



FOR A CAUSE

Actor Mrunal Thakur says that she wants to essay a sports person on screen to encourage aspiring athletes

LEISURE P2



PUTIN DEFENDS WAR

Putin defends the war in Ukraine as a 'noble' mission that would achieve its goals as his troops massed for a new offensive

INTERNATIONAL P10



MI FACE PBKS TODAY

Mumbai Indians seek change of fortunes as they look for their first win of the season when they face Punjab Kings

SPORTS P12

16 hurt in Brooklyn subway shooting

AGENCIES

New York, April 12: A gunman in a construction vest donned a gas mask, set off a smoke canister on a rush-hour subway train and shot at least 10 people Tuesday morning, authorities said.

The shooter was at large and described as dangerous after leaving wounded commuters bleeding on a Brooklyn platform while others ran screaming. Five people were in critical but condition but expected to survive. At least 16 in all were injured in some way in the attack that began on a subway train that pulled into the 36th Street station in the borough's Sunset Park neighbourhood.

Police Commissioner Keechant Sewell said the attack was not being investigated as terrorism, but that she was "not ruling out anything."

The shooter has not been identified and the motive remains unknown. "My subway door opened into calamity. It was smoke and blood and people screaming," eyewitness Sam Carcamo told radio station 1010 WINS, saying he saw a gigantic billow of smoke pouring out of the N train once the door opened.

The attack unnerved a city on guard about a rise in gun violence and the ever-present threat of terrorism.

It left some New Yorkers jittery about riding the nation's busiest subway system and prompted officials to increase policing at transportation hubs from Philadelphia to Connecticut.

Woman falls to death during cable car rescue ops



Deoghar: At least three people have died in the rescue operation in Jharkhand where over 40 people were trapped in cable cars mid-air since Sunday after two cable cars collided with each other due to a technical glitch on the ropeway. One of the dead was a woman who fell to the ground as she was brought down through a rope during the rescue operation in Trikut Hills in Jharkhand's Deoghar district Tuesday. Video from the site showed the woman losing balance and falling to the ground meters below. The woman, who suffered serious injuries, later died during treatment, officials said. All the 40 people who remained trapped mid-air in three cable cars were rescued Tuesday. **MORE P9**

Retail inflation soars to 17-month high



New Delhi: Costlier food items pushed the retail inflation to a 17-month high of 6.95 per cent in March, much above the upper tolerance level of the RBI, according to government data released Tuesday. This is the third consecutive month that the Consumer Price Index-based inflation remained above 6 per cent. The previous high at 7.61 per cent was recorded in October 2020. The inflation in the food basket shot up to 7.68 per cent in March 2022, from 5.85 per cent in the preceding month. Retail inflation was 5.52 per cent in March 2021, while the food inflation stood at 4.87 per cent. The RBI's tolerance limit of retail inflation is 4 per cent with a 2 per cent margin on either side. **MORE P11**

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Family of 5 murdered

Man wipes out his elder brother's entire family and confesses to the horrific crime through a video message



ACCUSED SHIVA SAHU



Alekh Sahu, his wife Rashmi Rekha and their children

OP PHOTOS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Mahanga, April 12: In a heart wrenching incident, a man allegedly hacked all five members of his elder brother's family, including two minor children, to death in Kusumpur village under Mahanga police limits here over some property dispute late Monday night, police said Tuesday.

The accused, Shiva Sahu, confessed to the crime through a video message and surrendered before the

Balichandrapur police in the neighbouring Jajpur district, which is nearer to his village.

In his recorded confession, Shiva could be seen saying, "My elder brother and his family members had been torturing me for a long time. They assaulted me and beat me up following our dispute over property last night (Monday). I was aggrieved and lost my cool. I wiped out my brother's family. I will accept any punishment as per law."

The deceased were identified as Alekh Sahu, 50, his wife Rashmi Rekha Prusti, 42, their daughter Smruti Sandhya, 19, and two sons—Smruti Swarup,

16, and Smruti Sai, 14. The gruesome incident came to the fore when locals found Alekh's house and his stationery shop nearby closed till 10am. Suspecting foul play, they informed the police.

Although Shiva claims that he alone managed to eliminate the family, locals suspect involvement of some more people.

Balichandrapur inspector in-charge Ramakanta Muduli said Shiva had visited his brother's place Monday night to discuss the land dispute. However, the discussion turned violent and the accused killed his brother and his family with a sharp-edged weapon.

He then bolted the room from outside before leaving for Balichandrapur police station in Jajpur district.

Locals said Shiva and his brother often quarrelled over landed property and pension money of their father. There were efforts by villagers to settle issue between the two families, but to no avail.

Cuttack (Rural) SP Jugal Kishor Kumar Banoth said that the motive behind the ghastly murders was land dispute. A case has been registered and the matter is under investigation. The accused is being questioned for further details, the SP said.

NCST issues arrest warrant against Keonjhar Collector

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, April 12: The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) has issued an arrest warrant against the Keonjhar Collector Ashish Thakare for absconding and failing to appear before it despite repeated summons, an official said Tuesday.

In a letter to Director General of Police (DGP) Sunil Kumar Bansal, the commission said since September 2021, it has on several occasions summoned Keonjhar Collector Ashish Thakare to appear before it in connection with a case relating to non-payment of compensation and employment benefits to Dara Singh Khuntia under land acquisition by the ISLF Limited. However, the officer played truant.

"Since September 2021, the NCST had issued at least four summons to the district Collector to appear before it in person. But to no avail. It even asked the officer to appear before it during a hearing in Bhubaneswar April 4 to which he also did not respond. Following non-appearance before the commission April 4, the NCST, invoking the powers of the civil court vested on it under clause (8) of Article 338A, issued an arrest warrant Tuesday," read the commission's letter.

The NCST asked the DGP to ar-



The NCST has asked DGP Sunil Kumar Bansal to arrest Keonjhar Collector Ashish Thakare

rest the officer and produce him before the commission in New Delhi.

"You are further ordered to return this warrant on or before the 13.04.2022 at 11:00 AM with an endorsement certifying the day and the manner in which it has been executed, or the reason why it has not been executed," the letter read.

Notably, under Article 338A of the Constitution, the NCST has the powers of a civil court and can issue an arrest warrant against the person concerned in case of non-execution of its summons.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Our leaders are 24x7 politicians. They can turn anything into a political issue like our clothes, food, prayers...

K'taka contractor kills self, blames minister

AGENCIES

Bangalore, April 12: The death of a contractor who levelled corruption charges against a Karnataka Minister erupted into a major political row Tuesday with the opposition Congress calling for the resignation or dismissal of the Minister concerned while the party's top leader Rahul Gandhi launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and CMBasavaraj Bommai over the matter.

While Bommai said the police will conduct a thorough and transparent investigation, a defiant KS Eshwarappa, who is facing the heat over the death of Santosh Patil, refused to resign from the cabinet, insisting he was not at fault and that he had even filed a defamation suit against the deceased after he had alleged the Rural Development had demanded 40 per cent commission for some works. Earlier, Patil's body was found in a room of a private lodge in the coastal town of Udipi. In his purported message on social media before the death, Patil, who hails from Belagavi district, allegedly held the Minister responsible for his death.

CELEBRATING HARVEST



People dressed in traditional Punjabi attire, dance in celebration of the upcoming festival of Vaisakhi, at a wheat field on the outskirts of Amritsar, Tuesday

Joda clashes: Internet snapped in Keonjhar

AGENCIES

Keonjhar, April 12: Internet services were Tuesday suspended in Keonjhar district in the wake of the clashes that had broken out between members of two communities over a Ram Navami rally a day ago.

The district administration also extended the prohibitory orders imposed on Joda town, the site of the clashes, for another 24 hours, a senior official said.

"Prohibitory orders under Section 144 CrPc were first imposed Monday evening till 10am Tuesday in view of the clashes. It was extended later by 24 hours to avoid mass gathering. Internet services have been suspended to prevent rumour-mongering," the district official said.

All banking operations and mineral transportation activities came to a grinding halt with the extension, leaving rows of trucks stranded on the thoroughfares. **MORE P5**

Secretariat to reopen for scribes from April 18

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 12: After a gap of more than two years, the state government Tuesday decided to reopen state Secretariat buildings, Lok Seva Bhawan, Kharavel Bhawan and Rajiv Bhawan to public and accredited journalists from April 18. Home department Special Secretary PC Pradhan has written to all government departments in this regard Tuesday.

"Keeping in view the recent pandemic situation and relaxation of Covid restrictions, the government has been pleased to inform that the reception counter at the Lok Seva Bhawan, Kharavel Bhawan and Rajiv Bhawan will be made fully functional from April 18, 2022 for allowing general public for their grievances and other official work in the Secretariat," Pradhan said in the letter.

Guard your lemons, thieves steal 60kg in UP's Shahjahanpur

In Lucknow, lemon is selling at ₹325 per kilogram and ₹13 per piece which is decidedly higher than other fruits in the market

AGENCIES

Shahjahanpur (UP), April 12: Anything that is valuable is a thief's delight. And with the prices of lemon skyrocketing in the market, thieves in Shahjahanpur stole 60kilogram of lemon stored in a vegetable trader's godown.

The thieves also stole some other high-priced vegetables from the godown. Manoj Kashyap, the vegetable trader, said the thieves took away 60kilogram of lemon, 40kg of onions, 38kg of garlic and a fork from his godown.

The trader from Bahadurganj

Mohalla, who has a shop in the Bajaria area, said that Sunday morning when he reached the vegetable market, he saw that the lock of the godown was broken and the vegetables were lying scattered on the road.

On receiving information about the theft, in this case, the traders gathered and expressed their displeasure. The police spokesman said that they were apprised of the matter and would track down the thieves at the earliest.

The prices of lemon have shot up to an unimaginable extent in the recent weeks.



The twist of lemon in Dal tadka, a sprinkle on tandoori chicken and the tang in salads have gone out due to escalating prices

In Lucknow, lemon is selling at ₹325 per kilogram and ₹13 per piece which is decidedly higher than other fruits in the market. The twist of lemon in Dal tadka, a sprinkle on tandoori chicken and the tang in salads has gone out due to escalating prices. Lemonade, popularly known

as 'shikanji', is no longer served to guests in the scorching heat.

While the high price has forced the ordinary people to cut down the consumption drastically, many roadside 'dhabas' and take-away eateries have stopped serving lemons. Lemons are also flying off salad platters in luxury restaurants.

President of the Federation of Hotel & Restaurant Association, Girish Oberoi, said, "Small hotels have stopped serving lemon." He said that the sudden escalation in prices was mainly due to hike in fuel prices and also low output.



BRITNEY ANNOUNCES PREGNANCY DAYS AFTER DISCLOSING MARRIAGE

Pop star Britney Spears has announced her pregnancy just a few days after she subtly revealed that she has secretly tied the knot with actor Sam Asghari. The latter also took to his own account to confirm that he's going to be a father soon, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.

SEAN PENN CONSIDERED TAKING UP ARMS AGAINST RUSSIA

Director-actor Sean Penn considered joining Ukraine's resistance against Russia. "I was at the gas station in Brentwood the other day and I'm now thinking about taking up arms against Russia? What the hell is going on?" he told the inaugural edition of new quarterly magazine *Hollywood Authentic*, reports *Variety*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Your sportsman spirit will find its way into both your professional and personal life. Today may be an important day in your life, and Ganesh says you must not forget your special quality.

TAURUS
Today, you will be as creative and competent as you can get. Your work style, the deft way you handle things will awe and amaze your colleagues and superiors. Your subordinates will be highly impressed and motivated. They will be eager and compliant and will support and assist you to the utmost. The project you are working will progress speedily. This will turn out to be an exceptionally fruitful day, assures Ganesh.

GEMINI
Dress to kill today! People around you may or may not comment, but they will definitely notice you. Your sense of style and taste will bowl everyone over. People would scramble for a glimpse of you. In short, you will be a celebrity. Most probably, your beloved will share the limelight with you. Enjoy!

CANCER
You are at your industrious best today. You will be able to think the unthinkable, achieve the unachievable, and impress an emotionally impregnable boss. Your confidence level will be sky-high; in fact, it will make overconfidence wallow in self-doubt. Your colleagues will be awestruck, considering themselves lucky to see you in action.

LEO
If it's a fresh start that you are looking for, then this day promises to give you just that, predicts Ganesh. If you have chalked out plans for your future, today you may go ahead and implement some. Remember that rushing blindly into anything is not the solution; it is always the slow and steady who wins the race. Consider executing your ideas in phases, advises Ganesh. It's easier to achieve targets in good time when they come in manageable bits.

VIRGO
An unusual dose of creativity will motivate you to make a trip to some exotic place and mingle with new people. You will have some experiences that will enrich you mentally and emotionally. But don't unpack yet, there may be another adventure on the cards. Ganesh says you will be very flexible and adaptable today.

LIBRA
Ganesh says you will be getting good news from abroad, which will make you happy. Those of you who are searching for jobs will get good news coming your way. Ganesh says that you should not expect too much or you would feel dejected and disappointed when it is not met.

SCORPIO
You might just blow your fuse today, warns Ganesh. Anger will melt all sense and sensibilities. But if logic does prevail eventually, things may just improve as the day passes. Ganesh says it is high time you awakened your softer side.

SAGITTARIUS
Watch out for Cupid's arrow today, warns Ganesh. Love will strike and strike hard. Alternatively, you may also find yourself in an argument with a loved one that ought to have been avoided. An evening of romance beckons... keep the roses ready and the carpet rolled to heal any bruises you might have caused.

CAPRICORN
Your extraordinary skills, passion for perfection, and an overpowering personality will inspire and motivate those around you, says Ganesh. Many will, in fact, emulate your actions, so much so that you could most likely have a fan following. But while the inspired lot may achieve success and move on to target higher goals, you are likely to miss out on the best of opportunities to make money.

AQUARIUS
Today, you're up against those who want to get back at you. But not for nothing are you the king! Ganesh says you needn't worry, as few can match your prowess. Amid all the hullabaloo, your spouse will be a supportive presence.

PISCES
Within adversity, lie the lessons of success; avoid having to resort to that philosophy by implementing your plans, if they are well thought out, in a phased manner. This will help you achieve your targets, says Ganesh.



MRUNAL WANTS TO PLAY A SPORTSWOMAN

MUMBAI: Actress Mrunal Thakur, who was last seen in an extended cameo appearance in Kartik Aaryan's *Dhamaka*, says that she would love to play a sportsperson on the big screen.

She says, "In India, we don't make as many films on female athletes as much as they deserve to be told and made. It is important because, through our films, aspiring athletes gets encouragement and a whole new world opens up for them."

"I would personally love to essay a sportsperson on screen. To ready for it, to train for it, it's inspiring and also extremely challenging. Because you're embodying a person so far off from whom you are. And it will be something for me that would

Bid to motivate women athletes

give me a wholesome experience to prepare, play and to hopefully understand getting into the skin of a character that is so different from whom I'm as a person."

Earlier, she 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."

Mrunal will next be seen in the family sports drama *Jersey*.
IANS

I've always relied on my instincts: Bhumi

MUMBAI: Actress Bhumi Pednekar, who has been a part of content-driven entertainers such as *Dum Laga Ke Haisha*, *Toilet: Ek Prem Katha*, *Shubh Mangal Savdhan*, *Lust Stories* and *Badhaai Do*, says that as an artiste she has always relied on her instincts to choose projects.

Courtesy her work, Bhumi is now the face of seven brands and is thrilled about her rise in the Hindi film industry.

She says, "It's been a great start to my post-pandemic career as *Badhaai Do* became a rage amongst audiences. When films do well, they result in your equity to rise and I have been blessed to have found constant spike points like

these in my career. "I can only be thankful for these milestones in my life. They motivate me to constantly look out for cinema that defines our time and generation."

She adds, "I have always relied on my instincts as an artiste to choose projects. I have tried to pick the best scripts that I felt will not only deliver wholesome entertainment to audiences but will also give them something supremely fresh as content. I'm glad they have worked for me so far."
IANS

6-day cultural extravaganza by Chinta 'O' Chetana 43rd BAISAKHI FESTIVAL BEGINS APRIL 15

Orissa POST AND DHARITRI EDITOR TATHAGATA SATPATHY WILL BE CONFERRED WITH PRESTIGIOUS NILACHAKRA SAMMAN



Organisation's office bearers (L-R) Ileana Citaristi, Surendra Das, Shashi Bhusan Behera and Sahadeva Sahoo at a press meet

BHUBANESWAR: The 43rd edition of Baisakhi festival, a six-day cultural rainbow of India's classical dance and music, organised by Chinta 'O' Chetana, a socio-cultural organisation of the City, will be held from April 15 here at Sookhana Bhawan.

The event will begin with 'pahan di baje' of Lord Jagannath. Then the artistes from across the state will perform Odissi, Sambalpuri, Gotipua, Ranapa,

Danda, Ghumura, Ghodanacha, Pala, Daskathia and many other forms of folk dance.

"The festival has become a major event in the cultural calendar of the city and a celebration of our art and culture. Senior artistes and eminent persons from different fields will be honoured on the occasion," said general secretary Surendra Das of the organisation.

Distinguished personalities will be conferred with Nilachakra

Samman, Chinta 'O' Chetana National Awards and Baisakhi Awards which will be given by Governor Ganeshi Lal on the last day of the festival.

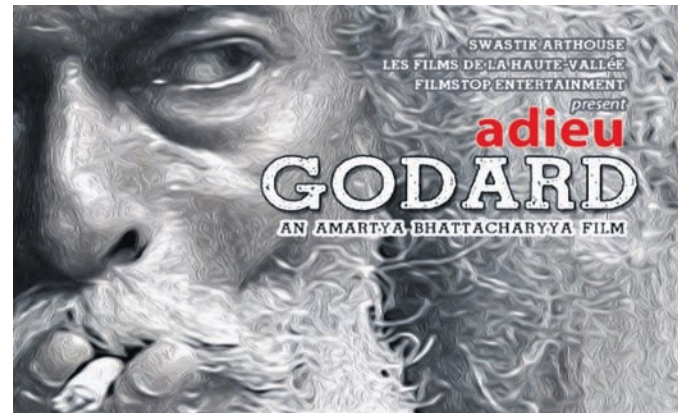
Orissa POST and Dharitri Editor Tathagata Satpathy will be honoured with prestigious Nilachakra Samman while 15 others will receive Chinta 'O' Chetana National Awards. Similarly, eight people from the state will get Baisakhi Awards.
PNN

Odia film *Adieu GODARD* to premiere in London

POST NEWS NETWORK

BHUBANESWAR: Odia feature film *Adieu GODARD*, an Indo-French co-production, will have its UK premiere in London next month. It will be screened at the historic BFI Southbank Theater in London as part of the prestigious 24th UK Asian Film Festival (UKAFF) which begins May 4. The festival is supported by the British Film Institute (BFI) and the Arts Council of England.

The movie, a socio-cultural comic tribute to the legendary French auteur Jean-Luc, has been written and directed by Amartya Bhattacharyya and produced by Swastik Arthouse in collaboration with FilmStop



Entertainment and Les Films de la Haute-Vallée.

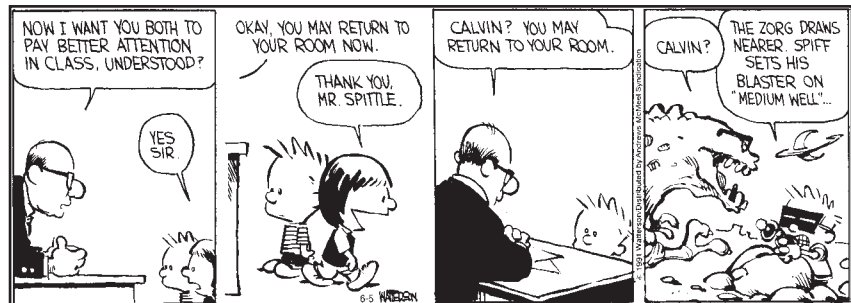
Film's cast includes Choudhury Bikas Das, Dipanwit Dashmohapatra, Sudharsri Madhusmita, Swastik Choudhury,

Choudhury Jayaprakash Das, Shankar Basu Mallick and Abhishek Giri. Kisaloy Roy has composed the music while Rock musician Rupam Islam has rendered his first Odia song with this film.

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

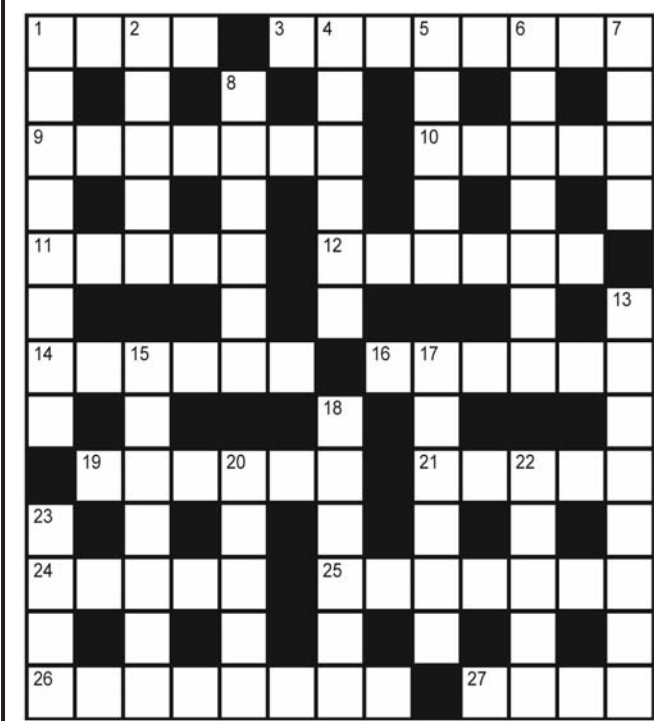


BREVITY



FUN post

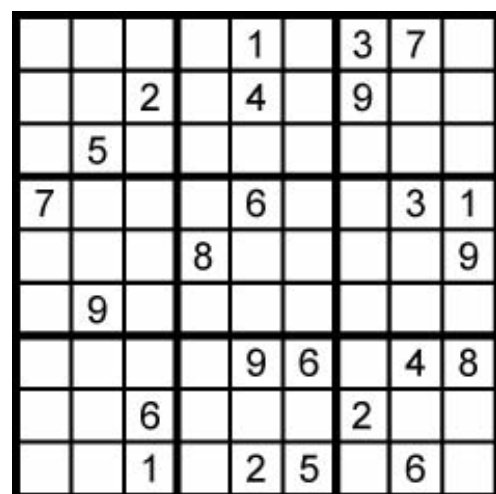
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Farm sound
 - 3 Cooking utensil
 - 9 Knuckle under
 - 10 Actor's line
 - 11 Inhabit
 - 12 Support, as a decision
 - 14 Anticipates
 - 16 Clean house (4,2)
 - 19 Exaggerate
 - 21 Length unit
 - 24 Blood line
 - 25 Mutilated
 - 26 One with the flock
 - 27 Hightailed it
- Down**
- 1 Volcanic glass
 - 2 Mother-of-pearl
 - 4 Vine holder
 - 5 Conflict
 - 6 Colourful fabric
 - 7 Grant basis
 - 8 Type of train
 - 13 Awesome!
 - 15 Hostile
 - 17 Kind of system
 - 18 Gabled extension
 - 20 Get through to
 - 22 Garden bulb
 - 23 Bridge option

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

CROSSWORD



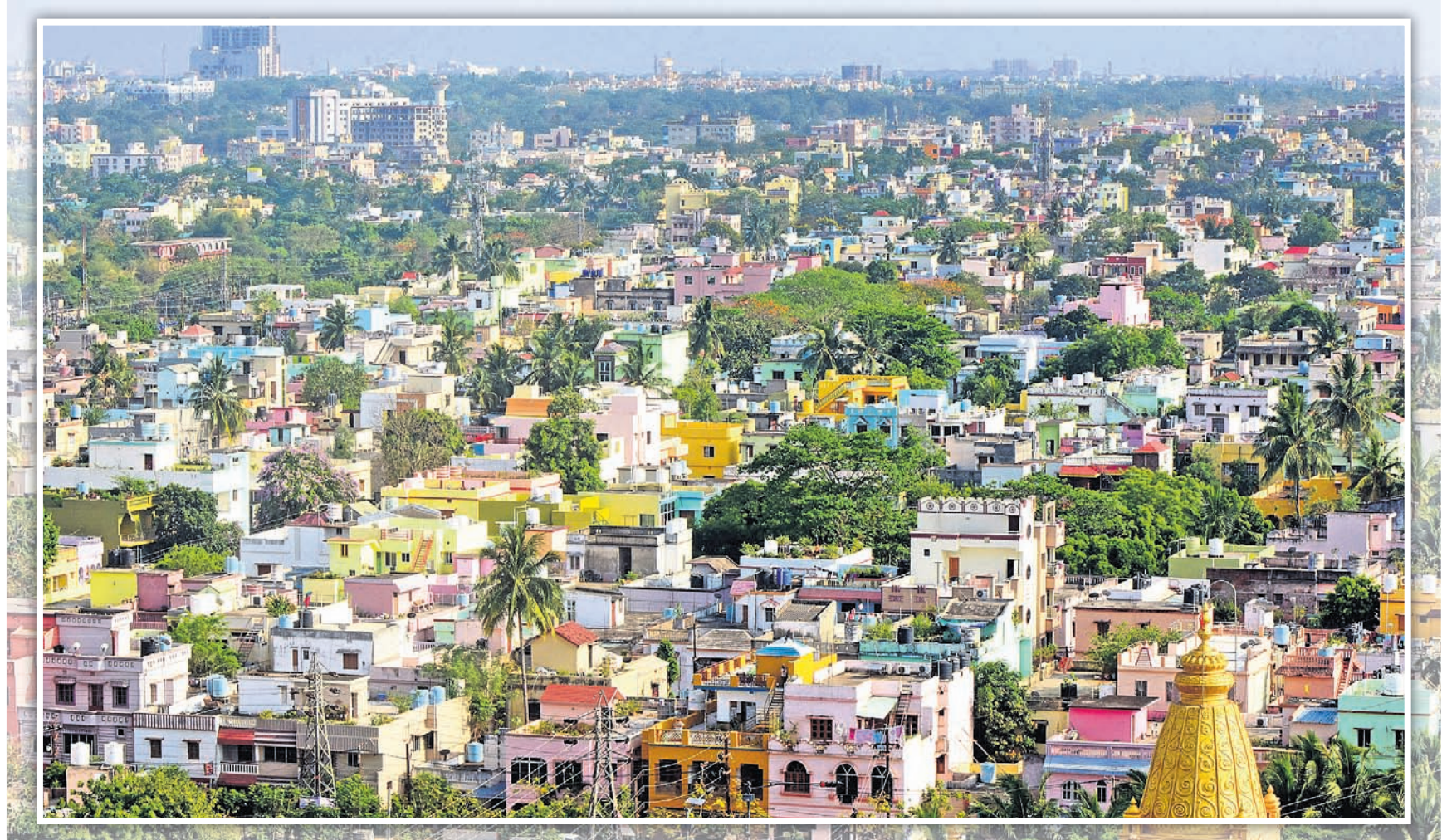
SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Bhubaneswar residents dream big

Founded April 13, 1948, the Capital city of Odisha was built as per the design of noted German architect Otto Königsberger. Over the years, the city has expanded in both size and population. It has also become a hub for sports, higher education and information technology. However, the Temple city still needs a lot of work for providing better civic amenities to its residents. Orissa POST makes a sincere effort to highlight some of the pressing issues of the Capital city, which celebrates its 74th foundation day today



A bird's-eye view of Bhubaneswar, the Capital city of Odisha

BHUBANESWAR: The city is all set to celebrate 74th Capital Foundation Day April 13. However, it is lagging behind in terms of several key parameters, including completion of projects and spending of funds, even after topping the 'Smart City' rankings in 2016. As per the data of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, made available in October 2021, only 24 per cent projects have been fully completed under the 'Smart City' programme, which kicked off with great fanfare in 2016. About 31 per cent projects (in value terms) in the Odisha capital are still in tendering stage, posing serious question mark on their timely implementation. This implies that most of the benefits of the 'Smart City Mission' are yet to reach the people. Poor performance coupled with inadequate spending has brought Bhubaneswar's rank among the

Smart Cities down from No. 1 in 2016 to No. 22 in 2021. The Odisha capital has also received the lowest amount of funds in comparison to other cities under the Smart City Mission.

On this occasion, Orissa POST talked to experts and residents of the city for their views in making Bhubaneswar a much better place to live in.

Emphasis on sustainability and livability

City resident and environment expert JK Panigrahi said Bhubaneswar is considered as a modern city which was designed by the German architect Otto Königsberger in 1946 to accommodate a population of about 50,000. However, the city has undergone profound change with sweeping expansion in size and population. Being labelled as the No. 1 Smart City, expectations of the inhabitants are sky-high regarding the availability of urban amenities.

Panigrahi also said that apart from conservation of heritage sites, attention needs to be given on cleanliness in public places, waste management, pollution control, efficient public transport system, enhanced green spaces such as urban forests and parks, protected water bodies and the menace of unplanned slums. This will add to the sustainability and increase the

livability of the city.

More green cover & revival of natural drainage systems

City-based urban planner and 'Bicycle Mayor' of Bhubaneswar, Piyush Ranjan Rout said the capital city will celebrate its 74th Foundation Day Wednesday. In one year's time, India's first planned town will turn 75. Bhubaneswar has

every element that an urban planner will want in a planned city. Yet, the city has drifted away from meeting people's aspirations. It is still facing problems like water-logging and traffic snarls. The revival of natural drainage systems and raising the green cover are some of the priority areas for the civic authorities in Bhubaneswar, Rout pointed out.

Better healthcare for residents

Health expert Amrit Pattojoshi said healthcare facilities at Capital Hospital need to be improved drastically to meet the requirements of the residents of Bhubaneswar. "The Capital Hospital should not just work as an agent to refer patients to SCB Medical College and Hospital. The city needs to have better facilities for walkers and

cyclists," stated Pattojoshi.

Safety of women

Social activist Namrata Chadha said the authorities should ensure safety of women and elderly people in the capital city. "The safety and security of women are very important in a 'Smart City like Bhubaneswar'. The public transport system should have better facilities of women. There is requirement of proper monitoring and regulation of women and girls' hostels in the city here. We hope that Bhubaneswar's new Mayor Sulochana Das will work on these issues," she said.

Child-friendly city

Educationist Naba Kishore Pujari said the civic authorities in Bhubaneswar must give priority on child-friendly environment while going ahead with the 'Smart City' projects. Kids must not face any inconvenience in their day-to-day life. All places in the city should be made child-friendly for a better future. No shop or eatery should have child labour, Pujari said.



Odisha Assembly decorated with lights for the celebration of 74th capital foundation day



The foundation plaque near Odisha Assembly

Problems galore as City marks 74th anniversary Citizens bat for better policing



A model of the Baramunda bus terminal

AVIRAL MISHRA, OP
Bhubaneswar, the Capital city of Odisha, steps into 75 Wednesday. The temple city has undergone tremendous growth in terms of infrastructure and population. And because of the constant expansion, the city needs major developments like state-of-the-art government facilities, private investments and also non-government initiatives.

At the same time, the urban agglomeration demands constant scrutiny into the long existing problems contemporaneous to the hindrances in its potent future. Orissa POST compiles five of such major issues concerning the Smart City's best interest

develop a state-of-the-art railway station spanning over 1.74 lakh sq ft coupled with city bus terminal, multi-level car parking and dedicated pick up and drop off lanes for cabs, auto-rickshaws and other vehicles. However, owing to the pandemic and massive expenditure involved, the project has been delayed and will now require approval from the state Cabinet for its funding. While the deadline is December 2022, the project is un-

likely to be finished within the stipulated time frame.

ISBT project Baramunda

With buses being the lifeline to connect cities to the state capital, the Intra-State Bus Terminal (ISBT) at Baramunda was set for a facelift due to increasing transits and space crunch. Implemented by the BDA, the project planned to have a makeover of 15.5 acre of land at a cost of Rs 180 crore. While delay in shifting of shops

from OSRTC building and relocation of slum dwellers have become a roadblock, sources said that the project is unlikely to meet its deadline which is September 2022.

Urban flooding and open drains

One of the most discussed topics in the City has been urban flooding and loss of lives due to open drains. A recurring issue, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has received severe flak for its apparent failure to address the issue.

The BMC, which engaged three private agencies for garbage lifting, street sweeping, cleaning, and drainage desiltation had handed the work in 57 out of the 67 wards. While BMC managed 10 wards itself, it later proposed to engage a total of seven private agencies to expedite the process. However, stuck in an official rigmarole, tenders were not handed to private agencies. So the city has once more been left in the lurch with monsoons fast approaching.

Sanitation and Vector-borne diseases

Among top 100 cleanest cities in 2017, the city plummeted to rank

245 a year later in the 'Swachh Survekshan' Ranking. It has been a road downhill since then, owing to poor solid-waste management. As the city generates over 600-metric tonne waste daily, efficient disposal and recycling has become a humongous challenge for the BMC.

Moreover, the rise in vector-borne diseases especially in slums every year had also raised eyebrows over the competence of the civic body. Already bearing the brunt of Covid-19, the city last year saw more than 1,000 case of dengue, the most in a year.

However, the BMC has now doubled its budget to Rs 110 crore for sanitation and is focusing on waste management through Micro Composting Centres (MCCs), Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) and Bio Mining centres. Having improved its ranking in 2021 to 144, the BMC aims to register itself in the top 10 cleanest cities of India.

E-mobility

The state capital is facing degradation in air quality and increasing congestions due to motor vehicles outnumbering population. Experts have suggested a robust development of public transport along with shift to electric vehicles.

City's only public transport CRUT had earlier planned to introduce about 25 electric buses in Bhubaneswar in 2020. However, the pandemic and lack of adequate charging stations have led to the delay in project.

The BSCIL has now planned to introduce as many as seven EV charging stations across city. As part of the phase-wise development, the capital will see 20 such stations under the Phase-II of the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of hybrid and Electric vehicle (FAME) India scheme.



The office of the Commissionerate Police in Bhubaneswar

OP PHOTOS

BHUBANESWAR: On the eve of the Odisha capital's Foundation Day, residents pleaded for better policing in the city while citing the spurt in crimes in the last couple of months. Several incidents of murder and frequent snatchings have exposed loopholes in the functioning of the police, they pointed out.

The city registered at least five murder cases in the last couple of months, including the sensational killing of cameraman Manas Swain, in February. Miscreants brutally attacked a homeless couple near the PMG Square on the intervening night of Sunday and Monday, leading to the death of the husband. The victim's wife also sustained injuries in the attack.

Sources said a total of 11 homeless persons living on footpaths have been murdered in the last few months. The city police have failed miserably to protect the homeless people, said a social activist.

Incidents of snatching have also gone up significantly in the capi-

tal city in recent days. The city had witnessed a steep rise in theft, robbery and cheating cases in 2021 as compared to the previous year.

"Lack of proper police patrolling at night is the main reason for the rise in crimes in the city. Staff crunch is the main reason behind inadequate patrolling," said a source within the department.

Police Commissioner Saumendra Priyadarshi said, "We have been working with the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation and Bhubaneswar Development Authority to make the capital city safe. Recently, 500 CCTV cameras have been installed at different places of Bhubaneswar by the civic authorities. This will help the police to have better surveillance on anti-social elements and traffic rules violators. We have recently included three new vans to our patrolling fleet and more such vehicles would be arranged in future to boost patrolling. We are focusing on raising our staff strength in view of the constant rise in city population."

PNN



Multi-Modal Railway Hub
A whopping Rs 840 crore project, aimed to facelift the city's railway station, is stuck in a limbo with no sign of the anticipated grand development. An MoU to this effect was signed between the East Coast Railways (ECoR) and Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) in September 2019. It was planned to

Internet services snapped in Joda

PNN/AGENCIES

Keonjhar, April 12: Internet services were Tuesday suspended in Keonjhar district in the wake of the clashes that had broken out between members of two communities over a Ram Navami rally a day ago.

The district administration also extended the prohibitory orders imposed on Joda town, the site of the clashes, for another 24 hours, a senior official said.

“Prohibitory orders under Section 144 of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) were first imposed Monday evening till 10am Tuesday in view of the clashes. It was later extended by 24 hours to avoid mass gathering. Internet services have been suspended to prevent rumour-mongering,” the district official said.

All banking operations and mineral transportation activities came to a grinding halt with the extension, leaving rows of trucks stranded on the thoroughfares.

Senior officials, including Keonjhar superintendent of po-

CLASH OVER RELIGIOUS RALLY



A street in Joda town wears a deserted look as Section 144 is in force

lice (SP), held a meeting with leaders of both the communities in the morning in a bid to pacify them, the official said.

As many as 17 platoons of police, each comprising 30 personnel, have been deployed in the area to control the law and order situation.

According to reports, some members of Hindu community had taken out Akhada procession to a Shiva temple Sunday. They wanted to

wield swords during the procession, but police did not permit them.

Monday morning, police assured them that only five people can carry swords to the temple, but they were not allowed later, it was alleged. This led to tension among Hindus. Protesting this, a group of people staged a road blockade near Hanuman temple and later carried swords in a rally on a street passing through a Muslim-domi-

PROHIBITORY ORDERS IMPOSED ON JODA TOWN HAS BEEN EXTENDED FOR ANOTHER 24 HOURS

ALL BANKING OPERATIONS AND MINERAL TRANSPORTATION ACTIVITIES CAME TO A GRINDING HALT WITH THE EXTENSION

17 PLATOONS OF POLICE, EACH COMPRISING 30 PERSONNEL, HAVE BEEN DEPLOYED IN THE AREA

nated area. The people of the minority community strongly opposed it, leading to confrontation between both the groups.

Police tried to settle the issue, but tension flared up. People of both the communities hurled stones, bricks and glass bottles at each other. Many houses and vehicles got damaged during the violence.

To control the mob, police had to resort to blank firing. Over a dozen people including police and journalists were injured in the melee. Scribe Sameer Das also sustained head injury during the stone pelting.

SHORT TAKES

Maoist with ₹1 lakh bounty surrenders

Malkangiri: A Maoist carrying a cash reward of ₹1 lakh on his head and wanted in several criminal cases has surrendered before the police in Malkangiri district. The Maoist, identified as Vantala Raju, 32, alias Sagar, surrendered before the Superintendent of Police (SP) Malkangiri Monday. According to police, Raju joined the CPI (Maoist) in 2016 and was working under the Andhra Odisha Border Special Zonal Committee. Addressing a presser, Malkangiri superintendent of police Nitesh Wadhvani said, Raju laid down arms after being influenced by the good work done by the state government in the remote areas of the district in the last one or two years. “This surrender is a big success for the government, police and the BSF,” said Border Security Force (BSF) director general SK Sinha.

Three get 10-year jail for murder

Dharmagarh: A man and his two sons were Tuesday handed down 10 years of imprisonment after being convicted of killing a man over suspicion of witchcraft. The court also imposed a fine of ₹10,000 on the trio. They would face additional jail term if they fail to deposit the fine, the court ruled. The convicts have been identified as Sisupal Bisi and his two sons Digambara Bisi and Parsuram Bisi of Beharipitha village under Koksara police limits in Kalahandi district. The accused trio had murdered Pushabala Bisi over suspicion of witchcraft in 2015. They were later arrested.

Kerosene burns a hole in pocket

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chandikhole, April 12: A sharp rise in prices of petroleum products by the Centre has resulted in a corresponding rise in the price of kerosene which is known as the poor man's fuel, a report said.

The price of kerosene has increased astoundingly during the last four months with kerosene now being sold at ₹76 per litre here.

Moreover, the government has also reduced the per head quota of kerosene from 2 litre to 1.340 litre which has come as a double whammy for the poor consumers.

Reports said, kerosene was being sold at ₹15 per litre in April 2020 and it rose to ₹50 per litre in January



2022. However, its price has now touched ₹76 per litre with rise in prices of petroleum products by the Union government.

Sources said the use of kerosene is more in rural areas with the majority of the households hailing from poor financial background. All those who do not have power connection to their households are dependent on kerosene.

The price of kerosene has increased astoundingly during the last four months with the lamp oil now being sold at ₹76/litre in Chandikhole

Beneficiaries Kishan Soren, Mangala Soren, Purusottam Sethi and Anadi Sethi refused to buy kerosene due to price rise. When contacted, Biswajit Mishra, block supplies officer, Barchana expressed his inability to curtail the price as the rate is fixed by the government.



Artistes of Chitrada Dakhina Sahi Chhau Nrutyta Pratisthan performed 'Dhwajata', a sub-form of Chhau, during a dance competition held at the Palishree Mela in Baripada

10-yr RI to youth for rape of minor

Baripada: A local court Tuesday sentenced a youth to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) after convicting him of abducting and raping a minor girl. The additional district and sessions judge also slapped a penalty of ₹9,000 on the convict, Sekhar Murmu, 30, of Redam village under Bahalda police limits in Mayurbhanj district. Non-payment of penalty will invite additional four months of imprisonment, the court ruled. The judge also directed the district legal services authority to pay ₹4 lakh compensation to the survivor, said government pleader Abhinna Pattnaik. According to the case diary, the survivor had stepped out to relieve herself when Murmu abducted her to Gujarat in a train and raped and tortured her.

AGRI, DRINKING WATER CRISES LOOM AS LUNA RIVER DRIES UP



Luna river flowing through Kendrapara district has been witnessing regular fall in water level since December 2021

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, April 12: A sharp drop in water level of Luna river has sparked fear of disruption in drinking water supply to Kendrapara town as well as water supply to the farmlands on the river basin, a report said.

Reports said, the river flowing through Kendrapara district has been witnessing continuous decline in water level since December 2021. Environmentalists and residents attributed the dip in water level to illegal lifting of sand from the riverbed.

They fear that illegal sand mining might force the river to change its course which will spell disaster for the residents in future. Local intellectuals bat-

ted for interlinking of rivers in the district as a lasting solution to the problem.

Highlighting the plight, Khitish Kumar Singh of Khadianga in the town said the public health engineering organisation (PHEO) and Water Resources department have jointly established a pump house at Kalapada to lift water from the river and supply it to the households in the town. However, the riverbed near the pump house went dry in January itself. Later, the two departments constructed a channel on the opposite side to draw the river water to the pump house. But, the channel too did not last long and has started drying up.

Santosh Kumar Panda, a local, said, “Check dams have been constructed on the river at Padagayapur, Gayaspur,

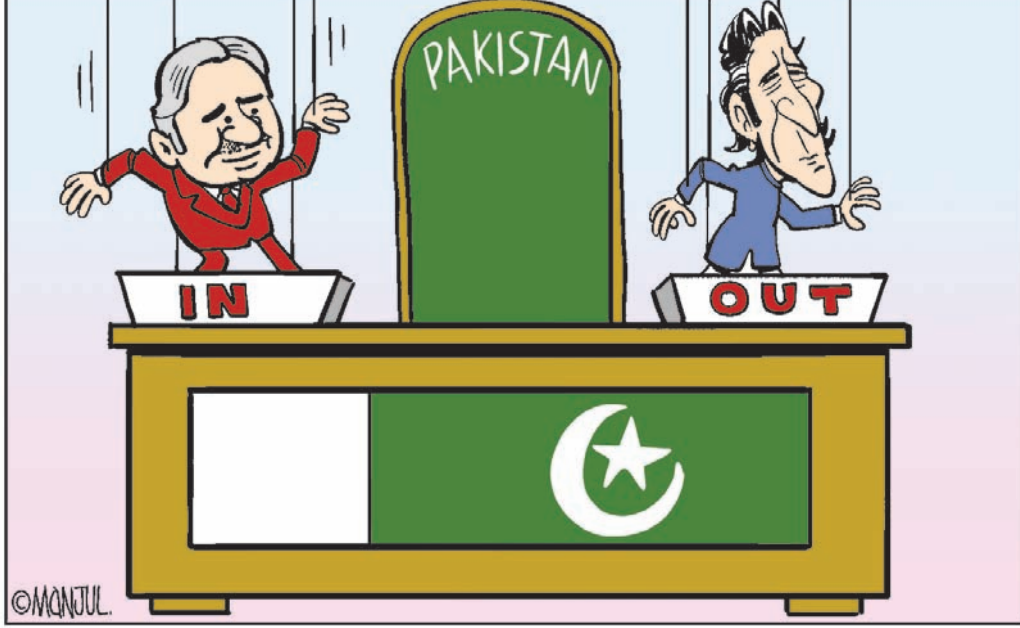
Local intellectuals battled for interlinking of rivers in the district as a lasting solution to the problem

Thauri, Chadheigan, Rajgad and Angulai to store the river water for agriculture and drinking water purposes.” He feared that a drop in water level might leave 10,000 hectare farmland uncultivated. Former ZP member Ganesh Chandra Samal said Luna river flowing through the district is 73-km long and was used for maritime trade during British rule.

However, the river is now facing the threat of extinction due to illegal sand and soil mining and rampant encroachment. He said the district lacks proper irrigation facilities. “Over 15, 850 hectare farmlands lack facility to drain out excess water. Similarly, 32,350 hectare farmlands are saline while 34,952 hectare gets submerged during floods,” he added.

Moreover, 84,910 hectare farmlands are drought prone due to lack of water supply. When contacted, executive engineer of irrigation department Prabodh Kumar Rout said that efforts are on and funds have been sanctioned for renovation of Luna river and very soon the residents will reap the benefits.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



359 teacher posts lying vacant in Jagatsinghpur

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jagatsinghpur, April 12: At least 359 out of 1,401 sanctioned teacher posts are lying vacant in 151 high schools in Jagatsinghpur district, taking a heavy toll on the studies of scores of students, reports said.

Parents and guardians of the students apprehend serious hindrance to the studies as the next academic year is about to begin. If timely steps are not taken to fill the vacant posts, the entire high school education system in the district will collapse, said the concerned parents.

The high schools remained closed for about two years in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic. Although online teaching continued during the period, the objective of reaching out to all the students could not be achieved. Out of 16 Class II headmaster posts in Jagatsinghpur, nine are vacant. Similarly, the district has 135 senior SES headmaster posts out of which 31 posts are vacant.

Likewise, there are 397 posts of teacher for humanities subjects of which 103 are vacant. Moreover, out of 209 sanctioned PCM posts, 47 are vacant; out of 192 CBZ posts, 47 are vacant; out of 147 Hindi teacher posts, 47 are vacant; out of 150 Sanskrit teacher posts, 45 are vacant; out of 145 PET posts, 26 are vacant and out of 10 Urdu teacher posts, four are vacant, an education department source revealed. This apart, two clerical and nine peon posts are lying vacant in different high schools, the source added.

Although the state government has engaged more than 200 guest teachers, their tenure has now expired, necessitating fresh appointments.

On being contacted, Jagatsinghpur district education officer (DEO) Niranjana Behera

said, “The government will soon take steps to enhance the tenure of guest teachers by extending their contract period.”

Advertisement for recruitment of 1000 staff for East Coast Railway. Includes details on application process, dates, and contact information.

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FOCUS GEOPOLITICS

WORLD WAR Z



Paradoxically, terminology that was once used to refer to Nazism's defeat has been repurposed to legitimise Russia's own fascist military dictatorship. It is no accident that Putin's war has been stylised and conducted in the spirit of World War II, with methods and means unseen for decades

refer to Nazism's defeat has been repurposed to legitimise Russia's own fascist military dictatorship. It is no accident that Putin's war (which has become Ukraine's own "Great Patriotic War") has been stylised and conducted in the spirit of World War II, with methods and means unseen for decades.

Putin's obsession with Ukraine is precisely of a fascist nature, since Ukraine represents the Maidan Revolution, which toppled Ukraine's previous Russia-aligned president. That scenario is the Putin regime's worst nightmare. The spectre of Maidan has been haunting Putin for most of his reign, and helps to explain his domestic crackdown on dissent and military interventions to prevent regime change in Belarus, Syria, and Kazakhstan. Putin constantly describes Ukraine as "anti-Russia," though he himself has made Russia "anti-Ukraine" or "anti-Maidan." His primary aim is to destroy the political alternative to his own regime that is epitomised by Ukraine, which in his mind should not exist.

Putin is the standard-bearer for counter-revolution. The degraded Kremlin regime that he commands represents repression of the revolution that would have occurred already in Russia if not for his wars, political annihilation of any opposition, and propaganda machine. But today's Russian authorities have a fundamental problem, because they have not yet devised a mechanism for the transfer of power.

Putin is working against time as he faces an impossible task: how to rule forever. He is like Kai, the little boy from Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tale The Snow Queen, who cannot figure out how to spell the word "eternity" from the pieces of ice he has been given. All Putin can fashion from the pieces left after the Soviet collapse are the letters "W," "A," "R," and now "Z."

Signs of escalation to full-fledged world war are not yet evident. But what has already become crystal clear is that this war is the war of the worlds, and now is the moment of truth for our whole world. "Z" is the end of the alphabet, a hollow symbol, followed by nothing — no eternity, just emptiness.

The writer is Head of the Visual Culture Research Center in Kyiv.
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Since the start of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February, the Western world has watched with admiration how the brave Ukrainian people have resisted Vladimir Putin's despotic evil. This admiration has translated into unprecedented levels of humanitarian and military aid, without which Ukraine would not have survived, let alone begun to repel the invaders.

Yet for all their acclaim, Western leaders also have reiterated the same mantra of what they will not do: put boots on the ground, send fighter jets, enforce a no-fly zone, and so forth. The rationale, political theorist Francis Fukuyama explains, is that "It is much better to have the Ukrainians defeat the Russians on their own, depriving Moscow of the excuse that NATO attacked them."

Hiding behind the fear of possible escalation and intimidated by Russia's nuclear blackmail, the West has assumed a humanitarian stance to mask its unpreparedness for a military counteroffensive. But a pressing question looms: Is NATO really ready to defend "every inch" of its territory?

In the past, the West has proven ready to use force to further a humanitarian cause. The best-known case of such "humanitarian militarism" was NATO's 1999 intervention in the Kosovo War, which was followed by the US-led wars in Afghanistan in 2001 and then in Iraq in 2003. All were framed as humanitarian interventions legitimised by ethical universalism.

But the messy US withdrawal from Afghanistan last summer, followed immediately by the Taliban's return to power, seemed to show that humanitarian militarism had failed. Humanitarianism became divorced from militarism, and the West thus found itself conceptually disarmed. Or, as French President Emmanuel Macron had put it two years earlier, NATO was experiencing "brain death."

This absence of any principled position or sense of purpose doubtless factored into Putin's calculations before the invasion. After all, Russia's annexation of Crimea and occupation of eastern Dombas in 2014 had already exposed the hollowness of the West's strategic commitments.

The main feature of this Western condition is constant belatedness.

The West has always been too late, incapable of acting ahead and instead just reacting to what has already happened. As a Ukrainian joke went at the time, "While the European Union was taking a decision, Russia took Crimea." Then as now, Ukrainians wondered, "What is the West's red line? What will compel the West to act instead of waiting and discussing when to intervene?"

As we have seen, the line hasn't been drawn at Ukrainian lives, and now the price of such foot-dragging has been tallied in the hundreds massacred in Bucha, Irpin, and Hostomel. Eight years ago, the West excused Russia's international crimes and went along with a war. But now that Ukrainians are reassembling the West by themselves on the front lines in Mariupol, Chernihiv, and Kharkiv, the implication is that the fall of Ukraine would also represent the political death of the West.

The West's idea of a world order based on universal human rights is now confronted with Putin's concept of Russkiy mir (Russian world) based on the rights of "compatriots" (sootchestvenniki). This Kremlin ideology is of a secondary origin, functioning as a fun-house mirror image of the West; Russia is presented as an anti-globalist force that is still willing and able to preserve traditional values — or "braces" (skrepy) — that have evaporated in the "decadent" West.

This framework allowed the

“The only work that spiritually purifies us is that which is done without personal motives.”
SRI AUROBINDO



Unleavened Coalition

A great experiment in Israeli politics appears to be heading for an abrupt end much before it could be properly tried. The government of Prime Minister Naftali Bennett experienced its first and perhaps final coalition crisis after a relatively obscure coalition member, Idit Silman, announced that she was quitting the coalition. Her departure brings a tie in the Knesset (Parliament) with the coalition and the Opposition having 60 members each in a 120-member House. The experiment that Bennett had embarked on was to keep together a rare alliance of liberal and Arab deputies who opted to join his government last June. This marked a watershed moment in Israel's history as rightist forces had so long dominated the country's politics, fomenting the Arab-Israel conflict. Bennett stitched up a coalition ending former PM Benjamin Netanyahu's record 12 years in power. The Bennett government made some small steps toward introducing a more secular, centrist and calmer political climate. This showed the headline politics of Netanyahu could be replaced by a multifaceted coalition aiming at inclusive governance. But, the good work being done gets a jolt with the surprise decision of Idit Silman to leave the coalition on what may appear to outsiders to be a flimsy issue. Her grievance was against the government's decision to serve, among hospital patients, 'leavened' bread (bread with a raising agent such as yeast) during Passover, a key Jewish ritual. In Idit's view this is a threat to Israel's identity. Significantly, the government had only acted as per the directive of the country's Supreme court. This shows how right wing politicians are often very rigid and not prepared to accept even court verdicts.

Bennett has not yet made any comment on the development. This means he might not have given up all hopes for continuing with his political experiment of knitting together a unity government that includes his former opponents. Bennett has led his party Yamina into an eight-party coalition with relative success for nearly a year; the high point of which is his negotiations between Russia and Ukraine. The Bennett government is not in imminent danger of a collapse immediately since the Knesset will resume its session in May and till then nothing can be done to topple the government. Right from the beginning, its continuance was a risky proposition for its wafer-thin majority of 61 against 59. If one more member of the coalition quits, the government will fall. The needle of suspicion for engineering the crisis points towards Netanyahu who had threatened, the day he was removed from power, that he would work for the demise of the government. He did not conceal his joy when Idit resigned. He not only hailed her decision, but also urged others in the coalition to follow in her footsteps. But, that does not mean he can return to power immediately, since some of the right wing members of the Knesset are very opposed to him. Moreover, Bennett has done a good job running his coalition of rivals and set an example before the Israelis of what a more centrist government could look like. But his main problem has been that he is not a particularly popular Prime Minister. His inexperience could be one reason, but he was not as articulate as Netanyahu in explaining his policies to the people.

Netanyahu's chances of return have brightened even if there is a fresh election — fifth during the past four years. If reports of ambitious and frustrated centrists such as Defense Minister Benny Gantz distancing themselves from Bennett are true, then the days of the present coalition government are indeed numbered. In that event, Netanyahu will make a strong bid for return, cashing in on his much greater popularity than other politicians. Though he is embroiled in corruption and criminal charges, the prosecution appears to not be based on solid evidence. That is why hours after Idit's resignation, Netanyahu appealed to additional members of the ruling coalition to defect and form a new government with him at the head.

Israel seems to be going back to square one. The same old problems such as fractured peace in West Bank and the Palestinian problem that have cooled off a bit under Bennett's coalition government are likely to resurface in the event of Netanyahu returning to power. The new accommodating politics that the coalition government ushered in showed some promise during the past nine months. Analysts say it would be unfortunate if the government is not allowed to last longer.



Vasyl Cherepanyn

THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR (STALIN'S NAME FOR WORLD WAR II) IS THE ONLY MYTH THAT SURVIVED THE SOVIET UNION'S COLLAPSE INTACT

WISDOM CORNER

- Truth, like gold, is to be obtained not by its growth, but by washing away from it all that is not gold. — LEO TOLSTOY
- Forget not that the earth delights to feel your bare feet and the winds long to play with your hair. — KAHLIL GIBRAN
- Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little. — EDMUND BURKE

WORDSWORTH

Snit
A snit is a fit of rather childish temper, a tantrum or perhaps a sulk. Though word meanings arouse many emotions in subscribers, snits are not usually among them. Several people have in the past asked where this word comes from, so this is the perfect moment to look into it. All the dictionaries except one dismiss the matter with their dispiriting stock phrase "origin unknown". The exception is Jonathon Green's Cassell Dictionary of Slang, which mentions the name of Clare Boothe Luce. Clare Boothe was a talented woman, variously an editor, playwright, politician, journalist and diplomat. The Saturday Review of Literature of 23 December 1939 remarked about snit that "nobody in Georgia seems ever to have heard of either the word or the state of being until Miss Clare Boothe isolated and defined it". This must have been in reference to her play Kiss the Boys Goodbye of the previous year, in which she used it. Through that play (a successful one that was listed as one of the ten best of the year), she most certainly popularised it, and may well have invented it (most dictionaries are cautious about the origin because nobody can actually prove she did). What she based snit on isn't known, though it's a splendidly sharp and echoic word that nicely evokes the spitting hissy fit of such a temper tantrum.

Snob
The origin of this word lies in a dialect word meaning a cobbler. It seems that early usage implied a person of humble rank or status, as cobblers of course were. Only later was it attached to the idea of somebody who sought to imitate those of superior social standing, as the Oxford English Dictionary so effectively puts it: "One who meanly or vulgarly admires and seeks to imitate, or associate with, those of superior rank or wealth; one who wishes to be regarded as a person of social importance." The Victorian author William Makepeace Thackeray pretty much invented this sense through his series of articles in Punch in the 1840s called The Snobs of England by One of Themselves, which was republished as The Book of Snobs in 1848. In this he dissected the character of various types of English snobs, such as the military snob and the country snob.

LOL

Catching fish
Jim had an awful day fishing on the lake, sitting in the blazing sun all day without catching a single one. On his way home, he stopped at the supermarket and ordered four catfish. He told the fish salesman, "Pick four large ones out and throw them at me, will you?"
"Why do you want me to throw them



at you?"
"Because I want to tell my wife that I caught them."
"Okay, but I suggest that you take the orange roughly."
"But why?"
"Because your wife came in earlier today and said that if you came by, I should tell you to take orange roughly. She prefers that for supper tonight."

IN JEST THIS

People go 'ultra' in so many ways



Melvin Durai

YOU HAVE TO BE FAIRLY YOUNG TO ULTRA BINGE. MY KIDS CAN DO IT: WATCH 20 EPISODES OF A TV SHOW, THEN SLEEP FOR 20 HOURS

For most people, just completing a marathon of 42 km would be a major achievement. But that's a walk in the park for ultra runners like 35-year-old Sufiya Khan of Delhi.

Khan was recently certified by the Guinness World Records for the "fastest time to travel the Indian Golden Quadrilateral on Foot" by a female. She completed the 6,002-km journey along the highway network connecting Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai in 110 days, 23 hours and 24 minutes.

Ultra running is her passion and she left a job in the aviation industry to dedicate herself to it. According to Dictionary.com, the word "ultra" means "going beyond what is usual or ordinary; excessive; extreme."

It seems to me that people go "ultra" in so many ways, not just running, and don't receive adequate credit for it. Here are just some examples of the ultra choices that people are making:

1. Ultra Eating: This often happens when people visit restaurant buf-

fets. They stuff themselves with food. Ultra eating is virtually the opposite of ultra running. While ultra runners keep moving forward to reach the finish line, ultra eaters keep moving sideways to reach more food. Many ultra runners lose weight during their runs, whereas ultra eaters only lose the top buttons in their pants.

2. Ultra Sleeping: This is a popular activity among teenagers, particularly in my household. My kids sleep from yesterday to tomorrow and wonder what happened to today. Ultra sleeping is actually very beneficial, not just for the teenage brain, which needs sleep to restore itself, but also for the adult brain, which needs long breaks from teenagers.

3. Ultra Bingeing: A "binge" is a short period of excessive indulgence in something, so ultra bingeing is a marathon session of bingeing. In this case, I am referring to people who binge on TV, watching many hours of movies or shows in one sitting. You have to be fairly young to ultra binge.

My kids can do it: watch 20 episodes of a TV show, then sleep for 20 hours.

4. Ultra Drinking: A lot of ultra drinking involves alcohol and takes place in bars (or pubs). This is the unhealthy kind of ultra drinking, the kind that may damage your heart, liver or other organs. But there's also a healthy kind of ultra drinking. This involves drinking water — and lots of it. I've seen some people walking around with water bottles that are so large, kingfish would be happy to swim in them.

5. Ultra Praying: No matter your religion, you've probably come across people who engage in ultra prayers. In the midst of their prayers, you find yourself praying, too — praying that their prayers will end soon. But your prayer is no match for theirs, because not only are they praying for the strength to keep praying, they're also praying that you'll soon realise you don't have a prayer.

6. Ultra Baking: I'm not talking about people participating in the

Great British Bake Off or anything like that. I'm talking about all the white people who feel the need to bake themselves in the sun. Some of them lie outside for several hours at a time, trying to get a little darker. You'll see them at the beach, spending more time in the sun than in the water. Meanwhile, many of the dark-skinned people are trying to do the opposite: get lighter. Some do this with lightening creams, but most just avoid the sun like a plague. They stay in the shade as much as possible, then complain when I describe them as "ultra shady."

7. Ultra Thinking: This is perhaps the highest form of human existence. Ultra thinkers are the reason why the human race has advanced so much, the reason we're no longer hunters and gatherers. Except, of course, when we're hunting for the latest iPhone or gathering the courage to ask the boss for a raise.

Perhaps I need to give this a little more thought.

Don't impose Hindi

Sir, This refers to the editorial 'Hindi Again', Orissa POST, April 12. Union Home Minister Amit Shah's suggestion made at a meeting of the Parliamentary Official Language Committee, that people of different states should communicate with each other in Hindi, not English, threatens to stoke an old fault line. The debate over India's official language has an acrimonious history. It triggered violent protests in the 1960s. The language war was finally settled in favour of accommodation of different languages as against the dominance of Hindi. There is no good reason to disturb the settlement that was arrived at after a tortuous process, one that has proved to be successful in a country that speaks in many tongues. Several states in the country's south are especially sensitive to the language debate because they were founded on the bedrock of linguistic sub-nationalism after intense and prolonged campaigns. Over the years, many have made significant strides towards making the local language the medium of official communication and governance. While some in these states understand Hindi — it is also true that it remains a not-so-familiar tongue, arguably even more than English, for large sections of the population. English is the preferred language of communication of these states with the Centre and with Hindi-speaking states, while the local administration conducts its business in the regional language.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Imran's ouster

Sir, Following weeks of political turmoil, Imran Khan has finally been ousted from office after losing a no-confidence vote. Khan's removal from office continues Pakistan's ugly record with Prime Ministers, with not a single leader completing full five-year tenure since 1947. A wily cricket captain during his international playing days, Imran Khan was always on a sticky wicket on the political field. He pushed Pakistan into an economic quagmire and diplomatic isolation. Perhaps, it was for this specific reason that the army had silently backed the no-confidence motion, enabling the worst of enemies in the Opposition to join ranks. It is certain that politically Khan will become very weak in the country and he would be marginalised. Opposition leader Shehbaz Sharif, who has become the new Prime Minister, has mountainous challenges before him, as he will have to deal with issues like soaring inflation, a feeble rupee and crippling debt — all that plagued Imran Khan.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

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

Orissa POST
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

national

of the day quote

The count of daily cases in Delhi is being reported in the range of 100-200. We are keeping an eye on hospital admissions, and that is going down. Focus shouldn't be on positivity rate much as of now

SATYENDAR JAIN | DELHI HEALTH MINISTER

Democracy is gaining roots in Pakistan and political stability in the neighbourhood is good for us

MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP CHIEF

My congratulations and best wishes to the newly appointed team of Punjab Congress. Discussions took place on the development of Punjab and taking forward the fight for the rights

RAHUL GANDHI | FORMER CONGRESS PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Man held for rape

Gurugram: A 50-year-old man has been arrested in Gurugram for allegedly raping an 11-year-old minor girl, the police said Tuesday. The accused -- Rambhavan, is said to be a relative of the girl. According to the police, on March 31, he lured the minor girl on some pretext and raped her. He also threatened the girl not to reveal the incident to anyone. The victim's parents told the police that since the incident, she was in a state of shock and did not tell anything to her parents. But after some time, she revealed the ordeal to her mother.

Sex racket busted

New Delhi: A 27-year-old woman was rescued by the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) and the Delhi Police from a sex racket that was being operated from a massage parlour in north Delhi, officials said Tuesday. According to the official, the Commission had received a complaint on Monday regarding the sex racket being run inside a massage parlour. The complaint also mentioned of an attempt to rape a 27-year-old woman there.

Three more die in Assam

Guwahati: Three more people died Tuesday due to mushroom poisoning, taking the toll in the incident that took place in Assam's Charaidoo district to seven, an official said. Eight people -- women tea garden workers and their children -- had fallen ill after eating wild mushrooms in Lalpithar village on April 6 and seven of them have died since then. The lone survivor, identified as 35-year old Jyotsna Gaur, is in a critical condition, the official said. Three women died at Assam Medical College Hospital (AMCH) in Dibrugarh during the day, he said.



Laws should be made after thorough debate and discussion, incorporating the needs of aspirational sections of the society

OM BIRLA | LOK SABHA SPEAKER

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

After a software solutions provider gifted five of its trusted employees with BMWs each worth ₹1 crore, in Chennai another IT firm has gifted 100 Maruti cars to 100 of its employees



Hanskhali rape case: Dhankhar targets Mamata

AGENCIES

Kolkata, April 12: In an apparent dig at West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee over her remarks on a minor girl's alleged rape and subsequent death in Nadia district's Hanskhali area, Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar Tuesday said that the investigation could get compromised if people in authority "indicate judgmental stance".

He said that such approaches could "scuttle fair probe". Dhankhar also called upon the state chief secretary and the DGP to brief him on the incident by 4 pm on Wednesday.

"Criminal Investigation in shameful rape #Hanskhali leading to victim death is tainted & compromised when people in authority & constitutional position indicate judgmental stance," the governor tweeted, without naming anyone.

Dhankhar, who has had several run-ins with the TMC government in the state over multiple issues,



also said, "This against the law approach scuttles fair & independent probe as police is forced to toe such line (sic)."

Banerjee had Monday expressed doubt over the cause of the girl's death, although her family attributed it to gang rape, and wondered if the demise of the Class 9 student could have been caused after being slapped by someone.

Maintaining that the victim had an affair with the accused, the son of a TMC leader, Banerjee also wondered if she was pregnant. Two persons, including the TMC leader's son, have been arrested in the case thus far.

The governor also called upon the chief secretary and the director general of police (DGP) to brief him, by Wednesday evening, on

Cal HC reserves order

Kolkata: The Calcutta High Court Tuesday concluded hearing in a petition seeking a CBI investigation in the alleged rape and resultant death of a minor girl at Hanskhali in West Bengal's Nadia district. A division bench presided over by Chief Justice Prakash Shrivastava reserved its order on the plea. Petitioner's lawyer Anindya Sundar Das prayed for a CBI probe in the alleged rape and resultant death of the minor girl on the claim that the accused is the son of a panchayat leader belonging to the ruling Trinamool Congress. It was alleged that the girl had on April 4 gone to the birthday party of the accused at his residence in Hanskhali and was drugged before being raped. She died a day after allegedly owing to bleeding following the atrocity on her.

the alleged incidents of attacks on Ram Navami processions in Howrah on Sunday.

Narrow escape for Bihar CM



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, April 12: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had a narrow escape as a minor explosion rocked his Jan Samvad programme in Nalanda district Tuesday and some of the blast debris landed just a few feet away.

This was the second attack on Nitish Kumar in three weeks. Earlier, a man in mid 20s punched Nitish Kumar from behind in Bakhtiyarpur town in Patna district on March 27.

The Chief Minister on Tuesday travelled to Nalanda for the programme, organised by district administration at the Gandhi high school in Silao block. The explosion took place around 20 feet away from Nitish Kumar who was busy interacting with common people and some explosive materials fell just 5 feet away from Nitish Kumar, creating chaos at the venue.

An official of Nalanda police said that a man named Subham Aditya, a native of Satyarganj village under Islampur police station, has been arrested in this connection. "The accused was trying to greet Nitish Kumar but the Chief Minister moved away from him. Soon the explosion took place. We have recovered a cracker, a match box and a key ring from his possession. The accused is arrested now and interrogation is underway," said

This was the second attack on Nitish Kumar in three weeks. Earlier, a man in mid 20s punched Nitish Kumar from behind in Bakhtiyarpur town in Patna district March 27

an official of Silao police station. Following the Bakhtiyarpur attack, the Bihar Police had prepared a blueprint to enhance the security of the Chief Minister.

ADGP Security, Bacchu Singh Meena had issued guidelines to every District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police to make elaborate arrangement every time the Chief Minister visits their district.

As per the directive, the district administrations have to provide security as per the recommendation of the Verma committee of 1991, which had pointed out special security parameters in its report submitted to the central government.

Under this, the officers will be held accountable for any kind of security lapse during the visit of the Chief Minister. The officers would have to take appropriate security measures before the visit and ensure that strangers do not come near the Chief Minister.

SUMMER RESPIRE



A tiger swims inside its enclosure at a zoo to beat the heat on a hot day in Mumbai

PTI PHOTO

Delhi farmhouse caretaker lynched

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 12: A caretaker in a Delhi farmhouse was beaten to death and six people were injured after a group of 10-15 men, claiming to be cow vigilantes, attacked them on suspicion that they were slaughtering cows, police said Tuesday.

Rajaram (40) was assaulted in the farmhouse in Dwarka's Chhawa area in South West Delhi and succumbed to injuries at a hospital on Monday, they said. The police said two FIRs have been registered based on separate complaints by one of the injured men and some locals. Five men have been arrested for alleged cow slaughter so far, while no arrest has been made in the murder and assault case.

Rajaram's family denied the allegations against him and claimed he was targeted "by locals" for no reason.

However, according to the FIR, one of the injured associates of Rajaram said that they were called by him to kill cows for meat.

"My husband is innocent. All he did for earning extra is selling cow milk to nearby villagers and run a battery rickshaw which was taken on rent," Jhaso Devi, the wife of the deceased, claimed. The police said that information was received that a group of men was slaughtering cows and selling the meat in the area on the intervening night of April 10 and 11.

A team was rushed to the spot, but before it could reach there, 10-15 unidentified people, claiming to be 'gau rakshaks' (cow vigilantes), reached the farmhouse and attacked those inside it, a senior police officer said.

"When we reached the spot, we found the men were being attacked. The police personnel intervened and all injured persons were taken to nearby hospitals," he said.

One case was registered under sections 429 (Mischievous by killing or maiming cattle, etc., of any value or any animal of the value of fifty rupees), 120 (Concealing design to commit offence punishable with imprisonment), 120 B (criminal conspiracy), 34 (Acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of the Indian Penal Code and other sections of Delhi Agriculture Prevention Act and Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

Vandalisation of Pangong Lake angers Ladakhis

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, April 12: A video showing some tourists driving their SUV through Ladakh's Pangong Lake has evoked angry reactions from nature lovers and locals in the Union Territory.

A Ladakh resident, sharing the video on his Twitter page, took strong exception to such vandalising of the delicate lake ecosystem.

"I am sharing again another shameful video. Such irresponsible tourists are killing Ladakh. Do you know? Ladakh have a more than 350 bird species and lakes like Apangong Aare the home of many bird species. Such act may have risked the habitat of many bird species," Jigmat Ladakhi tweeted.

The people of Ladakh are very sensitive towards the preservation of their ecology as also the various flora and fauna found in the region. Polythene is voluntarily banned by the people in Ladakh and they take strong exception to littering of places by outsiders.

The majority Buddhist population of the region doesn't allow any hunting or fishing in Ladakh since the Buddhists themselves don't kill fish, birds, or animals.

AAP under fire after Kejri holds meeting

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chandigarh, April 12: The Opposition in Punjab -- the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and the Congress -- Tuesday asked Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to safeguard the interests of the state and ensure that it is not subject to remote control rule by the AAP government in Delhi or be taken over by the Centre.

The Opposition also asked the Chief Minister to address the pressing concerns of farmers, who are seeking compensation on account of low wheat yields. Joining the issue, newly appointed state Congress chief Amrinder Singh Raja Warring targeted Mann over the Centre's interfering in the state's law and order matters in the context of the Punjab Governor's visits to the border areas.

He also took a dig at the Chief Minister over Arvind Kejriwal summoning Punjab officials to Delhi, saying it has set a wrong precedent.

Responding to the issue, senior SAD leader Daljit Singh Cheema said that instead of tackling the real issues of Punjab, the AAP government is trying to obfuscate them by diverting the attention of the people by focusing on issues like songs and similar activities.

Asserting that the recent developments are very dangerous for the



THE SAD SAID THAT SIMULTANEOUSLY, THE PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER SHOULD STAND UP TO THE CENTRE AND ENSURE THE FEDERAL STRUCTURE IS NOT DILUTED IN ANY MANNER

THE OPPOSITION ALSO ASKED THE CHIEF MINISTER TO ADDRESS THE PRESSING CONCERNS OF FARMERS, WHO ARE SEEKING COMPENSATION ON ACCOUNT OF LOW WHEAT YIELDS

state, Cheema said Punjabis are shocked that Kejriwal is taking meetings of the Punjab chief secretary and the State Power Corporation Ltd (PSPCL) Chairman.

"The apprehension in the minds of the people that the Punjab government would be run by remote control from Delhi under AAP rule is proving to be true," he said.

Asking Mann to clarify the situation, Cheema said the manner in which the Delhi Chief Minister is riding roughshod over constitutional norms has made Punjabis insecure.

UGC gift for students



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 12: In a first, the government has decided to allow students to pursue two full-time and same-level degree programmes in physical mode simultaneously either at the same university or from different universities, UGC Chairman M Jagadeesh Kumar said Tuesday.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) will soon issue detailed guidelines in this regard and the option will be available to students from the 2022-23 academic session. "As announced in the new National Education Policy (NEP) and in order to allow students to acquire multiple skills, UGC is coming up with new guidelines to allow a candidate to pursue two degree programmes in physical

mode simultaneously," Kumar said at a press conference.

"The degrees can either be pursued from the same or different universities. Students will also be allowed to pursue two degree programmes in physical and online mode simultaneously," he said.

The UGC had been planning such a move for a long time, but received the go-ahead for it in 2020. The commission had set up a committee in 2012 as well to examine the idea, and consultations were held, but ultimately the idea was junked. Kumar said that the two programmes opted by students at the same time have to be of the same level. For instance, they can only pursue two undergraduate or two post-graduate, or two diploma degrees together, he said.

Bullet trains to be modified: Japan to India

Sources say another aspect that the Japanese are working on is to ensure that the trains are able to carry the "Indian weight" as the Japanese are lighter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Surat/Navsari (Gujarat), April 12: Japan's high speed Shinkansen trains will be modified for Indian conditions like temperature, dust and weight before they are sent to India for the country's ambitious 'bullet train project'.

Satish Agnihotri, Managing Director, National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) said the project is slated to complete a 48 km section between Surat-Billimora in 2027, with the first trials to be held a year earlier.

He, however, said the project is stuck in Maharashtra due to land acquisition issues. "We will get the E5 Shinkansen series trains cur-

rently operating in Japan. However, we are conducting studies to upgrade them to Indian conditions in terms of dust and temperature," Agnihotri said.

The E5 series are Japanese Shinkansen high-speed train types built by Hitachi and Kawasaki Heavy Industries. They are capable of running at a speed of 320 kmph and are 3.35 m wide, the widest among such trains are available in countries like France and Germany.

Sources said another aspect that the Japanese are working on is to ensure that the trains are able to carry the "Indian weight" as the Japanese are lighter. They indicated that Japan will initially send six trains which are modified ac-



ording to Indian specifications, and also bring in coaches in knock-down condition to be assembled here in the country.

Officials said actual orders will be placed after the modifications are completed. Talking about the proj-

ect, Japanese ambassador to India, Satoshi Suzuki noted, "I am very satisfied, actually impressed by the progress made using the latest technology. We are not exporting a second class train. We will share exactly the same one (E5 series), rather an

improved one because the series has been in operation for several years. So, by the time India has its own bullet train, we will make sure that they get the latest technology.

"This series of train is running in the northern part of Japan and is equipped with various safety measures. It has anti-seismic technology. This is the best one we could share," he said.

In Gujarat and Dadra and Nagar Haveli, 100 per cent of civil contracts for construction of the entire route, that is, 352 kms have been awarded to Indian contractors. In Gujarat, track work for 237 km has already been awarded and the balance 115 km will be awarded soon.



People buy lemons from a vendor in Surat

PTI PHOTO

BJP sweeps UP Council polls; SP draws a blank

SAFFRON PARTY SUFFERED A SETBACK IN VARANASI, MODI'S LOK SABHA CONSTITUENCY, WHERE IT STOOD DISTANT THIRD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, April 12: A month after its resounding victory in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, the BJP has swept the biennial polls to the state's legislative council by winning 33 out of 36 constituencies. According to the results declared Tuesday, the BJP won 24 of the 27 the local authority seats, where polling was held last week. In addition, the BJP had won nine of the 36 seats unopposed. The results take the BJP past the halfway-mark in the 100-member House. Now, it will have 67 members in the upper house of the state legislature. But it suffered a setback in Varanasi, Prime



Minister Narendra Modi's Lok Sabha constituency, where it stood distant third. The Samajwadi Party, the main opposition in the state, drew a blank. Two independents and a candidate from the Jansatta Dal (Loktantrik) emerged victorious in the elections. In Varanasi, BJP's Sudama Patel stood third with just 170 votes as Independent candidate Annapurna Singh secured a resounding vic-

tory with 4,234 votes. Samajwadi Party's Umesh Yadav got 345 votes, Varanasi District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma said. Before the polls, the BJP had 34 members in the House. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath congratulated the winners and said the BJP's resounding victory in the council polls has again established that people of the state have faith in the leadership of Prime

Minister Narendra Modi. The mood at the BJP office here was upbeat as jubilant party workers danced and distributed sweets to mark the party's victory. Not much activity was seen at the Samajwadi Party office. Sources said SP chief Akhilesh Yadav and some other leaders were present in the party office in the state capital. The highest victory margin was of 5,939 votes in the Moradabad-Bijnor constituency, where BJP's Satyapal Saini defeated Ajay Malik of the SP. The victory margin was the lowest in the Jhansi-Jalaun-Lalitpur seat, where Rama Niranjana of the BJP defeated SP's Shyam Sundar Singh by 579 votes. Akshay Pratap Singh of Jansatta Dal (Loktantrik) defeated BJP's Hari Pratap Singh in Pratapgarh by a margin of 1,107 votes. The BJP lost Azamgarh-Mau seat to independent candidate Vikrant Singh 'Rishu' by 2,813 votes. BJP's Ravishankar Singh Pappu, grandson of former Prime Minister Chandrasekar, won from Ballia seat, defeating SP's Arvind Giri by 1,981 votes. In the Lucknow-Unnao constituency, BJP's Ramchandra Pradhan defeated Sunil Singh

'Sajan' by 3,088 votes. CP Chand of the BJP defeated Rajnish Yadav of the SP in Gorakhpur-Maharajanj seat by a margin of 4,432 votes. Similarly in Allahabad, KP Srivastava of the BJP defeated SP's Vasudev Yadav by 1,658 votes. In Barabanki, BJP's Angad Singh trounced Rajesh Kumar Yadav of the SP by 1,745 votes. In Sitapur, BJP's Pawan Kumar Singh defeated Arunesh Yadav of the Samajwadi Party (SP) by 3,692 votes while in Basti, BJP leader Subhas Yaduvansh defeated SP's Santosh Yadav by 4,294 votes. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had vacated his council seat recently while former leader of opposition Ahmad Hassan of the SP died in February this year. The voters in this biennial election are village pradhans, members and chairman of block development councils and zila panchayats, and corporators in urban areas. MLAs and MPs also vote. The Congress and the BSP did not field any candidate in the Legislative Council elections, making it a direct fight between the BJP and the SP.

JNU CLASH

Edu ministry seeks report from varsity



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 12: The Union education ministry Tuesday sought a report from the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) regarding violence on its campus on Ram Navami, even as the varsity's students' union demanded an independent judicial inquiry into the matter. Former JNU vice-chancellor M Jagadeesh Kumar, who is currently the chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC), said that violence of any kind on university campuses should be avoided. The groups have lodged police complaints against each other, while JNU authorities claimed the violence occurred after some students objected to a 'hawan', an assertion also made by RSS-affiliate Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP). However, the JNU Students Union (JNUSU), which is led by Left-affiliated outfits, has alleged that ABVP members attacked students while opposing the serving of non-vegetarian food in the mess. Police will be recording the statements of the victims once the situation calms down, a senior officer said. Student bodies protested outside the Jamia Millia Islamia against what transpired at JNU and to demand that food choices cannot be imposed on people in the name of Ram Navami. "Not only in JNU but there was violence on Ram Navami in states like Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.

Two student groups clashed at the university's Kaveri Hostel Sunday allegedly over serving of non-vegetarian food in its mess on the festive day, with police saying 20 students were injured

You cannot dictate what people should eat and impose your food choices on them," said a protester. At JNU, its student's union led a delegation to meet the university's vice-chancellor Shantisree Dhulipudi Pandit to put forth its demands but could not meet her. Security officials have asked it to put in a formal request for an appointment with the vice-chancellor. The delegation demanded that the university withdraw its statement issued April 11 (Monday) in which it said that the clash broke out on Sunday after some students objected to a 'hawan' conducted "peacefully" on the occasion of Ram Navami. Claiming that the violence at the Kaveri Hostel has its beginnings in the arbitrary demand of prohibition of non-vegetarian meals at the hostel mess by a group of students, the delegation said that it has been corroborated by the relevant hostel committee and mess committee members.

Delhi govt to plant 35.38L saplings



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

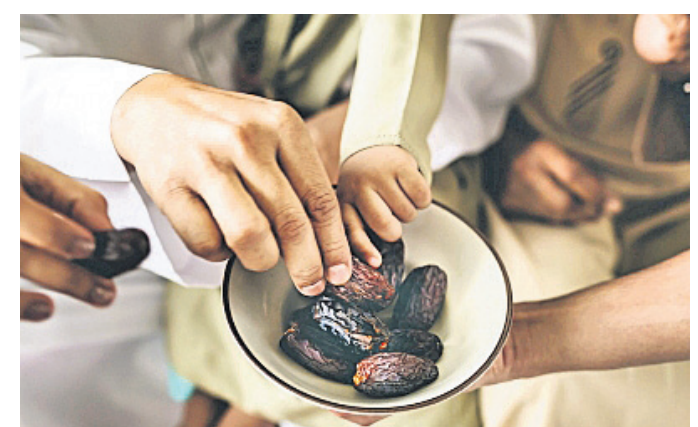
New Delhi, April 12: The Delhi government has set a target of planting 35.38 lakh saplings during the 2022-23 annual plantation drive, Environment Minister Gopal Rai said Tuesday. He also launched a helpline number - 1800118600 - for registration of resident welfare associations, non-government organisations and individuals willing to be part of the government's plantation drive. The departments concerned have been directed to make complete preparations for the drive by June end. The exercise will begin from July, he said. The annual plantation programme of the Arvind Kejriwal government has helped increase the capital's green cover, Rai said. According to the latest 'India State of Forest' report, Delhi's green cover has increased from 21.88 per cent to 23.06 per cent of its geographical area in the last two years. Rai said of the 19 departments involved in annual plantation drives, only seven have submitted reports of the third-party audit of their sapling plantation conducted between 2016 and 2019. It has been decided that Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Combating Climate Change, Delhi, will conduct the audit of plantations being undertaken by all departments from now on, he said.

SUN SETS ON IFTAR POLITICS IN UP

Iftar is the meal with which Muslims break their day-long fast (Roza) in the month of Ramzan

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, April 12: The politics of Iftar parties in Uttar Pradesh has come to an end. Even though the pandemic restrictions have ended, political parties are now wary of hosting iftar parties that once dominated the entire political spectrum. The Samajwadi Party was known to host iftar parties that were marked by the presence of top Muslim clerics. Ten days into Ramzan, there are no signs of the SP hosting any iftar party this year. "We have not yet heard about iftar party this year from the party president and we doubt if one will be held now," said a senior party functionary. The Congress, too, has no plans



of hosting it this year. The party is leaderless in the state after UPCC president Ajay Kumar Lallu resigned last month and the party, sources said, was also facing a cash crunch and could not 'afford' an iftar party. SP Shukla, a senior political analyst, explained, "Now that state politics is firmly entrenched in the Hindutva mould, on BJP parties are

wary of hosting iftar parties and being dubbed pro-Muslim." He further said: "The mood in the parties is despondent in the wake of electoral defeat and the leaders have apparently decided to opt out of such events." In the BJP, it was Rajnath Singh as chief minister who hosted iftar parties but Yogi Adityanath discontinued the tradition.

As Chief Minister, BSP supremo Mayawati also used to host iftar parties every year in luxurious five-star hotels but this was only when she was in power. The tradition of iftar parties in Uttar Pradesh was started by former chief minister Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna in the early seventies. He would host the meal in Lucknow and invite prominent members of the community who also held some political influence. The Congress, later followed the tradition and used the iftar party to repair ties with Muslim leaders. Late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who was well acquainted with the traditions of Lucknow, also hosted several parties while he was in public life. While Modi's decision to discontinue the traditional iftar at the Prime Minister's residence can be seen to be conforming to his political playbook, the real mystery lies in the reason for the Congress's cancellation.

Not cars, its batteries on thieves' target in Delhi

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, April 12: An interstate gang which had stolen more than 500 car batteries in the past one year, finally landed in police net in the national capital. The accused gang leader Parmod Kumar and receiver of the stolen batteries Ranjeet Singh were arrested. It was officially learnt that Parmod was about to leave the country with the money earned from thefts and had already got the visa for Abu Dhabi. During sustained interrogation of the accused, it was revealed that Parmod Kumar is

the mastermind in the nexus, and he, along with his brother namely Deepak Kumar, used to steal the vehicles batteries during the early hours and used to sell to Ranjeet Kumar at cheap rates. The accused confessed to have stolen more than 500 batteries of cars, Champion, Tata & other vehicles since last one year from the area of South West, West and Dwarka District and sold the same to accused Ranjeet Kumar who runs a junk or scrap shop at Mayapuri. The police said that with their arrest 102 cases of thefts of car batteries have been worked out.



COPING WITH TRAUMA

Locals at the site where a fire broke out in a slum area at Kathputli colony of Anand Parbat area, in New Delhi, Tuesday. Several jhuggies got engulfed in the fire

PTI PHOTO

Capital registers 69 dengue cases this yr

TILL APRIL 2 THIS YEAR, 61 CASES OF DENGUE WERE RECORDED IN THE CITY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Apr 12: Eight fresh cases of dengue have been reported in the last one week in Delhi, taking the tally to 69, according to a civic report. Eight fresh cases have been reported in the last one week, it said, adding that at least 69 dengue cases have been recorded this year. The city had reported 23 cases in January, 16 in February and 22 in March. Eight cases have been recorded this month till April 9. For the January 1-April 9 period, nine cases were logged last year, six cases in 2020 and seven in 2019, while 12 cases were logged in 2018 and 15 in 2017, the report stated. Cases of vector-borne dis-



eases are usually reported between July and November, but the period may stretch till mid-December. This year, cases are being recorded early and the civic bodies have taken some preparatory actions to check its spread.

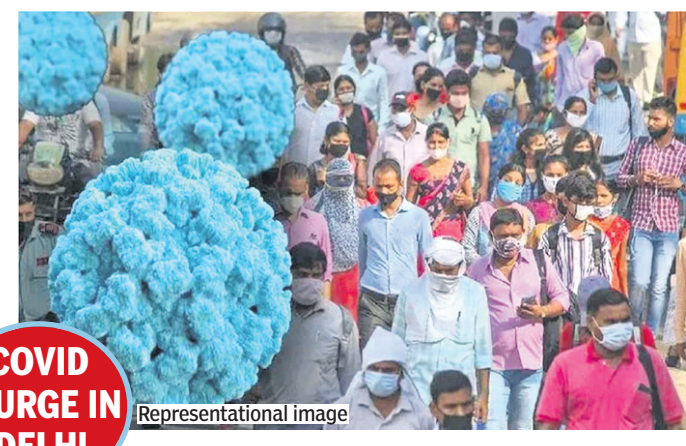
NOT A PANIC SITUATION, BE VIGILANT: DOCs

PEOPLE MUST FOLLOW ALL SAFETY NORMS AND NOT LET A SENSE OF COMPLACENCY SET IN, SEVERAL DOCTORS SAID A DAY AFTER THE POSITIVITY RATE IN THE CITY WAS THE HIGHEST IN TWO MONTHS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 12: With the Covid positivity rate in Delhi jumping from 0.5 per cent to 2.70 per cent in one week, doctors Tuesday said it was "not a panic situation" as the daily case count was still low but cautioned against dropping the guard. Doctors at leading government

and private hospitals here concurred that though it was "not a panic situation" but a sense of complacency setting in largely among the masses was a "matter of concern". "There has been an uptick in daily cases, and the positivity rate has been increasing in the last few days too, and it jumped to 2.70 per cent, as reported Monday. But, I would say there is no need to panic, as the daily cases count is still in the range of 130-150. However, there is a need to be vigilant and follow all Covid-appropriate behaviours," said Dr Richa Sareen, consultant of pulmonology at Fortis hospital. While she has been critical of the city government's recent move to remove the mask mandate, the doctor said, it was not a "static decision" and if the situation warrants, the rules can again be changed. Doctors PTI spoke to also agreed that vaccination and herd immu-



nity has "certainly provided a level of protection too" to people. Nation-wide vaccination exercise had begun in January 2021 and currently, the exercise to deliver a precaution dose is underway. Delhi Monday had reported 137 fresh Covid-19 cases with the positivity rate rising to 2.70 per cent, according to data shared by the

city health department. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Tuesday said his government is keeping a close watch on the Covid situation in the capital and there is no major reason to panic at present. He said all necessary steps will be taken if the need arises. City Health Minister Satyendar Jain Monday had said the city gov-

ernment is keeping a watchful eye on the Covid-19 situation and there was no reason to worry until a new variant of concern is detected. Dr Suranjit Chatterjee, senior consultant, internal medicine, Apollo hospital here cautioned that while daily cases have been rising, a "sense of complacency has set in among the masses" in general, especially after the mask mandate was removed. A massive crowd was seen at a three-day flea market festival at the JLN Stadium here that ended Sunday. Very few people were seen wearing mask at the venue. The visuals from the festival have been widely shared on social media. Doctors also said that the city government should increase the number of Covid tests, and while the positivity rate has been on the rise, the number of coronavirus patients getting admitted to hospital is still less. However, the situation needs to be observed for the next few days, before making any assessment, they said.

of the day quote

If the prime minister addresses the country that whoever does violence, whether from any caste, religion or class, the law will take its own course and no one will be spared. He (PM) should give directions to the states in this regard. These incidents happen in absence of it

ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CM

As an ordinary citizen, we should observe any festival like a festival only instead of making it an issue of dispute...some elements misusing a festival to create a dispute are anti-national

JITENDRA SINGH | UNION MINISTER

I hope in the coming 50 years, the Delhi Police remains resolute in ensuring a secure environment wherein girls/women can move around freely without any inhibition or fear. The police uniform is a symbol of protection to every citizen

SMRITI IRANI | UNION MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Mehbooba under house arrest

Srinagar: Authorities Tuesday placed former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti under house arrest in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar city preventing her from going to Anantnag district. Mufti alleged that she intended to visit the family of the Kashmiri Pandit in Shopian district who was attacked by militants in his native village on April 6.

Mother held for beating toddler

Jammu: A woman was arrested Tuesday for beating her toddler mercilessly in J&K's Samba district. Police sources said that a video went viral on social media in which a mother was seen beating her child mercilessly. Police investigation identified the woman as Preeti Sharma, resident of Upper Kamila Purmandal in Samba district.

CDRI employee found dead

Lucknow: A woman employee of the Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), living in the colony on campus in Lucknow's Jankipuram police station area, was found dead under mysterious circumstances. Her husband has gone missing and is being tracked by police. The deceased, identified as Varsha Singh, 28, was a technical officer in the neuroscience department of the institute and lived in a flat in the colony. Her husband Vishveshwar Singh is an agent in an insurance company.

Arms recovered

Srinagar: Police recovered arms and ammunition from a car Tuesday after the driver abandoned the vehicle on seeing the 'Naka' (Checkpost) party in J&K's Anantnag district. Police sources said a team of the local police deployed on night domination in Mehmodabad area of Dooru tehsil saw a car that stopped some distance away on seeing the police party.

2 killed in blast

Shivpuri (MP): A woman and her daughter were killed and eight others were injured in an explosion at an illegal firecracker manufacturing unit in Madhya Pradesh's Shivpuri district Tuesday, police said. The incident took place around noon at Badarwas town, 55 km from the district headquarters here.



In the second term of the BJP in UP, criminals are more fearless than before. They have no fear of police at all. Incidents of bank robbery, locker theft, rape, shooting and murder are taking place unabated. The people of the state are scared and there is an atmosphere of fear all around. A bullet train of crime is running in UP

AKHILESH YADAV | SP PRESIDENT

WELCOME DIRECTIVE

The Supreme Court Tuesday directed the Pune-based Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) to allow candidates suffering from colour blindness to pursue all courses on filmmaking and editing



PNB LOAN FRAUD

Nirav's close aide brought to India

A CBI team had gone to Egypt's capital to bring back 50-year-old Parab, who was allegedly kept in illegal confinement in a Cairo suburb by Modi, the fugitive diamantaire

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 12: Subhash Shankar Parab, a key accused in the Rs 7,000 crore diamantaire Nirav Modi bank fraud case, was "deported" from Cairo Tuesday after a long diplomatic and legal process, officials said here.

A CBI team had gone to Egypt's capital to bring back 50-year-old Parab, who was allegedly kept in illegal confinement in a Cairo suburb by Modi, the fugitive diamantaire, they said.

The CBI had been chasing Parab, Deputy General Manager (Finance) in Modi's Firestar Diamond and understood to be a key witness to the Letters of Undertaking (LoU) submitted to the Punjab National Bank (PNB) to siphon off over Rs 7,000 crore, they said.

Soon after the scam broke in 2018, Parab was one of the executives who went missing along with Modi's family members and

his uncle Mehul Choksi. The latter found refuge in Antigua and Barbuda, a Caribbean island country, they said.

India had issued an Interpol Red Notice against Parab to track him and bring him back, they said.

India received information that Parab, a crucial link related to LoUs, was kept in illegal confinement by Modi's men.

He was taken from Dubai to Egypt, and India had expressed concerns for his safety, they said.

After a long diplomatic and legal process, the CBI managed to secure "administrative extradition" or deportation of Parab, who could spill the beans on the country's biggest banking scam allegedly perpetrated by Modi and Choksi with a combined loss of Rs 13,000 crore, they said.

The duo is wanted for allegedly siphoning off Rs 13,500 crore of public money from the state-run PNB, using the Letters of Undertaking.

While Modi is in a London prison after repeated denial of bail and is contesting extradition to India, Choksi had taken the citizenship of Antigua and Barbuda in 2017 using the Citizenship by Investment programme even before fleeing India in the first week of January 2018. The scam came to light subsequently.

Ali Kashif Jan designated as terrorist

New Delhi: India has declared Ali Kashif Jan, a member of Pakistan-based terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) who was involved in the Pathankot Air Force station terror attack, as a designated terrorist under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. Jan alias Jan Ali Kashif is the third terrorist to have been designated as a terrorist by the Centre in the last five days. According to the Gazette notification issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Jan is accused in various cases and is being investigated by the National Investigation Agency, including for the Pathankot Air Force station terror attack of 2016.

CBI to prosecute Aakar Patel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 12: The Centre has given the go ahead to the CBI to prosecute Amnesty International India and its former chief Aakar Patel for alleged violations of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), paving way for a special court to take cognisance of its charge sheet filed on December 31, 2021, officials said Tuesday.

The CBI had sought the sanction of the government to prosecute the international human rights organisation because of mandatory clause of Section 40 of the FCRA. Section 40 bars any court to take cognisance of offence under the FCRA without the previous sanction of the Central Government or any officer authorised by that Government in this behalf.

The charge sheet was filed December 31, 2021 by the agency in the Special CBI Court at Rouse Avenue against Patel and Amnesty International India under Section 11 read with Sections 35 and 39 of the Act after a two-year probe into alleged violations, they said.

ROPEWAY HORROR: ALL TOURISTS RESCUED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Deoghar (Jharkhand), April 12: Attempts to rescue cable car passengers stranded for over 46 hours in Jharkhand's Deoghar district ended Tuesday afternoon with a tragedy as a 60-year-old woman fell to her death as she was being winched up from a helicopter, raising the toll to three.

However all other tourists, numbering 60, stranded since Sunday 4 pm in cable cars after a ropeway malfunction which resulted in trolleys colliding at Trikut hills, were successfully evacuated by Indian Air Force (IAF) helicopters.

Fourteen of the last remaining 15 tourists, who were trapped mid-air for more than 40 hours, were rescued during the day." Of the remaining 15 people trapped in cable cars overnight, 14 were rescued while a woman fell off the chopper during the course of the operation," Additional Director General of Police R K Mallick said from



Fourteen of the last remaining 15 tourists, who were trapped mid-air for more than 40 hours, were rescued during the day

The rescue operation was conducted jointly by the IAF, Army, Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the district administration

the spot over phone.

Deoghar Civil Surgeon C K Shahi said that the woman, identified as 60-year-old Shobha Devi, was declared dead on being taken to a hospital. It was unclear whether the harness on her or the rope which was being used to pull her snapped, resulting in her fall and eventual, death.

Mallick said that the rescued people were sent to hospitals, where they will be examined. Three people have died so far, including two tourists who fell to their deaths as they were being winched up from helicopters on Monday and Tuesday during botched rescue attempts, while 12 injured people

Carry out safety audit: MHA to states

New Delhi: In the wake of the Deoghar ropeway accident, the Centre on Tuesday asked all states to carry out a safety audit of each ropeway project and put in place standard operating procedures to deal with such emergencies. In a communication to all states and Union territories, Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla also said that for each ropeway project, a maintenance manual and programme must be in place so that the safety standards conform to good industry practices and such incidents do not recur. The entity operating the ropeways must maintain a record of all the activities undertaken as part of the maintenance programme, he said in the communication.

are undergoing treatment at hospitals. The rescue operation was conducted jointly by the IAF, Army, Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the district administration.

Rioting case: Relief for Hardik

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, April 12: The Supreme Court Tuesday stayed the conviction of Hardik Patel, Gujarat Congress working president, in the Mehsana rioting case.

A bench comprising Justices S. Abdul Nazeer and Vikram Nath said: "The conviction is, hereby, stayed until the appeals are decided accordingly."

The bench added that it was a fit case for the Gujarat High Court to have stayed Patel's conviction in the matter. "Having heard senior counsel Maninder Singh and having regard to the facts and circumstances, we are of the view that this is the fit case for the high court to have stayed the conviction," said the bench.

Senior advocate Maninder Singh, representing Patel, submitted that not allowing his client to contest election is a violation of his right to freedom of expression. Singh added, "It is a violation. I have already lost one chance to contest the election in 2019. We are before your lordships to get our rights under Article 19(1)(a) to be enforced."



Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Gujarat government, said that Patel contesting elections is not the issue before the court, rather the matter should be decided based on parameters in criminal law.

Singh submitted that the state is misusing police powers. "I don't know what they have to say, but my lords must decide this case soon," added Singh.

Patel had approached the Gujarat High Court prior to the 2019 general elections seeking a stay on conviction. The high court rejected his plea, and he could not contest the election. Patel moved the top court challenging this order.

In 2015, Patel had spearheaded the Patidar agitation demanding reservation for the Patidar community.



Students wearing traditional Punjabi attire take part in Vaisakhi celebrations at a college in Amritsar

PTI PHOTO

Covid not over yet, says Mandaviya

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 12: Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya Tuesday played down apprehensions about XE variant of the coronavirus saying it is just another form of Omicron, and asked people to maintain precautions as the pandemic is not over yet.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters where he spoke in detail about the central government's measures to deal with the pandemic since its outbreak in 2020, he also said that it is up to experts to decide as far as starting vaccination of children below 12 years are concerned.

He, though, noted that very few countries have gone for administering the jobs to children in this age group. To a question about the government fixing the price of precaution dose at Rs 225, he said it is the maximum price, and this may still come down due to competition in future as more vaccine manufacturers enter the market.

The precaution dose is being provided free of cost for those

The precaution dose is being provided free of cost for those above 60 years of age at government centres but others will have to get them at private facilities. While the COVID-19 situation is under control, the government is continuously monitoring it and advising states accordingly

MANSUKH MANDAVIYA | HEALTH MINISTER



above 60 years of age at government centres but others will have to get them at private facilities. While the COVID-19 situation is under control, the government is continuously monitoring it and advising states accordingly, Mandaviya said.

One has to take precaution as the pandemic is not over yet, he said. "We cannot predict tomorrow," he

Omicron wave that hit many countries hard.

In a presentation, he highlighted that the total fatality rate (TFR) was much lower in India compared to many developed countries. India reported 380 deaths per million population compared to the global average of 788 deaths, he said.

India was also able to limit the infection's spread, with 31,383 cases reported per million against 63,458 globally, he said. BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla took a swipe at rival parties for their criticism aimed at the government's response to the pandemic and said that for them, opposition to Prime Minister Narendra Modi was bigger than the fight against the pandemic.

India implemented the world's largest vaccination programme under Modi, he said. As part of its 'samajik nyay pakhwada' (fortnight dedicated to social justice) campaign to highlight the central government's welfare measures, the BJP has been focussing on various initiatives taken by the Modi government.

FUTURE WARFARE LIKELY TO BE HYBRID: IAF CHIEF

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, April 12: The ongoing Russia and Ukraine conflict is a reflection of complete multi-domain operations that are taking place, Indian Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari said Tuesday.

He said, "This is the first time we are witnessing the unfolding of a truly hybrid warfare...We are witnessing the use of drones, hypersonic weapons, aircraft of all sizes and types and ground forces all working in unison against the backdrop of economic sanctions and diplomatic heft."

Speaking at the All India Management Association event, the IAF chief further stated that there is a lot to learn from the Russia and Ukraine conflict. "Is it only in hardware? Is it

going to be through soft power? Is it going to be a multitude of all this? Primarily what it amounts to is to be able to re-imagine, to re-invent, to be able to re-dedicate and retrain ourselves for future conflicts," he said.

He was speaking on the topic, "The Future of Air Warfare: Securing the Skies and Beyond" organised by All India Management Association. The Indian Air Force Chief said, "In the last 20 years, we have seen unprecedented developments in technology which have totally changed the way we live, socialise and work."

"Our social media followers are as much a part of our life as our immediate family. Our increasing reliance on technology has reached such a stage where the modern generation is more likely to ask Siri if it is daylight rather than



opening the windows to see if it is," he said. With the advent of the Internet and social media platforms, the world has become a very small place sans borders.

Traditionally, wars have been fought on the land, at sea, in the air

and to some extent, in space. In the past two decades, this spectrum has increased to encompass cyber and information domains.

The first four domains are classically physical and the other two are virtual. The overarching ef-

fect of cyber and information on the conduct of conventional wars has created a new, hybrid and multi domain spectrum of conflict resulting in older tactics and strategies becoming passé.

"Therefore, to secure our borders, there is a definite

To secure our borders, there is a definite imperative to Reimagine, Reform, Redesign and Rebuild our traditional war fighting machinery and adapt to this new emerging paradigm

imperative to Reimagine, Reform, Redesign and Rebuild our traditional war fighting machinery and

adapt to this new emerging paradigm," he said.

"As we become more and more interconnected, a cyber-attack on our networks can cripple command and control structures. What I am trying to get at is that in the next war, the enemy might not be a country or an organisation. We may never know the perpetrators of a Distributed Denial of Services attack and we will not know when and from where the attack will take place."

"In the future, we could be attacked on all fronts, ranging from economic strangulation to diplomatic isolation and military stand-offs to information blackouts in the form of attacks by Distributed Denial of Services. All this will happen well before the first bullet is fired or the first aircraft goes across the border."

international

of the day quote

We regularly engage with our Indian partners on these shared values (of human rights) and to that end, we are monitoring some recent concerning developments in India, including a rise in human rights abuses by some government, police and prison officials

Mian Nawaz Sharif will come back to Pakistan soon. He will have to go to jail upon his arrival in the country because he is convicted on the cases. So, he will have to go to

China is attempting to challenge and undermine the sovereignty of its neighbours

SHORT TAKES

Over 100 killed in Nigeria's north

Abuja (Nigeria): An armed gang has killed more than 100 people in a remote part of northern Nigeria, survivors and local authorities said Tuesday. The attackers targeted four villages in the Kanam area of Plateau State, the most recent in a series of violent attacks in Nigeria's north. Such attacks in Nigeria's northern region have become frequent, especially between Fulani Muslims who are mostly cattle herders and Christian communities from the Hausa and other ethnic groups who are mainly farmers. The conflict over access to land and water has further worsened the sectarian division between Christians and Muslims in Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation with its 206 million people deeply divided along religious lines.

Lebanon's bakeries to shut down

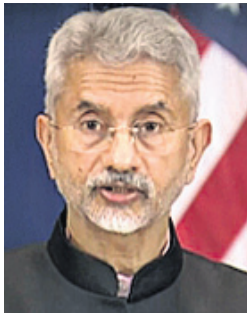
Beirut: More bakeries in southern Lebanon suspended business Tuesday amid shortage of flour, the Head of the Bakery Owners Syndicate in South Lebanon said. "A big number of bakeries stopped working today and many more will follow suit tomorrow as they no longer have flour and are therefore unable to secure the citizens' need for bread," Zakaria Al-Arabi al-Qudsi was quoted as saying by Enashra news website Monday.

Global Cov cases top 499.8m

Washington: The global coronavirus caseload has topped 499.8 million, while the deaths have surged to more than 6.18 million and vaccinations to over 11.11 billion, according to Johns Hopkins University. In its latest update Tuesday morning, the University's Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) revealed that the current global caseload and the death toll stood at 499,748,065 and 6,181,560 respectively, while the total number of vaccine doses administered has increased to 11,110,770,965.

Japan, Italy to lift defence ties

Tokyo: Japanese Defence Minister Nobuo Kishi said he and his Italian counterpart agreed to step up military cooperation as Japan expands security ties with Europe amid concern about Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its impact on Asia. Kishi told reporters that he and Italian Defense Minister Lorenzo Guerini discussed the possible expansion of joint military drills and development of defense technology.



If you are looking at energy purchases from Russia, I would suggest that your attention should be focused on Europe. Probably our total purchases for the month would be less than what Europe does in an afternoon

S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

NEPAL CURBS IMPORTS OF CARS, COSMETICS
Nepal has restricted imports of non-essential goods, including cars, cosmetics and gold, after its foreign currency reserves dropped, BBC reported



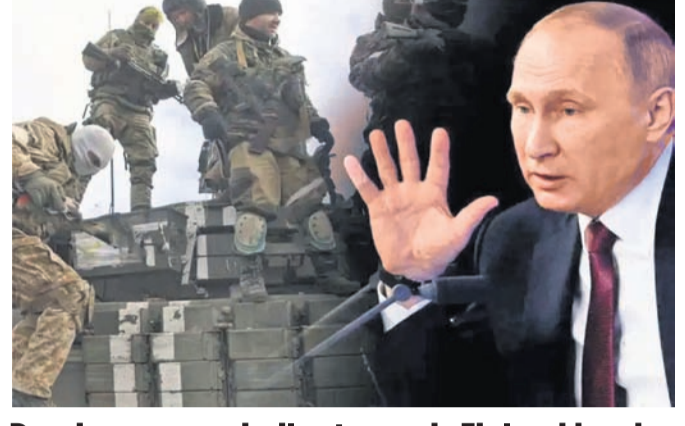
Putin defends 'noble' war

President Vladimir Putin vowed Tuesday that Russia's bloody offensive in Ukraine would continue until its goals are fulfilled, and insisted the campaign was going as planned, despite a major withdrawal in the face of stiff Ukrainian opposition and significant losses

AGENCIES

Lviv, Ukraine, April 12: Russian President Vladimir Putin Tuesday defended the war in Ukraine as a 'noble' mission that would achieve its goals as his troops massed for a new offensive amid allegations of rape, brutality against civilians and possible use of chemical weapons.

Ukrainian officials urged civilians to flee eastern areas ahead of the anticipated offensive, while the battle for the southern port city of Mariupol was reaching a de-



Russia moves missiles towards Finland border

London: Russian heavy weapons, including missile systems, have been seen moving towards the border with Finland, hours after Russia warned its northern neighbour against joining NATO, media reports said. An unconfirmed video uploaded last night appears to show two Russian coastal defence missile systems moving along a road on the Russian side of the border that leads to Helsinki. Daily Mail reported. The missile systems are thought to be the K-300P Bastion-P mobile coastal defence system, designed to take out surface ships up to and including aircraft carrier battle groups. The Russian deployment comes as Finnish Prime Minister Sanna Marin said she expects her government "will end the discussion before midsummer" on whether to apply for NATO membership. Daily Mail reported.

Should the Russians seize Azovstal, they would be in full control of Mariupol, the lynchpin between Russian-held areas to the west and east. The city has already been laid waste by weeks of Russian bombardments and officials say about 20,000 people or more may have been killed.

Putin, speaking in Russia's Far East at a ceremony marking the 61st anniversary of the Soviet Union putting the first man into space, spoke defiantly despite Western abhorrence at his actions and the imposition of wide-ranging international sanctions on his country.

Since he sent his troops over the border February 24, about a quarter of Ukraine's 44 million population have been forced from their homes, cities turned into rubble, and thousands of people have been killed or injured - many of them civilians.

WTO sees war weighing on global trade growth

Geneva: The World Trade Organisation is predicting that trade in goods will grow much less than previously expected this year, saying prospects for the global economy have darkened since the onset of Russia's war in Ukraine. The Geneva-based WTO Tuesday pointed to multiple uncertainties in its forecast over the next two years because Russian and Ukrainian exports of items like food, oil and fertilisers are under threat from the war. It also cited the lingering impact of the Covid-19 pandemic - notably from lockdowns in China. Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala described a "double whammy" from the conflict and the coronavirus. She said the war has caused "immense human suffering" in the region and its effect has rippled around the world, notably in poorer countries.

Lanka announces debt default

AGENCIES

Colombo, April 12: Faced with critically low forex reserves, Sri Lanka Tuesday announced that the crisis-stricken country will default on its external debt pending a bailout package from the International Monetary Fund.

A statement from the finance ministry said, "it shall be the policy of the Sri Lankan government to suspend normal debt servicing. ... Shall apply to amounts of affected debts outstanding on April 12, 2022".

The policy shall be in effect for all international bonds, all bilateral loans excluding swaps between the Central Bank and a foreign central bank, all loans with commercial banks and institutional lenders, it said. The debt servicing suspension will be in force for an interim period pending an orderly and consensual restructuring consistent with the proposed arrangement with the IMF. The government in January resisted calls for debt default in order to pay for its imports. Since then, the economic crisis has been aggravated by a shortage of food, gas and electricity. People carry out protests throughout the country blaming the government for its mishandling of the economic crisis caused by the forex crisis.

An analyst, who did not want to be named, said, "this is a unilateral debt suspension, not the outcome



DOING 'UTMOST' TO HELP SL: CHINA

Beijing: China Tuesday reiterated that it is doing its 'utmost' to provide assistance to debt-ridden Sri Lanka, even as Beijing maintained a steady silence on Colombo's request for debt rescheduling as well as extending the promised \$2.5 billion assistance. Saddled with a huge forex crisis, Sri Lanka Tuesday suspended servicing external public debt pending the completion of its discussions with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the preparation of a comprehensive debt restructuring program covering the obligations. The policy shall be in effect for all international bonds, all bilateral loans excluding swaps between the Central Bank and a foreign central bank, all loans with commercial banks and institutional lenders, the Sri Lanka Finance Ministry said.

of negotiations with creditors or following consent solicitation". Sri Lanka's external debt servicing obligations were thought to be over USD 6 billion.

In January, a \$500 million sovereign bond payment was settled. In July another one-billion-dollar payment becomes due. WA Wijewardena, ex-deputy governor

of the Central Bank, said the government was left with very low forex reserves and hence no available options. Yet the policy to suspend debt servicing could be reversed after an agreement with the IMF. Sri Lanka is facing its worst economic crisis since gaining independence from the UK in 1948.

Boris, Sunak fined by Scotland Yard for breaking Covid rules



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

London, April 12: Financial penalties have been imposed on British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Chancellor of the exchequer Rishi Sunak by London's Metropolitan Police for breaking Covid-19 lockdown rules. Johnson's wife Carrie has also been fined.

Johnson and Sunak are otherwise in the middle of a tense relationship after the tax affairs of the latter's wife, Akshata Murthy, the daughter of Infosys founder Narayana Murthy, became public.

Such information is meant to be confidential at all times with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. A section of the British press has insinuated that Johnson's loyalists may have been behind the leak. The Met, popularly known as Scotland Yard, has been investigating 12 rule breaking parties at 10 Downing Street, the office-cum-residence of the British Prime Minister. It has so far issued an estimated 50 fines to various individuals. Opposition Labour party leader Sir Keir Starmer immediately called for Johnson and Sunak's resignations. He said: "Boris Johnson and Rishi Sunak have broken the law and repeatedly lied to the British public. They must re-

The fines on Johnson, Sunak & Carrie were confirmed by govt officials, who did not specify which event or events the penalties are linked to. It was previously reported, though, that the three were at a gathering for the Prime Minister's birthday in June 2020

sign." Johnson is also accused of misleading the Parliament, which is a resignable offence.

However, it is really up to his Conservative party to decide whether it wants to change its leader in mid-term. Johnson had insisted in the House of Commons that "guidelines were followed at all times". This has now turned out to be untrue. He apologised for attending a drinks party at his garden with an unconvincing excuse that he believed it was a work event. An inquiry by a senior civil servant, Sue Gray, found that there had been a failure of leadership.

FOR A REASON

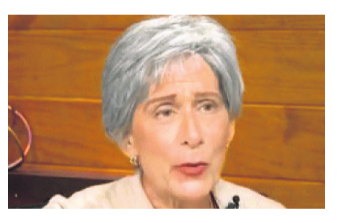


An Indigenous person takes part in a march during a protest against Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro and for land demarcation in Brasilia, Brazil

US professor abuses India, singles out Brahmins

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Philadelphia, April 12: University of Pennsylvania law professor Amy Wax made more inflammatory comments on a national conservative talk show Friday, slamming immigrants who are critical of the US, Philadelphia Inquirer reported. "There is just a tremendous amount of resentment and shame of non-western peoples against western peoples for western peoples' outsized achievements and contributions," Wax told political commentator Tucker Carlson on Fox. "It's really unbearable." Wax criti-



cised Asian and South Asian Indian doctors at Penn Medicine, who she said, "Are on the ramparts for the antiracism initiative for dump on America." She singled out the Brahmin women from India. "Here's the problem," she said. "They are taught that they are better than

everybody else because they are Brahmin elites and yet on some level, their country is a s-hole. ... They've realised that we've out-gunned and outclassed them in every way. ... They feel anger. They feel envy. They feel shame. ... It creates ingratitude of the most monstrous kind." "It's just kind of sad when you have someone so dumb on the faculty of one of the best law schools in the country," said Neil Makhija, a Penn Law lecturer, who also serves as the executive director of Indian American Impact, a national South Asian civic and political organisation, the report said.

Will Imran & his party's mass resignation from Parl help?

AGENCIES

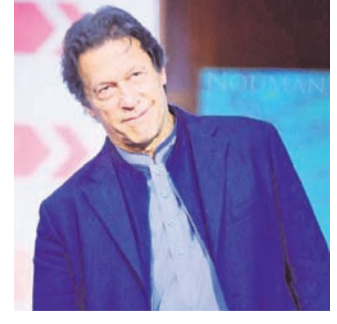
Islamabad, April 12: After being ejected from power through a no-confidence vote in the parliament with opposition claiming majority, Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) decided to not only boycott the voting proceedings but also rendered resignations, creating a major void by emptying at least 133 constituencies.

Imran Khan's decision to render mass resignations from the National Assembly was a difficult pill to swallow for many of PTI members as there was a clear deviation within the party. Many

party members were of the view that resigning will cede ground open for its opposition parties, something that would not help the PTI but may show its negative affect and impact on Imran Khan's demand of early elections in the country. However, the final decision was left for Imran Khan to take, who decided to render mass resignations.

The question is if this move will help Imran Khan achieve his prime goal of having early elections in the country or not?

Imran Khan has decided to take to the streets and protest against what he calls an imported gov-



ernment, "which has come into power with the help of a US-led international conspiracy" against him. The main agenda behind the public protests across Pakistan is

Shehbaz thanks Modi

Islamabad: Pakistan's newly-appointed Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Tuesday thanked his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi for felicitating him and said his country desires 'peaceful and cooperative' ties with India. Sharif, however, emphasised that peaceful settlement of outstanding disputes including Jammu and Kashmir is indispensable.

to show public strength and create enough pressure on the Shehbaz Sharif-led coalition government to announce general elections at the

earliest. It is a fact that Imran Khan's latest narrative of an anti-US uproar, international conspiracy has gained him a major uplift in his popularity among the masses, who came out in huge number to show their support to him and rejected accepting the newly-elected government under Shehbaz Sharif.

Now, with Imran Khan and his team out of the Assembly, a thorough plan has been formulated for staging big public gatherings, demanding the government to hold early elections.

While Imran Khan believes that public pressure will push the government towards going into early

elections, the decision to resign from the parliament may not help him achieve his desired result from the public uproar.

By not being in the assembly, the PTI loses out on being part of any legislation, formation of commissions, or major decision-making process. It also would not be able to challenge the ruling benches with its demand of early elections in the parliament, the very place where this particular decision will be made.

Imran Khan says that he cannot sit in the same parliament with what he refers as "thieves and looters of the country's wealth".

of the day quote

Bank credit is beginning to pick up especially in MSME sector. Therefore, I think probably by the end of the second quarter or in the second half of the year, private sector will pick up the baton of capital expenditure

V ANANTHA NAGESWARAN | CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISER

The textile sector is growing at a fast pace and we should take exports to USD 100 billion by 2030. We will leave no stone unturned to achieve this aggressive growth and substantial target

PIYUSH GOYAL | UNION MINISTER

India's increasing numbers of 'dollar millionaires' include young entrepreneurs or high-earning professionals who appreciate the luxury element and technology of the cars

MARTIN SCHWENK | CEO, MERCEDES-BENZ INDIA

SHORT TAKES

Hero Electric ties up with ElectricPe

New Delhi: Hero Electric Tuesday said it has joined hands with EV charging platform ElectricPe to set up charging points across India for its customers. The collaboration entails Hero Electric riders to access ElectricPe's charging network. The charging points would come up at residential complexes, offices, malls, and other establishments. The alliance will help strengthen the charging network and propel EV adoption across the country, Hero Electric said in a statement. "A robust charging network is crucial for the growing EV sector for faster adoption of EVs across the segment. This association will provide a seamless charging and EV riding experience to customers by easing the accessibility through ElectricPe's charging points that are getting installed on a large scale across the country," Hero Electric CEO Sohinder Gill noted.

Epic raises \$2bn for metaverse

New Delhi: Epic, the developer of popular game Fortnite, has announced a \$2 billion round of funding from Sony and KIRKBI, the family-owned investment company which founded the Lego Group. The funds will be used to boost Epic's dream to build the metaverse. Sony and KIRKBI invested \$1 billion, respectively, in Epic. "This investment will accelerate our work to build the metaverse and create spaces where players can have fun with friends, brands can build creative and immersive experiences and creators can build a community and thrive," said Tim Sweeney, CEO and Founder, Epic Games.

BSV to set up facility in T'gana

Hyderabad: Bharat Serums and Vaccines Limited (BSV) will be investing Rs 200 crore for setting up a vaccine and injectables making facility in Telangana, an official release said Tuesday. BSV's Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Sanjeev Navangul, met with Telangana Industries Minister KT Rama Rao at Pragati Bhavan, said. The investment will be used to set up a vaccine and injectables manufacturing unit with international standards in Genome Valley here. The facility will manufacture women's health products, rabies vaccines and other hormone related products, it said.



Trai takes the business of calculation of valuation seriously, and on that basis, we have arrived at rational reserve prices. The prices we have given have been set at 70 per cent of valuation

PD VAGHELA | CHAIRMAN, TRAI

REDBUS LAUNCHES 'REDRAIL'

redBus, a MakeMyTrip group company, Tuesday announced the launch of redRail app and expects the segment to contribute 10-15 per cent in gross ticketing value of the company in 3-4 years. A 65 per cent overlap between bus and train travellers works to the company's advantage as the company will leverage the large user base of redBus to push redRail



17-MONTH HIGH Retail inflation shoots up near 7% YoY in Mar

AGENCIES

New Delhi, April 12: Costlier food items pushed the retail inflation to a 17-month high of 6.95 per cent in March, much above the upper tolerance level of the Reserve Bank, according to government data released Tuesday.

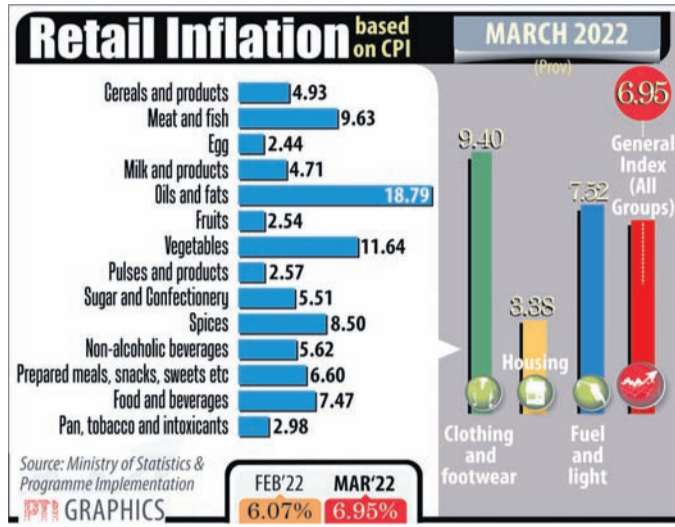
This is the third consecutive month that the Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation remained above the 6 per cent mark. The previous high at 7.61 per cent was recorded in October 2020.

The inflation in the food basket shot up to 7.68 per cent in March 2022, from 5.85 per cent in the preceding month.

Retail inflation was 5.52 per cent in March 2021, while the food inflation stood at 4.87 per cent.

The RBI's tolerance limit of retail inflation is 4 per cent with a 2 per cent margin on either side. On a quarterly basis, the retail inflation during January-March works out to be 6.34 per cent.

As per the data by the National Statistical Office (NSO), inflation in oils and fats during the month soared to 18.79 per cent as the geopolitical crisis due to the Russia-Ukraine war has fuelled edible oil



CONSUMER PRICES UP 6.95% Y/Y IN MARCH VS FEBRUARY'S 6.07%
CONSUMER FOOD INFLATION UP 7.68% Y/Y IN MARCH VS 5.85% IN FEB
ECONOMISTS EXPECT CENTRAL BANK TO HIKE RATES IN JUNE

prices. Ukraine is a major exporter of sunflower oil.

In vegetables, inflation quickened to 11.64 per cent in March, while in 'meat and fish' the rate of price rise stood at 9.63 compared to February 2022.

However, inflation in the 'fuel and light' category was lower at 7.52 per cent in March from 8.73 per cent in the preceding month.

Announcing the first bi-monthly monetary policy of 2022-23 last week, the Reserve Bank of India raised the retail inflation projection for the current fiscal to 5.7 per cent from an earlier forecast of 4.5 per cent. However, it expects moderation in prices of cereals and pulses on a likely record harvest of the winter season (rabi) crop.

The central bank had also said that given the excessive volatility in global crude oil prices since late February and the extreme uncertainty over the evolving geopolitical tensions, any projection of growth and inflation is fraught with risk, and is largely contingent upon future oil and commodity price developments.

"The CPI inflation shot up well

beyond our expectations, touching a 17-month high...Led predominantly by a sharper than anticipated surge in some components of food and beverages such as meat and fish."

"With the MPC having signalled an imminent stance change, the rate hike cycle may begin as early as June 2022, if the next CPI inflation print doesn't significantly cool off from the March 2022 level," Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, Icara, said.

As the domestic fuel price hikes were kept on hold for the most part of March 2022, the complete transmission of global fuel prices on domestic prices is expected to be seen in April 2022 print, Vivek Rathi, (Director-Research at Knight Frank India) said.

"Furthermore, due to sustenance of inflationary pressure in the economy, as the prices of goods and services rise, the labour costs are expected to increase. The RBI has accounted for 6.3 per cent for the June quarter and hence some pressure on account of elevated inflation level is likely to continue in near future," Rathi added.

Disappointed by TRAI recommendations on 5G spectrum: COAI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 12: Industry body COAI on Tuesday expressed deep disappointment over TRAI's recommendations on 5G and termed the spectrum pricing suggested by the regulator as "too high".

Given the recent reforms for telecom sector announced by the government, these recommendations are "one step backwards than forward" towards building a digitally connected India, COAI said in a statement.

The Cellular Operators' Association of India (COAI) is an apex industry body and its members include Bharti Airtel, Reliance Jio and Vodafone Idea.

In a statement, COAI said it is disappointed by TRAI recommendations on 5G spectrum bands.

The spectrum pricing recommended by TRAI is too high, it said. "Throughout the consultation process, industry had presented extensive arguments based on global research and benchmarks, for significant reduction in spectrum prices."

"Industry recommended 90 per cent lower price, and to see only about 35-40 per cent reduction recommended in prices, therefore is deeply disappointing," the association said.

NMP: Govt completes transactions worth ₹96,000 cr in FY22

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 12: The government completed transactions worth Rs 96,000 crore under the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) in 2021-22, surpassing the ambitious programme's first-year target of Rs 88,000 crore, a top official said on Tuesday.

According to the official, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in a meeting with CEO Niti Aayog, finance secretary and secretaries of different ministries today reviewed the progress of NMP implementation.

Road, power, coal and mining assets helped in surpassing the first-year target, the official said, adding that the long term investment impact of the transactions completed in the last fiscal is estimated at Rs 9 lakh crore.

He said sectors/ministries where targeted monetisation potential could not be met for FY22, were asked to expeditiously identify 'quick win' assets and roll out transactions to be on the track during subsequent years.



The Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways achieved an overall monetisation value of about Rs 23,000 crore in FY22, while the Ministry of Power closed the fiscal with an overall monetisation achievement of about Rs 9,500 crore, the official added.

He also said that during the meeting sector-wise targets for FY2022-23 were deliberated and the aggregate target of Rs 1.62 lakh crore has been firming up.

According to the official, the finance minister called for full and personal engagement by all ministries to ensure the achievement of the future year target under the NMP.

India to face more power cuts due to coal shortage

REUTERS

Chennai, April 12: India is likely to face more power cuts this year as utilities' coal inventories are at the lowest pre-monsoon levels in at least nine years and electricity demand is expected to rise at the fastest pace in at least 38 years, officials and analysts say.

Power cuts could stifle industrial activity in Asia's third largest economy, just when economic activity was starting to recover after months of COVID-related lockdowns. The shortage of electricity as a percentage of de-

mand has shot up to 1.4% over the last week, a Reuters analysis of government data showed, higher than the 1% deficit in October, when India last faced a serious coal shortage, and the 0.5% shortfall in March.

The southern state of Andhra Pradesh, home to plants operated by automakers such as Kia Motors and drug manufacturers including Pfizer, is facing an electricity deficit of 8.7%, the data showed, pushing it to resort to widespread power cuts.

Coal inventories at power plants had an average stock of nine days at the beginning of

this financial year starting April 1, the lowest since at least 2014. Federal guidelines recommend power plants to have at least 24 days of stock on average. The problem is, even after Coal India and the coal ministry kept asking power plants to stock up, the utilities kept reducing their inventories, said Rajiv Agarwal, secretary general of the Indian Captive Power Producers Association.

Facor Alloys Ltd (FALYBO), a producer of ferrochrome which is used in manufacturing stainless steel, said on Monday it was reducing output by 50% due to the power cuts in Andhra Pradesh.

BIZ BUZZ



Care Super Specialty OPD Centre was inaugurated at Keonjhar in association with Health Scope. The OPD Centre was flagged off by Kishlay Anand (HCOO) and Lokanath Dash (GM - BD) of Care Hospitals. It was followed by health camp where more than 250 were screened. Participation was seen from Cardiology, Orthopedics, Neurosurgery and Nephrology

State level CSR conclave held virtually

Bhubaneswar: A state level CSR conclave of Odisha's top industries on the theme 'Doing CSR: Transforming the State' was conducted through virtual mode Tuesday. It was attended by more than fifteen large industries including Vedanta, JSPL, JSW, MCL, HAL, Arcelor Mittal, Hindalco-Utkal Alumina, TPCODL, Dalmia Cement, NALCO, FACOR, Tata Steel etc and industry bodies like CII, UCCI and others. The conclave was flagged off by Chief Guest CJ Venugopal, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary and Special Guest Tapan Chand, President, Vedanta and a well known top industry professional. In his inaugural address Shri Venugopal emphasised on climate action and green energy as special focus areas for CSR by industries. He appreciated the commitment of industries by coming together on a platform for discussing on ways and means to use CSR for the growth and development of the state. TK Chand in his address to the industries and industry bodies told that introduction of statutory provisions on CSR have helped in doubling CSR budget, increasing CSR spend from around Rs 10,000 crore in 2015 to Rs 19,000 crore in 2019. Local area has also got attention for implementation of CSR projects. He further added that CSR is a change as well as an opportunity to change. CSR has brought change in the mindset and now industries have developed a mindset of caring and sharing and industry captains, the joy of sharing. All the above organisations made presentations about their flagship CSR projects and exhibited their commitment to implement CSR in the state with a mission and bring transformation in the community.



Category	Company	Change (%)
TOP GAINERS	Axis Bank	1.67
	Kotak Mahi	1.05
	Power Grid	0.82
	Maruti Suz	0.60
	ICICI Bank	0.59
TOP LOSERS	Tata Steel	-2.76
	Tech Mahi	-2.26
	Wipro	-2.16
	Bharti Airtel	-2.15
	Reliance	-1.90

INDIA ON BRINK OF 'FLEXIDUS'

'Many women quitting jobs due to lack of flexibility'

LinkedIn's research shows that following the impact of the pandemic, 8 in 10 (83 per cent) of working women have realised they want to work more flexibly

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 12: A significant percentage of women in India are quitting or considering quitting their jobs this year as pay cuts, bias, and exclusion have become their penalties for working flexibly, says a LinkedIn report.

Leading online professional network LinkedIn, Tuesday, launched its latest consumer research based on 2,266 respondents in India to uncover the challenges faced by women at work.

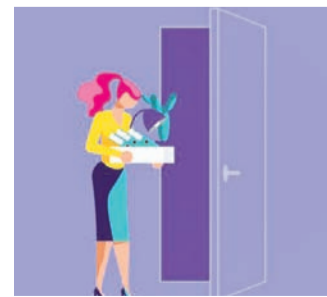
The research finds that poor employer sentiment towards flexible working and career breaks is hold-

ing women back from asking for greater flexibility and re-entering the workforce.

LinkedIn's research shows that following the impact of the pandemic, 8 in 10 (83 per cent) of working women have realised they want to work more flexibly.

The research noted that 72 per cent of working women are rejecting job roles that don't allow them to work flexibly, while 70 per cent have already quit or considered quitting jobs because they were not offered the right flexible policies.

When asked about the benefits of flexible working, around 2 in 5 women said it improves their work-



life balance and helps them progress in their careers, while 1 in 3 said it improves their mental health and increases their likelihood of staying in their current jobs. But due to strong employer bias,

This is a warning sign for companies and recruiters to remove the stigma surrounding the need for flexibility and career breaks, and introduce stronger flexibility policies if they don't want to lose top talent

RUCHEE ANAND | SR DIRECTOR, INDIA TALENT & LEARNING SOLUTIONS, LINKEDIN

India's working women are paying heavy penalties to work flexibly, it said adding that 9 in 10 working women had to take a pay cut to work flexibly, 2 in 5 had their flexible working request denied, and

1 in 4 struggled to convince their bosses to accept their request.

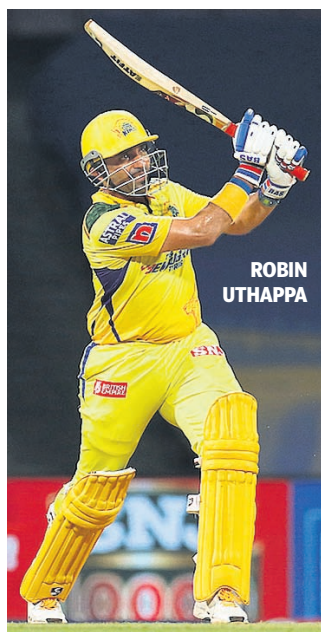
This has made women reluctant towards asking for greater flexibility because they fear exclusion, being held back from promotions, working overtime, taking pay cuts, and being treated unfavourably by their superiors, the research showed. Flexible working is the No 1 priority today for all professionals, especially for working women. In fact, our research finds that India is on the brink of a 'flexidus' with 7 out of 10 working women quitting or considering quitting their jobs due to lack of flexibility.

However, despite the benefits of sabbaticals, about 4 in every 5 (77 per cent) working women in India, who took a break, say that it had actually set them back in their careers. This is due to the prevalent stigma associated with career breaks among recruiters and employers.

LinkedIn is introducing 'Career Breaks', a new feature that allows members to add a career break to their LinkedIn Profile and stand out for the life experiences they have built during their time away and demonstrate how they can apply these learnings to roles they are interested in.

CSK open account in style

MI seek change of fortunes vs Punjab



Dinesh Karthik (34, 14b, 2x4, 3x6) did create a scare, but that was too little and too late as CSK heaved a sigh of relief with their first points on the board.

Earlier, invited to bat, Uthappa and Dube showed their six hitting prowess as they rallied the innings after CSK was reeling at 36/2. Both Dube and Uthappa posted their highest IPL scores to set up the match for defending champions CSK, who are reeling from four straight losses and are still looking for their first win this season.

Uthappa and Dube upped the ante after settling in. The carnage started from the 11th over as the duo went hammer and tongs and CSK cruised to 133/2 in the 15th over, with 73 runs coming in the five overs. Dube was brutal on Wanindu Hasaranga (2/35), who bled 13 runs, in the 11th over.

Uthappa and Dube spared no bowler as CSK amassed 19 runs in the 13th over and 18 runs off the 17th over. The 18th over bled 24 runs before Uthappa missed a deservingly grand. Earlier, CSK lost Ruturaj Gaikwad (17) and Moeen Ali (3) cheaply before the Uthappa-Dube show stole the show.

BRIEF SCORES

Chennai Super Kings 216/4 (Shivam Dube 95 n o, Robin Uthappa 88; Wanindu Hasaranga 2/35) **beat Royal Challengers Bangalore 193/9** (Shahbaz Ahmed 41, Dinesh Karthik 34, Suyash Prabhudessai 34, Maheesh Theekshana 4/33, Ravindra Jadeja 3/39) **by 23 runs.**



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, April 12: Winless after four games, Mumbai Indians will be desperate to reverse the trend when they face Punjab Kings in the IPL here Wednesday.

It has been a nightmarish beginning for the five-time champions who are known for their slow starts. A formidable all-round side over the years, MI have looked a pale shadow of themselves in the on-going edition, and will need several things to fall in place if they are to arrest the slide and restore their campaign.

Apart from their batters' inability to go big, the below-par performance by the bowlers has made things hard.

The road to redemption looks difficult as they are placed ninth on the points table but skipper Rohit Sharma would be eager to turn things around, not just for the team but for himself, too.

Rohit has not been the influential batter that he normally is for his franchise and will have to lead from the front, even as the need to find the right combination rings out loud.

With two wins and as many losses, Punjab are lying seventh in the standings and come into the game on the back of a defeat against Gujarat Titans.

Rohit is very important at the top but the others, including his opening partner Ishan Kishan, Suryakumar Yadav and Tilak Varma, will also need to rise to the occasion before it gets too late for MI to stage a comeback.

Also Dewald Brevis, known for his ability to play a wide range of strokes, is yet to announce himself in the league. The team management would be hoping that the batters are able to fire in unison.

One of the top three batters will definitely need to score big if Mumbai are to post a big total or chase down one.

The weakest link for Mumbai is the indifferent form of veteran all-rounder Kieron Pollard. Pollard, who can single-handedly take games away, has been far from his best and the West Indian would be aiming to regain his mojo.

MI, though, will be up against a quality Punjab attack led by Kagiso Rabada and faces a tricky task against the likes of Rahul Chahar, Vaibhav Arora or Arshdeep Singh.

The Mumbai bowlers, including Jasprit Bumrah, have been off the radar. The current attack comprising leg-spinner Murugan Ashwin, Basil Thampi and Jaydev Unadkat will have to support Bumrah, who will be keen to recreate his magic. The trio's 12 overs will be crucial if MI's fortunes are to change.

MI are up against a team comprising power-hitters like Shikhar Dhawan, Liam Livingstone and M Shahrulkh Khan.

TODAY'S MATCH

Time: 07:30 pm

TELECAST

Star Sports channels & Hotstar

Navi Mumbai, April 12: Shivam Dube (95 n o, 46b, 5x4, 8x6) and Robin Uthappa's (88, 50b, 4x4, 9x6) scintillating strokeplay was complemented by a stellar performance from the spinners as Chennai Super Kings notched up a 23-run win over Royal Challengers Bangalore to open their account in the IPL here Tuesday.

Invited to bat, Dube and Uthappa conjured up commanding unbeaten half centuries, smashing 17 sixes and 9 fours between them en route to a 165-run stand - the overall highest for the third wicket and

the highest of this season - to take CSK to an imposing 216/4.

In reply, RCB was restricted to 193/9, with young spinner Maheesh Theekshana (4/33) and skipper Ravindra Jadeja (3/39) running riot with seven wickets between them in CSK's 200th IPL game.

With this win, the defending champions finally snapped their four match losing streak, while for Bangalore, it was just their second loss in five matches.

Chasing an improbable 217, RCB lost skipper Faf du Plessis (8), who became Theekshana's first victim and star-batter Virat Kohli (1), who was removed by Mukesh

Choudhary (1/40), inside the first five overs. In-form Anuj Rawat (12) too fell inside the power-play after being trapped in front of the wicket by Theekshana.

The 21-year-old spinner from Sri Lanka, who was picked for Rs 70 lakh in the mega auction, then

cleaned up debutant Suyash Prabhudessai (34, 18b, 5x4, 1x6) and Shahbaz Ahmed (41, 27b, 4x4), who tried to take the game deep with their quick 60-run stand off 33 balls. Theekshana castled Prabhudessai before getting rid of Ahmed.

Back injury rules Chahar out of IPL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 12: A back injury to Deepak Chahar has all but put paid to the pace bowling all-rounder's hopes of playing in the ongoing IPL-15, adding to the woes of Chennai Super Kings' faltering campaign.

Having entered the tournament without Chahar, their strike bowler, the defending champions have lost all their four matches so

far in the 10-team competition and are placed at the bottom of the points table.

While CSK has always claimed that their Rs 14 crore buy would be fit before the second week of April, the seriousness of the tear was such that there was "no chance of his availability" in the tournament.

According to sources, the India and CSK bowler suffered the back injury during his rehab at the

National Cricket Academy in Bangalore.

Chahar has been at the NCA for more than a month now, recovering from the quadricep tear he picked during India's T20I series against West Indies in February.

Initially it was believed that Chahar would miss a major part of the IPL, but his quick recovery kept CSK optimistic of a late April return.

The bowling all-rounder had suffered a quadriceps injury during the third T20I against West Indies in February, walking off the field after failing to complete his spell.

The 29-year-old, who was bought for Rs 14 crore in the mega auction, went on to miss the ensuing series against Sri Lanka. Chahar, who is also adept at playing the big shots, played a key role in the team's success last year.

Atletico need attack to pass Man City test



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, April 12: This time, defence alone won't be enough to keep Atletico Madrid alive in the Champions League. Diego Simeone's team need their attack to wake up if it wants to overcome the 0-1 first-leg loss to Manchester City in the quarter-finals of the European competition.

The team was held scoreless and managed a total of one shot on target in their last two matches. To reach their first Champions League semifinals since 2017, Atletico need their stars to step up when City visit Wednesday.

João Félix, Antoine Griezmann and Luis Suárez have combined to score only four goals since early March - two by Félix and two by Suárez in the same Spanish league game. Matheus Cunha and Ángel Correa, the other Atletico forwards, also haven't helped much recently, being unable to score since February.

Other than the double against last-place Alavés April 2, Félix is scoreless in six matches in all competitions. Suárez hasn't found the net since February 19. The 35-year-old Uruguay striker was key for Atletico in its Spanish league title-winning campaign last year but has played a reduced role this campaign.

Griezmann has been struggling the most, though, with no goals in nine consecutive matches in a scoreless streak that dates back to

a Copa del Rey match in January. The 31-year-old France forward returned to Atletico this season after a lackluster stint with Barcelona but hasn't fully met expectations.

Simeone rested Félix against Mallorca Saturday and started with Suárez and Griezmann in attack, but they struggled in a 0-1 loss that left the team fourth in the league standings with seven rounds to go, in danger of not securing a Champions League spot next season.

Atletico had only one shot on target against relegation-threatened Mallorca and none in the first leg against City. Besides offensive struggles, Atletico's recent home record in European competitions also has been disappointing. It hasn't won in its last six home games in the Champions League, with four draws and two losses. It lost to Liverpool and AC Milan this season, with draws against Porto in the group stage and Manchester United in the first leg of the round of 16.

To make it worse, the Wanda Metropolitano Stadium won't be at full capacity Wednesday after UEFA charged the club with "discriminatory behavior" and ordered a 5,000-seat section of the stadium to be closed after an Atletico fan was filmed making a Nazi salute in the first leg in Manchester. Atletico will also have to display a UEFA banner there, saying "No To Racism."

So near yet so far for India eves

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Potchefstroom, April 12: Mumtaz Khan's brace went in vain as the Indian women's hockey team's dream of reclaiming a bronze medal from the FIH Junior World Cup went up in smoke, losing 0-3 in the shoot-out to England after both the teams were locked 2-2 at the end of regulation time here Tuesday.

Mumtaz, India's highest scorer in the tournament with eight strikes, scored two field goals in the 21st and 47th minutes, but those were cancelled by Millie Giglio (18th) and Claudia Swain (58th) to take the third-fourth play-off match to shoot-out.

The Indians cut a sorry figure in the shoot-out as Olympian Sharmila Devi, skipper Salima Tete and Sangita Kumari faltered, while England's Katie Curtis, Swain and Maddie Axford found the back of the Indian net to avenge their loss



AT THE SAME STAGE IN THE 2013 EDITION.

In the 2013 Junior World Cup in Monchengladbach in Germany, India had secured its maiden bronze medal by defeating England in the shoot-out.

Contrary to the final result, it was India which had the better statistics in the match in all aspects, be

it possession, circle penetrations and shots on goal. But England had the last laugh as lapse in concentration in the final few minutes of the match cost India dearly.

England took the lead three minutes into the second quarter through a lucky goal. Giglio's weak shot on goal from inside the circle bob-

bled towards India goalkeeper Bichu Devi Kharibam, who mistimed her kick as the ball went past between her legs inside the post.

England's joy lasted just three minutes as India equalised through, who else, than Mumtaz. She scored her seventh goal of the tournament by beautifully controlling a pass from the right flank with one touch and then slotted the ball into the English goal to draw parity.

India made the scoreline 2-1 in the 47th minute, yet again through Mumtaz, who calmly lifted over the English goalkeeper following a goal-mouth meleé.

Trailing by a goal, a desperate England pulled off their goalkeeper for an extra player six minutes from the final hooter. Two minutes from full time, the Indian defence finally wilted under pressure when Swain scored the equaliser with a slap shot past Bichu Devi after receiving a pass from the right flank.

Victoria named 2026 CWG host; 16 sports in list

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, April 12: Victoria will host the 2026 Commonwealth Games with the Australian state's regional centres organising the majority of events in a break from the traditional single host city model.

The Games will be staged in March 2026 across multiple cities and regional hubs including Melbourne, Geelong, Bendigo, Ballarat and Gippsland, each with its own athletes' village.

The opening ceremony will take place at the iconic 100,000-capacity Melbourne Cricket Ground, the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) announced Tuesday.

The announcement follows an exclusive dialogue period between the CGF, Commonwealth Games Australia (CGAus) and Victoria.

The initial list of 16 sports does not feature shooting, wrestling and archery -- sports in which India has done well in the previous editions

An initial list of 16 sports, including T20 cricket, have been put forward for the Games, with further sports to be added later this year. The initial list, however, does not feature disciplines such as shooting and wrestling, sports in which India has done well in the previous editions of the sporting extravaganza. Archery also does not feature in the list.

Australia has staged the CWG on five occasions, with Victoria playing host to the Melbourne 2006 Games; widely considered one of the most successful editions of the event in history.

The country has also staged the Games in Sydney in 1938, Perth in 1962, Brisbane in 1982 and most recently Gold Coast in 2018. Victoria has also hosted the Commonwealth Youth Games in Bendigo in 2004.

As per the CGF's new 'strategic roadmap' unveiled at its 2021 General Assembly on October 11, athletics and swimming will be the only compulsory sports in the CWG from the 2026 edition, allowing host cities greater freedom to include disciplines of their choice from a proposed core list of 22 sports.

GAME ON AT KALINGA



Germany men's hockey team players walk out off the Biju Patnaik International Airport upon their arrival in Bhubaneswar for their rescheduled FIH Pro League tie against hosts India at the iconic Kalinga Stadium here, April 14-15. The World No.6 side are currently placed second in the standings with 17 points from eight games. India, on the other hand, are on top of the standings with 21 points from 10 matches. India had beaten Germany 5-4 in the bronze play-off in the Tokyo Olympics last year to clinch a historic medal after 41 years.