai campus to allow employees to charge their EVs free of cost



of the day quote

Government has approved the revival plan of BSNL and MTNL on October 23, 2019, which inter-alia includes in-principle approval for the merger of MTNL and BSNL. Due to financial reasons including high debt of MTNL, the merger of MTNL with BSNL is deferred

DEVUSINH CHAUHAN | MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS

While we will publish our fiscal 2022 financial results in due course, we are encouraged by our business momentum, scale of monetisation and operating leverage. We expect this to continue, and I believe we should be operating EBITDA breakeven in next 6 quarters

VIJAY SHAKHAR SHARMA | CEO, PAYTM

C4V has been working on battery and cell technology for quite some time that is not dependent on rare earth materials. Simple Energy along with C4V will jointly work on R&D of cell manufacturing that makes the battery packs of tomorrow safer and better performing

SHRESHTH MISHRA | CO-FOUNDER, SIMPLE ENERGY

ADB projects GDP to grow at 7.5%

The Asian Development Bank Outlook 2022 said that India's growth in the next fiscal year 2023-24 will accelerate further to 8 per cent, though China will witness a deceleration in growth to 4.8 per cent in 2023

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 6: India is likely to maintain its position as the fastest-growing major economy with the ADB outlook projecting a growth rate of 7.5 per cent for 2022-23 on strong investment prospects against 5 per cent for China in January-December 2022.

The ADB, however, flagged inflation as a major issue mainly on account of a rise in prices of commodities in wake of the ongoing Russia Ukraine war.

In its India Chapter, ADB said: "GDP is forecast to grow by 7.5 per cent in FY2022 (fiscal to be ending in March 2023) and 8 per cent in FY2023 (to be ending in March 2024), driven by strong investment growth, with public investment helping crowd-in private investment."

FY2022 refers to the 12 months ending 31 March 2023, ADB said about the India chapter. The Indian economy expanded by 8.9 per cent in the fiscal ended March 2021. China posted a growth rate of 8.1 per cent in 2021.

In the report, the Manila-based multilateral funding agency said the



growth in South Asia is projected to slow to 7 per cent in 2022, before picking up to 7.4 per cent in 2023. The subregion's growth dynamics are largely driven by India and Pakistan, it added.

Developing Asia's economies are predicted to grow by 5.2 per cent this year and 5.3 per cent in 2023, thanks to a robust recovery in domestic demand and continued expansion in exports, ADB said.

Developing Asia comprises 46 member countries of ADB by geographic group: the Caucasus and Central Asia, East Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

ADB said the Russian invasion of Ukraine poses the most severe risk to developing Asia's economic outlook. However, uncertainties from the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the continuing pandemic, and monetary tightening by the US Federal Reserve pose risks to the outlook.

The ADB forecast is based on a normal monsoon which, coupled with rising wheat prices, is expected to boost agriculture output and improve farmers' income.

The government's production-linked incentive scheme will provide a thrust to the manufacturing sector in FY2022 and FY2023, it said.

"Inflation will likely increase to 5.8 per cent in FY2022-23 amid rising oil prices. While the monetary policy will remain accommodative, the central bank (Reserve Bank of India) may hike policy rates in the latter part of the fiscal year due to the tightening of the United States federal funds rate and elevated oil prices. The current account deficit is projected to widen to 2.8 per cent of gross domestic product in FY2022 due to the rising oil import bill, and is expected to decline to 1.9 per cent in FY2023-24 amid an uptick in export growth," as per the outlook.

BPCL purchases 2 million barrels of Russian Urals

REUTERS

New Delhi, April 6: India's Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd has bought 2 million barrels of Russian Urals for May loading from trader Trafifigura, two sources familiar with the purchase said.

Refiners in India, the world's third biggest oil importer and consumer, have been snapping up Russian oil through spot deals since Russia's invasion of Ukraine Feb 24, taking advantage of deep discounts as other buyers back away. The state-run refiner regularly buys Russian Urals for its 310,000 barrels per day (bpd) Kochi refinery in southern India.

With BPCL's purchase, India has so far booked at least 16 million barrels of Russian oil since Feb 24, similar to imports in all of 2021, according to Reuters calculations. The Urals discount to dated Brent has hit a record for the post-Soviet era as some buyers shunned Russian oil. Unlike several Western countries, India has not banned Russian oil imports.

India's finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman last week said India would buy Russian oil if available at a discount.

"India's overall interest is what is kept in mind... I would put my country's national interest first, and I would keep my country's energy security first," she said.

Trustee units of SBI, Axis, IDBI under fee cartelisation probe



REUTERS

New Delhi, April 6: India's antitrust body is investigating the trustee units of State Bank of India, Axis Bank and IDBI Bank for suspected collusion on fees, triggering a lawsuit by a group representing them, documents seen by Reuters showed.

Indian regulations mandate that companies raising debt appoint a so-called "debenture trustee" to protect the interests of investors. The trustees charge a fee from the companies issuing the debt and make independent due-diligence checks on them.

The three under investigation - SBICAP Trustee Company, Axis Trustee and IDBI Trusteeship - are among the leaders in the business in India overseeing hundreds of billions of dollars by rendering trustee services for not just debt securities, but also real estate and other investment funds.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) in a confidential December order stated the Trustees Association of India - a body where the trio are founding members - last year "substantially" increased the fee for assisting companies raising debt and prevented members from going below a floor price, thereby hurting competition.

The association has launched a court challenge in Mumbai that seeks to quash the antitrust investigation directive it has termed "illegal" and "capricious", according to court filings. The lawsuit will be heard Thursday.

The antitrust probe and the impending court hearing, details of which have not been previously

Leading India debt trustees lock horns with India antitrust body

India antitrust body probing trustees for fee collusion-documents

Trustees say fee rise justified, watchdog acting beyond powers

Probe initiated after gold finance firm complained of high fees

reported, could have ramifications on India's nearly \$500 billion corporate debt market by altering costs and affecting the way trustees operate.

A finding of cartelisation could lead to a fine of up to three times the profit in each year the fee was fixed by the trustees, or 10% of annual revenue for the period of violation, whichever is more.

COMPLAINT BY BORROWER

The antitrust case was triggered by a complaint from Indian gold financing company Muthoot Finance. When it wanted to raise debt in August last year, Muthoot received a costing proposal which was 300% higher than previous rates.

The documents showed that when Muthoot protested, IDBI said in an August email "the new pricing structure is decided by the Trustee Association", adding that "any deviation by us in quoting the price would lead to adverse repercussion on us".

The CCI, while ordering its investigation, noted: "Such collective decision making by the association ... affects competition in the markets."

IEX's trade volume jumps 38%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 6: Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) clocked a 38 per cent growth in trade volume at 1,02,035 million units in financial year 2021-22. In the last fiscal, the total market volume stood at 73,941 MUs (Million Units).

"Cumulatively for the fiscal year 2022, the exchange market achieved an all-time high volume of 1,02,035 MUs leading to 38 per cent Y-o-Y growth," IEX said in a statement Wednesday.

It achieved a volume of 9,605 MUs in March. The volume comprised 8,702 MUs in the conven-



tional power market, 392 MUs in the green power market and 511 MUs (5.11 lakh certificates) in the REC market, registering 16 per cent Y-o-Y growth across all the segments.

The Day-Ahead Market volume at 5,858 MUs recorded a 4.4 per cent month-on-month growth in

March. The average market clearing price in March at ₹8.23 per unit was higher by 85 per cent on a monthly basis and 102 per cent on a YoY basis.

The price increase was mainly on account of early onset of the summer season leading to increased demand for power across all the states and low generation from the imported coal and gas-based generators due to record high imported coal and gas prices, the statement said. The Term-Ahead Market, comprising intra-day, contingency, daily and weekly contracts, traded 823 MUs in March, which is a YoY growth of 251 per cent.

Ambani tops Forbes '22 list

AGENCIES

New Delhi, April 6: Reliance Industries chairman and managing director Mukesh Ambani continues to stay on top of the list as the richest Indian with a net worth of \$90.7 billion, according to the Forbes Billionaires List 2022, which was published Tuesday.

Tesla and SpaceX chief Elon Musk emerged as the richest person in the world, followed by Amazon's Jeff Bezos and Louis Vuitton chief Bernard Arnault.

Ambani ranked at the 10th position on the global list, followed narrowly by fellow industrialist and

INDIA'S 10 RICHEST BILLIONAIRES

Adani Group founder Gautam Adani, whose fortune climbed by almost \$40 billion over the past year, to an estimated \$90 billion. Among other prominent faces on the list included Shiv Nadar, Cyrus Poonawalla, Radhakishan Damani, Lakshmi Mittal, Savitri Jindal, Kumar Birla, Dilip Shinghvi, Uday Kotak and Sunil Mittal. According to the Forbes report, Indian billionaires increased to a record high of 166 from 140 last year, with a combined wealth of \$760 billion. There were also 29 new entrées on the list of Indian billionaires.

SHORT TAKES

Intel suspends ops in Russia

San Francisco: Chipmaker Intel Wednesday said it has suspended all business operations in Russia, a month after announcing to stop shipments to customers in Russia and Belarus in the wake of Ukraine invasion. Intel said it continues to join the global community in condemning Russia's war against Ukraine and calling for a swift return to peace. "Effective immediately, we have suspended all business operations in Russia. This follows our earlier decision to suspend all shipments to customers in Russia and Belarus," the US tech giant informed.

Ruchi Soya shares slump

New Delhi: Shares of Ruchi Soya Industries took a severe beating on the bourses Wednesday as it plummeted nearly 19 per cent in early deals and was slowly recovering the lost ground as trading progressed during the day. The fall came a day after the company announced allotment of shares under the ₹4,300 crore-Follow on Public Offer (FPO) which had also come under regulatory lens for certain issues. On the BSE, the scrip opened at ₹706 apiece, which was also its intra-day low. Reflecting significant volatility, the share also touched an intra-day high of ₹815.

Tata to launch new electric SUV

New Delhi: Homegrown auto major Tata Motors is set to drive in a new electric SUV - Concept CURVV, with enhanced driving range and technology, within the next two years. The Mumbai-based auto major, which Wednesday showcased the electric SUV concept, aims to cater to the consumers who seek individuality and design differentiation, with the new product. The auto major plans to introduce the electric version of the coupe-style SUV first, and then follow it up with internal combustion engine trims.

MSI to hike vehicle prices

New Delhi: The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) Wednesday said it will increase prices of its entire model range this month amid rise in input costs. Over the past year, the cost of company's vehicles continued to be adversely impacted due to increase in various input costs, the auto major said in a regulatory filing. "Therefore, it has become imperative for the company to pass on some impact of the above additional costs to customers through a price hike," it added. The company has planned to increase the prices in April and the hike will vary for different models.

DADLS-02

ବିକାଶର ନୂଆ ପରିଭାଷା, ଗଢ଼ିବା ନୂଆ ଓଡ଼ିଶା

- 'ବିକାଶ ସାଧ୍ୟ କଲ୍ୟାଣ ଯୋଜନା'ରେ ରାଜ୍ୟର ୯୬ ଲକ୍ଷ ପରିବାରକୁ ନୂଆ 'ସ୍ୱାର୍ଥ ହେଉଅଛି କାର୍ତ୍ତି' ଯୋଗାଣ ।
- ବିକାଶ ସାଧ୍ୟ କଲ୍ୟାଣ ସ୍ୱାର୍ଥ କାର୍ତ୍ତି କରିଥାଉ ଉତ୍ତମ ଉପାଦାନରେ ଉତ୍ତମ ଯୋଗାଣ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ଦୈନିକ ହାରାହାରି ୨.୫ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କା ବ୍ୟୟ କରାଯାଉଛି ।
- ପାଲଲଗାରି, ନବରଙ୍ଗପୁର, ନୂଆପଡ଼ା ଓ କଳାହାଣ୍ଡି ଜିଲ୍ଲାର ଜନସାଧାରଣଙ୍କୁ ନୂଆ ଯୋଗାଣ ପାଇଁ 'ପ୍ରତ୍ୟକ୍ଷ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ'ର ଶୁଭାରମ୍ଭ ।
- ୨୦୨୧-୨୨ ଅଗ୍ରମ ଆକରଣ ଅନୁଯାୟୀ କାର୍ତ୍ତା ଅର୍ଥନୀତି ଅଭିବୃଦ୍ଧି ହାର ୮.୮ ରହିଥିବା ସ୍ୱରାଜ୍ୟରେ ଅଭିବୃଦ୍ଧି ହାର ୧୦.୦୧ ପ୍ରତିଶତ ରହିଛି ।
- ମହାମାରୀ ସତ୍ତ୍ୱେ ପୂଜି ନିବେଶ ଅଗ୍ରଣୀ କ୍ଷେତ୍ର ଭାବେ ପରିଗଣିତ ହୋଇ ଓଡ଼ିଶାରେ ବିଗତ ତିନିବର୍ଷ ଧ୍ୟରେ ୪.୫ ଲକ୍ଷ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କାକୁ ଅଧିକ ପୂଜି ନିବେଶ ସହ ୧.୫୩ ଲକ୍ଷରୁ ଉର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ୱ ନିୟୁତ୍ତ ସୁଯୋଗ ସୃଷ୍ଟି ।
- ମହିଳା ସ୍ୱୟଂ ସହାୟକ ଗୋଷ୍ଠୀମାନଙ୍କ ସମ୍ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣକରିବା ପାଇଁ ଆରମ୍ଭ କରାଯାଉଥିବା 'ୱିଡିଆସିକ ଆକାଶ' 'ମିଶନ ଶକ୍ତି'ରେ ୭୦ ଲକ୍ଷ ମହିଳା ସାମିଲ । 'ମିଶନ ଶକ୍ତି'ରୁ ୨୦୨୦-୨୧ ବର୍ଷରେ ୧୨୭ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କାର ସୁଧ ରିହାତି ପ୍ରଦାନ ।
- ଡିଭେନ୍ସର ୨୦୨୧ ସୁଦ୍ଧା 'କାରିଆ' ଯୋଜନାରେ ରାଜ୍ୟର ୫୭ ଲକ୍ଷ ଶୁଦ୍ର ଓ ନାମମାତ୍ର ଗଣ୍ୟ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିଙ୍କୁ ନୂଆ ପରିବାରକୁ ସହାୟତା ପ୍ରଦାନ ।
- '୫-୫' 'ବିକାଶ ସାଧ୍ୟ କଲ୍ୟାଣ ଯୋଜନା'ର ପ୍ରଥମ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟାୟରେ ରାଜ୍ୟର ୧,୦୭୭ ଲକ୍ଷ ବିକାଶରେ ଉପାଦାନ ।
- ଷ୍ଟେଟ୍ ସ୍ୱାଭିଭାଷ୍ୟ ସ୍ୱାଭିଭାଷ୍ୟ ୫୦ ହଜାର ୨୨୩ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କାର ପୂଜି ବରାଦ କରାଯାଇ ୨୦୨୪ ସୁଦ୍ଧା ରାଜ୍ୟର ସମସ୍ତ ଗ୍ରାମୀଣ ପରିବାରକୁ ପାଇବ ପାମାୟ ଜଳ ସଂଯୋଗର ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟ ।

- ରାଜ୍ୟର ୬୩ଟି ସହରାଞ୍ଚଳରେ ଶତପ୍ରତିଶତ ପାଇବ ପାମାୟ ଜଳ ସଂଯୋଗ କରି ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଆଜି ଦେଶର ଏକ ପଥ ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶକ ରାଜ୍ୟ । 'ସ୍ୱାଧୀନକର୍ମ ଟ୍ୟାପୁ' ବିଶ୍ୱକ ପିଲ୍ଲୀ ପାଣି ମିଶନ'ରେ ଲକ୍ଷନ, ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟକର୍ମ ଓ ସିଙ୍ଗାପୁର ଭଳି ଅନ୍ତର୍ଗାୟ ସହର ସହିତ ସମଗ୍ର ହୋଇଛି ପୁରା ସହର ।
- ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଗ୍ରାମୀଣ ଆବାସ ଯୋଜନାରେ ପଛାଉର ପାଇଥିବା ୩୧ ଲକ୍ଷ ହିତାଧିକାରୀ ପରିବାରକୁ ଘର ନାମାତି ଓ ରକ୍ଷଣାବେକ୍ଷଣ ପାଇଁ 'ବିକାଶ ସାଧ୍ୟ କଲ୍ୟାଣ ଯୋଜନା'ରେ ୧,୪୪୪ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କାର ଆର୍ଥିକ ସହାୟତା ପ୍ରଦାନ ।
- 'ବକ୍ସି ଉନ୍ନତିକରଣ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ' ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ରାଜ୍ୟର ୧ ଲକ୍ଷ ୭୦ ହଜାର ଭୂମିହୀନ ପରିବାରକୁ ଭୂମି ଅଧିକାର ପ୍ରମାଣପତ୍ର ପ୍ରଦାନ କରାଯାଇ ରାଜ୍ୟର ୮ଟି ସହରକୁ ବକ୍ସିକରଣ କରାଯାଇଥିବା ରାଜ୍ୟକୁ 'ଏସିଆ ପାରିସିକ୍ ହାଉସି' ଫୋରମ୍ ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟରେ ପୁରସ୍କାର-୨୦୨୧' ପ୍ରଦାନ ।
- ଗ୍ରାମୀଣ ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟପତ୍ର ଉପାଦାନ ସହିତ ଗ୍ରାମୀଣସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ସମଗ୍ର କରିବା ଆମ ସରକାରଙ୍କ ମୁଖ୍ୟ ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟ । ୧୨୦ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କା ବ୍ୟୟରେ ରାଜ୍ୟରକୋଠାରେ ନିର୍ମାଣାଧୀନ ଦେଶର ସର୍ବବୃହତ୍ 'ବିକାଶ ସାଧ୍ୟ କଲ୍ୟାଣ ହକି ଷ୍ଟାଡ଼ିୟମ୍' ସହିତ କିଛି ଷ୍ଟାଡ଼ିୟମରେ ପୁରୁଷ ହକି ବିଶ୍ୱକପ-୨୦୨୩ ଆୟୋଜିତ ହେବ ।
- ଟୋକିଓ ଅଲମ୍ପିକ୍ ୨୦୨୦ରେ ଭାରତୀୟ ହକି ଦଳର ଚମତ୍କାର ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶନକୁ ସ୍ମୃତିରେ ରଖି ଆଗାମୀ ୧୦ ବର୍ଷ ପାଇଁ ଅର୍ଥାତ୍ ୨୦୩୩ ମସିହା ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଭାରତୀୟ ହକି ଦଳର ପ୍ରାୟୋଗିକ ଆମ ରାଜ୍ୟ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ।
- ଗ୍ରାମୀଣ ଓ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ ଜନ କଲ୍ୟାଣ ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ ସାଧନ ପାଇଁ ୭୦୦ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କା ବ୍ୟୟରେ ରାଜ୍ୟର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ସହରାଞ୍ଚଳରେ ୮୯ଟି 'ବକ୍ସିକରଣ ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ' ନିର୍ମାଣାଧୀନ ।

ସୂଚନା ଓ ଲୋକସମ୍ପର୍କ ବିଭାଗ



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କାଳିଆ

କୃଷି ଜଳେ ଉନ୍ନତ ସମ୍ପଦ ଉନ୍ନତି



ସୁଜଳ

PAT ONSLAUGHT LIFTS KNIGHTS



Pat Cummins

which sealed it for KKR. Together with Iyer, Cummins shared 61 runs in just 2.5 overs to overhaul MI's total of 161/4. MI, thus, slumped to their third defeat in as many matches.

KKR made a sedate start reaching 16 off the first four overs. The wickets of Ajinkya Rahane and skipper Shreyas Iyer made life difficult for KKR as they slumped to 35/2 in the sixth over. Sam Billings made 17 off 12 balls before he was dismissed by Murugan Ashwin (2/25).

Iyer, on the other hand, went about his business in his own way and kept the scoreboard ticking. While Iyer stood firm at one end, wickets kept tumbling from the other as Nitish Rana failed once again, caught at deep midwicket by Sams off Ashwin.

Andre Russell played a five-ball 11-run knock before he left Iyer stranded, top-edging a Tymal Mills (2/38) short delivery to Dewald Brevis. Cummins then took the attack to the opposition.

Earlier, veteran Kieron Pollard (22 n o, 5b, 3x6) complemented Suryakumar Yadav's brisk half century (52, 36b, 5x4, 2x6) by amassing 23 runs in the last over to propel MI after KKR kept things tight for a major part of their innings.

After an 83-run fourth-wicket stand between Surya and Tilak Varma (38 n o, 27b, 3x4, 2x6), Pollard smashed the world's premier fast bowler Cummins for three sixes to end MI's innings on a high.

Opting to bowl first on a fresh pitch with plenty of grass, KKR's opening bowlers used the conditions to perfection as pacer Umesh Yadav (1/25) and debutant Rasikh Salam (0/18) relied on back of length deliveries to trouble MI's opening duo of skipper Rohit Sharma and Ishan Kishan.

Umesh and Cummins picked up early wickets to reduce MI to 55/3. Umesh looked more threatening of the two as he consistently tested the high-profile MI opening batters with his probing length, pro-

ducing a fantastic first over which yielded just one run. Salam tried to match his senior pro.

Umesh struck first blood in the third over with a back-of-length delivery to get Rohit for the fifth time in IPL, with the MI skipper failing to control a pull. Then came another debutant Dewald Brevis (29), known as 'Baby AB' for his 360 degree shot-making abilities, and he tried to attack the KKR bowlers.

He succeeded in his endeavour for a brief period, but fell to Varun Chakravarthy (1/32). All this while, MI's man-in-form Ishan Kishan (14) was a quiet spectator at the other end.

BRIEF SCORES: Mumbai Indians 161/4 (Suryakumar Yadav 52, Tilak Varma 38 n o, Dewald Brevis 29, Kieron Pollard 22 n o; Pat Cummins 2/49, Umesh Yadav 1/25, Varun Chakravarthy 1/32) lost to Kolkata Knight Riders 162/5 (Pat Cummins 56 n o, Venkatesh Iyer 50 n o; Murugan Ashwin 2/25, Tymal Mills 2/38) by 5 wickets.

Coulter-Nile ruled out of IPL

New Delhi: In a big blow to Rajasthan Royals, Australian pace bowling all-rounder Nathan Coulter-Nile was on Wednesday ruled out of the ongoing IPL, owing to a side strain he suffered during the team's first game against Sunrisers Hyderabad. The 34-year-old has returned home for rehabilitation. "Unfortunately, I have the hard task of wishing him farewell," RR's head physio John Gloster said in a video posted by the franchise on Twitter. "It's always hard to lose someone, particularly when it's through injury. And you know we were really looking forward to spending a lot of time with you (Coulter-Nile) throughout this tournament. Unfortunately, that's not going to be. But you are a big part of us. Anything you need from us, we are always here. We look forward to having you back with us, whenever that might be." It was in the final over of the SRH innings when Coulter-Nile began to struggle in his follow-through and walked off the field March 29. He was picked up by RR for Rs 2 crore in the IPL mega auction.

Shastri impressed with Tilak show

Mumbai: Former India coach Ravi Shastri is hugely impressed with the performance of young Mumbai Indians batter Tilak Varma in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL). Varma, who is in his debut IPL season, scored a fine 61 against Rajasthan Royals in the game played last week. "He has shown a lot of potential in both the innings he has played for Mumbai Indians. I am impressed looking at his wide range of shots- front foot, back foot, sweep," Shastri told Star Sports. "There's a lot of variation in his shot selection. His composure, body language and temperament is very good for a young player. He's batted very confidently. This player has the potential to go ahead." Shastri also claimed that Varma along with Suryakumar Yadav will make the Mumbai Indians' middle-order strong. "He has shown positive intent with his batting and these are good signs for Mumbai Indians. Once Suryakumar Yadav is back in the playing eleven, Mumbai's middle-order will be strong."

Rahul, Pant engage in t 'Battle of wits'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 6: KL Rahul and Rishabh Pant, the two enormously gifted cricketers, earmarked as future India captains will be showcasing their tactical acumen when newcomers Lucknow Super Giants square off with Delhi Capitals in an IPL match Thursday.

Rahul and Pant, both match-winners in their own rights even with the bat, will like to seize the initiative in these early rounds.

IPL is a great platform where a good exhibition of meticulous homework, informed decision making with a dash of punt at critical junctures will hold any leader in good stead.

India will be playing a lot of cricket in next few years and with national captain Rohit Sharma's workload management is paramount, Rahul and Pant will both like to make a strong case for themselves going into the future.

And hence, the availability of the dashing David Warner and fit



again Anrich Nortje for Capitals and the dependable Marcus Stoinis for LSG will certainly add to the depth of the playing XIs and bolster the competitive edge.

It is expected that Tim Seifert will make way for Warner in the Capitals line-up and Nortje is set to enter the playing eleven at the expense of either Rovman Power or Mustafizur Rahman who starred with the ball in the previous game.

them a rollicking start alongside mercurial Prithvi Shaw.

In case of LSG, skipper Rahul two good knocks against CSK and Sunrisers Hyderabad would like that Quinton de Kock also repeats his performance against CSK.

However it is LSG's bowling that needs to stop DC's batting firepower which will grow manifold in Warner's presence and skipper Pant and Shaw also waiting for their big knocks.

While Lalit Yadav is growing in confidence with each passing game, it is veteran batter Mandeep Singh, who is the weakest link in the batting line-up. The way Mandeep backed towards leg-stump to deliveries from Lockie Ferguson and even Hardik Pandya, didn't make a pleasant sight.

However with LSG's attack not having an express quick in absence of Mark Wood, Pant and coach Riicky Ponting might be tempted to give the former Punjab captain one more chance.

In case, he doesn't get it then

the three available options are Kona Bharat, Sarfaraz Khan and Yash Dhull. Sarfaraz was in great form during first-class season while Bharat did well for RCB last year in the few chances that he got.

In case Lucknow, Manish Pandey has looked horribly out of touch but Gambhir is known to back his players which could well save him from getting the axe. Also there is no denying that LSG's bench strength when it comes to Indian batting back-up isn't great.

The two available players are Manan Vohra, who even after a decade in IPL, has failed to deliver and there is Uttar Pradesh white-ball captain Karan Sharma, who isn't exactly a finished product.

TODAY'S MATCH

LSG vs DC

Time: 07:30 pm

TELECAST

Star Sports channels & Hotstar

Sindhu, Srikanth sail through KDB gives City edge over Atletico

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Suncheon, April 9: Top Indian shuttlers PV Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth made impressive starts to their respective singles campaign, progressing to the pre-quarterfinals with straight game wins over their respective opponents at the Korea Open Super 500 badminton tournament here Wednesday.

Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medallist, trounced USA's Lauren Lam 21-15, 21-14, while Srikanth saw off Malaysia's World No.35 Daren Liew 22-20, 21-11 at the Palma Stadium.

The third seeded Sindhu, who had claimed the Swiss Open title recently, will next meet Japan's Aya Ogori, while world championships silver medallist Srikanth, seeded fifth, will be up against Israel's Misha Zilberman.

Indian men's doubles pairing of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chiruv Shetty and MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila also progressed to the second round.

While Satwik and Chirag got the better of Korea's Tae Yang Shin



and Wang Chan 21-16, 21-15, Arjun and Dhruv got a walkover from Korea's Ba Da Kim and Hee Young Park.

Satwik and Chirag, seeded third, will take on Singapore's Hee Yong Kai Terry and Loh Kean Hean, while Arjun and Dhruv face second seeded Indonesian pair of Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Setiawan next.

Sri Krishna Priya Kudaravalli, however, bowed out after losing 5-21, 13-21 to second seeded Korean An Seyoung in a women's singles

match. Sindhu kept a firm grip on her match, especially in the opening game as she opened up a 7-2 lead early and swelled it to 16-9 at one stage before closing it comfortably.

The second game was a see-saw battle initially but Sindhu ensured a one-point advantage at the interval and then reeled off six straight points to come up trumps.

In men's singles, Srikanth had come into the match lagging 0-3 in head-to-head count against Liew and the Indian had to struggle in the opening game with the Malaysian producing a tough fight.

The Indian managed to be 11-9 up at the break but the Malaysian made it 18-15 at one stage. Srikanth, however, kept his cool and erased the deficit to grab one match point. He squandered one before sealing the game.

Srikanth produced a much improved show in the second game, running up a lead of 4-0 early on. Liew clawed his way back to 7-8 but the Indian then scored 8 straight points to pull away from the Malaysian.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manchester, April 6: Kevin De Bruyne scored the only goal to give Manchester City a 1-0 win over Atletico Madrid in the first leg of their Champions League quarter-final.

After a tight 70 minutes, City finally found its way through Atletico's tough rearguard helped by Phil Foden's vision. Just 79 seconds after coming off the bench, Foden slid in a fine throughball and De Bruyne raced through to fire in a low shot from a tight angle.

Both City and Atletico have reached the Champions League final but have never lifted the trophy. Atletico played its usual cagey game as coach Diego Simeone had promised.

The first half was played at a slow tempo with City controlling most of the ball but, despite having all of its outfield players in the final third at times, being unable to create openings.

De Bruyne and Joao Cancelo both had efforts deflected wide and Aymeric Laporte missed the target with a header.

Ilkay Gundogan shot well over and Rodri had a long-range effort blocked before De Bruyne had a penalty appeal turned down and John Stones also missed.

"It is very hard," De Bruyne said. "They played almost five at the back and five in midfield, it is very hard to find the spaces."

It was not until the second half that the hosts tried to inject more pace into their play. That did open the game up slightly and Atletico almost capitalized with a couple of breaks from deep. Antoine Griezmann wasted one opening with a poor pass and Marcos Llorente chipped tamely at goalkeeper Ederson from another.

However, City also began to threaten more as Gundogan had an effort deflected wide and Laporte went close with a header.

City appealed for another penalty for a push by Reinildo on Sterling but it was not given. That proved Sterling's final involvement as manager Pep Guardiola took him off in the move that changed the game.

Foden, who came on alongside Jack Grealish and Gabriel Jesus,



SLICK FINISH: Kevin de Bruyne scores past the Atletico goalie Jan Oblak at the Etihad Stadium, Tuesday

teed up De Bruyne for the goal. Foden created another chance for De Bruyne soon after following a tricky run to the byline but this time

Atletico had enough players back to block.

"The way we played was good because we didn't give anything away,"

De Bruyne said. "You need to be calm and patient, try to find the balls and the spaces because they were compact."

DIAZ STARS ON RETURN TO PORTUGAL

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lisbon, April 6: It just had to be Luis Diaz. The Colombia winger was the last player Benfica supporters inside the atmospheric Estádio da Luz wanted to see race onto a through-ball and produce an emphatic finish to complete a 3-1 win for Liverpool in the first leg of the Champions League quarter-finals Tuesday.

After all, Diaz was playing for Porto, Benfica's big rival in Portugal, until he was signed by Liverpool in January. No wonder he was whistled by home fans — and even targeted with objects thrown from the stands — as he wheeled away in celebration following his crucial third goal in the 87th minute.

It was a brilliantly taken goal, too, as Diaz latched onto Naby Keita's deflected pass that split Benfica's



defense before rounding the goalkeeper and slotting his finish into the unguarded net from a tight angle.

Diaz, who was jeered whenever he touched the ball, played a big part in Liverpool's second goal, too, when he nodded down a pinpoint long pass by Trent Alexander-Arnold to allow Sadio Mane to tap home from close range in the 34th.

That built on Liverpool's opener scored by Ibrahima Konaté — the center back's first for the club —

off an outswinging corner from Robertson in the 17th minute.

The hosts took the game more to the six-time European champions in the second half and Uruguay striker Darwin Nunez capitalized on a mistake by Konaté to pull a goal back in the 49th.

There were a few more rocky moments for Liverpool. Still, the Reds passed the latest test in their bid for an unprecedented quadruple of trophies, with the semifinals now in sight. They have already won the English League Cup, and are in the semifinals of the FA Cup, and are one point behind leaders Manchester City in the Premier League.

Klopp even took the option of bringing off star attackers Mane and Mohamed Salah in the 61st minute, perhaps with the league showdown against City Sunday in mind.



DESTINATION REACHED

Members of the Netherlands women's hockey team walk out of the Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar Wednesday. The World No.1 side will take on India eves in a two-legged FIH Pro League tie April 8 & 9 at the iconic Kalinga Stadium.