

## Evidence against Sarmistha piles up

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Chandbali, April 13:** In a major development in the Manas Swain murder case, Crime Branch (CB) sleuths recovered Tuesday the spade, pickaxe, sack, slippers, mobile earphones after the accused admitted to have dumped it at Chandikhole after burying the body of the deceased in Nayagarh. The materials have been seized and will be sent for forensic examination, CB officials said. Moreover, sleuths have also traced a major piece of evidence confirming the use of prime accused Sarmistha Rout's car in the crime. The lensman was kidnapped from Palashpur village in Bhadrak district, February 7 and later murdered in Bhubaneswar.

The sleuths have managed to get CCTV footage from the Bandalo toll gate near Chhatia. The footage confirms that Sarmistha along with the other accused in her car had gone past the toll gate, on the night of February 9. They had gone to Chandikhole in Jajpur district probably after burying Manas's body in Nayagarh. **Contd..P4**

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



No, we've no school bus, fire truck, police van or ambulances for public. We're only bulldozers!

## Abhay appointed OSSC chairman

**Bhubaneswar:** Former DG of Odisha Police, Abhay was appointed Wednesday as the new Chairman of Odisha Staff Selection Commission (OSSC). "Abhay, IPS (Retd) is appointed as Chairman, Odisha Staff Selection Commission in accordance with the provisions of Rule-3 of the Odisha Staff Selection Commission (Method of Recruitment and Conditions of Service of the Chairman and Members) Rules, 1995," said the State General Administration department through a notification. The tenure of appointment of the former IPS officer will be for a period of five years from the date of taking charge of the post or till he attains the age of sixty-two years whichever is earlier.



## Karnataka minister booked

**Bangalore:** Karnataka Minister KS Eshwarappa has been booked for abetment in connection with the alleged suicide of civil contractor Santosh K Patil who had accused him of corruption. The minister has been named as the first accused in the FIR filed by the brother of the deceased Prashanth, police said Wednesday. The contractor had said that Eshwarappa demanded 40 per cent commission for release of funds for civil works worth Rs 4 crore. Eshwarappa however, has asserted that he will not resign. Karnataka CM Basavraj Bommai has ordered a probe into the incident. **P7**



# Hackers hit OIL, demand ₹60cr

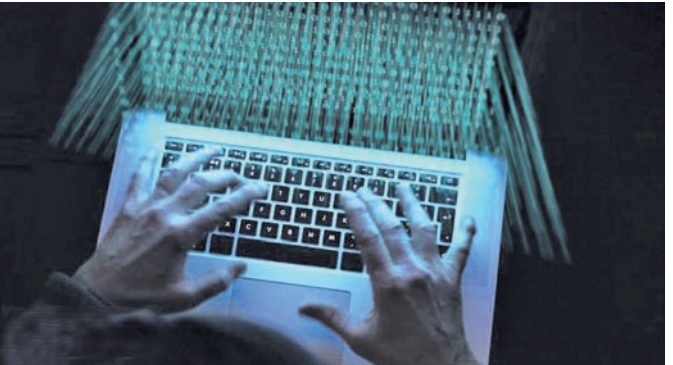
Officials described the attack as the 'biggest' in recent years which disrupted services severely in Assam

AGENCIES

**Guwahati/Dibrugarh, April 13:** PSU major Oil India Limited (OIL), which suffered a cyber attack disrupting its operations in Assam, has received a ransom demand of USD 75,00,000 (close to ₹60 crore) from the perpetrator, officials said Wednesday. A case was registered under various sections of the IPC and the IT Act, 2000, after the company lodged a complaint with the police.

OIL and the government exchequer have incurred a huge financial loss due to the cyber attack - 'ransomware', as the business through the IT system has been seriously affected, OIL Manager (Security) Sachin Kumar said in the police complaint.

The cyber attack took place April 10 at OIL's one of the workstations of the Geological and Reservoir department, but it was intimidated by the IT department Tuesday, Kumar informed. "After their preliminary investigation, it came to their notice



**Our online systems are down and we are working offline. However, drilling and production work has not been affected**

OIL SPOKESPERSON

that OIL's network, server and clients' PCs are facing network outage. Further, it also came to their notice that cyber attacker has demanded USD 75,00,000 in Bitcoins) as a ransom through a note from the infected PC," Kumar

said. "The server, network and other related services of the company are affected," he added.

A senior Assam Police official in Dibrugarh district said they have registered a case under the various sections of the IPC and IT Act, and started an investigation into the matter. OIL spokesperson Tridiv Hazarika said from its field headquarters in Duliajan that the company is working on repairing the system in phases and 'it will take time'.

"Our online systems are down and we are working offline. The drilling and production work has been unaffected. The data are being saved offline now and it will be uploaded later when the IT system will run again," Hazarika said.

The spokesperson also played down the ransom demand. "These are standard tactics of hackers who use 'ransomware' to intimidate the target entities," he said. "The virus infected a few computers, which were subsequently removed from the LAN connection," Hazarika stated.

A senior official of the OIL's pipeline headquarters at Narengi in Guwahati said that they have shut down their entire network, although their system has not suffered any attack as of now. "Our work is badly affected as we are fully dependent on the internet network. Our IT engineers are constantly monitoring the situation and they are fully prepared to thwart any cyberattack," the official said on condition of anonymity. He termed it as the biggest 'cyber attack in recent years'.

# PEACE PANEL FORMED OVER JODA CLASH

Representatives of both communities agreed to cooperate with the admin to diffuse the tense situation in Joda



**Joda, April 13:** In a bid to end the communally tense situation in this town, the administration formed Wednesday a 'Sadbhavana Committee' involving people of two communities and some officials. The move came after a fresh round of violence Tuesday night which left a young boy injured and some vehicles of the police and administration were vandalised.

A meeting was held at the Joda municipality office at 1.00pm. Senior citizens, representatives of both communities, administrative and police officials and intellectuals discussed about the ways to end the current imbroglio. Keonjhar SP Mitrabhanu Mohapatra, Champua sub-collector Pratap Pritimaya, Barbil additional SP Sudam Charan Sahu, DSP James Toppo, Barbil SDPO Himansu Bhusan Behera and other officials attended the meeting and deliberated on how to restore peace in the violence-hit town. The SP sought opinions from representatives of both the communities on how to restore peace. Representatives of both communities assured they would abide by the decisions taken during the meeting to restore normalcy in the town. At the meeting, officials discussed attack on the police during the clash Tuesday night. People of the two communities were urged to be careful to ward off tension. Locals were urged not to believe in 'fake news' and asked to cooperate with the police and administration. **Contd..P4**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**ADMISSIONS OPEN 22-23**  
Std I-XI (Sc., Comm. & Humanities)  
(Day Boarding & Residential available)

Visit Our Campus **NOW!**



Learn from the Experts

12 Global Educators

# leisure

## FORTUNE FORECAST

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

**ARIES**  
Today you may think that you have the Midas touch, but Ganesh warns you to keep in mind that everything that glitters may not be gold. You need to give quality time to your family members to keep them happy. You need to give credit where it is due, and maybe buy a gift or two for your kids.

**TAURUS**  
If you are a manager or an administrator, Ganesh forecasts an outstanding day for you. Thing will turn out far better than your expectations. Even if you are in some other profession you will stand out at your workplace and be appreciated and admired. The latter half of the day will see you going out on spree with your spouse, or sweetheart. A lovely evening, ending with a romantic dinner romantic is a near certainty. You will be brimming with energy and high spirits throughout the day.

**GEMINI**  
You will be in the mood to break free of the rut and routine of daily life today. Trying to keep up with numerous deadlines will keep you tense with worry. You will end up neglecting your familial duties in pursuit of work related activities. You need to find a balance between your responsibilities at work and at home, says Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
You will be dying to take a break today, and go on a brief pleasure trip with your sweetheart. However, it won't be possible. So in the afternoon, you will have an extended lunch break, making plans for a future trip. A vacation is all you can think of today. Your work may suffer a little, but you will more than make up for it.

**LEO**  
The long hours you've spent alone are nearing their end, says Ganesh, as the stars align to help you find that special someone; chances are that today shall be the beginning of an enduring romantic relationship for you. This sense of personal joy will spill over into your workplace as well, and will keep you in cheerful spirits. But avoid any confrontation with people around you, especially neighbours and acquaintances, suggests Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
There is an important turning point about to reveal itself in relationships and how they will proceed. Ganesh sees you busying yourself in arranging a get-together with friends and family. In the evening, the opposite sex will make a whole of a difference between optimism and despair.

**LIBRA**  
Today, you will try every practical solution at hand to win over somebody's affections, predicts Ganesh. Well, that little bit should get you going. In any case, you make the best possible impression on the opposite sex, and today will be no exception. In the evening, you can expect to spend some magical moments with your family members, says Ganesh.

**SCORPIO**  
A turn of tide in fortunes of life awaits you today, predicts Ganesh. The way you think - or not - will affect your health as much. Evenings may be spent in the pleasant company of friends and family, says Ganesh.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
A lucky day for you as you go in for improving your appearance. Your social status will be boosted too. Your brainstorm will propel you into the limelight, so be prepared to receive much adulation. Expect people to get gaga over you, says Ganesh.

**CAPRICORN**  
Your extraordinary sense of humour will keep those around you amused throughout the day, so much so that they will look forward to spending more time with you in the future as well, says Ganesh. Also, your ability to solve problems with ease will impress many. Widening social network and maintaining healthy relations with them all will benefit you in numerous ways.

**AQUARIUS**  
You are at your best today. A perfect blend of commitment and competency, you will zap people by your persona. By afternoon, your adrenaline will be pumping fast, and you'll agree to complete others' work too. Hats off to you, says Ganesh.

**PISCES**  
If legal hassles have been troubling you of late, they are likely to reach a satisfactory conclusion today, says Ganesh. Your finances look good. Family matters will keep you busy in the afternoon. Your evenings are likely to be filled with music or dance classes.



## KIM USES FAKE INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT TO STALK FRIENDS

Reality TV star Kim Kardashian has revealed she set up a 'finsta' (fake Instagram account) to stalk her friends. Talking to host Amanda Hirsch on the *Not Skinny But Not Fat* podcast, the mum-of-four confessed to following her off her finsta account, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.

## UNIVERSAL MUSIC ACQUIRES PRESLEY'S BACK CATALOGUE

Universal Music Publishing Group has acquired the back catalogue of Elvis Presley and has teamed up with Authentic Brands Group to become a 'guardian' of the late star's brand. The music publishing giant will now represent the King of Rock n Roll's historic discography.



## ON WORKING WITH BIG B, AJAY DEVGN

# I'm not someone who gets intimidated: Rakul

**NEW DELHI:** Actress Rakul Preet Singh, who is gearing up for the release of the film *Runway 34*, has talked about working with two big screen legends -- Amitabh Bachchan and Ajay Devgn. She says she was not intimidated on working with the two superstars instead she was excited to share the screen with them.

She says she was not intimidated on working with the two superstars instead she was excited to share the screen with them. Talking about if she felt intimidated to work with Amitabh and Ajay in the frame, Rakul in a conversation said: "I am not someone who gets intimidated. I feel that if in the moment what you have worked for all your life you give into in-

timidation then you have lost the plot. "I am someone who gets excited. I get that happy energy that I'll be able to shoot with them and sharing screen space with Amitiji... So, the tougher it is the more kick I get. The more challenging it is the more excited I get. So, I behave like that."

This is not the first time for Rakul to work with Ajay, who has also directed *Runway 34*. She has previously shared screen space with him in *De De Pyaar De* and will next be seen with him in *Thank God*. IANS

# If I could come out of drugs, so can you: Dutt

**MUMBAI:** Veteran actor Sanjay Dutt addressed the issue of substance abuse amongst youth asking them to get high on life instead. Calling upon youth to not get trapped into the cycle of drug abuse he said "If I could come out of drugs, so can you," in a rare freewheeling interview to close friend Rahul Mittra, award-winning filmmaker and brand advisor to the 50-year celebrations of Arunachal Pradesh.

"I don't want people to look at drug abusers as a taboo to society. They need acceptance and a lot of faith to get out of the addiction, which requires a lot of support," shared Dutt. The actor also urged the families of drug abusers to come out in the open and discuss the problem with family & friends, rather than treating it like a taboo and to get proper treatment done.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Sanjay will next be seen in *KGF: Chapter 2*, opposite Yash and Raveena Tandon. AGENCIES



# Guests' cameras sealed with temporary stickers

**MUMBAI:** Organisers of Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor's wedding are leaving no stone unturned to ensure privacy at the festivities.

While everyone from the industry remained tight-lipped about the intimate wedding, now that guests have started showing up for the functions, they are being closely monitored.

The attendees at Alia's mehendi function had to cover their phone cameras with stickers provided by the security personnel at Ranbir's Vastu residence in the Bandra area of Mumbai. The security sealed the

## Ranbir-Alia wedding

cameras of anyone attending the function with a removable red coloured sticker that would help avoid live streams, photos or videos from the venue.

The security personnel also requested the cops to intervene when things didn't seem to be under control in terms of crowd. The officers of the Mumbai Police spoke with the paparazzi stationed at the venue and issued strict instructions to them to not block the cars of the attendees for photos or bytes.



## Raima on challenges of doing action scenes

**MUMBAI:** Actress Raima Sen is all set to be seen as antagonist Neelam in the upcoming series *Mai*. The actress for the first time is doing a character with grey shades and also performing a lot of action-packed sequences.

Sharing more about her experience, Raima shares: "Initially, I found it difficult because the gun was heavy and I couldn't even press my finger against the trigger. However, after working with an action master, I

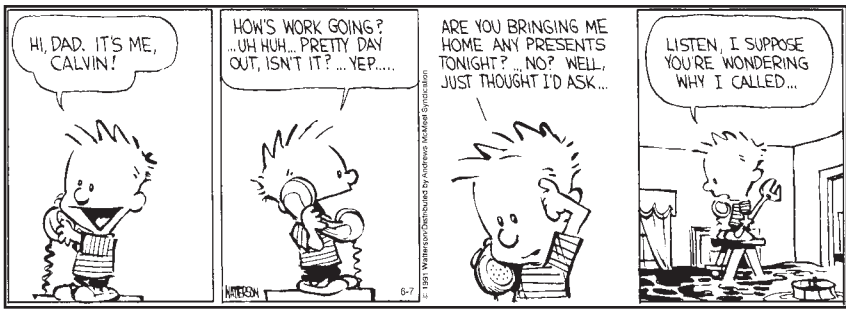
realised that the most important thing is to just stay in the zone."

"The idea was to make the action sequences come out as realistic and still have a cinematic edge to it. Eventually, it turned out really well. Needless to say, it was quite a thrilling experience," she adds. *Mai* revolves around a middle-class mother (Sakshi Tanwar) whose daughter (Wamiqa Gabbi) is run over by a truck right in front of her eyes. Now Sakshi wants to take revenge from those responsible for her daughter's death. IANS

## PEANUTS



## CALVIN AND HOBBS

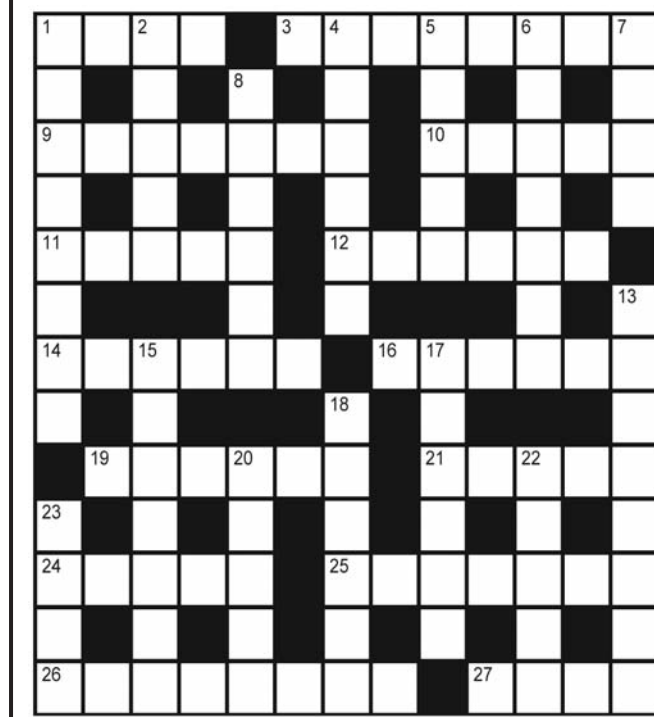


## BREVITY



## FUN post

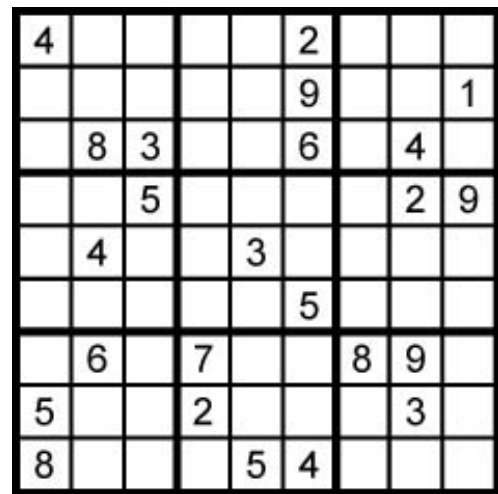
## CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Docile
  - 3 Insurrection
  - 9 Specialty spectacles
  - 10 Dutch cheese
  - 11 Dairy product
  - 12 Lengthen
  - 14 Sour
  - 16 Razor fish
  - 19 Asian skiff
  - 21 Dresser
  - 24 Combine
  - 25 Foreign domestics (2,5)
  - 26 Rest period
  - 27 Fixed charges
- Down**
- 1 Illusionist
  - 2 Double birdie
  - 4 Delicate and pale in color
  - 5 Metal bar
  - 6 Large lizards
  - 7 Happy
  - 8 Graduates
  - 13 Medical practitioners
  - 15 Picture
  - 17 Formula
  - 18 Encroach upon
  - 20 Ruffle
  - 22 First-class
  - 23 Gardener's purchase

## 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.

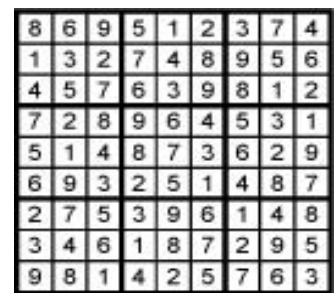


## SOLUTIONS

### CROSSWORD



### SUDOKU



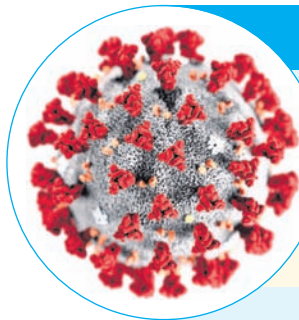
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown



## MOMENT OF GLORY

Odia Language Literature and Culture department organised a book exhibition and seminar to mark the 74th capital foundation day at Harekrushna Mahtab State Library in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	50,15,07,045	45,16,62,639	62,11,581
India	4,30,38,016	4,25,05,410	5,21,736
Odisha	12,87,874	12,78,588	9,122

# After Covid hiatus, City observes foundation day with gusto



Speaker Surjya Narayan Patro received the guard of honour at a civilian parade to mark the 74th foundation day of the capital city, Wednesday

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, April 13:** The Capital city observed its 74th foundation day with pomp and ceremony Wednesday. The state government and the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation are organising a three-day long programme to observe the special occasion. The authorities and the citizens could not observe the capital foundation day ceremony in full scale in the last two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The state government Wednesday organised a special event at the Mahatma Gandhi Marg here as part of the capital foundation day celebration. Odisha Assembly speaker Surjya Narayan Patro graced the occasion as the chief guest.

"The city's population was around 14,000 at the time of its foundation. Now, the size of the population has reached 14 lakh. The population will go up further in the coming days. So, we should work together to make Bhubaneswar the best city of the country," Patro said. On the occasion, altogether 13 eminent personalities from different walks of life were felicitated with Rajdhani Gourav Samman 2022. Students from various schools and colleges in the city took part in a civilian parade on the Mahatma Gandhi Marg to celebrate the occasion. Various departments of the state government have lined up a host of events to observe the capital foundation day, sources said. The first Prime Minister of India,

**The city's population was around 14,000 at the time of its foundation. Now, the size of the population has reached 14 lakh. The population will go up further in the coming days. So, we should work together to make Bhubaneswar the best city of the country**

**SURJYA NARAYAN PATRO | SPEAKER**

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, had laid the foundation stone for the city April 13, 1948. It's one of the first planned cities of modern India, designed by German architect Otto Konigsberger in 1946. The city has come a long way since then. The Temple city, with several ancient temples, has gradually transformed into Smart City over the years. It has also become a hub for sports, higher education, modern healthcare and information technology.



A cultural event organised in the city



Students presented a daredevil show on the occasion

# 'We would be a model in solid waste management'

Amid colourful celebrations across Bhubaneswar, known as Ekamra Kshetra, to mark its 74th Foundation Day, City's first woman mayor Sulochana Das, in an extensive talk to **Orissa POST**, elaborates on Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC)'s immediate plans to address various civic issues. Excerpts:



■ **How can the BMC ensure better civic amenities with a trimmed budget of ₹600cr as compared to ₹628cr last year?**  
■ I firmly believe that where there is a will there's a way. The Naveen Patnaik-led government has always been very receptive to the developmental needs of Bhubaneswar. The government often allocates adequate funds to the city. If required, we would request for additional funds from the government. Our top priority is to utilise the funds allocated to us and provide better civic amenities to the citizens.

of the garbage. We are determined to make Bhubaneswar a model city in solid waste management.

■ **How would you combat vector-borne diseases which often raise their ugly heads in the city?**  
■ We are working on this on a priority basis. We will soon start fumigation activities and also create awareness among people for the removal of stagnant water to eliminate the mosquito breeding sites.

■ **What are your plans to better solid waste management?**  
■ The BMC has already undertaken several measures for solid waste management in the city. As many as 30 micro composting centres (MCCs) have been made operational while the work on 11 others is in the advance stage. At least 10 material recovery facilities out of the total 24 are now functioning in the city. Segregation of waste is being done for better management

■ **How would you address the perennial problem of waterlogging?**  
■ This was the first thing that we deliberated upon at the BMC meeting. We are actively working on this and will ensure minimum waterlogging during the monsoon. Low-lying areas will have permanent pumping stations. Drains are being de-silted to tackle waterlogging. We seek cooperation from the citizens to deal with

the issue effectively. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has directed us to work on this issue on a priority basis. We intend to make Bhubaneswar monsoon-ready in two months.

■ **Any new service in the offing?**  
■ We are working to strengthen the ward-level offices so that they will act as nodal centers. The citizens can get various services from the ward-level offices. They need not rush to the BMC headquarters always. These ward-level offices will also play a key role for the redressal of people's grievances. People's representatives and the civic officials will work together to resolve various issues at the local level.

# City AIIMS bags prestigious CAHO-ACE award

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, April 13:** The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhubaneswar, has been conferred with the prestigious CAHO-ACE award. The Central Sterile Services Department (CSSD) of AIIMS-Bhubaneswar has received 2nd prize under the government healthcare organisation category in the Consortium of Accredited Healthcare Organisations Awareness Compliances and Excellence (CAHO-ACE) programme for the year 2021. AIIMS-Bhubaneswar Medical Superintendent Dr Sachidananda Mohanty and AIIMS CSSD faculty in-charge Dr Ashok Kumar Jena received the award at a special programme held at Kochi in Kerala recently. For the first time, the AIIMS-Bhubaneswar has been conferred with the CAHO-ACE award after a strict scrutinisation. The CAHO-ACE award is given to healthcare institutes for improvement in re-processing of reusable items for better patient safety. Notably, the award is given to only two healthcare institutes from across the country after thorough examination of their patient safety process. AIIMS-Bhubaneswar Director Prof Mukesh Tripathi has congratulated the CSSD for receiving the prestigious award. "Our institute has been following the best practices to ensure safety of patients," Tripathi said. It is worth mentioning here that the modern sterilisation unit was opened at the AIIMS-Bhubaneswar March 25, 2019. It is considered as the backbone of sterile practices at the premium health institute.

**ADITYA BIRLA**  
UTKAL ALUMINA

## Our Vision

To actively contribute to the social and economic development of the communities in which we operate. In doing so, build a better, sustainable way of life for the weaker sections of society and raise the country's human development index.

**Transforming Lives**

**UTKAL ALUMINA INTERNATIONAL LTD**  
Doraguda, Kucheipadar  
Rayagada

## 'Ignored' at foundation day fete, MP seeks probe

**Bhubaneswar, April 13:** Annoyed over not being invited to the Bhubaneswar Foundation Day celebration by the state government, BJP leader and Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi Wednesday urged Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to order a probe into the matter. The issue was raised by Sarangi after not finding her name in the guest list of the 74th Rajdhani Foundation Day celebration. The event was attended by Assembly Speaker SN Patro, two ministers, city mayor and MLAs. Expressing displeasure, Sarangi in a twitter post wrote: "13th April today. This day is celebrated as Rajdhani Pratistha Diwas! There is a big function being organised by the State Govt to mark the day. It has invited almost all EXCEPT ME. I have not been invited. Wanted to attend. It is a big day. Why so?? My fault??" Later in a letter to the Chief Minister, the bureaucrat-turned politician and BJP MP said, "I had not been invited by the state government to attend the function. Neither the invitation card has my name nor have I been spoken to by anybody in the state government." "As a public representative of the capital, it is my 'right' to be invited to the public function which had been organised by the state government," she said in the letter.

**#TogetherToWin**

**HCG PANDA**  
CANCER HOSPITAL  
adding life to years

## IT'S TRUE.

### NOBODY KNOWS CANCER LIKE WE DO.

A decade of adding life to years. Making Odisha proud.

**WIN OVER CANCER WITH HCG**

HCG Panda Cancer Hospital has been recognized as the best for its quality cancer care in the state of Odisha by The Times Health - All India Critical Care Ranking Survey 2020 and as also, one of the best in India\*.

MEDICAL ONCOLOGY | SURGICAL ONCOLOGY | RADIATION ONCOLOGY  
PET-CT | DAYCARE CHEMOTHERAPY | HAEMATO ONCOLOGY  
MULTI-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH

**For virtual consultation, visit [hcgoncology.com](http://hcgoncology.com)**

**For appointments, call 06717116999 | 7406499999**

**HCG Panda Cancer Hospital, NH-16, Telengapentha, Cuttack, Odisha**  
**HCG Daycare Center, Jayadev Vihar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha**

\*The only cancer hospital listed from Odisha by the Times Health survey.

IN A FIRST, COCAINE SEIZED IN ODISHA

Bhubaneswar, April 13: In a first in Odisha, the Special Task Force (STF) of the state police has recovered around 202gram of cocaine from two interstate drug peddlers in Jayadev Vihar area here...



During the search, 202 gram of cocaine worth ₹12.12 lakh and other incriminating materials were seized from Ravi and Sunny Kumar

fluent English and has contact with many foreigners. This helped him sell cocaine in the national capital. 'In order to spread his cocaine business to posh localities of the capital city, Ravi contacted Sunny...

RETURN CAR FEST



Devotees pulled the chariot of Lord Lingaraj back to the 11th century shrine in Old Town area of Bhubaneswar as part of the return car festival, Wednesday

AIIMS satellite centre to resume ops April 16

Bhubaneswar, April 13: The AIIMS Bhubaneswar Satellite Centre (ABSC) in Balasore is all set to resume operation from April 16. Initially, the satellite centre would function with three departments.

State reels under intense heatwave

Bhubaneswar, April 13: A large part of Western Odisha reeled under intense heatwave conditions Wednesday, with Jharsuguda town recording 44 degrees Celsius...

12 places recorded maximum temperatures above 40 degrees Celsius. Bhubaneswar also sizzled at 38.5 degrees Celsius while Cuttack recorded 37.8 degrees Celsius

₹128cr shot in the arm for Mo School



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 13: The 33rd executive council of meeting of Mo School initiative Wednesday approved projects worth Rs 128 crore, official sources said.

an official statement said. The executive council has approved projects worth Rs 128 crore, which includes a contribution by the alumni, matching grants by the state government...

'Ensure rights of nutritional security for women, children'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 13: The Centre Wednesday called upon states to ensure nutritional rights of security for women and children apart from their good nutrition, gender equality and proper education...

Women and Child Development Minister Tukuni Sahu highlighted the steps & interventions taken by the state for the development and empowerment of women and children

ventions across all generations to improve nutrition among women and children. The Poshan 2.0 programme aims to promote nutrition awareness and good eating habits for sustainable health...

to women-led development. Now that all the COVID related restrictions are lifted, it is time to build a healthy society through focused interventions, he said.

EOW nabs another accused in ₹6.81 crore fraud case

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, April 13: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Crime Branch has arrested Chandan Sahoo, another accused in Rs 6.81 crore fraud case, an official said Wednesday.

On 74th foundation day, City gets wellness centre

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 13: As the Capital city celebrated its 74th foundation day Wednesday, Ashwini Group of Hospitals inaugurated a wellness centre here to offer a host of health services for both mind and body.

CRY FOR QUOTA



Samajwadi party workers staged a demonstration in front of the OBC Commission office in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday, demanding 27 per cent reservation for OBCs in employment

Peace panel formed over Joda clash

Section 144 is still in force and has been extended till 10.00pm Friday. Schools and colleges will remain closed. The ongoing situation has badly affected operations of bank, insurance sector...

affected. The SP said that he would talk to district Collector Ashish Thakare regarding restoration of internet services after 12 noon.

Evidence against Sarmistha piles up

The footage shows Sarmistha's car (OD 02 BA 6599) crossing the toll gate at 12.28am, February 9 to the presence of CB officer Kalpana Sahu at the JMFC court in Chandbali, Wednesday.

confirmed that the caretaker has said that Manas was brutally assaulted. Sleuths are confident that now they have enough evidence to prove that all the accused in the case were involved in the murder of Manas.

MARKET WATCH, WEATHER, and currency exchange rates.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS. List of various agencies and their contact details.

**SHORT TAKES**

**Ganjam tehsildar faces locals' ire**

**Ganjam:** Ganjam tehsildar Arun Kumar Nayak had a tough time facing a huge crowd after he allegedly slapped a youth here Wednesday. Tension prevailed in Sipakuda village while locals heckled the tehsildar for hours. The residents demanded clarification from him for slapping the youth. As per reports, the tehsildar was going in his official vehicle at a high speed on Sipakuda road when the youth, Aranya Nahak, gestured at the vehicle to slow down. The vehicle had gone far ahead of the youth and later turned back to the youth. Infuriated over being gestured to reduce speed of the vehicle, the tehsildar got down from the vehicle and abused him, the youth alleged. The youth also accused the tehsildar of slapping him.

**Jagannath Vana Prakalpa on the wane**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Nayagarh/Bhappur, April 13:** Greenery at Jagannath Vana Prakalpa in Pithakhai reserve forest under Nayagarh forest division is gradually declining due to lack of care and rampant timber smuggling. The project was aimed at supplying logs to the construction of chariots in Puri.



Valuable trees like arjuna, fasi and kadamba are gradually losing their existence. Lovers of Jagannath culture pointed out that the rate at which the forest is shrinking is not far when supplying wood for the chariots of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra would be impossible.

ect in Pithakhai reserve forest under Fatehgarh panchayat July 17, 2000.

They alleged that the purpose of undertaking Jagannath Vana Prakalpa has been defeated, thanks to lack of new plantation and maintenance.

The state government and Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) had taken up similar green initiatives at different places in the state keeping in view the requirement of wood for chariots for the next 50 to 70 years.

Reports said Gajapati Maharaja Dibyasingha Deb had laid the foundation stone for the ambitious project

in Bhappur block was executed, but the project is yet to see any new plantation when many trees are dying natural death.

**Dharmendra distributes free rice in Dhenkanal**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, April 13:** Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Wednesday said it is the responsibility of all to ensure that the benefits of welfare schemes launched by the Union government reach the beneficiaries.

"Transformation of Aspirational Districts' initiative in January 2018 to improve India's ranking under Human Development Index by raising the living standards of its citizens and ensuring inclusive growth for all.

Pradhan said it is not the duty of only the elected people's representatives or those in politics to ensure that the benefits of welfare schemes reach the beneficiaries.

"All stakeholders should ensure that the people for whom the programmes are launched get the real benefits," he said.

The Union education minister distributed free rice to beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, a scheme launched to mitigate food scarcity among the poor people during Covid-19 pandemic, in Dhenkanal district.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has special attention towards Dhenkanal district. The people are being provided with houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, electricity under Pradhan Mantri Soubhagya Yojana and cooking gas under PM Ujjwala Yojana," he said.

Pradhan reviewed the progress of the 'Aspirational District' programme in Dhenkanal district. The Centre launched the

**Shiva produced in JMFC court**

**Mahanga:** Cuttack Rural police Wednesday produced in the court the prime accused in the quintuple murder case at Kusupur. Salipur police registered a case of murder and got the health of the accused, Shiva Sahu, examined at Mahanga community health centre before producing him in the JMFC. IIC Nihar Ranjan Mohanty has started an investigation into the matter. He added that Shiva will be taken on remand. Notably, Shiva allegedly murdered his brother, sister-in-law, two nephews and a niece Monday night over property dispute. He had released a video confessing to the crime. Meanwhile, relatives of the deceased family have demanded a CBI investigation into the murders as they suspected involvement of more people in the crime.

**Political heat up as coop elections draw closer**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhampur, April 13:** Many aspiring candidates have started making beeline for party tickets as poll bugle has been sounded for elections to the co-operative societies in Ganjam district, a report said.



tions will be held to primary cooperative societies while election to 132 central and 21 apex societies will be held in second and third phases respectively, dates for which will be announced later.

This has raised the political temperature in Ganjam district which has the highest number of cooperative societies in the state.

Elections to cooperative bodies were held for the last time in 2015 and the five-year tenure of the elected representatives came to an end in 2020 following which the state government took the control of all

The State Cooperative Election Commission has announced June 19 and 26 as the dates for first phase of elections during which 7,076 primary cooperative societies will go to polls. In the first phase, elec-

primary and central cooperative bodies from May 2020. Aska a cooperative hub Aska got the nickname of 'Samabaya Nagari' (cooperative hub) due to presence of major cooperative bodies there. Its cooperative sugar mill and multi-purpose cooperative societies (MPCS) were named to reckon with all over the state.

The Aska Central Cooperative Bank Ltd had helped in financial growth of hundreds of farmers through agricultural loans.

The bank alone had provided over ₹237 crore loans to the farmers for rabi crops in 2021-22 financial year.

**Ramco gets notice from sub-collector**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jajpur, April 13:** Adjudicating a case related to pollution by Ramco cement plant at Haridaspur in Jajpur district, the sub-divisional magistrate-sub-collector had served a notice on the plant authorities to deposit before it April 12 and submit documents pertaining to pollution and a patch of land. The court had issued a notice March 28.

**POLLUTION WOES**

ities did not depose before the court, alleged complainant Hemanta Kumar Padhi. Locals alleged that Ramco cement is not caring a fig for environmental safety and even for the court notice. Toxic fumes and dusts emanating from the plant are polluting the environment.

Some locals including Satyabrata Rout, Jaydev Nayak, Hemanta Kumar Padhi and Kunja Behera had earlier approached some local leaders about the environ-

mental pollution caused by Ramco plant, but to no avail. They had moved the sub-divisional court over the pollution issue March 24.

Sub-divisional magistrate and sub-collector Sarat Chandra Mohapatra had investigated the matter and admitted that peace is being disturbed by operation of the plant. The sub-collector had directed the managing director

of Ramco and its public relations officer to appear before it along with necessary documents April 12. It was alleged that Ramco officials did not appear before the court.

When asked about it, the sub-collector made a surprising reply. He said, "Many cases are coming to the court, I fail to remember the particular case related to Ramco cement."

**BUY AND SELL**  
YOUR OLD BIKE / SCOOTER OF ANY 2-WHEELER COMPANY AT THE BEST PRICE

- Renovated for Best Quality
- Finance Available
- Free Home Valuation

**JMG AUTOMOBILES** (20 Years of Trust)  
Professorpada, Canal Road, Cuttack - 01  
**PH: 8093080009 / 10**

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/22-23/E-Tender/02 Dt. 11.04.2022

(1) Tender No. e-tender-HQKUR-05-2022, Dtd. 08.04.2022  
DESCRIPTION : CONSTRUCTION OF FIRST FLOOR OF NEW STORE BUILDING AT COACHING DEPOT PURI.  
Approx. Cost of the Work (₹): 54.66 Lakhs, EMD (₹) : 1,09,300.00, Completion Period : 04 (Four) Months.

(2) Tender No. e-tender-HQKUR-06-2022, Dtd. 08.04.2022  
DESCRIPTION : PROPOSED REPAIRS OF CHECKERED PLATE OVER GIRDER BRIDGES NO -13 UP, 63 UP, 63 DN, 66 UP, 66 DN UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / P. WAY / KHURDAROAD.  
Approx. Cost of the Work (₹): 34.53 Lakhs, EMD (₹) : 69,100.00, Completion Period : 06 (Six) Months.

(3) Tender No. e-tender-HQKUR-07-2022, Dtd. 08.04.2022  
DESCRIPTION : PROPOSED RECONDITIONING OF POINTS AND CROSSINGS TONGUE RAILS BY USING RDSO APPROVED H-3 C ELECTRODES A N D C M S C R O S S I N G RECONDITIONING BY TRANSLAMATIC ROBOTIC WELDER AT DIFFERENT YARDS OF KHURDA ROAD - PURI SECTION UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF SENIOR DIVISIONAL ENGINEER (HQ) OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.  
Approx. Cost of the Work (₹): 27.67 Lakhs, EMD (₹) : 55,400.00, Completion Period : 10 (Ten) Months.  
Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1500 Hrs. of 29.04.2022 (For all the Tenders.)  
No manual offers sent by Post / Courier / Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : <https://www.treps.gov.in>  
Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / Corrigendum issued for this tender.  
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), Khurda Road PR-29/N/22-23

**TATA STEEL**

**PUBLIC NOTIFICATION**

Notice is hereby given to all users of Railway lines and premises situated on the completed section of the under-noted section of **TATA STEEL JODA SIDING** between **MMVR & BSPX stations under South Eastern Railway, CHAKRADHARPUR DIVISION** that the 25000 Volt, 50 Hz., AC overhead traction wires / feeder line will be energized on or after the date specified against the section. On and from the same date the overhead traction line / feeder line shall be treated as live at all times and no unauthorized person shall approach or work in the proximity of the said overhead line / feeder line.

Line No	Chainage In Kilometer From To	Length of Wire	Rly./ Division	Date of Energization
TATA STEEL JODA SIDING betn MMVR - BSPX Station CHAKRADHARPUR DIVISION Feeder Line from SSP to Siding Line	Gantry 1 395/785 396/ 400	TSL / F - 17 615 Mtr	S.E. Rly./Chakradharpur	15 <sup>th</sup> April 2022

**CHIEF PROJECTS (RAIL LOGISTICS) TATA STEEL LTD.**

Registered Office: Bombay House, 24, Homi Mody Street, Fort, Mumbai 400 001, India  
Tel.: 022 66658282 Fax: 022 66657724  
(CIN) -L27100MH1907PLC000260  
Website: www.tatasteel.com

**ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର**  
**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, SUNDARGARH (R&B) DIVISION, SUNDARGARH**  
E-mail ID: pwd\_sng@yahoo.co.in, Tel./Fax: (06622)272230  
No.B-49 **"e"-Procurement Notice**  
Bid Identification NO-SE-R&B-SNG-02 OF 2022-23  
Letter No.1837 Date:11.04.22

- The Superintending Engineer, Sundargarh (R&B) Division on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in double cover system on ON-LINE mode from eligible contractors with valid licenses for Construction of Building Works (Including EI & PH Works) as detailed in DTCN
- Nature of Work :- Building Works (including EI & PH)
- No. of Work :- 05 (Five) Nos.
- Tender Cost :- Rs. 10,00,00/-
- Class of Contractor :- 'B' & 'A' Class Contractor
- Availability of bid :- From 10.00 A.M. of date 18.04.2022 to document in the website :- 05.00 P.M. of date 02.05.2022
- Date of Opening of Bid :- 11.00 A.M. on dt.04.05.2022
- The bidders have to participate in ON-LINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website (<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>). Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the website said only.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Sundargarh (R&B) Division. OIPR-34043/11/0001/2223

**WATCO**  
**OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER, WATCO DIVISION-I, VANIVIHAR SQUARE, BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA, PIN-751022**  
Phone / FAX: - 0674-2542821 / e-Mail: gmdivonewatco@gmail.com  
**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT Invitation For Bids (IFB)**  
GMWATCO-I/2/ 2022-23 Dt.13.04.2022  
No.C-79: No.1976, Date:13.04.2022

- Name of the work : Provision of Additional Water connection in South West side of CRPF Campus for newly constructed 442 Numbers of Family Quarters, Bhubaneswar
- Estimate cost : Rs. 63.15 lakh
- Period of completion : 4 (Four) Months
- Date & Time of availability : From 11.00 AM of Dt.19.04.2022 of bid document in the portal to 5.00 PM of 04.05.2022
- Last date / time of opening of : 5.00 PM of 04.05.2022 bids in the portal
- Last date & time of seeking : 5.00 PM of Dt.22.04.2022 clarification
- Date & Time of opening : At 12.30 PM of Dt.05.05.2022 of bids
- Name and Address of the : General Manager, Officer Inviting Bid WATCO Division-I, BBSR

Name & Address of Officer Inviting Bid: The General Manager, WATCO Division-I, BBSR, Odisha, Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal "<https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>"  
Sd./- General Manager, WATCO Division-I, BBSR OIPR-13083/11/0001/2223

**JSW BPSL**  
An ISO 9001, 14001 & OHSAS - 18001 Certified Company

Vill. Thekoloi, P.O. Lapanga, Tehsil - Rengali - 768 212, Odisha  
Phone: +91-663-2535000, 6636000, 6634000, 2535154, 2535281  
Fax: +91-663-2562039, 2562011



We must march on with the quiet certitude that what has to be done will be done.

THE MOTHER



## Inequity as Biz Risk

“We live in a more shock-prone world,” IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva recently observed, “and we need the strength of the collective to deal with shocks to come.” She’s right. In the space of just a few weeks, Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has already shifted geopolitical lines, plunging the world into widespread uncertainty and opening new diplomatic rifts. Societies will need to redefine their choices to account for new global dynamics affecting fundamental issues such as food, energy, and digital security, and the organisation of global trade. While globalisation may not end imminently, its acute vulnerabilities certainly have been exposed. Structural changes in how business is done are already materialising, as demonstrated by the complex reorganisation of manufacturing infrastructure associated with near- and re-shoring. Companies and governments alike are assessing their dependencies.

In such a challenging environment, building collective resilience is of the utmost importance. But it will require solidarity and political cooperation at all levels: global, supranational (particularly in Europe), national, and between businesses, public authorities, and civil society. Success will depend on our ability to achieve not just energy and food security but also equity and fairness in decision-making. After all, existing inequalities have continued to deepen, jeopardising the capacity for collective action. We will need to put aside arguments about the pros and cons of globalisation and start to work toward a more sustainable and inclusive economy.

In hindsight, it is clear that China’s entry into the World Trade Organisation in 2001 amplified global imbalances, triggering a rush to delocalisation (off-shoring) and accelerating the deindustrialisation of the West. Though the resulting price reductions were welcomed by consumers, they were not sufficient to offset or disguise the loss of middle-class purchasing power or the rising sense of insecurity in communities that had lost their industrial base – an outcome that has undermined social cohesion and fuelled populism.

Western workers were left in the lurch by their employers’ scramble for cheap labour. While public spending and redistribution programmes partly mitigated growing economic inequality, the issue has now become so pressing that we can no longer rely solely on state action. The private sector also will need to step forward to shore up the social contract. Some firms have training, inclusion, and diversity policies, and support and sponsor related civil-society efforts. But investors and managers need to view inequality as a matter of business sustainability.

Banks and financial institutions are particularly well positioned to help address inequality, which they can do in at least three ways. First, they can do more to reach socially, digitally, and financially excluded people. If banks are going to serve the millions of people who are struggling financially, they will need to offer more services specifically designed to address everyday difficulties. Too often, financial products are simply not relevant to people’s needs.

The COVID-19 crisis both exposed and exacerbated many forms of marginalisation, from social isolation and the digital divide to food insecurity and a lack of access to affordable housing. These issues should concern us all. They are key social and political battlegrounds.

Second, banks and financial institutions should pay closer attention to local stakeholders, both public and private. Widespread prosperity is impossible if most economic activity and wealth is concentrated in just a few regions. Banks can help by offering better terms for investments and ventures in such areas. Social cohesion and shared prosperity over the long term depend on vibrant local communities, and local communities depend on high-quality social infrastructure and entrepreneurship.

Lastly, banks and financial institutions can support decarbonisation. In many industries, the transition away from carbon-intensive practices will be rapid, potentially leading to job losses. The collective pursuit of net-zero emissions will remain politically tolerable only if the costs and benefits are shared fairly between companies, employees, shareholders, governments, and regions. To that end, banks can help clients monitor their business practices from an ecological and social perspective, so that they will have the information they need to shift investments and financing towards carbon neutrality. To ensure a “just transition,” these metrics will need to be factored directly into all decision-making.

At global gatherings, one hears repeatedly that inequalities are detrimental to economic development, and that supporting emerging markets and developing economies is both good for business and good for the soul. But if today’s business leaders really mean it, they need to go much further. That means recognising that there can be no long-term value creation without redistribution, and that inequality must occupy a central place in our business models.

The stakes could not be higher: economic development and the basis of our democracies. None of us can afford to ignore the issue. Businesses that are not aligned with society’s values and expectations are running undue risks.

Philippe Heim is CEO of La Banque Postale. Bertrand Badré, a former managing director of the World Bank.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

### WISDOM CORNER

- “Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect.” — MARK TWAIN
- “Man is least himself when he talks in his own person. Give him a mask, and he will tell you the truth.” — OSCAR WILDE
- “Have a heart that never hardens, and a temper that never tires, and a touch that never hurts.” — CHARLES DICKENS

### WORDSWORTH

#### Sobriquet

If some individual should adopt an undue familiarity and derisively chuck you under the chin, you might think of several unkind words for the action and your assailant. Sobriquet would not be among them, though a direct connection exists. It’s a mildly weird word in form and spelling as well as sense. In the 400 years it has been in British English it has never quite lost its French pronunciation, perhaps because it undoubtedly looks French. In other English-speaking countries, a spelling pronunciation that sounds the t is now also heard. It has never quite settled on a single spelling either, the sobriquet version that reflects an older French form still being fairly common. It means a nickname. A 90-minute drive away is the beautiful Spanish cathedral city of Salamanca, the warm glow of its sandstone buildings giving rise to the sobriquet the Golden City (The Times, 13 Oct. 2012). Nicknames can be familiar in a good sense – to have one bestowed can be a mark of acceptance. But they may instead be derisive (and divisive), picking on a negative characteristic of a person to push him or her away from membership of a group. The former British prime minister Margaret Thatcher may have been given the sobriquet of the Iron Lady in admiration of her steadfastness, but it wasn’t always meant as a compliment. We can’t be sure of the origin of the term. In French, it grew out of the fifteenth-century sobriquet for a pat or tap under the chin. But there’s doubt about the second part of the word: it has been suggested that it might be from Old French bequet, the nose, or from brechet, the breast or chest, the Old French equivalent of English brisket. Today, French lexicographers broadly agree with Pierre Guiraud’s suggestion in his Dictionnaire des étymologies obscures.

### FOCUS CLIMATE CHANGE

## NOW OR NEVER



Only by mass participation in climate mitigation action by all sections of society in all nations can the world hope to achieve the seemingly impossible feat of net-zero emission by 2050 at the latest

starting at likely extinction in the foreseeable future, as exemplified above, the report dedicates an entire chapter on human behaviour – a first for IPCC. In its 30 years of history, the IPCC has produced six rounds of assessment reports, out of which the first three completely neglected the social aspects in favour of the technical. The 4th and 5th rounds gave only minor importance to the important questions that only political science, anthropology and social science can help answer. This blunder has now been partially corrected as the report seeks to rightly correlate the success of climate crisis mitigation action to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which require a more equitable and just climate transition. The report recommends that both achievement of SDGs and climate mitigation actions should be integrated to be effective. Only by mass participation in climate mitigation action by all sections of society in all nations can the world hope to achieve the seemingly impossible feat of net-zero emission by 2050 at the latest.

The report points out the stark inequality in the current climate crisis, where 50% of the emissions are due to the lifestyle of 10% of the wealthiest people, and the average carbon footprint is 175 times the average carbon footprint of the poorest 90%. The poorest among us are disproportionately affected by the climate crisis and have the least re-

silience to adapt. Therefore, the report calls for vigorous pursuit of the SDGs to create a more equitable society where all sections have a stake in reducing emissions, with the rich taking the lead.

The report points out climate mitigation actions that limit and reduce our use of the three main emission-intensive activities, namely, energy use, fossil fuel-powered transport and building construction sectors. Adapting alternatives already available in these key sectors can help reduce our emissions by up to 50-70% from the current level by 2050 and keep the goals of the Paris agreement still in reach. Solutions such as expanding affordable and clean public transportation, building more compact, walkable cities and ensuring energy-efficient buildings with lower demand for heating and cooling can go a long way. With the population of urban centres growing fast, driven by migration from rural areas, cities and their built infrastructure will play a crucial role in sustainability.

Accounting for embedded carbon in the construction materials such as cement and steel will be necessary. Similarly, reducing the operational carbon footprint from the massive demand for heating and cooling our homes, offices, and commercial buildings will be even more crucial. Extending the service life of already built infrastructure by more intelligent

condition monitoring and maintenance will reduce the need to replace old and ageing buildings and structures. Similarly, smarter design and operation of buildings using the latest in machine learning and artificial intelligence technologies will be game-changers. Sustainability will be the key to this future, which will not only avoid a catastrophe for all humanity but also increase health and happiness, especially if a more equitable economic order can be ensured and the most vulnerable protected from the worst impacts.

If you search the phrase ‘Don’t Look Up’, Bing returns 7.49 million news hits and Google 987 million. It is a climate disaster themed movie released December 5, 2021 on Netflix. An American apocalyptic black comedy film written, produced, and directed by Adam McKay, it starred, among others, the likes of Leonardo DiCaprio, Jennifer Lawrence, Ariana Grande, Cate Blanchett, and Meryl Streep. It tells the story of two astronomers trying to warn humanity about an approaching comet that will destroy civilization on earth. However, the politicians and celebrities on earth are busy diverting people’s attention with their usual antics. There is a frenzy calling the masses not to ‘Look Up’ even when the comet is visible to the naked eye! Unlike the typical American blockbuster, this one ends badly with the comet actually destroying the earth. A few wealthy oligarchs escape in their space-faring rocket to another planet only to be eaten by alien creatures! Although the film was nominated for four categories at the now infamous 94th Academy Awards, it didn’t win any. It has, however thankfully set some all-time viewing records on Netflix. Maybe only Hollywood can ultimately shake us out of our deadly indifference to the climate crisis which feels like an unfolding disaster in slow motion.

The writer is a civil engineer, academician and technologist with a strong interest in the sustainability of the built environment. He is currently working in Hong Kong.



Dhanada K Mishra

THE POOREST AMONG US ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTED BY THE CLIMATE CRISIS AND HAVE THE LEAST RESILIENCE TO ADAPT



Philippe Heim & Bertrand Badré

Businesses that are not aligned with society’s values and expectations are running undue risks

### SPECTRUM GEOPOLITICS

## The clash within civilization

It seems as if the Russia-Ukraine war has rendered the seminal work by Samuel Huntington ‘The Clash of Civilizations’, as completely wrong. The narrative painted by him 30 years earlier, and which occupied the central place in the world politics particularly by the western liberals has not happened. Instead of a clash of civilizations, it is now a clash within the civilization i.e. white, European and Orthodox Christians fighting amongst them.

In an interview to George Eaton for the New Statesman, political theorist Noam Chomsky describes the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine as “monstrous” for Ukraine. Chomsky, who has never condemned any anti-Western government, unhesitatingly denounces Vladimir Putin’s “criminal aggression.” But adds that to answer the question, one has to plumb the recesses of Putin’s twisted mind and try to analyse his deep psyche.

“The other way would be to look at the facts: for example, that in September 2021 the US came out with a strong policy statement, calling for enhanced military cooperation with Ukraine, further sending of advanced military weapons, all part of the enhancement programme of Ukraine joining

NATO. You can take your choice, we don’t know which is right. What we do know is that Ukraine will be further devastated. And we may move on to terminal nuclear war if we do not pursue the opportunities that exist for a negotiated settlement,” he said in the interview.

Expressing his views on democracy and the US interpretation of democracy, Chomsky says that Putin is as concerned with democracy as we are. He said: “If it’s possible to break out of the propaganda bubble for a few minutes, the US has a long record of undermining and destroying democracy. Do I have to run through it? Iran in 1953, Guatemala in 1954, Chile in 1973, on and on... But we are supposed to now honour and admire Washington’s enormous commitment to sovereignty and democracy. What happened in history doesn’t matter: That’s for other people.”

Chomsky’s contempt for the hypocrisies and contradictions of US foreign policy comes out very clearly in this interview.

The other leading political theorist of our times Francis Fukuyama, while speaking to Megan Gibson for New Statesman opined that we could be facing the end of “the end of history.” Commenting on the US’ current

political polarisation he says: “There’s a significant chance we’re going to be in a major constitutional crisis at the time of the next presidential election.” Fukuyama’s critics point out that his thesis about liberal democracy being “the final form of human government” seems obsolete. In his book “The End of History and the Last Man”, he outlined his theory that liberal democracy is greatly preferable to any other form of government and, crucially, that no liberal democracy could progress to a better alternative.

Fukuyama commenting on the likely geopolitical consequences of the war in Ukraine, says that chief among his predictions are: Russia will lose the war, perhaps spectacularly, and this defeat will help the West get out of “our funk about the declining state of global democracy. The spirit of 1989 will live on, thanks to a bunch of brave Ukrainians. For those interested in the stability of the international order, it’s an optimistic, even reassuring, vision of the war’s potential outcome.”

On the surge of global support for Ukraine, Fukuyama sympathises with and endorses the urge to support the Ukrainian plight, but he also warns that it’s hardly a universal phenomenon, even among seem-

ingly democratic countries. His “ultimate nightmare,” he said, is a world in which China and Russia work in harness with one another, perhaps with China bolstering Russia’s war and Beijing launching its own invasion of Taiwan. If that were to happen, and be successful, Fukuyama said “then you would really be living in a world that was being dominated by these non-democratic powers. If the US and the rest of the West couldn’t stop that from happening, then that really is the end of the end of history.”

Analysing the views expressed by the two giants one can only say that the wrong interpretation of liberal democracy and its implementation through force might have resulted in the erosion of democratic concepts all over the world. Its main champions – the US and the UK – both seem to be faltering and trying to impose their will or version of the concept with use of force, which may ultimately result in the establishment of a non-democratic global system, instead of the new world order which the so-called western liberalised world is trying to implement.

The writer is a political commentator based in New Delhi.

©IANS



Asad Mirza

THE WRONG INTERPRETATION OF LIBERAL DEMOCRACY AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH FORCE MIGHT HAVE RESULTED IN THE EROSION OF DEMOCRATIC CONCEPTS ALL OVER THE WORLD

### Right to choice of language

Sir, In spite of the fact that there are hundreds of living languages in India, deliberate attempts are made to impose Hindi as the language of the country. The Union Home Minister’s suggestion that people of different states should communicate with each other in Hindi, not English, has sparked off a controversy. According to the Home Minister, making Hindi the language of India will promote unity. It may be recollected that fierce opposition to the idea of making Hindi the official language of India by non-Hindi states had led to the passage of Official Language Act which allowed the continuance of both Hindi and English as official languages. As Hindi is an official language, it can be used for the agenda of the Union Cabinet. However, such a status of Hindi must not become a reason to make it the language of the country. As the Constitution does not give the status of national language to any language, attempts to present it in such a way is against the principles of the Constitution. Since giving Hindi the status of the national language is against the general interests of the country, any attempts to project it in that way must be discouraged. Imposing a language as the language of the country will lead to division, not unity. The government has no right to decide which language people should speak. Since people have the right to choice of language, a particular language cannot be imposed on them.

Venu GS, KOLLAM

### Polluted cities

Sir, It is shocking and disheartening to note that the number of people dying prematurely from air pollution is increasingly high in major Indian cities like Mumbai, Bangalore, Kolkata, Hyderabad Chennai, Surat, Pune, and Ahmedabad, as per the latest research studies. WHO says that the quality of air has drastically worsened and about 90 per cent of people breathe air containing too many pollutants. India has been particularly vulnerable to air pollution over the last two decades, owing to population growth, an increase in the number of vehicles, use of fuels, inefficient transportation systems, and land-use patterns. This is a major public health issue. Research over the past several decades has revealed that poor air quality continues to pose a significant risk to human health and quality of life. It is evident that long-term exposure to air pollution is associated with increased cardiovascular disease. According to a report by IQAir, India is home to 22 of the 30 most polluted cities in the world.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

## 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

Attacks are being carried out on the democratic rights of the people. Isolation and defeat of the BJP is absolutely imperative. It is essential that this government must go



SITARAM YECHURY | CPI (M) GENERAL SECRETARY

I am saddened that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is silent on recent riots. Otherwise, he tweets or gives statements even if someone's finger is injured



DIGVIJAYA SINGH | CONGRESS MP

Raj Thackeray got amnesty from Central probe agencies and has become BJP's loudspeaker. This loudspeaker is blaring out of desperation but people will shut it down



SANJAY RAUTE | SHIV SENA MP

SHORT TAKES

Bomb threat on trains prove hoax Hyderabad: Threats of bombs being planted on trains heading to Mumbai from Visakhapatnam sent the security agencies into a tizzy Wednesday. However, no explosives were found on two trains after they were thoroughly checked by police forces at two places in Telangana. The railway police went on alert after an anonymous phone call was received on Dial 100 that bombs have been planted on trains heading towards Mumbai from Visakhapatnam.

Over 20 kids test Cov+ve this week Noida: The Gautam Buddha Nagar health department Monday issued an advisory to schools as 10 more children tested positive for COVID-19, taking the total number of minors who got infected this week to over 20 in the district. All schools across Noida and Greater Noida have been advised to immediately inform the health department about any child with cough, cold, fever, diarrhoea or showing any symptom of COVID-19 for timely treatment.

5 killed in two road accidents Jhabua/Sheopur (MP): Five persons were killed in two separate road accidents in Jhabua and Sheopur districts of Madhya Pradesh in the past 24 hours, police said. While two persons were killed in an accident in Sheopur district this afternoon, three others died in Jhabua district late Tuesday night, they said. Sheopur's police station in-charge Madhavi Shakya said that Hariom Meena (24) was killed.

K'taka minister booked, refuses to quit

Eshwarappa has been booked for abetment of suicide based on a complaint from Prashanth Patil, the brother of the deceased. The 37-year-old contractor, who claimed to be a BJP worker, was found dead at a lodge in Udipi in a case of suspected suicide Tuesday

STORM OVER CONTRACTOR'S SUICIDE



Stepping up pressure, opposition Congress urged state Governor Thawarchand Gehlot to dismiss Eshwarappa from the council of Ministers, even as the embattled BJP leader called for a probe into the 'conspiracy' behind the death of Santosh K Patil, who had levelled the bribery charges against him earlier. While Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said he would speak to Eshwarappa on the issue to find out what actually happened, BJP general secretary and Karnataka in-charge Arun Singh maintained this was not a simple incident and that every aspect of it would be investigated.

Cong demands arrest

New Delhi: Stepping up the ante against the BJP over the death of a civil contractor in Karnataka, the Congress on Wednesday said arresting minister K S Eshwarappa on murder and corruption charges is the only way to ensure justice. Congress general secretary and chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala also questioned the silence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and BJP president J P Nadda on the death of Santhosh Patil who had levelled bribery charges against the senior minister earlier.

dents of Hindalaga village had called on Eshwarappa in Bengaluru and requested him to lay roads, construct storm water drain and pavement in the hamlet. He further said that Eshwarappa gave the nod to start work without worrying about the budget, following which Santosh Patil was awarded the contract. The complainant

contended that his brother had undertaken works worth Rs four crore in the village. He had invested his money in the project and the bill for the work was pending. Santosh had visited minister Eshwarappa several times and pleaded him to release the amount. But his close aides Basavaraj and Ramesh were demanding 40 per cent commission, the complaint alleged. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, speaking to reporters in Mangaluru, "an FIR has been filed." "I am going to talk to him (Eshwarappa) now, and will collect information from him. Will talk to him on a few things over the phone and will summon him for a one-to-one discussion." Accusing the opposition Congress of attempting to find fault in the case, he said the investigation will reveal the truth. The CM reiterated that there will not be any interference in the case and the inquiry will happen in accordance with the law. Bommai maintained that the BJP national leaders were aware of this entire issue.

Akbaruddin acquitted in hate speech cases

Hyderabad: In a huge relief to AIMIM legislator Akbaruddin Owaisi, a special court in Hyderabad Wednesday acquitted him in alleged hate speech cases. The Special Sessions Judge for Trial of Criminal Cases relating to MPs and MLAs acquitted him of all charges in both the cases registered against him in Nirmal and Nizamabad in 2013. The case could not be proved beyond reasonable doubt, hence the court acquitted Akbaruddin Owaisi of all charges, his counsel Abdul Azeem told reporters outside the Nampally Court Complex. He said the court found that the videos and cassettes of the speeches presented before it were not genuine. Counsel said the evidence was presented in the form of pieces of speech and not as continuous speech and hence, the court gave benefit of doubt to the accused. Akbaruddin Owaisi, a leader of All India Majlis-e-Itehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) in Telangana Legislative Assembly, is the younger brother of AIMIM President and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi.



Bangalore, April 13: Senior Karnataka Minister R Eshwarappa has been booked for abetment of suicide in connection with the alleged suicide of a 37 year-old civil contractor who had accused him of corruption, but remained defiant in the face of mounting pressure for his ouster from the state Cabinet, saying there was no need for his resignation.

TRIBUTE TO THE MARTYRS



Punjab Police personnel pay tributes to the martyrs of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre, on the occasion of the anniversary of the horrific incident in Amritsar

SC refuses to entertain plea against Waqf Act

Press Trust of India

New Delhi, April 13: The Supreme Court Wednesday refused to entertain a plea challenging the constitutional validity of certain sections of the Waqf Act, as these provisions grant special status to Waqf properties.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Surya Kant said that it cannot direct Parliament to enact a new law and the "constitutionality of legislation cannot be challenged in the abstract" which will be a mere academic exercise. The bench asked advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, who filed the petition, as to how he is affected by the Act and whether any of his property has been appropriated under law. Justice Chandrachud said, "We need to be very careful when there is a challenge to the constitutional validity of legislation. The law has been enacted by a legislative body.

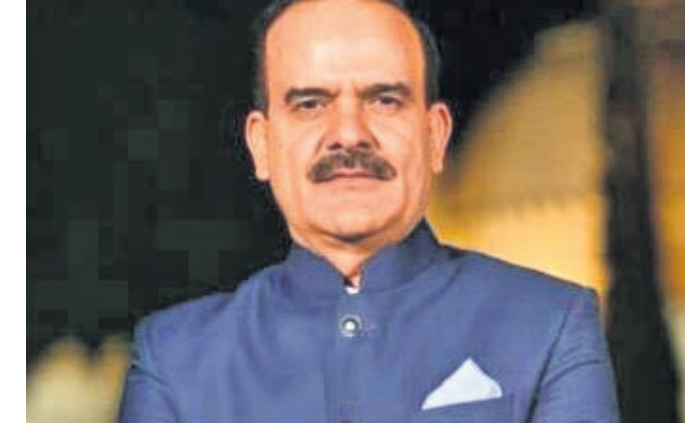
Tejasvi Surya stopped from visiting Karauli

Jaipur, April 13: Comparing Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot to Aurangzeb, BJP MP Tejasvi Surya accused the Congress-the "modern-day Muslim League"-of committing atrocities on Hindus after he was stopped from visiting violence-hit Karauli town. Surya, BJP's Rajasthan chief Satish Poonia and Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) workers were stopped near Mahua on the Jaipur-Agra highway, with the authorities citing law and order concerns. Surya and other leaders started a dharna on the spot. They were asked to get into a bus and taken away from the spot but they kept demanding that they be allowed to meet victims of the April 2 violence, which broke out after a bike rally being carried out to mark Hindu new year was pelted with stones. Over 30 people were injured in the violence.

CBI takes over probe against Param Bir Singh

Press Trust of India

New Delhi, April 13: The CBI has taken over the investigation into five cases of alleged misconduct and corruption against former Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh from the Maharashtra Police, officials said Wednesday. On the directions of the Supreme Court, the Special Crime unit of the central agency registered the cases late Tuesday evening.



He is also accused of extorting Rs nine lakh and mobile phones worth Rs 2.92 lakh in connivance with a Mumbai Police inspector from a partner in a bar, besides crores of rupees from three builders. The Supreme Court had March 24 transferred the investigation of these cases to the CBI on the petition of Singh, saying "a very murky affair is going on amid echelons of power". A bench of justices S K Kaul and M M Sundresh had said a thorough investigation was required to regain the faith of people in the state police.

The bench also refused to revoke the suspension of Singh and said all future FIRs too would be transferred to the CBI. Singh was removed from the post of Mumbai Police chief over his alleged mishandling of the bomb scare case near Antilia, the palatial residence of industrialist Mukesh Ambani. He had reached the apex court seeking a CBI probe into cases slapped against him by the Maharashtra Government after the Bombay High Court had dismissed his petition seeking quashing of inquiries initiated against him. The High Court had said he could approach the Central Administrative Tribunal, holding it was a service matter. It had rejected his claim that the government's action was a consequence of his allegations of corruption against former state Home Minister Anil Deshmukh.

Interfaith marriage sparks political row in Kerala

Relatives of Jyotsna Mary Joseph, a nurse in Saudi Arabia, levelled "love jihad" allegation after she recently walked out on her family and married Shejin, a local DYFI leader belonging to the Muslim community, without their consent. Wednesday made it clear that there was nothing unnatural in interfaith marriages and the campaign of 'love jihad' was a creation of RSS and Sangh Parishad. Attacking the CPI(M) over the 'love jihad' issue, senior BJP leader and union minister V Muraleedhaaran said the Left party's hypocrisy on the matter was exposed once again. Relatives of Jyotsna Mary Joseph, a nurse in Saudi Arabia, levelled "love jihad" allegation after she recently walked out on her family and married Shejin, a local DYFI leader belonging to the Muslim community, without their consent.



A section of people against the ruling party. However, the CPI(M) district leadership intervened and made Thomas issue a clarification. Love jihad is a term used by the right wing outfits to claim that Muslim men lure women from other faiths to convert them into Islam. Denouncing Thomas' remarks, P Mohanan, CPI(M) Kozhikode district secretary, said today that his party has never referred to inter-religious marriages as 'love jihad'. "Love Jihad is a term used by the RSS and Sangh forces to attack religious minorities. The CPI(M) has already

made its stand clear on the topic. Marriage is the choice of individuals and the legal system of the country permits adults to get married according to their choice," he told reporters here. He said Thomas' controversial remark supporting the 'love jihad' charges should be seen as a slip of the tongue and the former MLA was also convinced of the mistake now. Mohanan also said the DYFI leader could have informed the party leadership about the marriage plan and avoided unwanted controversy. Meanwhile, the newly-married couple denied the allegations by Jyotsna's relatives. Addressing reporters in Alappuzha, where the couple is presently staying, Jyotsna said she has all the freedom to stick to her religion till her death. Shejin clarified that the marriage is a natural culmination of their love affair and the controversy was 'unnecessary'. Retracting his earlier stance, George M Thomas told media today that his words were conveniently twisted by communal forces to suit their

version of inter-religious marriage as 'love jihad'. He maintained that he endorsed his party's stand on love marriages. However, the marriage has hurt the sentiments of the Christian community, the left leader claimed. The CPI(M) district leadership is organising an explanation meeting at Kodenchery this evening as the controversy over the wedding refused to die down despite the couple denying 'love jihad' charges. Meanwhile, Muraleedhaaran said in New Delhi that the CPI(M) leaders and workers, who had insulted Pala Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt over his 'love jihad' remark recently, is now remaining silent over their own party man's comments on the issue, which reveals the Marxist Party's hypocrisy. When the Catholic bishop had claimed that 'love jihad' exists in the state, the police registered a case against him but when a CPI(M) leader said the same, the Marxist Party is terming it as a slip of tongue.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER P.H. DIVISION, BALANGIR Ph.No.(06652-234647), Email ID:eehbg@yahoo.co.in No.C-80: NOTICE INVITING TENDERS NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement Bid Identification No. SE PH BGR 01/2022-23 Dt. 11. 04.2022

CUTTACK MUNICIPAL CORPORATION "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE No. C-68: Tender ID: 2021\_ORULB\_76851 Tender Call Notice No. 1778 (PW) Date: 12.04.2022 Name & No. of Works : Electrical Works No. of Works : 02 Nos. Bid Value : Rs.2.96 lakhs to Rs.23.75 lakhs

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, NABARANGPUR No.A-52: Letter No.326, Dt.08.04.2022 GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA e-Procurement Notice Bid Identification No.EEIMIDNGPUR-01/2022-23 E-mail ID:mngpur@yahoo.in, Ph.No.0685822130

Kozhikode(Ker), April 13: A recent interfaith marriage of a Muslim activist of the ruling CPI(M)'s youth wing DYFI, has stirred up a political storm after the relatives of the Christian bride alleged "love jihad", with a senior left party leader supporting the charge, only to retract his statement later. As the issue snowballed into a major controversy, the Marxist party

# Post Navami violence, all MP districts on alert for upcoming festivals



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhopal, April 13:** In light of the violence in Khargone city and Barwani district on Ram Navami, the Madhya Pradesh government has issued an alert to the authorities in all districts for the upcoming festivals, state Home Minister Narottam Mishra said Wednesday.

Apart from Dr B R Ambedkar's birth anniversary and Ramzan, festivals such as Mahavir Jayanti, Good Friday and Hanuman Jayanti will be observed in the next few days.

"Several festivals are to be observed in the coming days. In view of this, all districts of Madhya Pradesh are on alert. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has instructed all ministers-in-charge of districts to keep a watch on the situation in their respective areas as a precautionary measure,"

Mishra, who is state government spokesman, told reporters.

A day after the violence in Khargone, the state police headquarters had issued orders cancelling the leaves of all police personnel in the state in view of the upcoming festivals.

The superintendents of police (SPs) and inspector generals (IGs) of different districts and zones are authorised to sanction the leave.

In this order, the senior officials were told not to leave their respective headquarters and take leave in unavoidable circumstances only after the approval of the director general of police (DGP).

Curfew was imposed in the entire Khargone city Sunday after stone-pelting during the Ram Navami procession triggered arson and torching of vehicles. On the same day, the stones were pelted at Ram Navami procession in Sendhwa town in Barwani district.

## KHARGONE VIOLENCE

# Politics heats up in MP

An FIR has been registered against Digvijaya Singh for sharing a photograph related to Khargone violence which later allegedly turned out to be fake

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bhopal, April 13:** Amid the tensions following the clashes during the Ram Navami procession in Madhya Pradesh's Khargone district, the politics in the state has heated up with registering of an FIR against senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh.

Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh, who has held district administration and the police responsible for communal violence, has posted a photo showing a group of people hoisting saffron flag on a mosque. However, the photograph turned out to be a fake and subsequently, Singh's post from his twitter account was deleted.

State BJP leaders, including Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Home Minister Narottam Mishra called Singh's post a conspiracy to spread communal violence in the state.

Taking it further, the state Home Minister said that action would be taken against Digvijaya Singh. Subsequently, an FIR was lodged against Singh in a Bhopal police station Tuesday evening.

In response to FIR, Digvijaya Singh later Tuesday evening wrote a letter to Bhopal Police Commissioner and as well as Shyamla Hills police station to register a complaint against Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan for an old post on social media.

In the letter, Digvijaya Singh



**In response to FIR, Digvijaya later wrote a letter to Bhopal Police Commissioner to register a complaint against CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan for an old post on social media**

mentioned that Chouhan had shared a tampered video of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. On May 19, 2019, Shivaraj Singh Chouhan had shared a tampered video of the then Congress president Rahul Gandhi. This was a criminal offence by Chouhan and an action should be taken against him, he said in the letter.

The Congress leader has also shared that video with Bhopal police commissioner, said a party spokesman.

Meanwhile, actions by the police and the district administration against the rioters continued in Khargone, and around 100 people have been arrested so far. Over 50 buildings were also demolished till Tuesday evening.

However, the several Opposition parties have protested against the state government's bulldozer action, arguing that the any action without proper investigation would be injustice. The state Home Minister, however, has justified the government's action saying those who can be seen on camera throwing stones are being punished. And the buildings which were demolished were illegal.

# 'Move to make Hindi compulsory in NE will result in disharmony'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kohima, April 13:** The North East Students' Organisation (NESO), a conglomeration of eight students' bodies, has taken umbrage over the Centre's decision to make Hindi a compulsory subject till Class 10 in the region, contending that the move will be detrimental for indigenous languages and create disharmony.

In a letter to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, NESO called for immediate withdrawal of the "unfavorable policy", suggesting that indigenous languages should be made compulsory in their native states till Class 10, while Hindi should remain an optional or elective subject. Shah had said at a meeting of the Parliamentary Official Language Committee in New Delhi April 7 that all northeast states have agreed to make Hindi compulsory in schools till Class 10.

"It is understood that the Hindi language accounts for approximately 40-43 per cent of native speakers in India, however it is worth noting that there is a plethora of other native languages in the country, which are rich, thriving and vibrant in their own perspectives, giving India an image of a diverse and multilingual nation," NESO said.

In the northeast, each state bears its own unique and diversified languages spoken by different ethnic groups ranging from Indo-Aryan to Tibeto-Burman to Austro-Asiatic families, the organisation, com-



SHAH HAD SAID APRIL 7 THAT ALL NORTHEAST STATES HAVE AGREED TO MAKE HINDI COMPULSORY IN SCHOOLS TILL CLASS 10

IN A LETTER TO UNION HOME MINISTER AMIT SHAH, NESO CALLED FOR IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF THE "UNFAVORABLE POLICY"

prising the All Assam Students' Union, Naga Students' Federation, All Manipur Students' Union and All Arunachal Pradesh Students' Union among others, said. The imposition of Hindi as a compulsory subject in the region will be detrimental not only for the propagation and dissemination of the indigenous languages, but also to students who will be compelled to add another compulsory subject to their already-vast syllabus, they said. "Such a move will not usher in unity, but will be a tool to create apprehensions and disharmony... NESO is vehemently against this policy and will continue to oppose it," the letter said.

## FESTIVE CHARM



A girl sets a boat afloat as Chakma community members perform rituals at Deo River during Biju festival celebrations at Pencharthal in Unikuti district, Tripura, Wednesday

## VIOLENCE AFTERMATH

# Among houses bulldozed, one was built under PMAY

MP government has ordered for demolishing buildings of those involved in violence. In all, 16 houses and 29 shops have been razed in Khargone following the clashes

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bhopal, April 13:** Of the several houses demolished by the Madhya Pradesh government in Khargone district to punish those responsible for the Ram Navami violence, one was built under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY).

Hasina Fakhroo, the house owner had received an amount of ₹2.5 lakh from the government under PMAY and the building was completed around six months back. The district administration demolished the house using bulldozers Monday saying that it was



built on government land and was illegal, said Amjad Khan, the son of Fakhroo. Khan said until 2020, the family was living in a kuccha house on the plot. In 2020, when approval came under the PM Awas Yojana, they built a pucca house. "We got ₹2.5 lakh from the government and saved another ₹1 lakh

to get the house constructed," he added. Talking to IANS over phone, Khan said his house was demolished despite a note on the wall that it was built under PM Awas Yojana. "On Monday morning, a team of municipal workers came with bulldozers. We requested them not to demolish our house but they did not listen and razed it within minutes."

Documents with the family show that the house on Birla Marg was registered in the name of Hasina Fakhroo following the death of her husband who was the original beneficiary of the PM's housing scheme.

# STF to probe into ganja 'sale' through Amazon

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bhopal, April 13:** The probe into the online sale of marijuana through e-commerce platform Amazon, the case which was busted by the Madhya Pradesh police in November 2021, will now be investigated by the Special Task Force (STF).

A racket, which allegedly sold ganja (cannabis) under the guise of selling a sweetener on Amazon, was busted by Bhand district police. Following which a case was also registered against executive directors of Amazon India.

Earlier, the case was being investigated by the crime research department of the state police, which now has been transferred to the STF. A vide order in this regard was issued last month by the Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), GP Singh. The case registered in Gohad police station of Bhand district is now being transferred to STF for further investigation, read an order issued by ADGP.

The state police, in November 2021, had arrested two persons - Bijendra Tomar and Suraj alias

**A racket, which allegedly sold ganja (cannabis) under the guise of selling a sweetener on Amazon, was busted by Bhand district police in November 2021**

Kallu Pawaiya and had seized 21.7 kg of ganja from their possession. A case under section 38 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act was registered against executive directors of Amazon India which operates as ASSL in the country.

Notably, the Superintendent of Police (SP) Bhand Manoj Kumar Singh, who had busted the case, was transferred within a week after unearthing it. At that time, questions were raised on the sudden transfer. However, the state Home Minister Narottam Mishra had refuted allegations that the state government was under someone's pressure and had claimed that Singh himself wanted to be relocated to Bhopal.



# New species of 'Cherry Blossom' found in Manipur

INDIA BECOMES WORLD'S 28TH COUNTRY TO BE INCLUDED IN 'SAKURA' MAP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Imphal, April 13:** The scientists from Manipur have found a new plant species of 'Cherry Blossom' and as a mark of respect and for the outstanding contributions of scientist Dinabandhu Sahoo, a former VC of Fakir Mohan University in Odisha, they named the new plant species as 'Prunus dinabandhuana'.

**The new plant species has been named as 'Prunus dinabandhuana' after scientist Dinabandhu Sahoo, a former VC of FM University in Odisha**

The Cherry Blossom or 'Sakura' is the national flower of Japan, which is also a source of inspiration for the Japanese people, and India became the 28th country in the world to be included in the Sakura Map.

For Sahoo's over eight years long determined efforts, the "Cherry Blossom" is now available in six of the eight northeastern states, excluding Assam and Tripura.

In November 2016, Dr Sahoo, a professor at the Department of Botany under the University of Delhi (DU) planned and organised India's first 'Cherry Blossom Festival' in Shillong which attracted



**In 2015, I planned the Mission Pink Revolution or Mission Cherry Blossom for India. Thousands of Cherry Blossom saplings were planted in Shillong and Manipur in the early 2015 in collaboration with the state governments**

DINABANDHU SAHOO | SCIENTIST

lakhs of people and subsequently it became an international event for the past six years.

According to Dr Avitoli G Zhimo, Assistant Director, Centre for Himalayan Studies in DU, scientists Bisheshwori T and Jenifer M from Imphal (Manipur) based Institute of Bio resources and Sustainable Development (IBSD) found a new plant species of 'Cherry Blossom'.

As a mark of respect and for the

outstanding contributions of Sahoo, they named the new plant species as 'Prunus dinabandhuana' (Family Rosaceae) in his first name.

The plants grow up to 25-30 meters in dense mixed evergreen forest and unlike Japanese Cherry Blossom which blooms during March-April, this new species bloom in November, Zhimo said.

He said that their new findings were recently published in the lat-

est issue of a reputed International scientific journal Annales Botanici Fennici, Helsinki, Finland.

While talking to IANS over phone, Sahoo said that Cherry Blossom, popularly known as Sakura in Japanese, is a symbol of peace and tranquillity.

He said that the Cherry Blossom festivals attract millions of tourists from across the world to Japan and the US during March-April generating millions of dollars in revenues.

But the situation changed a few years ago as India became a new destination for Cherry Blossom festival, the scientist pointed out.

In 2014, Sahoo, currently a

Director of Centre for Himalayan Studies and Director, Cluster Innovation Centre and Senior Professor of Department of Botany of DU, while visiting Shillong spotted a Cherry Blossom tree in full bloom in the city. He then thought of launching a 'Cherry Blossom Festival' in India.

In the same year 2014, Sahoo was appointed as the Director of the IBSD, a national institute, and immediately after his joining, he started exploring the deep forests of northeastern states for the presence of Cherry Blossom.

Sahoo, who was the first Indian student to visit Antarctica in 1987, said that he found that Cherry Blossom is native to the Himalayas.

"In 2015, I planned the Mission Pink Revolution or Mission Cherry Blossom for India. Thousands of Cherry Blossom saplings were planted in Shillong and Manipur in the early 2015 in collaboration with the state governments," he said.

The scientist said that subsequently the Japanese showed keen interests and a delegation of GIFFU Cherry Blossom Association of Japan landed in India and jointly organised India's first Sakura ceremony in early 2016, making India as the 28th country in the world to be part of the Sakura plantations.

"The Cherry Blossom and related festivals not only boost tourism in the northeastern states, but also can be a source of livelihood for thousands of local people," Sahoo pointed out.



of the day quote

Access to food security is a fundamental issue and we ensure food to everyone. Lakhs of tonnes of ration reached 80 crore people

PIYUSH GOYAL | UNION MINISTER

(Former Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Minister) Giriraj Singh had promised ₹400 crore to Goa for it. I feel that it is sanctioned. We need to get it and distribute it to active fishermen. They will be trained and assisted on a trial basis on the lines of prawn farming

NILKANTH HALARNKAR | MEMBER OF LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF GOA

The Citizen's Charter should be effectively implemented at every office. No file should remain pending for more than three days. In case of delay, accountability will be fixed

YOGI ADITYANATH | UTTAR PRADESH CM

SHORT TAKES

4 killed, 6 injured in road accident

**Guwahati:** Four people were killed and six others critically injured when the SUV they were travelling in skidded and hit the railing of National Highway 27 in Assam's Hojai district Wednesday, police said. The accident took place at Bheloguri, around 10 km from their destination in Doboka, when the driver of the SUV coming from Guwahati lost control over the vehicle and hit the railing of the four-lane highway, an officer said. Four passengers died on the spot and the six others were admitted to a local hospital. Their condition is stated to be critical, he said. Their identities are yet to be ascertained and further investigation is underway, he added.

J&K: 11 booked under PSA

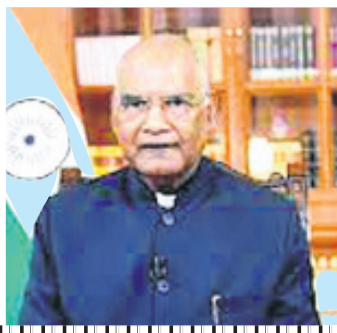
**Srinagar:** Eleven persons allegedly involved in unlawful and subversive activities were booked under the Public Safety Act (PSA) Wednesday in J&K's Bandipora district. Police sources said 11 people involved in unlawful and subversive activities in Bandipora district were slapped with PSA and subsequently shifted to different jails. Those booked include some separatist leaders like Abdul Samad Malla alias Inquillabi, Kaiser Ahmad Parray and others.

WBSSC scam: 4-week relief for Bengal min

**Kolkata:** A division bench of the Calcutta High Court granted a four-week breather to state Minister Partha Chatterjee from appearing before the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) which is probing the recruitment irregularities scam in West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC). Chatterjee was the education minister when the irregularities took place and currently is the state commerce and industries minister.

Gahlot flags off 80 AC low-floor CNG buses

**New Delhi:** Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot Wednesday flagged-off 80 new air-conditioned low-floor CNG buses from Rajghat Cluster Bus Depot here and said his government is committed to make public transport "strong and accessible". Later in the day, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said his government is strengthening the bus network and will fulfil all the promises made to the people of Delhi.



**On the auspicious occasion of Vaisakhi, Vishu, Rongali Bihu, Naba Barsha, Vaisakhadi and Puthandu-Pirappu, I extend my warm greetings and best wishes to all the Indians living in India and abroad**

RAM NATH KOVIND | PRESIDENT

NURSE AT SONAM'S HOUSE STEAL CASH, JEWELLERY

A nurse working at actor Sonam Kapoor's Delhi residence was arrested along with her husband for allegedly stealing cash and jewellery worth ₹2.4 crore in February, police said Wednesday



Govt approves ₹5,911cr for RGSA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, April 13:** The government Wednesday approved ₹5,911 crore for the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) which will focus on empowering elected representatives of panchayati raj institutions for leadership roles and help 2.78 lakh rural local bodies achieve the sustainable development goals.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the continuation of the revamped RGSA from April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2026 to develop governance capabilities of panchayati raj institutions (PRIs). Under the revamped RGSA, the focus will shift towards "capacitating" the elected representatives of PRIs for leadership roles to develop an effective third tier of government. The initiative is expected to enable them to deliver on localization of SDGs (sustainable development goals) for nine themes - poverty free and enhanced livelihood in villages; healthy village, child-friendly village, water sufficient village; clean and green village; self-sufficient infrastructure in village, socially secured village; village with good governance; and engendered development in village.

"The revamped RGSA will help improve Panchayati Raj Institutions and ensure development in villages. It will help bridge the gap between the rural and urban areas and strengthen Panchayati Raj Institutions across the country," I&B Minister Anurag Thakur told reporters here.

Of the total financial outlay of ₹5,911 crore, the central share will be ₹3,700 crore with states providing the balance ₹2,211 crore, he said. The scheme will also converge capacity building initiatives of other ministries/ departments for attainment of SDGs, an official statement said. The total financial outlay of the scheme is ₹5,911 crore with the central share of ₹3,700 crore and that of the states ₹2,211 crore, it said. "The approved scheme of RGSA will help more than 2.78



The CCEA has approved continuation of revamped centrally sponsored scheme of RGSA for implementation during the period from April 2022 to March 2026 to develop governance capabilities of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)

- The RGSA, a centrally sponsored scheme, was first approved by the Union Cabinet in 2018 for implementation from 2018-19 to 2021-22

The main central components of the scheme included incentivisation of panchayats and mission mode project on e-Panchayat including other activities at central level

Anurag Thakur told reporters here.

Of the total financial outlay of ₹5,911 crore, the central share will be ₹3,700 crore with states providing the balance ₹2,211 crore, he said.

The scheme will also converge capacity building initiatives of other ministries/ departments for attainment of SDGs, an official statement said.

The total financial outlay of the scheme is ₹5,911 crore with the central share of ₹3,700 crore and that of the states ₹2,211 crore, it said. "The approved scheme of RGSA will help more than 2.78

lakh rural local bodies including traditional bodies across the country to develop governance capabilities to deliver on SDGs through inclusive local governance with focus on optimum utilisation of available resources," the statement said.

The RGSA, a centrally sponsored scheme, was first approved by the Union Cabinet in 2018 for implementation from 2018-19 to 2021-22. The main central components of the scheme included incentivisation of panchayats and mission mode project on e-Panchayat including other activities at central level.

SC stops AP's money transfer from disaster fund to personal account



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, April 13:** The Supreme Court Wednesday restrained the Andhra Pradesh government from transferring funds from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to a personal deposit account, saying "it is a very serious issue".

A plea filed by state resident Palla Srinivasa Rao said when the top court is actively and continuously monitoring the implementation of its October 2021 order, dealing with the issue of disbursing ex-gratia assistance of ₹50,000 to next of kin of Covid-19 victims, the diversion of funds by the AP government from the SDRF to personal deposit account is not only against the law of the land but is also contemptuous in nature.

Advocate Gaurav Bansal, representing Rao, submitted that AP government diverting funds from SDRF to a personal deposit account, is not permissible under the Disaster Management Act. Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, representing the Centre, also said that the Finance Ministry has asked questions from the state on the issue.

A bench of Justices MR Shah and BV Nagarathna said this is a very serious issue and asked the state government not to divert funds under the Disaster Management Act. After hearing the arguments, the bench issued notice to the state government in the matter.

The bench also directed the state government to not to utilise the funds which they have transferred to other accounts under DM Act.

The plea cited a letter issued March 12, 2022, by Union Minister of State for Finance, which crystal clearly says that Andhra Pradesh government received an amount of ₹324.15 crore as the central share of State Disaster Response Fund and an amount of ₹570.91 crore under the National Disaster Response Fund.

The plea contended that once the statute prohibits utilisation of funds deposited under the National Disaster Response Fund and the State Disaster Response Fund, Andhra Pradesh government has no authority to divert the said fund to any other use.

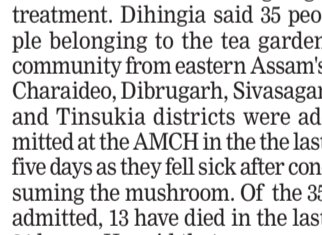
The plea also sought a direction to the Andhra Pradesh government to submit the details of funds which they have utilised under State Disaster Response Fund during the Covid pandemic.

Assam: 13 dead after consuming poisonous mushroom

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Guwahati, April 13:** At least 13 people including a child had died in Assam after consuming wild poisonous mushroom, officials said Wednesday.

Prasanta Dihingia, Superintendent of Assam Medical College and Hospital (AMCH) in Dibrugarh, said most of the people who consumed wild mushroom died while undergoing treatment. He said several others are currently undergoing treatment. Dihingia said 35 people belonging to the tea garden community from eastern Assam's Charaideo, Dibrugarh, Sivasagar and Tinsukia districts were admitted at the AMCH in the last five days as they fell sick after consuming the mushroom. Of the 35 admitted, 13 have died in the last 24 hours. He said that every year, many people fall sick after consuming wild mushroom, and some of them often succumb to their illness. The indigenous people could not identify the wild mushrooms that are harmful, and are not meant for consumption. Mass awareness is necessary against the consumption of wild mushrooms, Dihingia pointed out.



MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

ED attaches multiple assets of Nawab Malik

The ED arrested Malik in Mumbai in February in the money laundering case registered against Ibrahim and others



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, April 13:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Wednesday said it has attached multiple assets of jailed Maharashtra minister and NCP leader Nawab Malik under the anti-money laundering law in a case against fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim and his underworld gang.

The federal probe agency said in a statement that it has issued a provisional order attaching properties belonging to "Mohammed Nawab Mohammed Islam Malik alias Nawab Malik, his family members, Solidus Investments Pvt Ltd. And Malik Infrastructure under the Prevention of Money

Laundering Act (PMLA)." The properties include Goawala compound and a commercial unit in Mumbai's suburban Kurla (West), a 147.79-acre agricultural land located in Osmanabad district of Maharashtra, three flats in Kurla (West) and two residential flats in Bandra (West).

In a related development, the Supreme Court on Wednesday agreed to consider listing for hearing 62-year-old Malik's appeal seeking immediate release from prison in this money laundering case.

This ED case was filed after studying a February FIR of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) that booked Ibrahim and other members of his gang like Anees Ibrahim, Chhota Shakeel, Javed Chikna and Tiger Memon.

In one such case, the ED said, a prime property of Mrs Munira Plumber was "usurped" by Nawab Malik through Solidus Investments Pvt. Ltd., a company owned by the family members of Nawab Malik and controlled by Nawab Malik, with active connivance of the members of D-gang (Dawood Ibrahim gang) including Hasena Parkar.

BEATING THE HEAT



A monkey jumps into a pond on a hot summer day in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh

PTI PHOTO

THACKERAY VS AWHAD

Now, cobra and chicken join the Maha political circus!

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Mumbai, April 13:** Many fauna-friendly politicians in Maharashtra frequently invoke a variety of mute creatures to lampoon political parties and their leaders at public rallies to regale the audiences and score brownie points.

Like insects, scorpions and snakes stepped on the dais in the past, this time Maharashtra Navnirman Sena President Raj Thackeray went a reptile ahead - the dreaded cobra, also symbolic of Lord Shiva.

At his large public meeting in Thane late Tuesday, Raj compared Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA)'s Housing Minister Dr Jitendra Awhad with a cobra - in mostly personal remarks at many other leaders.

"Look at his (Dr Awhad) face. It

is like the open hood of a cobra..." was Raj's poisonous refrain, leaving the crowds in splits, the ruling Shiv Sena-Nationalist Congress Party-Congress numb, and the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party chuckling.

Not reputed to take such things lying down, Dr Awhad aggressively rolled his bespectacled eyes to proclaim he was "proud" to have the countenance of a cobra.

"When I open the hood, I can strike back at my opponents," Dr Awhad said, gesticulating his hand like a hungry, angry cobra ready to attack, hinting at a political "taandav" in future. Then he hissed: "Never mind my face. I am proud of it. But can someone check out which part of a 'chicken' his (Raj's) face resembles?" before slithering away from the stunned media.

The 'cobra-chicken' dog-fight



ignited by Raj sparked off the anticipated political furore with Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar frowning and declaring that he will "give a befitting reply at the appropriate time". Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut said



that "after he (Raj Thackeray) got an Enforcement Directorate notice" he has become the BJP's loudspeaker". Referring to the MNS's gauntlet to the MVA to dismantle loudspeakers from all mosques in the

state within 21 days (May 3), Raut rebuffed saying: "Only (the late) Balasaheb Thackeray had the authority to give such ultimatums".

He also dared Raj to invite and felicitate the 'untraceable' BJP Mumbai activist Kirit Somaiya at his swank new home 'Shivtirth' in Dadar.

The usually soft-spoken, US-educated NCP state President and Minister Jayant Patil - whom Raj referred to as 'Jant' (worm) - smiled and said "Raj's knowledge is very weak and he needs to be readmitted to primary school to improve himself".

Raj also hit out at NCP MP Supriya Sule by comparing her with an elephant, saying she had different sets of teeth for showing (tusks) and chewing.

Sule dismissed it by commenting that Raj is living in history,

basking in the glory of his illustrious uncle (the late Balasaheb Thackeray), and needs to be ignored.

Dr Awhad supported her by asking, "does Raj know how painful it is when one is pierced by a tusk", adding that Raj has taken a 'contract' to spread communal discord in society. Congress Chief Spokesperson Atul Londhe merely labelled it as a 'third umpire speech', while other party leaders wondered whether Raj is blind to the problems of spiralling fuel prices, inflation, unemployment to indulge in such lectures. Meanwhile, the Thane Police are reportedly sharpening their knives to book Raj for brandishing a sword at the rally and the NCP planning a befitting reply to the attacks on its leaders at the party's weekend rally.

# international



We had an incredibly productive session, of what we call our 2+2 -- the foreign ministers and defence ministers of both of our countries working together on a common agenda  
TONY BLINKEN | US SECRETARY OF STATE

**LARGEST COMET NUCLEUS**  
NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has confirmed the largest comet nucleus ever seen by astronomers. The estimated icy comet nucleus is approximately 80 miles (128 km), making it larger than the state of Rhode Island, NASA said



## of the day quote

There are different perspectives to apply (for) NATO membership or not to apply and we have to analyze these very carefully. But I think our process will be quite fast, it will happen in weeks  
SANNA MARIN | PM, FINLAND

The suggestion that somehow, some seem to be making, that the Solomon Islands is somehow under the control of Australia I think is offensive to the Solomon Islands. They are a sovereign nation  
SCOTT MORRISON | PM, AUSTRALIA

We need to know as a country with certainty whether there are (natural) gas reserves that are economically viable (to extract). We will know this for sure by the end of 2023  
KYRIAKOS MITSOTAKIS | PM, GREECE

## SHORT TAKES

### USTR Tai meets EAM Jaishankar

**Washington:** United States Trade Representative Katherine Tai held a meeting with visiting External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Tuesday, during which they discussed bilateral trade relationship and took stock of the current situation. Deputy United States Trade Representative Sarah Bianchi also joined the meeting, during which the two leaders took stock of current developments in US-India trade relations, as well as the implications on global trade and economic affairs of Russia's war against Ukraine, a readout of the meeting said.

### Philippine floods toll rises to 43

**Manila:** The death toll from landslides and floods that hit the central and southern Philippines after a summer tropical depression unleashed days of pounding rain has risen to at least 43, with 28 others missing, officials said Tuesday. More than 100 villagers were injured in landslides in the hard-hit city of Baybay in central Leyte province over the weekend and early Monday, officials said. Army, police and other rescuers were struggling with mud and unstable heaps of earth and debris to find the missing villagers.

### Truck-tourist bus crash claim 10

**Cairo:** A tourist bus collided with a truck on a highway in southern Egypt and burst into flames Wednesday, killing at least 10 people including four French and a Belgian, authorities said. The crash took place some 55 kilometres south of the ancient city of Luxor, as it was travelling to the temples of Esna on the west bank of the Nile River, provincial authorities said in a statement. Along with the tourists, five Egyptians were killed in the crash. At least 14 others were injured, including eight from France and six from Belgium.

### 18 dead in truck crash in Indonesia

**Jakarta:** An overloaded truck carrying 29 people hit a hillside and overturned near an illegal gold mine in Indonesia's West Papua province Wednesday, killing 18 people and leaving others injured, police said. The truck, crammed with miners and their families, was headed to the capital of West Papua province Manokwari to celebrate Easter. They were on their way from a mining area in Minyambou village of Arfak Mountain district when it hit the mountain and flipped over before dawn, said local police chief.

## WITH EYE ON CHINA

# India mulls further \$2bn aid for SL

Sri Lanka, hit by its worst economic crisis since independence in 1948 and on the brink of its first debt default, has been asking friendly nations including India and China for credit lines, food and energy

REUTERS

**New Delhi, April 13:** India is willing to commit up to another \$2 billion in financial assistance to Sri Lanka while also supporting the island nation with food and fuel, five sources told Reuters, as New Delhi tries to regain ground lost to China in recent years. "We are definitely looking to help them out and are willing to offer more swap lines and loans," said an Indian source aware of various discussions with Sri Lanka. A senior government source in New Delhi said Sri Lanka's warning Tuesday of defaulting on debt payments was a worry, but that "we can still give them up to \$2 billion in swaps and support". Another source familiar with Sri Lanka's thinking said it was seeking India's help to roll over some \$2 billion in dues, such as those owed to the South Asia-focused Asian Clearing Union. The source said the response had been positive from India.



### Financial aid so far

India has so far committed \$1.9 billion to Sri Lanka in loans, credit lines and currency swaps. Sri Lanka has also sought another \$500 million credit line for fuel

India has also sent ships with sugar, rice and wheat - items of which it has a surplus, unlike China - to Sri Lanka ahead of the country's Sinhala and Tamil New Year Thursday

All the sources had direct knowledge of the matter or had been briefed on it, but they declined to be named as the discussions were private. One of the sources said New Delhi was keen for its southern neighbour to cut its reliance on China. Sri Lanka has an outstanding debt of about \$3.5 billion with China - or 10.8% of the is-

land's total - and Beijing has also built ports and roads in the country, read more. "We want them to reduce their debt levels from China and we want to become stronger partners," said the source. Repeated cycles of borrowing from capital markets, including the International Sovereign Bonds, have made them the largest source of foreign funding for Sri Lanka. **CUTTING TIES** Four of the sources said though New Delhi had not formally made cutting Sri Lanka's reliance on Beijing a condition for offering help, it had been able to make the Sri Lankans realise that it was in a better position to support them than China. China has extended a \$1.3 billion syndicated loan and a \$1.5 billion-yuan denominated swap, while negotiations are ongoing for more loans and credit lines. Sri Lanka is due to formally start loan negotiations with the International Monetary Fund Monday, and one of the Indian sources said that would be critical in New Delhi agreeing to more aid for the country.

### Protesters reject PM's offer for talks

Sri Lankans protesting outside the President's Office in Colombo Wednesday rejected Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa's offer for talks and demanded the resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and all members of his family from the government. Social media posts from the participants said they were unwilling to have any talks unless the Rajapaksas quit from all positions in the government. "We did not come here for talks. We are here to demand that you and the government resign," one youth activist at the protest site, which is now known by them as GotGoGama, was quoted as saying. The protests entered its fifth day Wednesday and since it began on Saturday, it was carried out round-the-clock by youths demanding a total transformation of the "corrupt political culture", which they claim has been prevailing in the island nation since it gained independence from Britain in 1948. Earlier, a statement from the Prime Minister's Office said that he was willing to hold discussions with the protesting youths who are camping at Galle Face esplanade located near President Gotabaya's secretariat.

## SUBWAY SHOOTING

# Suspect held by NY police

AGENCIES

**New York, April 13:** New York police arrested a suspect accused of shooting 10 people on a packed subway train car in Brooklyn, more than 24 hours after the terrifying attack, US media reported Wednesday. Police had named 62-year-old Frank James as the suspect in the incident. CNN reported that he was spotted by two police officers on a Manhattan street and taken into custody. Officials were due to hold a briefing on the case later Wednesday. Earlier, the New York Police Department has identified him as a "person of interest" in the Brooklyn subway station shooting that left 23 people injured, including 10 who were hit when the suspect fired a semi-automatic handgun at least 33 times. New York City agencies had also announced a joint \$50,000 reward for any information leading to the arrest of the suspect, according to a statement from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA). At a news conference Tuesday evening, New York City Police Commissioner Keechant Sewell said that "we are truly fortunate" that the shooting "was not significantly worse than it is."

Ten people - seven males, three females - were injured by gunfire and an additional 13 were either injured as they rushed to get out of the train station or they suffered smoke inhalation. None of the injuries appears to be life-threatening.

# Hundreds of Ukraine marines surrender



Russia's defence ministry said that 1,026 marines had surrendered, including 162 officers. At least 191 children have been killed and over 350 have been injured in war-torn Ukraine

REUTERS

**Lviv, April 13:** More than 1,000 Ukrainian marines have surrendered in the port of Mariupol, Russia's defence ministry said Wednesday of its main strategic target in the eastern Donbas region, which has been reduced to ruins but not yet under Russian control. If the Russians take the Azovstal industrial district, where the marines have been holed up, they would be in full control of Mariupol, Ukraine's main Sea of Azov port, allowing Russia to reinforce a land corridor between separatist-held eastern areas and the Crimea region that it seized and annexed in 2014. Surrounded and bombarded by Russian troops for weeks and the focus of some of the fiercest fighting of the war, Mariupol would be the first major city to fall since Russia invaded Ukraine Feb 24. "In the town of Mariupol, near the Ilyich Iron and Steel Works, as a result of successful offensives by Russian armed forces and Donetsk People's Republic militia units, 1,026 Ukrainian soldiers of the 36th Marine Brigade volun-

tarily laid down arms and surrendered," the ministry said. Thousands of people are believed to have been killed in Mariupol and Russia has been massing thousands of troops in the area for a new assault, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said. **FOUR PRESIDENTS IN KYIV** The presidents of Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia arrived in Kyiv to meet Zelenskyy, the Polish leader's office said. Estonian President Alar Karis had earlier tweeted that they were offering political support and military aid. The four join a growing number of European politicians to visit the Ukrainian capital since Russian forces were driven away from the country's north.

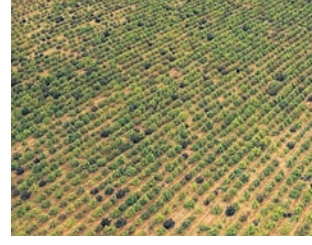
### Yes, I called it genocide. It's become clearer and clearer that Putin is just trying to wipe out the idea of even being a Ukrainian

JOE BIDEN | PRESIDENT, US

### Rishi Sunak offers unreserved apology

**London:** UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak has offered an "unreserved apology" and paid the fine imposed on him by Scotland Yard for breaching Covid lockdown rules in June 2020, when he attended a birthday party at Downing Street for his boss - Prime Minister Boris Johnson. The Indian-origin finance minister offered the apology in a statement issued Tuesday evening, after Johnson's own apology and confirmation that he too had paid up his fine. The so-called partygate scandal, of around 12 parties being held at Downing Street and other UK government offices in Whitehall in breach of coronavirus legislation in place during 2020-2021, has been under police investigation as part of Operation Hillman. "I can confirm I have received a fixed penalty notice from the Metropolitan Police with regards to a gathering held on June 19 in Downing Street," Sunak said in his statement. "I offer an unreserved apology," the 41-year-old minister said.

# 'Europe's biggest' cannabis farm busted



REUTERS

**Madrid, April 13:** Spanish authorities have destroyed 415,000 hemp plants worth up to 100 million euros (\$108 million) in an operation to dismantle what police said Wednesday was Europe's biggest cannabis plantation. Around 50 tonne of the plants were being dried in a warehouse for processing into cannabidiol (CBD), a non-psychoactive compound that is increasingly used to treat anxiety, insomnia and other ailments. Located in the rural northern region of Navarre, the plantation was spread across 11 fields with a combined area of 67 hectares (166 acres), the Guardia Civil force said.

## COVID CASES BREACH 25K

# Shanghai vows strict punishment against lockdown violators



REUTERS

**Shanghai, April 13:** China's commercial capital, Shanghai, warned Wednesday that anyone who violates Covid-19 lockdown rules will be dealt with strictly, while also rallying citizens to defend their city as its tally of new cases rebounded to more than 25,000. The city police department spelled out the restrictions that most of the 25 million residents are facing and called on them to "fight the epidemic with one heart ... and work together for an early victory". "Those who violate the provisions of this notice will be dealt with in strict accordance with the law by public security organs ... If it constitutes a crime, they will be investigated according to law," the department said in a statement. Shanghai police also warned increasingly frustrated residents, millions of whom are confined to their homes and struggling to get daily supplies, not to spread false information or forge road passes or other clearance certificates.

**The financial hub is under huge pressure to try to contain China's biggest COVID outbreak since the coronavirus was first discovered in the city of Wuhan**

Residents battling to secure delivery slots for their food are also facing surging prices which the government is keen to keep a lid on. Police also banned cars from the streets except for those involved in epidemic prevention or transporting people in need of emergency medical treatment. Shanghai's Dragon TV, run by the state-owned Shanghai Media Group, said it was cancelling a gala to mark the fight against Covid scheduled for broadcast Wednesday, after the event drew a barrage of criticism on social media.

### Unable to step out, residents scream from homes

Horrifying videos have emerged showing Shanghai residents screaming from their windows over strict Covid lockdown measures that prevent them from leaving home even for food. In a clip posted online by a Twitter user that he said was taken by the father of his close friend who reported that "people (are) screaming outside of their windows after a week of total lockdown" because they "can't even step outside their apartments". Many screams can be heard from the windows of nearby apartment buildings in the footage. "It's Shanghai, everyone is screaming, started with a couple now everyone is screaming, after a week of lockdown, something is going to happen, no one knows when this is going to end," the man says in the clip, according to a translator. Many people are exposing China's high handedness in tackling the covid situation to the social media. An unpopular policy of separating infected children from their virus-free parents - now softened - also triggered a rare show of public anger this week.

# China joins race to find the most Earth-like habitable exoplanet

Out of the seven telescopes, six will study 1.2 million stars across a 500-square-degree patch of sky. Earth 2.0 will be able to observe more distant stars than can be seen through NASA's TESS, which surveys bright stars near Earth. The seventh will be a gravitational microlensing telescope for surveying rogue planets that are far from their star, similar to Neptune or Pluto

AGENCIES

**Washington, April 13:** Known for technological ingenuity and bold missions that have taken them to the Moon, Mars, and beyond, China has plans to go farther and deeper into space. Beijing now wants to find an alternative home - Earth 2.0. China is now planning a mission that will look for exoplanets beyond our solar system. The main goal of this assignment is to find a world in the habitable zone of its star in the Milky Way galaxy. Earth 2.0 as the mission is being



called, aims to find a similar planet to the one we currently inhabit,

which is also predicted to face catastrophic situations in the coming decades. According to a report in the Nature journal, the Chinese Academy of Sciences has already conceptualised Earth 2.0, which is the name of the mission. Earth 2.0 is in its early stages of design. This mission will be implemented in June while a team of experts reviews the plan. Once they clear the plan, the development and funding phase of the mission will take place. This will lead to the building phase of the satellite. The mission will be supported by

There will be a lot of data, so we need all the hands we can get. Earth 2.0 is an opportunity for better international collaboration

JIAN GE | LEAD ASTRONOMER, EARTH 2.0

seven telescopes, which will scan the sky in order to find exoplanets. This is quite similar to NASA's Kepler mission.

Jian Ge, the lead astronomer on Earth 2.0, said in a statement, "The Kepler field is low-hanging fruit because we have very good data from there. Our satellite can be 1015 times more powerful than Nasa's Kepler telescope in its sky-surveying capacity." The report states that the "telescopes will look for exoplanets by detecting small changes in a star's brightness that indicate that a planet has passed in front of it". The team of Chinese scientists hopes to find at least a dozen Earth 2.0 planets within a few years of its operations.

business

of the day quote

One big car for us to come is the new C-Class, which we will launch on May 10 and today we open the bookings. The C-Class is one of our volume models and we ran out of the previous model last year in fall

MARTIN SCHWENK | MD & CEO, MERCEDES-BENZ

After expanding our footprint in UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, New Jersey, and San Francisco, we are excited to enter the dynamic market of Dallas. We look forward to bringing the best of Mirchi to the South Asian and Indian diaspora across these markets

PRASHANT PANDAY | MD & CEO, MIRCHI

India is a land of enormous talent and a home to popular sports, including golf. ...This association is in line with our core values of encouraging young women in sports

UDIT MALHOTRA | HEAD MARKETING, MG MOTOR



India is our third fastest growing market after the US and China. While both the US and China are adding hotels at a very fast rate, we are also opening new ones in India

PETER FULTON | PRESIDENT, HYATT HOTELS

UK INFLATION RISES AT FASTEST PACE IN 30 YRS

British consumer prices rose at the fastest pace in 30 years last month, fuelled by soaring prices for household energy and motor fuels, the government statistics agency reported Wednesday. UK inflation accelerated to 7% in the 12 months through March, the highest annual rate since March 1992



DESPITE BILATERAL CHILL

India, China trade surges to over \$31 billion in Q1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, April 13: The India-China bilateral trade increased by 15.3 per cent to over \$31 billion in the first quarter of this year, according to trade data released by the Chinese Customs Wednesday, despite strained relations due to the prolonged military standoff in eastern Ladakh.

During the 3-month period from January to March, China's exports to India zoomed to \$27.1 billion. Last year, the India-China bilateral trade hit a record high of over \$125 billion.

The upward trend appeared to be continuing as the bilateral trade in the first quarter (Q1) of 2022 totalled to \$31.96 billion, an increase of 15.3 per cent compared with the same period last year, state-run Global Times quoted trade data released by the General Administration of Customs (GAC).

Between January to March this year, the trade deficit mounted to \$22.23 billion as China's exports to India reached \$27.1 billion - over five times - while imports totalled \$4.87 billion, the report said.

Last year, China's exports to India went up by 46.2 per cent to \$97.52 billion while India's exports to China grew by 34.2 per cent to \$28.14 billion. The trade deficit for India grew by \$69.38 in 2021.

Commenting on the India-China trade, Liu Zongyi, secretary-general of the Research Centre for China-South Asia Cooperation, told the newspaper that "the continuous rise in bilateral trade showed the complementarity of two major developing economies despite tension from global geopolitical changes."

Liu said that in addition to elec-



REPRESENTATIVE PIC

China's exports to India zoomed to \$27.1 billion

Bilateral trade surged 15.3% compared with the same period last year

TRADE DEFICIT MOUNTED TO \$22.23 BILLION AS CHINA'S EXPORTS TO INDIA REACHED \$27.1 BILLION - OVER FIVE TIMES - WHILE IMPORTS TOTALLED \$4.87 BILLION

tronic devices like mobile phones, about 70 per cent of chemical and other manufactured goods used by the Indian pharmaceutical industry are imported from China.

Compared with the increase of 28.3 per cent year-on-year of India's imports from China in the first three months, its exports to China declined 26.1 per cent year-on-year.

Liu explained this saying in the first quarter of 2021, China imported large quantities of iron ore from India, which accounts for a large share of India's exports to China.

However, from the second quarter of last year China reduced imports from India, he said.

Trade continues to grow despite the two-year-long border standoff

between the armies of India and China in eastern Ladakh.

Overall China's foreign trade maintained its growth trajectory in the first quarter of 2022 despite increasingly complex internal and external challenges and periodic lockdowns of several cities in the country due to the surge of COVID-19 cases.

China foreign trade registered an increase of 13 per cent year-on-year to \$1.48 trillion.

According to Chinese Customs data released Wednesday, China's exports to the US increased by 16.7 per cent year-on-year in the first quarter to reach \$138 billion, up from the \$138.8 billion recorded in the first two months.

Notwithstanding the bilateral tensions, trade between China and the US soared by 28.7 per cent and stood at \$755.6 billion in 2021, contributing 12 per cent to China's record \$6 trillion foreign trade for the year.

The China-EU trade was also on the upswing reaching \$205 billion in the first three months, up 10.2 per cent from last year, as per the Chinese Customs data.

Investors spooked as crypto exchanges block transfer network

REUTERS

New Delhi, April 13: Big Indian crypto exchanges CoinSwitch Kuber and WazirX have disabled rupee deposits for the purchase of cryptocurrencies through a widely-used state-backed transfer network, spurring users to renew demands for regulatory clarity.

India has spent years working on a law to ban or regulate cryptocurrencies, with a ban backed by the central bank over risks to financial stability, though a recent decision to tax income from them suggests acceptance by authorities.

Wednesday's moves follow a one-line statement last week by the National Payments Corporation of India, operator of the state-backed Unified Payments Interface (UPI), which eases bank transfers, that it was unaware of its use by any crypto exchange.

CoinSwitch was not allowing users to load deposits on its app, although they could still withdraw funds.

"You have closed the INR deposit without any information. At least let us know how long it will be closed," a Twitter user, Avijit Debnath, urged the exchange on the social media platform.

Exports rise 20% in March; reaches \$420bn in FY22

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 13: The country's exports in March 2022 rose 19.76 per cent to \$42.22 billion on account of healthy performance by sectors such as petroleum products, engineering, and leather, even as trade deficit during the month widened to \$18.51 billion.

In March 2021, exports stood at \$35.26 billion, according to a commerce ministry data released Wednesday. Last month, imports grew 24.21 per cent to \$60.74 billion, it showed. Trade deficit stood at \$13.64 billion in March 2021.

While total exports during 2021-22 increased to a record high of \$419.65 billion, imports too soared to \$611.89 billion, leaving a trade gap of \$192.24 billion.

The trade deficit (difference between imports and exports) stood at \$102.63 billion in 2020-21.

For the first time, India's monthly merchandise exports exceeded \$40 billion, reaching \$42 billion in March 2022. According to the data, the estimated value of services export increased 4.64 per cent to \$21.76 billion in March 2022. The services import last month rose 7.33 per cent to USD 13.16 billion.

"The estimated value of services export for April-March 2021-22 is \$249.24 billion, exhibiting a positive growth of 20.94 per cent vis-a-vis April-March 2020-21 (\$206.09 billion)," the ministry said.

Imports during 2021-22 was estimated at \$144.79 billion, an increase of 23.20 per cent over 2020-21 when it was \$117.52 billion.

UKRAINE CRISIS

World bank cuts India, South Asia growth forecast

AGENCIES

New Delhi, April 13: The World Bank cut its economic growth forecast for India and the whole South Asian region Wednesday, citing worsening supply bottlenecks and rising inflation risks caused by the Ukraine crisis.

The international lender lowered its growth estimate for India, the region's largest economy, to 8% from 8.7% for the current fiscal year to March, 2023 and cut by a full percentage point the growth outlook for South Asia, excluding Afghanistan, to 6.6%.

In India, household consumption will be constrained by the incomplete recovery of the labour market from the pandemic and inflationary pressures, the bank said.

The World Bank raised its growth forecast for Pakistan, the region's second-largest economy, for the current year ending in June, to 4.3% from 3.4% and kept next year's growth outlook unchanged at 4%.

The region's dependence on energy imports meant high crude prices forced its economies to pivot their monetary policies to focus on inflation rather than reviving economic growth after nearly two years of pandemic restrictions.



High oil and food prices caused by the war in Ukraine will have a strong negative impact on peoples' real incomes

HARTWIG SCHAFER | WORLD BANK VICE PRESIDENT FOR SOUTH ASIA

The World Bank slashed this year's growth forecast for Maldives to 7.6% from 11%, citing its large imports of fossil fuels and a slump in tourism arrivals from Russia and Ukraine.

It raised crisis-hit Sri Lanka's 2022 growth forecast to 2.4% from 2.1% but warned the island's outlook was highly uncertain due to fiscal and external imbalances.

Sri Lanka's central bank said Tuesday it had become "challenging and impossible" to repay external debt, as it tries to use its dwindling foreign exchange reserves to import essentials like fuel.

SHORT TAKES

Stellar debut for Hariom Pipe

New Delhi: Shares of Hariom Pipe Industries Wednesday jumped nearly 51 per cent against the issue price of Rs 153 in its debut trade. The stock made its debut at Rs 214, registering a jump of 39.86 per cent against the issue price on the BSE. It later zoomed 46.86 per cent to settle at Rs 224.70. On the NSE, the stock opened at Rs 220, a gain of 43.79 per cent from the issue price and jumped 50.98 per cent to settle at Rs 231. The Rs 130-crore Initial Public Offering (IPO) of Hariom Pipe Industries was subscribed 7.93 times earlier this month.

Coal production grows 8.5% in FY22

New Delhi: Coal minister Pralhad Joshi Wednesday said the country's coal production grew 8.5 per cent to a record 777.23 million tonne (MT) in FY22. The statement assumes significance amid reports of coal shortages due to rising demand for electricity with the onset of summer season. In the previous fiscal, India's coal sector achieved a record production of 777.23 MT as compared to 716 MT in FY21, registering a growth of 8.5 per cent. The country's coal despatch also increased by 18.43 per cent to 818.04 MT during the last fiscal as against 690.71 MT in 2020-21.

PE inflows in realty sector dips

New Delhi: Private equity (PE) investments in real estate sector fell 32 per cent to \$4.3 billion in the last fiscal year mainly due to the Covid-19 pandemic, according to property consultant Anarock. PE investments in real estate stood at \$6.3 billion in the 2020-21 financial year. According to Anarock Capital's FY22 year-end edition of its FLUX report, PE inflows in real estate were \$5.1 billion in FY20, \$5.6 billion in FY19 and \$5.4 billion in 2017-18 fiscal.

Adani Green 8th most valued firm

New Delhi: Adani Green Energy Wednesday became the eighth most valued firm in the country with a market valuation of Rs 4.48 lakh crore after overtaking Bajaj Finance and HDFC. The company had Monday entered the list of top-10 valued firms. Adani Green Energy commanded a market valuation of Rs 4,48,050.99 crore on BSE to take the eighth spot on the top-10 list.

Auto sales remain in slow lane in FY22

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 13: Automobile dispatches from factories to dealerships in India declined by 6 per cent in FY22, with the two-wheeler segment reporting its lowest wholesales in the last 10 years, auto industry body SIAM said Wednesday.

Total wholesales across categories in the 2021-22 fiscal declined to 1,75,13,596 units, as against 1,86,20,233 units in 2020-21.

Two-wheeler dispatches declined by 11 per cent last financial year, while passenger vehicles (PV), commercial vehicles and three-wheelers witnessed a growth compared to the low base of 2020-21.

Total two-wheeler dispatches stood at 1,34,66,412 units last fiscal as against 1,51,20,783 units in 2020-21. The total PV wholesales, however, rose by 13 per cent to 30,69,499 units from 27,11,457 vehicles in the Covid-hit 2020-21.

Similarly, three-wheeler sales jumped to 2,60,995 units last fiscal from 2,19,446 units in FY21. Total commercial vehicle wholesales also increased to 7,16,566 units from 5,68,559 units in 2020-21.

SIAM noted that the two-wheeler dispatches in last fiscal were the lowest in 10 years. Similarly, passenger



vehicle dispatches last fiscal were below 2017-18 and 2018-19 levels.

Barring 2020-21, three-wheeler dispatches last fiscal were the lowest in 19 years, the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) data showed.

Commercial vehicle wholesales last fiscal were also the lowest in five years, barring 2020-21. Overall exports last fiscal, however, climbed to 56,17,246 units as compared to 41,34,047 units in 2020-21.

Robust dispatches to various developing nations, including African countries, boosted the overseas shipments of two-wheelers to 44,43,018 units last fiscal.

In March, domestic PV wholesales in India declined nearly 4 per cent to 2,79,501 units as against 2,90,939 units in the same month of 2021. Two-wheeler sales also fell 21 per cent to 11,84,210 units, compared to 14,96,806 vehicles in March 2021.

World's 1st crypto-backed card by Nexo, Mastercard

REUTERS

London, April 13: Crypto lender Nexo said it has teamed up with global payments company Mastercard to launch Wednesday what it calls the world's first "crypto-backed" payment card.

It signals the latest move by crypto and incumbent financial networks to join forces as digital assets become more mainstream.

Nexo said the card, available in selected European countries initially, allows users to spend without having to sell their digital assets such as bitcoin, which are used as collateral to back the credit granted.

Most traditional credit cards



are unsecured and have a set credit limit.

The card is linked to a Nexo-provided, crypto-backed credit line and can be used at 92 million merchants worldwide where Mastercard

repayments, monthly, or inactivity fees. There are no FX fees for up to 20,000 euros per month," Nexo said.

There are no restrictions on how much a customer can spend or withdraw from the open credit line and interest is only paid on the amount of credit actually used. Interest remains at 0% for customers who maintain a loan-to-value ratio of 20% or below.

"Mastercard recognizes that digital assets are revolutionizing the financial landscape," said Raj Dhamodharan, Mastercard's head of crypto and blockchain products and partnerships.

is accepted, allowing investors to spend up to 90% of the fiat value of their crypto assets, Nexo said.

"The card requires no minimum

AM/NS installs 200 solar street lights in two dists

Bhubaneswar: AM/NS India under its CSR initiative, Ujjawala, installed 200 solar street lights at villages of Sagasahi, Ghoraburhani and Kalmong of Koira block in Sundargarh district and villages Karakhendra, Dalki, Tankuraat Barbil in Keonjhar district. The initiative is set to benefit more than 10,000 people residing in these villages.

With the launch of this project, the company has made a positive impact on the local community by improving the quality life through sustainable solutions. Block Development Officer, Koira, Pallabi Raj inaugurated the installation of street lights under Ujjawala project at Kalmang village in the presence of Abhishek Kumar, Block Executive Officer-Koira, Dr Vikas Yadvendu, Head-CSR, AM/NS India, Satish Mohanty, Head-Technical Services-AM/NS India, LD Babu, Mines Manager-Sagasahi-AM/NS India and the villagers. On the occasion, Dr Yadvendu, said: "AM/NS India has always emphasized to improve the lives of the community living at our operational areas. We are delighted to provide effective and sustainable solutions like the solar street light to provide free electricity in remote areas by harnessing solar energy. We are committed to expanding this CSR initiative in the future to bring more meaningful and sustainable changes to our community."

Infosys asserted it is not engaged in any business with Russian clients currently, nor has any such plans going ahead.

The Bangalore-headquartered company posted net profit (after minority interest) of Rs 5,686 crore in the just-ended quarter against Rs 5,076 crore in Q4 FY21.

While the Q4 results scorecard reflects a 12 per cent year-on-year growth in net profit, the numbers are 2 per cent lower than the December quarter.

Infosys' revenue grew 22.7 per cent to Rs 32,276 crore in Q4 FY22. At the start of FY22, Infosys had projected that full year revenue will grow 12-14 per cent in constant currency terms.

During the year, however, the company upped its outlook a few notches and in January this year, the revenue growth guidance for FY22 was raised to 19.5 - 20 per cent.

# THE SPANISH NIGHT

## Benzema spoils Chelsea party as the Frenchman's extra-time header guides Real Madrid into Champions League semifinals

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, April 13: With Real Madrid looking beaten and on the verge of elimination after a fierce comeback by defending champion Chelsea, Karim Benzema came up big once again in the Champions League.

Having scored a hat-trick in the first leg to give Madrid a 3-1 lead, Benzema spoiled the English team's comeback by netting the decisive goal in extra-time Tuesday to put the Spanish club back into the semifinals.

After trailing 0-3 at home, Madrid pulled two goals back to secure a 5-4 aggregate victory despite a 2-3 loss at the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium.

Benzema also saved Madrid in the round of 16 by scoring a second-half hat-trick in a 3-1 win against PSG after Madrid had lost 0-1 in Paris and conceded early at the Bernabéu.

Benzema's 12th Champions League goal this season came with a header off a cross by Vinicius Júnior six minutes into extra time.

The hosts had looked defeated after going down 0-3 in regulation, but substitute Rodrygo evened the aggregate score in the 80th and Madrid found a way to reach the last four for the 10th time in the last 12 seasons.

Chelsea had overpowered Madrid early and built a lead through goals by Mason Mount in the 15th, Antonio Rudiger in the 51st and Timo Werner in the 75th.

Madrid will next face either Manchester City or Atlético Madrid, which play Wednesday in the Spanish capital with City defending a 1-0 lead from the first leg.

Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti has reached the Champions League semifinals for the eighth time as a



Chelsea manager Thomas Tuchel consoles his goalie - Edouard Mendy - after the match at Santiago Bernabeu, Tuesday

manager, equaling the record held by José Mourinho and Pep Guardiola.

The loss will add to Chelsea's off-the-field turmoil amid the forced sale of the club after sanctions in Britain against oligarch owner Roman Abramovich following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Chelsea had eliminated Madrid 3-1 on aggregate in last year's semifinals en route to its second Champions League title. But Madrid couldn't play at the Bernabéu that

time because the venue was undergoing major renovation work. Instead, the first leg was at the small Alfredo Di Stéfano Stadium in the club's training center, a match that ended 1-1 before Chelsea won 2-0 in London.

Tuesday, the defending champions looked the more dangerous team during most of the match but both sides had opportunities in a high-intensity encounter that went back-and-forth toward the end of regu-

lation.

Chelsea's American substitute Christian Pulisic had two good chances for a decisive goal in stoppage time but couldn't capitalise on them. The visitors also had a couple of opportunities later in extra time as they pushed for a goal that would take it to penalties.

The English side got a dream start when Mount opened the scoring after quick touches by Ruben Loftus-Cheek and Werner caught the Madrid defense off guard and left the forward with an easy shot from inside the area.

The visitors got the second with a firm header by Rudiger off a corner by Mount, and they thought they had another in the 62nd after Marcos Alonso scored from inside the area, but the goal was called back after video review (VAR) because of a handball.

Instead, the third goal came when Werner scored from close range after a nice move to go past defenders in front of the net, but Madrid roared back five minutes later with a volley by substitute Rodrygo. It was set up by an exquisite pass by Luka Modric with the outside of his boot after Chelsea captain N'Golo Kanté gave the ball away with a bad pass near the sideline.

Benzema, who struck a header off the crossbar in the 66th, had been mostly contained as Madrid struggled to move the ball into attack and kept giving Chelsea opportunities. But one good chance in extra time was all he needed to make the difference once again.

## Surreal from Villarreal



MAN FOR THE NIGHT: Samuel Chukwueze wheels away in celebration after scoring against Bayern at Allianz Arena

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Munich, April 13: As the final whistle blew — and Bayern Munich's dejected superstars slumped to the ground — Villarreal's substitutes raced onto the field to join the teammates who ousted the six-time European champions. There would have been room enough

in Bayern's stadium for the entire population of Villarreal to celebrate with them Tuesday after the team reached the Champions League semifinals for the first time since 2006. Such are the disparities in size and status between these clubs, that all 50,000 residents of the southeastern Spanish city could fit into Bayern's 75,000-capacity Allianz Arena.

Villarreal had won the first leg 1-0 at home when it squandered chances for an even bigger lead, and Bayern had levelled the aggregate score when Robert Lewandowski netted seven minutes into the second half. This time it was Bayern that missed chances to score again, and Samuel Chukwueze completed a counterattack in the 88th minute to extend Villarreal surprising run in the competition.

Especially given that Villarreal only qualified for the Champions League by winning the Europa League and is seventh in the Spanish league after struggling domestically, Bayern, meanwhile, is the runaway Bundesliga leader.

And while Bayern lifted the European Cup in 2020, the furthest Villarreal has reached in the com-

petition is the semifinals the single time in 2006.

But the same resolve that saw Villarreal beat Manchester United on penalties in the 2021 Europa League final has now seen the team out both Juventus and Bayern in the knockout phase of the Champions League.

There could be another six-time champions to eliminate to reach a first Champions League final. Liverpool or Benfica await in the semifinals, with the English club holding a 3-1 lead over the Portuguese side heading into Wednesday's second leg at Anfield.

Even when Lewandowski levelled the quarterfinal on aggregate — with a low shot after being set up by Thomas Muller — Villarreal continued to cause Bayern problems.

The decisive moment came when Dani Parejo gained possession by the Villarreal penalty area and then launched the break-away by sending the ball to Giovanni Lo Celso. Lo Celso then slid a pass across the face of goal and Chukwueze struck into the top corner of the net. Villarreal was delirious and held out for the memorable win.

## 'What a night, what delirium!'

Real Madrid and Villarreal's emphatic wins in the Champions League quarterfinals have sparked scenes of jubilation back home, with the Spanish press hailing both for their epic achievements.



AS focused on Real Madrid's epic encounter with Chelsea - arguably one of the best games this season. They simply labelled Carlo Ancelotti's men as 'Immortal' before praising their 'heroic finish' to reach the semifinals.



MUNDO DEPORTIVO focused on Unai Emery's men, having overcome tournament-favorites Bayern to reach the last four of the competition. They labelled Villarreal as the 'Atomic Submarine' following their impressive 2-1 aggregate win.



MUNDO DEPORTIVO focused on Unai Emery's men, having overcome tournament-favorites Bayern to reach the last four of the competition. They labelled Villarreal as the 'Atomic Submarine' following their impressive 2-1 aggregate win.



MARCA released a double-page front cover edition with each half dedicated to each side, while the headline read: 'What a night, what delirium! Pictures of Real Madrid and Villarreal's players celebrating on the pitch after their games dominated the spread along with the scores from both matches.'

### Bhubaneswar among venues for FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 13: World football body, FIFA Wednesday named Bhubaneswar, Goa and Navi Mumbai as the host cities for the upcoming FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup to be held in October later this year. FIFA also announced that the draw for the marquee tournament will take place in Zurich June 24.

Following the cancellation of the 2020 edition of the event due to the COVID-19 pandemic, FIFA, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and the Local Organising Committee (LOC) confirmed the host cities after undertaking a comprehensive review and consultation process.

"In order to ensure the safety of the players involved and the other participants in the tournament, Bhubaneswar's Kalinga Stadium, Goa's Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium and Navi Mumbai's DY Patil Stadium have been announced as the three venues that will welcome some of the brightest emerging talents and future stars of women's football," the LOC said in a media release.

### Ashwin explains his call to 'retire himself out'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 13: R Ashwin says the IPL is already late in using "retired out" as a tactical move and after becoming the first one to do so, the India spinner expects to see a lot more of it in the near future.

Ashwin batted at No.6 for Rajasthan Royals against Lucknow Super Giants Sunday but left the field after two balls in the 19th over to make way for Riyan Parag. He had scored 28 off 23 before retiring himself out. "T20, as a sport, is heading towards where football has reached. Just like how they're using substitutions, I did something similar (retiring out). Already we're late, but I believe this will happen a lot in the coming days. "I don't think it will be a stigma like running someone out at the non-striker's end," said Ashwin on his YouTube channel.

However, he thinks the move might not work always. "It might work sometimes and it might not work sometimes. These things happen constantly in football,

and we haven't cracked T20 cricket fully yet. This is a millennial sport. This is the next generation's sport.

"In fact, if you see in football, Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo score goals frequently. But their team's goalkeeper should also save goals and their defenders should defend well. Only then, a Messi or Ronaldo will be in the limelight."

Since he was not able to get the desired boundaries in the slog overs, Ashwin thought it was best to make way for Parag. "It was just a tactical move. In fact, Riyan Parag has been batting very well and when the (K) Gowtham over (16th over) ended, I gave myself some time - five to six balls - to see whether I can hit a six or two fours.

"There were a few balls in the slot, I tried to hit, and mistimed a bit. I threw the kitchen sink at everything, but I couldn't get the timing going. Someone like Riyan Parag was in the shed and there were only ten balls remaining. If he comes and hits even two sixes, we could get a good score. It was a tactical decision."

### Financial help for 'Snow Girl' Ranjita Behera

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 13: Ranjita Behera continued to attract attention with her performance in the snow arena, despite coming from a state which doesn't witness snow fall.

Keeping in view of her achievements, she has been felicitated Tuesday in a meeting, jointly organised by Ski and Snowboard Association of Odisha and Life Insurance Corporation of India jointly.

Siddhartha Mohanty, the Managing Director of LIC of India, feted Ranjita by giving a cheque of Rs 3 lakh towards her training in abroad prior to participate in International Races to be held in Austria.

She has been qualified to participate in International Races to be held in Austria conducted by International Ski Federation, Switzerland.

Ranjita, known as the 'Snow Girl of Odisha', has put the state in the snow-world map with her performances in various Alpine Skiing events.

## Fifth loss on the trot for MI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, April 13: Mumbai Indians inched closer towards elimination after setting themselves up for their first win, only to slump to their fifth defeat on trot as Punjab Kings won a high-scoring IPL thriller by 12 runs here Wednesday.

A target of 199 looked imminently chaseable when teenagers Dewald Brevis (49, 25b, 4x4, 5x6) and N Tilak Varma (36, 20b, 3x4, 2x6) were at the crease but Punjab bowlers did well enough to restrict MI to 186/9 at the end of 20 overs.

Odean Smith (4/30) redeemed himself after the horror last two balls against Gujarat Titans as he got three wickets in the final over for Punjab. For Mumbai, eight wins in nine games with this kind of bowling attack looks near impossible.

However, if there was one positive, it was Brevis's batting. The Baby AB's transformation from boy to a man happened with that 29-run over which showed that MI had made a 10-year investment.

Brevis and Varma added 84 runs in just 6.5 overs to turn the match head on before their successive dismissals did again bring Punjab back as fortunes swung like a pen-



Shikhar Dhawan (L) & Mayank Agarwal

dulum. Suryakumar Yadav (43, 30b, 1x4, 4x6) wasn't in best rhythm. Earlier, skipper Mayank Agarwal (52, 32b, 6x4, 2x6) and veteran Shikhar Dhawan (70, 50b, 5x4, 3x6) struck their first half centuries of the season as Punjab Kings post a challenging 198/5.

Punjab Kings have deployed 'attack is the best form of defence' philosophy during this edition of the league and there was no shift in policy as they added 97 in less than 10

overs to provide a perfect launch-pad but Jasprit Bumrah's (1/28) brilliance kept the score below 200. Later, Jitesh Sharma (30) and M Shahrkh Khan (15) added 46 runs in just 2.4 overs.

**BRIEF SCORES**  
PBKS 198/5 (Shikhar Dhawan 70, Mayank Agarwal 52; Basil Thampai 2/47) beat MI 186/9 (Dewald Brevis 49, Suryakumar Yadav 43, Tilak Varma 36; Odean Smith 4/30) by 12 runs.