



RARE DISPLAY OF ANGER

Actor Sara Ali Khan, in a rare display of anger, refuses to pose for shutterbugs in Mumbai

LEISURE P2



TROOPS DEPLOYED

Sri Lanka deploys troops in Rambukkana after violence claims one life and leaves 13 others injured

INTERNATIONAL P10



RARE FAILURE

Karim Benzema misses 2 spot-kick as Real Madrid beat Osasuna 3-1 to step closer to the La Liga title

SPORTS P12

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Missile system, fighter jets, extra fuel and technological know-how can wait. What we need urgently is bulldozers!

Appointment approved for 196 police personnel



Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik approved Thursday the recruitment of 28 sub-inspectors (SIs) and 168 constables at 28 permanent police outposts in Odisha. The 196 fresh posts will be created by redistribution of positions in the police department. A sub-inspector and six constables will be deployed at each outpost. They will be engaged in maintaining law and order and investigating criminal cases. The posts will be filled as per the ORV Act of the state Government, officials said. The deployment of the new posts is expected to add more teeth in different parts of the state for maintaining law and order in a better fashion.

SEC announces dates for deferred polls



Bhubaneswar: The State Election Commission (SEC) announced Thursday the dates for three-tier panchayat elections at places where the poll process was deferred following death of candidates. As per a notification issued by the SEC, voting will be conducted May 27 in places where the panchayat elections were suspended. Voters will be allowed to exercise their franchise from 7.00am to 1.00 pm. The counting of votes will take place May 28 and the results will be declared the same day. Filing of nominations will take place April 20 to May 2 will the last date of withdrawal of nominations will be May 7, the SEC said in its notification.

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Stop lecturing: SC tells Centre

While hearing a plea on gangster Abu Salem's life term, the apex court slammed the Home Ministry for giving it directives on the matter

Justice SK Kaul told the Home Secretary is nobody to tell us to decide the issue," Justice Kaul added. The Supreme Court also said the Centre must be unequivocal in what it wants to say. "We do not like sentences in the Home Ministry affidavit like 'we will take a decision at an appropriate time,'" said the SC bench comprising Justices Kaul and MM Sundresh.



Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla had told the Supreme Court Tuesday that the government was bound by the assurance given by Advani to the Portugal government. However, the assurance would only come into effect after the 25-year period ended November 10, 2030. The SC had earlier said it is not satisfied with the affidavit filed by the CBI which said that the assurance given by India to Portugal is not binding on Indian courts.

STATUS QUO TILL FURTHER ORDERS

New Delhi: The Supreme Court extended Thursday the status quo until further orders on the razing of buildings in violence-hit Jahangirpuri area of the national capital. The apex court also said it would take a serious view of the demolition that was carried out even after its order was communicated to the NDMC mayor. A bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao and BR Gavai said, "We will take a serious view of the demolition which was carried out even after Supreme Court orders, even after NDMC Mayor was informed. We will take that up later, but there will be consequences."

HC gives ASI 2 more weeks to present report

Cuttack, April 21: The Orissa High Court granted Thursday two more weeks to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to file a report in connection with a PIL claiming 'illegal' constructions close to the Srimandir complex in Puri have affected the health of the 12th century shrine. The court had asked the ASI to undertake a joint inspection of the site with the Odisha government and file a report to the court at least three days before April 21. However, the ASI failed to submit it on schedule.

AGENCIES

New Delhi, April 21: The Supreme Court came down heavily Thursday on the Centre on a matter related to gangster Abu Salem's case. Hearing a petition against Salem's prison term not exceeding 25 years, the apex court resorted to harsh words while rejecting the Union Home Ministry's stance that the plea is 'premature'. The Supreme Court also objected to the Centre asking it to decide on the case.

"Stop lecturing the judiciary. We do not take it kindly when you tell us to decide something which you have to decide. We do not like di-

₹155.92 CRORE FOR 3 NEW CANCER UNITS

Bhubaneswar, April 21: The Odisha government has approved ₹155.92 crore for establishment of cancer care centres in three medical colleges and hospitals at Berhampur, Burla and Koraput. The administrative approval of the three projects was issued Thursday by the state Health and Family Welfare department. A cancer care centre will be set up at MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur at an estimated cost of ₹76.29 crore. A G+3 building will be constructed along with other required infrastructure. Similarly, G+1 buildings will be set up at the SLN Medical College and Hospital in Koraput and the VIMSAR at Burla, at an estimated cost of ₹ 41.14 crore and ₹38.48 crore, respectively. The estimates are meant only for civil and other auxiliary infrastructure like electricity, water and not any medical equipment. Notably, the Odisha government has been stressing on proper health-care services particularly for those suffering from cancer.

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	SENSEX	57911.68	↑	874.18
BOURSES	NIFTY	17392.60	↑	256.10
CURRENCY	DOLLAR	76.47	↓	₹0.07
	EURO	83.58	↑	₹0.32
BULLION	GOLD	₹52,345	↓	₹283
	SILVER	₹67,285	↓	₹1121

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	36.8°C	35.6°C
TEMP MIN	27.6°C	27.5°C
Humidity	77%	75%
Rainfall	Nil	Partly cloudy sky



SEEKING PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT: Students with their faces painted pose for a photograph at an event Thursday, on the eve of World Earth Day, in Uttar Pradesh's Moradabad town

ACTION PLAN TO REDUCE ROURKELA'S AIR POLLUTION

Bhubaneswar, April 21: Air pollution in Rourkela has become a cause for concern for the Odisha government ahead of the 2023 Men's Hockey World Cup. Along with the Kalinga Stadium here, the Birsamunda Stadium in Rourkela will be a venue for the tournament. Rourkela is counted among the seven most polluted cities in Odisha, over which the National Green Tribunal has expressed its concern. As per national ambient air quality standards, air quality index remaining within 0 to 50 is good for health. However, the air quality index in Rourkela varies from 130

to 150 and sometimes breaches the 200-mark. This is a matter of concern for the Odisha government as the FIH may object to hosting matches at a venue which has such a poor air quality. At a high level meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra held here recently, an action plan was devised to combat the pollution in the Steel City.

A decision was taken to monitor the discharge of pollutants from industrial units at Kalunga and Kunarmunda. The plants will be shut down if they do not take necessary steps to check air pollution. Also, teams from SPCB, the district administration and experts will verify the air quality at regular



intervals. The roads will be sprinkled with water and cleaned on a regular basis to prevent pollution, sources informed. Electronic display boards in every highly polluted place will be set up to check the air quality in those areas. The district collectors of Angul, Dhenkanal, Sundargarh, Sambalpur and Jharsuguda have been asked to restrict the use of sub-standard coal in roadside dhabas which also cause pollution.

Abducted minor rescued

Bhubaneswar, April 21: Commissionerate Police have rescued a minor girl and arrested the 41-year-old kidnapper from Chandrasekharpur area here. The accused, identified as Ashok Kumar Das, is a resident of Kudiari area under Jatni police limits of Khurda district. The accused was working as a house painter in the city and was residing at Gosagareswar Chhaka in Old Town area under Shree Lingaraj police station. Police suspect that the accused is involved in child trafficking and was planning to sell the girl off. Sources said, the girl was playing in front of her house in a slum under Infocity police while her mother had gone to a neighbour's house April 16. Das saw the girl and offered her some biscuits. He then talked to the girl for some time and lured her to follow him offering her more biscuits and chocolates.

After failing to trace the minor, her family lodged a complaint with Infocity police April 17. The cops identified the accused examining CCTV footage and launched a hunt for him. They found that neither had he gone back to his rented place or returned to his native place with the girl. Police finally traced Das to a slum near Damana square in Chandrasekharpur locality Wednesday evening and arrested him. Das was produced before the court Thursday which remanded him to judicial custody. During the course of the interrogation, the victim revealed that the accused had beaten her up a number of times when she asked for food or wanted to go home. She stated that she was without food since the day of her kidnapping. Police while interrogating the accused will try to ascertain the links he had with others involved in trafficking of children and whether he has interstate connections.

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MILLIE BOBBY BROWN GRATEFUL FOR STRANGER THINGS PLATFORM

Actress Millie Bobby Brown is grateful that *Stranger Things* has given her a platform and prefers to focus on the positive aspects of being in the spotlight after starring in the Netflix series.

THE KARDASHIANS TURNS BIGGEST SERIES PREMIERE IN US HISTORY

Kim Kardashian-starrer reality show *The Kardashians* is its biggest series premiere in US history, says network Hulu. However, the streamer did not provide specific viewing numbers, as it does not release ratings, says a report in *Variety*.



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ARIES

Career decisions and money matters will keep you busy today. And after all the work, you will want to spend some leisure time and take it easy. A leisure trip may materialise, which will put you in high spirits. Ganesh says indulging in group projects will help you make new friends.

TAURUS

You have a hectic day ahead, says Ganesh. You will be immersed in your work all day long and will love doing so. A lot will get done by the end of the day. Make sure you do not stretch your neck or take unnecessary risks. That will be bad for business. Stick to basics. Do not be innovative or speculative.

GEMINI

You will receive unprecedented love and affection from all your friends and family members today. It is a good day to conduct important personal or professional meetings. A lot of joy and happiness awaits, says Ganesh.

CANCER

You may donate to a charity organisation, for your mental happiness. On the job front, stick to your routine, rather than taking a new bold step, says Ganesh. A good day on the financial front.

LEO

A fun-filled day awaits you. You will enjoy all the activities that you take up today. At the work-place too a progressive day awaits you. You will be worried about the fruits of your labour, but they are likely to be sweeter than you thought they will be, says Ganesh.

VIRGO

It is not the time to rest on your past laurels, and you will have to carry on with your work unabated. You will have to keep your focus steady and remain organised to get the same level of success that you had in the recent past.

LIBRA

Ganeshji says that today you shall make your competitors and enemies envious of your success in business. Beware, as they shall try to hurt or put down your reputation in varied ways. Instead of having a fight with them you should try to be politically correct and take care of matters using your intelligence. This afternoon can bring in a new love in your life that will be very good for you.

SCORPIO

You are in a dilemma and feel like standing at a crossroads of life. Some important decisions of life need time and that's what you want right now. However, keep personal life and work separate to avoid confusion and disturbance. As per Ganesh's advice, it's all right if decision making takes some time, but avoid taking hasty decisions.

SAGITTARIUS

The pressing needs of your loved ones call for extra attention today. You may have a few family friends over for lunch or dinner, and end up chatting a good deal with them. Ganesh says an intimate tête-à-tête with your better half would fare you well.

CAPRICORN

The day will sail smooth, but your mind will wreak havoc by forcing you to act on the spur of the moment, says Ganesh. However, this will not ruin your reputation with bosses and peers. You may also see some of your dreams come true, but don't fly too high; you may climb up the ladder of success but with every step you leave behind there is always one more to go.

AQUARIUS

Your dream house or car may well be on its way! The stars proclaim that it's a good time to acquire new assets. So bring out those attractive brochures and check out your loan prospects. A perfect way to end an exciting day will be an evening at a quiet temple, says Ganesh.

PISCES

A good day awaits you. You will finish your work and beat your deadlines by miles on account of the luck favouring you. There are chances that a family holiday, which has been in the planning for a long time, will eventually come to fruition today, says Ganesh.

Sara gets pushed, angry at paparazzi

Mumbai: Sara Ali Khan has a special relationship with the paparazzi. She always acknowledges them and greets them with her trademark 'namaste.' However, the Atrangi Re actress became enraged after a paparazzi pushed her in an attempt to photograph her. She later refused to pose for photographs.

cameramen surrounded her. A paparazzi accidentally pushed Sara in an attempt to get better pictures of her, which upset Sara. The actress's mood abruptly changed, and she decided against posing for photographs.

When the cameramen asked Sara to pose, she said, "Fir aap log dhakka maarte ho aise" (You guys then push this way). She then got into her car and drove away from the venue.

Fans praised her for handling the situation well in the com-

ments section of a paparazzi's video that included a snippet of the incident. "She's really nice... She was shoved, but she politely refused," a fan said. "She's a real sweetheart." "How she reacted so politely despite being pushed by that paparazzi," said another. AGENCIES



Bhumi on cloud nine over her Manali shoot

Mumbai: For the first time in her career, actress Bhumi Pednekar will be shooting in Manali for Ajay Bahl's thriller *The Lady Killer* in which she stars alongside Arjun Kapoor.

love with a 'self-destructive beauty', essayed by Bhumi, as they embark on a whirlwind romance.

Talking about how her profession allows her to travel to places, Bhumi shares, "I love that my profession takes me to so many new places and lets me soak in so much beauty and culture of these amazingly beautiful locations. I'm looking forward to shooting in Manali for the first time."



She further mentions, "It's simply gorgeous and I can't wait to be there and explore the place. I like to think of myself as a travel

junkie. So, I relish every opportunity to be somewhere cool and new."

Bhumi has a string of upcoming releases that includes Anubhav Sinha's *Bheed*, Shashank Khaitan's *Govinda Nam Mera*, Akshay Kumar-starrer *Raksha Bandhan*, Sudhir Mishra's *Afwaa*, and Gauri Khans *Bhakshak*.

Akshay tenders apology for his tobacco advert

Mumbai: Actor Akshay Kumar, who was recently seen in an advertisement of a tobacco brand along with Ajay Devgn and Shah Rukh Khan, has issued an apology for featuring in the commercial after it received flak from the netizens.

The actor took to his social media to tender an apology through a long note. He wrote, "I am sorry I would like to apologise to you, all my fans and well-wishers. Your reaction over the past few days has deeply affected me."

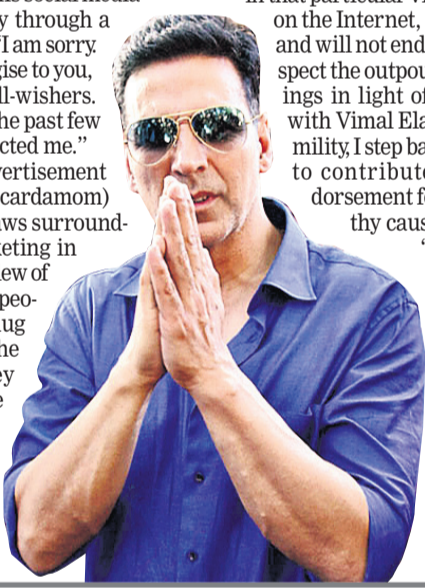
Although the advertisement was for an 'elaichi' (cardamom) product, given the laws surrounding surrogacy marketing in India, it triggered a slew of memes and reels as people on the Internet dug up an old video of the Bachchan Paandey star where he can be seen promising that he would never work in a tobacco product advertisement.

In fact, Goa BJP's medical cell con-

venor Shekhar Salkar also urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to strip actors of their Padma Awards for featuring in such ads.

Continuing his note further, Akshay wrote that he still stands by what he said in that particular video that surfaced on the Internet, "While I have not and will not endorse tobacco, I respect the outpouring of your feelings in light of my association with Vimal Elaichi. With all humility, I step back. I have decided to contribute the entire endorsement fee towards a worthy cause."

"The brand might continue airing the ads till the legal duration of the contract that is binding upon me, but I promise to be extremely mindful in making my future choices," he concluded.



Celebrating Earth Day 2022

This is an occasion to celebrate the planet. Let's make it a day to remind us how badly we abusing the Earth. Here are a couple of poems that relate in some way to the natural world.

The Tree Agreement

by Elise Paschen

The neighbor calls the Siberian Elm a "weed" tree, demands we hack it down, says the leaves overwhelm his property, the square backyard. He's collar-and-tie. A weed tree? Branches screen buildings, subway tracks, his patch of yard. We disagree, claim back the sap, heartwood, wild bark. He declares the tree "hazardous." We shelter under leaf-hoard, crossway for squirrels, branch house for sparrows, jays. The balcony soaks up the shade. Chatter-song drowns out cars below. Sun branches down. Leaves overwhelm. The tree will stay. We tell him "no." Root deep through pavement, Elm.

Wild Geese

by Mary Oliver

You do not have to be good. You do not have to walk on your knees for a hundred miles through the desert, repenting. You only have to let the soft animal of your body Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine. Meanwhile the world goes on. Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain are moving across the landscapes, over the prairies and the deep trees, the mountains and the rivers. Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air, are heading home again. Whoever you are, no matter how lonely, the world offers itself to your imagination, calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting—over and over announcing your place in the family of things.



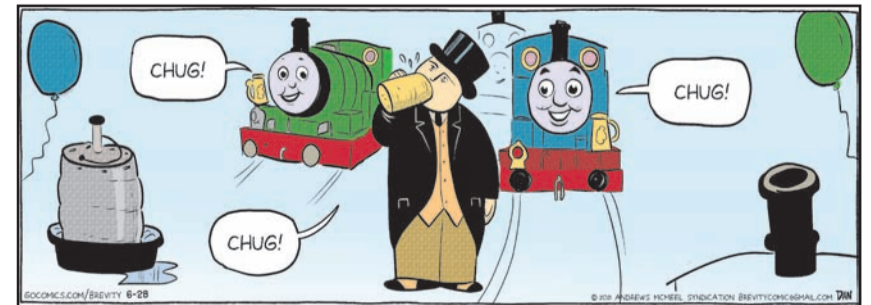
PEANUTS



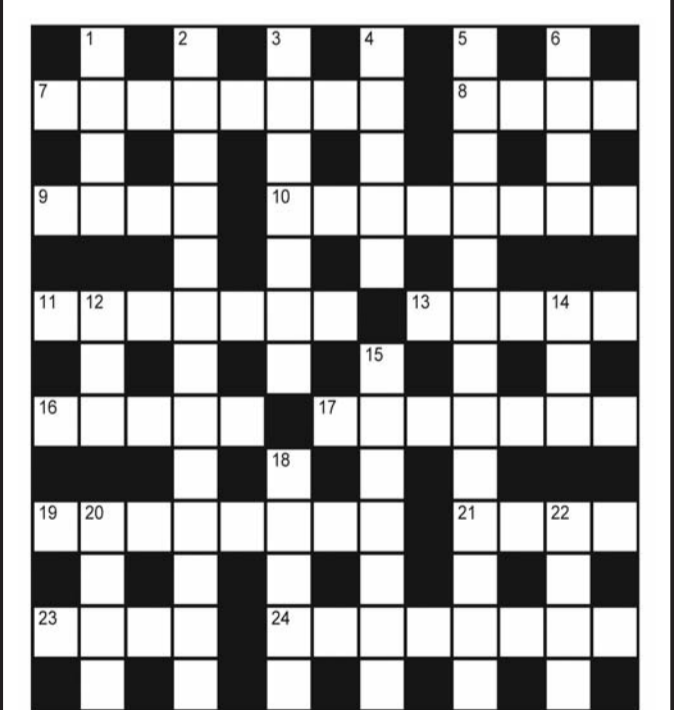
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



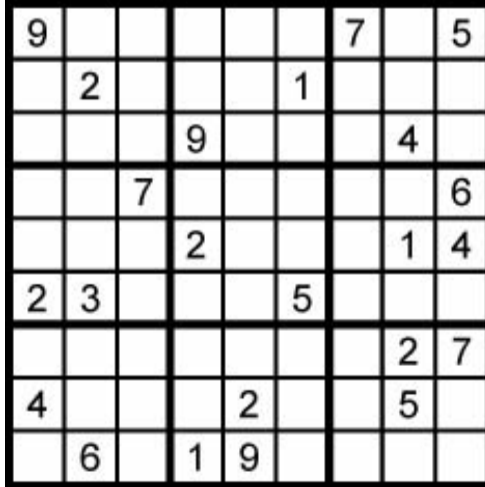
FUN post CROSSWORD



- Across
- 7 Natural ability
 - 8 Jockey's whip
 - 9 Not written
 - 10 Vinegar type
 - 11 Grotesque
 - 13 Orchestra group
 - 16 Garden tool
 - 17 Rich and elaborate cake
 - 19 Volcanic opening
 - 21 As a result
 - 23 Tablet
 - 24 Rebel
 - 6 Mongolian expanse
 - 12 Listening device
 - 14 Vichy water
 - 15 Hot pepper
 - 18 Dried coconut meat
 - 20 Building block
 - 22 Mount Olympus dwellers
- Down
- 1 Trade punches item (8,5)
 - 2 Game room
 - 3 Backache
 - 4 Kingdom
 - 5 Morning dish (9,4)

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

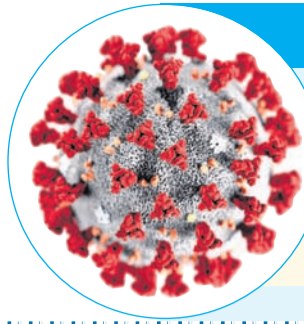


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



SUMMER TREAT

A street vendor sells watermelons at Mahtab Road in Cuttack as the city witnesses scorching heat, Thursday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	50,72,80,327	45,95,89,657	62,33,323
India	4,30,49,974	4,25,14,479	5,22,062
Odisha	12,87,968	12,78,701	9,124

Cuttack Chandi Temple set for makeover



Cuttack Chandi Temple

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 21: The Cuttack Chandi Temple in the Silver City is set for a makeover with the state government deciding to prepare a master plan for development of the shrine within a week.

The master plan would be submitted to the Chief Minister for his approval, said an official.

5T Secretary VK Pandian, who visited the shrine Thursday on the direction of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, offered prayers before Goddess Chandi—the presiding deity of Cuttack and discussed various issues of the temple with the priests, officials of the district administration and locals, sources said.

The temple committee will hold discussions with the Cuttack administration on various develop-



5T Secretary VK Pandian visits the shrine Thursday

OP PHOTO

A master plan for development of the shrine would be prepared within a week and submitted to the Chief Minister for his approval

5T Secretary VK Pandian visited the shrine Thursday and discussed various issues with the priests, officials of the district administration and locals

THE STATE GOVERNMENT IS KEEN TO BEAUTIFY THE SHRINE AND DEVELOP AMENITIES FOR THE DEVOTEES

mental works to be undertaken for the shrine.

The temple authorities appraised the 5T Secretary about waterlogging, parking and other issues related to the shrine.

According to sources, the state government is keen to beautify the shrine and develop amenities for the devotees.

“The Chief Minister has given a clear-cut direction for the development of Chandi Mandir, a symbol of faith and devotion for lakhs of devotees,” said the official.

Revenue Divisional Commissioner (RDC) Suresh Chandra Dalai, Cuttack Collector Bhabani Shankar Chayani, Cuttack Development Authority (CDA) Chairman Anil

Durga Puja is a major festival celebrated at the temple when the Goddess is worshipped in various incarnations of Goddess Durga. The festival is celebrated in temple for 16 days starting Ashwina Krishna Ashtami till Ashwina Shukla Navami and Vijaya Dashami. Only Hindus are allowed entry to the shrine, sources said.

30-year-old held for attacking rly official

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 21: The Commissionerate Police Thursday arrested a man for allegedly attacking the estranged husband of his paramour in Mancheswar area here.

Accused Ashok Kumar Sahoo, 30, a native of Talcher in Angul district, has been residing in Sundarapada area under Airfield police limits.

According to sources, the accused was working as the driver for a senior official of Indian Railways around four years ago. He had developed a relationship with the official's wife leading to marital discord between the couple.

Later, the Railway official's wife left home along with their son and they have been allegedly residing with Sahoo in a rented accommodation at Sundarapada, sources said.

Meanwhile, Sahoo hatched a plot to eliminate the Railway official. He allegedly gave money to some of his friends



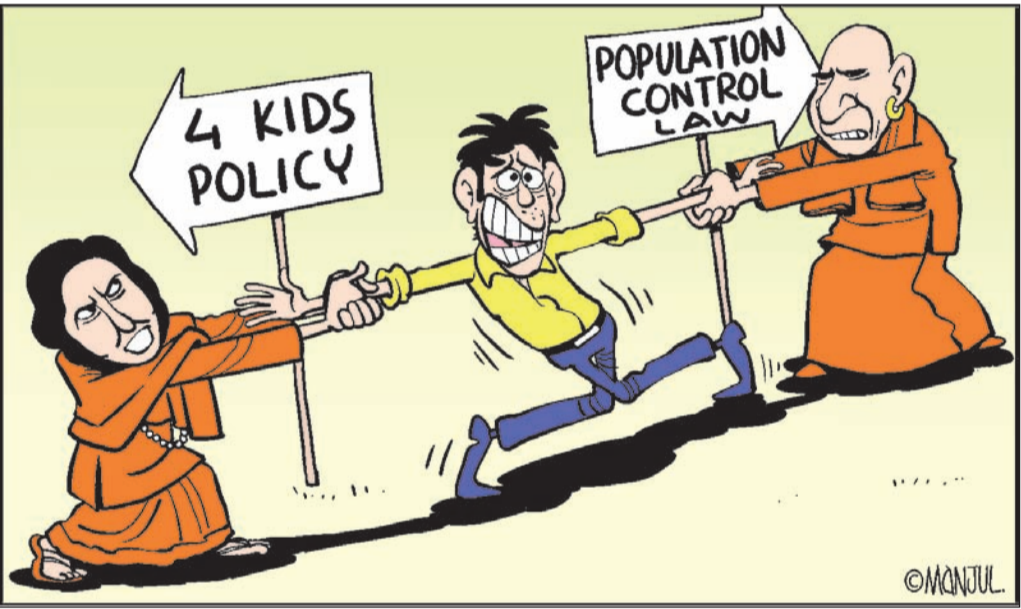
The accused was working as the driver for a senior official of Indian Railways around four years ago

to assault the official.

As per the plan, the accused and his friends attacked the complainant in front of the Sports Complex at Railway Colony area under Mancheswar police limits March 16. They again attacked the complainant when he was returning home after marketing in Chandrasekharpur area recently.

Subsequently, the Railway official lodged a complaint with the Mancheswar police.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Subhash Singh resigns from Rajya Sabha

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 21: After being elected as the Mayor of Cuttack city, Biju Janata Dal (BJD) leader Subhash Chandra Singh Thursday resigned from the membership of Rajya Sabha.

Speaking to media persons here, Singh said he was elected as the Mayor of Cuttack March 26 and administered the oath of office April 7. “Now, I have decided to serve as the Mayor of the Silver City. So, I have resigned from the Rajya Sabha,” he added.

Singh further said he has sought the advice of the Rajya Sabha Chairman on the legal implications in this connection. He recently met Vice President and the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha Venkaiah Naidu and took his advice on the matter. Singh Thursday sent his resignation to the Rajya Sabha Chairman.



Chairman for the latter's support and cooperation during his tenure as a member of the Upper House.

According to sources, the Rajya Sabha Chairman has accepted Singh's resignation.

During his two-year tenure in Rajya Sabha, Singh raised several important issues including reduction of GST on Kendu leaf, LPG price hike and non-lifting of surplus rice from Odisha.

Singh, a trade union leader, defeated Congress candidate Giribala Behera by a margin of 45,206 votes last month to become the Mayor of Cuttack city.

“I have started working for the development of Cuttack from the day of my election as the Mayor of the city. My first and top most priority is to complete the ongoing drainage work, being executed with assistance from JICA,” he said.

Lokayukta presents Annual Report to Guv

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 21: Chairperson and members of Odisha Lokayukta met Governor Ganeshi Lal Thursday and presented the Annual Report for the year 2021.

During discussion, the Lokayukta Chairperson Justice Ajit Singh apprised that despite the pandemic, altogether 884 cases

were disposed of during 2021. He also drew the attention of the Governor about the existing format of lodging complaint as provided in Odisha Lokayukta (Procedure of filing of Complaint) Rules 2020, which is too cumbersome for people. To rectify the issue, the Lokayukta has recommended the state government to substitute the same with a sim-

pler one, so that people will be encouraged to appeal to the Lokayukta against corruption.

At the time of presentation of the Annual Report, Justice Bijay Kumar Nayak, member (Judicial), Debabrata Swain and Rajendra Prasad Sharma, members of the Lokayukta, Secretary, Director of Inquiry and Director of Prosecution were present.

'We should invest for restoration of our planet's health'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 21: The Earth Day is celebrated across the globe April 22 every year. It was first celebrated in 1970.

The official theme for Earth Day 2022 is 'Invest In Our Planet'. According to the experts, restoration of our ecosystem will help us to end poverty, combat climate change and prevent mass extinction.

But, we will succeed in this regard only when everyone plays a role in the protection of our environment, the endangered species and their habitats.

As we are celebrating the 52nd Earth Day Friday, Orissa POST talks to a few city-based environmental experts and try to find out what investment needed to be done for protection of our mother Earth.

Ranjan Panda, an expert on water and climate change issues, said we need to invest in two things without fail for achieving the climate goals to keep the planet healthy.

Firstly, we need to protect the natural forests that absorb carbon dioxide. At present, the forests cover about one-third of our planet's surface, Panda said.

Secondly, we need to support the local and indigenous communities of the world who have been preserving this natural wealth. In a report last year, the Food and Agriculture Organisation



FIRSTLY, WE NEED TO PROTECT THE NATURAL FORESTS THAT ABSORB CARBON DIOXIDE. AT PRESENT, THE FORESTS COVER ONE-THIRD OF OUR PLANET'S SURFACE, SAID CLIMATE CHANGE EXPERT RANJAN PANDA

SECONDLY, WE NEED TO SUPPORT THE LOCAL AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES OF THE WORLD WHO HAVE BEEN PRESERVING THIS NATURAL WEALTH, HE ADDED

(FAO) of the UN recognised the importance of indigenous communities as best guardians of our forests.

The report concludes that territories owned collectively by indigenous peoples have avoided up to 59.7 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions each year across only three countries. This has been possible due their protection efforts that resulted in reduced deforestation rates. Calculated in another way this could translate into keeping around 12.6 million vehicles

off the roads for a year, Panda said.

In India, thousands of villagers are protecting natural forests and they have emerged as climate champions. Many of them are still struggling to get their due recognition. Their rights over the local forests must be recognised at the earliest. That would be our best investment for a healthy planet, Panda added.

Environmental expert Jaya Krushna Panigrahi said emphasis should be laid on reducing our carbon footprints by

curtailing the use of fossil fuels, preserving the quality of our environment, conserving the natural resources for the use of future generations and protecting the biodiversity. Our actions need to grow into a movement engineering governments, institutions, business establishments and citizens in general.

Human-induced global warming and climate change being the toughest challenges of our time, the mankind ought to make course correction by investing in restoration of the health of our planet and thus, protecting the living world, added Panigrahi.

Environmentalist Sudarshan Das said investment on creation of awareness regarding the safety of our planet Earth is need of the hour. This apart, we should invest on research to reduce our dependence on conventional energy. Mahatma Gandhi had said that mother Earth has everything to fulfill our needs but not for our greed. We should follow this Gandhian principle to save our mother Earth, Das added.

Urban planner Piyush Ranjan Rout said the capital city of Bhubaneswar needs immediate measures to tackle the scorching heat during the summer. “It would be difficult to live in Bhubaneswar if we were requiring ACs for around nine months in a year. We should create green cover in the place of adding more number of ACs in our city,” he added.

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SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd., Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **30.05.2022**, for recovery of **Rs.37,61,731.70 (Rupees Thirty Seven Lakh Sixty One Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty One and Paise Seventy Only)** due to the Karur Vysya Bank Ltd, Secured Creditor from 1) M/s. The Sai Mobile Point (Borrower), Proprietor: **Mr. A Mahesh Kumar Sai** Complex, Gandhi Nagar, Berhampur, Orissa 760001 **And At**, Sastri Nagar 6th Lane, Berhampur, Orissa 760002 2), **Mrs. Atmakuri Lavanya (Guarantor)**, Sastri Nagar 6th Lane, Near Ranguni Bhandrol Street Berhampur, Orissa 760002

Description of the Immovable Properties

Item No.1. All that Piece and parcel of Residential Plot, measuring Ac.0.041 Dec (approx. 1800 sq.ft.) situated at Old Plot Nos. 33 and 34 New Plot Nos. 33/4752, 34/4753, Old Khata No. 323, New Khata No. 703/951, Ankushpur Village, kukudakhandi, Ganjam, Orissa 761100. The property is standing in the name of Mr. A Mahesh Kumar.

Reserve Price	EMD (10% of Reserve Price)	Bid Amount Incremental
Rs.5,94,000/-	Rs.59,400/-	Rs.50,000/-

Item No.2. All that Piece and parcel of residential Plot, measuring Ac.0.044 Dec (1916.64 sq.ft.) situated at Old Plot No.979/1347 New Plot No. 1347/4225, Old Khata No. 109 New Khata No. 410/1649, Kukudakhandi Block, Nimakhandi Village, kukudakhandi, Ganjam Orissa 760001. The property is standing in the name of Mr. A Mahesh Kumar.

Reserve Price	EMD (10% of Reserve Price)	Bid Amount Incremental
Rs.28,75,000/-	Rs.2,87,500/-	Rs.50,000/-

Inspection of the Asset All working Days - From 22.04.2022 to 27.05.2022 between 11.00 am to 5.00 pm

Last date and time for submitting online Tender & Application Forms Date: 27.05.2022 Time: 5:00PM

Date and Time of E-Auction The E-Auction will take place through portal <https://www.indianbankeauction.com> on 30/05/2022 between 11:00am to 12:00 Noon with unlimited extensions of 10 minutes each till sale is concluded.

Nodal Bank account Name (EMD by RTGS/NEFT) Account No: 110135100000973 | IFSC Code: KVB0001101. Name of account: BID COLLECTION A/c of SARFAESI | E-auction Proceed: M/s. The Sai Mobile Point

Contact Person & Phone No: For Berhampur Branch Mr. Mallubhatta S Vamsidhar (8625098979) mallubhattasvasmsidhar@kvbmail.com For ARB Kolkata Mr. Samir Ghosh (8336004930) samirghosh@kvbmail.com

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in our Bank's Secured Creditor's website i.e. www.kvb.co.in/Property Under Auction also at the web portal <https://www.indianbankeauction.com> of the service provider, M/s. Canbank Computer Service Ltd., Bengaluru 080-23469661/62/64/65/68

Statutory 30 days' Notice Under Rule 8(6) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002

The borrower/s and guarantor/s are hereby notified to pay the dues as mentioned above along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of e-Auction, failing which the Schedule property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest and cost.

Date : 22.04.2022
Place: Kolkata

Authorized Officer
The Karur Vysya Bank Limited

9 new Cov cases

Bhubaneswar, April 21: Odisha recorded nine fresh coronavirus cases Thursday, while there was no fatality, the Health department said. There are 104 active Covid-19 cases now and 15 more patients have recuperated, taking the total number of recoveries to 12,78,687, a bulletin stated. The daily positivity rate was 0.04 per cent and the infections were detected out of 21,195 sample tested. A child was among those who were afflicted with the disease, it added. The state had logged eight infections and a death Wednesday. The toll remained at 9,124 and these have been confirmed as Covid deaths after an audit. Fifty-three other coronavirus patients have died due to comorbidities so far, according to data. The state has logged 12,87,968 cases, out of which 12,78,687 people have recovered so far.

Feat for AIIMS doc

Bhubaneswar, April 21: All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)-Bhubaneswar Obstetrics and Gynaecology (O&G) additional professor Sweta Singh has been conferred with the prestigious Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India (FOGSI) Movicol Corion Award, an official familiar with the development said Thursday. Singh has received the award in the senior category for 'Best Research in 2020' at the recently concluded All India Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (AICOG) 2022 held at Indore, said the official. Sources said Singh's research was on hypertensive disorders of pregnancy, which complicates around 10 per cent of all pregnancies. AIIMS-Bhubaneswar director Mukesh Tripathi and Medical Superintendent SN Mohanty congratulated Singh for the award and said this will encourage others. Notably, it is FOGSI's highest award and carries a gold-plated plaque, certificate and a cash prize of Rs 75,000.

₹2.33L penalty on school bus for road rule violation



The bus has been penalised of Rs 2,05,734 for non-payment of MV Tax from March 1, 2020 to April 3, 2022

On Wednesday, the Transport department had slapped a fine of Rs 4 lakh on a school bus for violating road rules in Koraput

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, April 21: The Transport department Thursday slapped a penalty of over Rs 2.33 lakh on a school bus for flouting a host of norms under the amended Motor Vehicles Act 2019. The officials of Regional Transport Office-II here seized the bus during an inspection drive near Damana Square in the City and levied a penalty of Rs 2,33,234 against the bus owner. According to transport authorities, the school bus has been fined Rs 500 for general offence, Rs 10,000 for violating air and noise pollution and Rs 10,000 for plying sans a valid permit. Penalties of Rs 5,000 for driving without registration and fitness certificate, and Rs 2,000 for plying without insurance have also been slapped on the school bus. The bus has also been penalised of Rs 2,05,734 for non-payment of MV Tax from March 1, 2020 to April 3, 2022, it was learnt. The action against the school bus was taken under a special drive launched by the state government for extensive checking of buses and other light vehicles used for carrying school students. The special drive will continue till April 27. On Wednesday, the Transport department had slapped a fine of Rs 4 lakh on a school bus for violating the MV Act rules in Koraput.

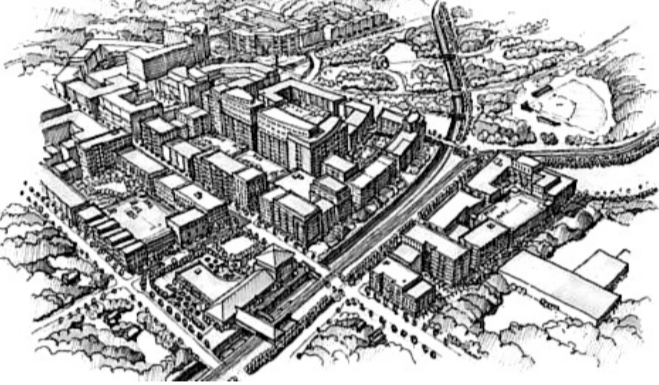


Dignitaries, including Energy Minister Dibya Shankar Mishra, I&PR department Principal Secretary Bishnupada Sethi, Finance department Principal Secretary Vishal Kumar Dev and Industries department Principal Secretary Hemant Sharma, at the inaugural occasion of 27th foundation day celebration of Odisha Hydro Power Corporation Limited at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

ULBs to get town planning role

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 21: The state government has decided to delegate the duty of town planning to urban local bodies (ULBs), said an official at the orientation-cum-workshop of municipal engineers on building plan approval organised here Thursday. The 74th Constitution Amendment Act provides for delegation of the town planning functions to the ULBs. "Keeping with the spirit of these amendments, the state government has already delegated town planning functions to five municipal corporations—Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Berhampur, Sambalpur and Rourkela. It will be shortly delegated to all ULBs. The move will immensely benefit the denizens," said the official at the two-day workshop that aimed at capacity building of the nodal engineers of ULBs. Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) department Secretary G



The state has already delegated town planning functions to 5 municipal corporations—Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Berhampur, Sambalpur and Rourkela

Mathi Vathanan, who inaugurated the workshop, emphasised on transparent and efficient delivery of planning services in order to ensure satisfaction of citizens and ease of doing business by generous use of technology. He also sensitised the participants on 'Mo Sarkar' in which

the feedback of citizens is collected through direct interaction. The H&UD Secretary advised the participants to rise up to the occasion and deliver services effectively. Municipal Administration Director Sangramjit Nayak expressed confidence on proper de-

livery of town planning functions in the ULBs. He said, "It's a great responsibility and ULBs must be diligent to ensure that the quality of service is not compromised and no one is harassed by the employees of ULBs." H&UD Additional Secretary Sushant Mishra explained the statutory, functional and operational aspects of the town planning services. Mishra said the online building plan system under 'SUJOG' has been developed to enable citizens to apply for building plan approvals and avail such services in a completely web enabled and computerised environment. Necessary amendments in the Acts and Rules have been made to standardise the processes involved in building plan approval and to make the practice uniform throughout the state, he added. The programme will focus on the statutory and technical issues involved in approving building plans and regulating unplanned growth of the urban areas.

BHUBANESWAR SHINES IN SURAT



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 21: Bhubaneswar shines with three awards in a go and acknowledgements amongst the 100 smart cities in the India Smart Cities Awards Contest (ISAC) 2020 and the 'Smart Cities-Smart Urbanization' Conference held at Surat. Organised by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), the conference was focused on ideas that can shape the future of Indian cities where Bhubaneswar stays ahead for its innovative approach and socially committed initiatives under Bhubaneswar Smart City Ltd (BSCL). Bhubaneswar won the first accolade being the Socially Smart City in the social aspect category by securing the second position. Similarly, the unified Portal 'Bhubaneswar.Me' got mention and awarded in the governance category. It has been conceptualised and designed by BDAs in-house technical wing BUKC (Bhubaneswar Urban Knowledge Centre). The recent Place-making Marathon for Maa Mangala Pokhari Rejuvenation got wide appreciation at the conference and was amongst the best six such winning initiatives. "Our efforts have been focused towards enabling Bhubaneswar as a sustainable and resilient urban city" said Sanjay Kumar Singh, Municipal Commissioner-Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, VC-BDA & CEO-BSCL. "Bhubaneswar is expanding and now considered as one of the most livable cities in the country for its continuous efforts on sustainability. Community participation is our key to becoming smart as a city and smarter as citizens, he adds. The conference witnessed the bigwigs of Indian Urban Governance and development fraternity including the Minister of MoHUA and other senior officials from different Indian cities and states. Bhubaneswar was in focus for its community and civic participation in the development process and citizen connect initiatives. The Socially Smart Bhubaneswar was much appreciated for its unique approach of designing people centric interventions and emphasizing on equitable development involving the slum dwellers, youth, women and children. Similar was the approach when under Place Making Marathon, Maa Mangala Pokhari got rejuvenated with a peripheral vibrant community space developed with the active participation of the community. A derelict urban space got transformed into a vibrant community space with a record time of 75 hours where communities lent their hands to the authority is what caught the eyeballs of many at the conference. Place making marathons across India are much in news for the innovative makeover of urban spaces where Bhubaneswar stands out with the collaboration of community, local artists, women and children. The space currently has elements like badminton court, open gym and walkways for the youth and children play area with swings and other elements.

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CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Executive Magistrate, Attabira, I, Bolli Srihari Chowdhury, wife - Bolli Meher Gayathri, RO - Babebira Canal, PO - Attabira, Dist. - Bargarh declare that in the Transfer Certificate of my son Bolli Vishwa issued by Delhi Public School, Visakhapatnam North, my name has been mentioned as B. Srihari Chowdhary and his mother name has been mentioned as B. Gayathri. That, I Bolli Srihari Chowdhury and B. Srihari Chowdhary is one and same person. My wife Bolli Meher Gayathri and B. Gayathri is one and same person.

LOST

I, Narayan Nayak , S/o - Kedar Nayak , At - Jeak , PO - Karachuli , P.S./Tahasil- Buguda, Dist.- Ganjam, inform that my land document in Mouza- Jeak having Khata No. 343/114 , Plot No.- 1351/3054, Sale Deed Registered No. 10621400852, dated 04.04.2014 has lost somewhere. If any compassionate person gets it, he/she may contact with Mobile No. - 8917441160.



Artists perform during the state-level birth anniversary celebration of freedom fighter and former chief minister Sadasiva Tripathy at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

Child prodigy presents Naveen her paintings

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 21: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday met two-and-a-half-year-old child prodigy Anvi Agrawal. At this age, she has received much recognition for her paintings including one from Book of Records, London. Anvi, along with her mother Anuradha Dalmia Agrawal, met the Chief Minister at Naveen Niwas Thursday evening and presented him one of her unique paintings. Delighted with the kid's rare feat, Naveen blessed her with his autographed portrait. Presently staying with her parents in Bhubaneswar, Anvi has made 72 paintings with 37 distinct techniques. She can paint magnetic colours, inks, moulds, acrylic and water colour. The abstracts created in her paintings are a real delight for the eyes. During the meet, Anvi's grandparents were also present.



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CM releases 'The Magic of Mangalajodi'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 21: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday released two books at Naveen Niwas. The first one is the coffee table book 'The Magic of Mangalajodi' by Avinash Khemka and the second one is a compilation on the 'Sikh History of Eastern India' by Abinash Mohapatra. The coffee table book provides a bird's eye view of Mangalajodi in Chilika through fabulous images and descriptions. It also inspires readers to visit and enjoy this picture-postcard place. Khemka is an avid wildlife photographer and conservationist, with special interest in the



Naveen also unveiled 'Sikh History of Eastern India', a rigorous research work of Abinash Mohapatra avian wildlife of Chilika Lake. Appreciating the author for the

coffee table book, Patnaik said the exemplary efforts put up by Khemka to capture and portray life and essence of Mangalajodi in Chilika and its surrounding through the book is praiseworthy. Mangalajodi is known for scripting a remarkable story of successful nature conservation, wherein local community members have renounced their traditional bird hunting practices and vowed for the protection of wildlife and habitat. The book 'Sikh History of Eastern India' is a rigorous research work of Abinash Mohapatra on Sikh history and philosophy. It's a compilation of

eight books authored by Mohapatra himself. It's an extensive study on Sikh history in the eastern parts of India. These books are Sikh history of Bihar, Assam, Bangladesh, West Bengal, Odisha, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Author Mohapatra is a scholar of Sikh history based in Odisha. He has authored 38 books on Sikh history, theology and principles. The preface of the compilation is written by Sardar Gurbax Singh, Junior Vice President, SGPC, Amritsar Sahib. It's published by Punjabi Global Foundation, Odisha Chapter in Balasore.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS. Acharya Vihar-Doyal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9778056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpith-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad In-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

₹30cr for Chandipur beach facelift

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balalore, April 21: The mystical Chandipur beach in Balalore district will soon be upgraded into a model beach with the state government sanctioning ₹30 crore for its development, a report said Thursday.

The development works comprising protection of the sea coast and its beautification have been undertaken from the Pantha Niwas in Chandipur till the Balaramgadi river mouth.

Reports said the beach has gained global popularity for its vanishing sea phenomenon as the beach recedes upto 5-6 km during low tides and comes back during high tides. This offers visitors the unique opportunity to walk on the sea bed while its biodiversity is equally unique as it is home to the endangered horse shoe crabs, star fish, sea urchins to name a few.

Balalore MLA Swaroop Kumar Das, district tourist officer and senior irrigation department officials visited the beach and reviewed the on-going developmental works, Thursday.



REPRESENTATIVE PICTURE

Das reviewed the project and asked the officials for early completion of the project. Meanwhile, stone packing on a stretch of 1.7 km from Chandipur Pantha Niwas to Balaramgadi river mouth has been completed where the visiting tourists can enjoy the breathtaking view of the sea on the marine drive.

Moreover, a service road will also be constructed on the stone packing with trees planted on both sides for its beautification. The tourists can drive their vehicles on this road and enjoy the vastness of the sea.

More over, a service road will also be constructed on the stone packing with trees planted on both sides for its beautification. The tourists can drive

TOURISM BOOST

The beach has gained global popularity for its vanishing sea phenomenon as the beach recedes upto 5-6 km during low tides and comes back during high tides

Stone packing on a stretch of 1.7 km from Chandipur Pantha Niwas to Balaramgadi river mouth has been completed where the visiting tourists can enjoy the breathtaking view of the sea on the marine drive

their vehicles on this road and enjoy the vastness of the sea.

This apart, a café, parking slot and other developmental works will be undertaken with ₹2.94 crore, district tourist officer said.

The work that began in 2020 came to a grinding halt due to Covid pandemic but has resumed now.

SHORT TAKES

Three killed, one critical in accident

Anandapur: In a tragic road mishap, three people died and another sustained critical injuries when a hyva truck collided with an auto-rickshaw at Kodapada Chhak under Anandapur police limits Thursday. The deceased were identified as Tukuna Munda, 45, Sana Munda, 47, and Aich Munda, 38, of Jabinpur under Hatadhi block. Sombari Munda, 45, who sustained critical injuries, was shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack. Auto-rickshaw driver Waqil Jena, 36, was also injured. The auto-rickshaw was carrying the four from Satkosia area of Mayurbhanj district when the chips-laden hyva rammed into the former. Meanwhile, police seized the vehicles and started an investigation into the matter.

Widow hacked to death in Nayagarh

Nayagarh: A widow was hacked to death with an axe by a man for allegedly opposing his advances and informing the village committee about his misdeeds. The heinous incident has been reported from Banigocha locality of Nayagarh district Thursday. The deceased has been identified as Bimali, a resident of Juraganda under Banigocha police limits, while the accused has been identified as Dahanani of the same village. According to sources, Bimali had reportedly misbehaved with Bimali a few days back following which she complained about the incident to the village committee. In an act of revenge, Dahanani barged into her house while she was asleep and hacked her to death with an axe, leading to her death on the spot. Fellow villagers overpowered the accused and thrashed him black and blue before informing the cops.

Techie's body fished out from Kolab dam

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, April 21: The body of a Hyderabad-based software engineer was found floating in Kolab dam in the district Thursday. The deceased has been identified as Samir Padhi, a native of Pujariput residential area in Koraput town.



However, it is yet to be ascertained whether it is a case of suicide or murder. A case has been registered in this connection and police have initiated a probe.

According to villagers, Samir works in an IT firm in Hyderabad. He had come to his native place for holidays just a few days back but had gone missing Tuesday. Panicked family members had lodged a missing complaint with the police after failing to trace his whereabouts. Meanwhile, his body was fished out by fire fighters from Kolab dam near Suku bridge Thursday. The body was sent for autopsy.

8 suspended for ragging schoolmate

SAMBALPUR: Eight Class X students of a school in Majhali locality in this district were suspended Thursday for allegedly stripping their classmate and thrashing him mercilessly. The incident occurred April 17 night while the suspension order was issued Thursday. The school authorities while suspending the accused students said that it has a 'zero tolerance' policy against ragging. Among the eight students who have been suspended, two had allegedly assaulted the victim. A complaint was lodged by the parents of the boy with the school authorities Wednesday. It said that the eight hostel inmates, who were classmates of the victim, had called the latter to room at around 7.30am on the day. They then overpowered the victim, tied his hands and legs, took his clothes off, thrashed him with shoes and even sexually assaulted him, the parents alleged.

Truckers resent plan to ferry minerals through pipelines



The truck owners before submitting a memorandum to Keonjhar Collector

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, April 21: A move by some industrial firms to transport iron ores and other minerals through pipelines other than road and rail routes has sparked resentment among the truck owners, a report said.

This has flared up tension among the truck owners coming from various parts of the district and earning their livelihood from mineral transportations. They believe that this will rob them of their livelihood and would render scores of drivers, helpers, garage owners, hotel owners and workers jobless. They warned of an agitation if their demands are not met.

Loud DJ music claims life of groom's father

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, April 21: In a tragic incident, a groom's father died due to high decibel DJ music during wedding celebrations here Wednesday night.

Ankit Roila, who works in Delhi, had befriended a girl living in Lathiaguda locality over Facebook. The two had fallen in love. Accordingly the families of the two agreed to get them married.

Ankit with his father Mahendra and other family members had arrived here and were staying at a hotel. In the evening, when the groom and his family members were proceeding towards the bride of the residence amid loud music, the groom's father Mahendra complained of illness due to the loud music being played by the DJ and collapsed.

He was rushed to a local hospital, where doctors declared him dead. Police have started an investigation into the matter and seized the body.

The body was later handed over to the family members of the groom after post-mortem.

Youth held for raping minor

BERHAMPUR: Bada Bazaar police here Thursday arrested a youth on charges of abducting and raping a minor girl. The police also rescued the survivor. The accused was identified as Jaysen Behera of Gopalpur area. The accused and the survivor were taken for a medical examination before producing the former in court. The court remanded the accused in judicial custody after rejecting his bail plea. Police also recorded the statements of the survivor under Section-164 of IPC in the court. Police said the girl was abducted April 16. The matter was taken up for inquiry after her father lodged a complaint in the police station. Later, police tracked the mobile phone of the accused and nabbed him from Chamakhandi area while rescuing the survivor from his captivity.



SPLENDID PERFORMANCE



Artistes of 'Sabda', a cultural outfit from Sambalpur, staged a play 'Amruta Sagar Bindu' at the 16th Panchapattamali drama festival organised at Damanjodi in Koraput. The play written and directed by Birupakshya Pardhan won six awards in the event

ANIMAL INJECTION TO MAN

ASI suspended for letting off quack

AGENCIES

Baripada, April 21: Odisha Police Thursday placed an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) under suspension on the charge of dereliction of duty while dealing in a case of alleged administration of livestock injection to a man by a quack in Mayurbhanj district.

Mayurbhanj SP Khilari Rishikesh Dnyandeo suspended ASI Pabitra Mohan Rout, posted at Mahuldiha police station. The ASI was accused of allowing a quack to go scot free even as he was nabbed by local people and handed over to police for administering livestock injections to a man.

The quack Biswanath Behera of Kantalipal in Keonjhar district had administered three livestock injections to Srikanta Mohanta, who was suffering from back pain.

Behera had charged ₹470 from the patient for administering injection meant for animals.

Biswanath Behera, 62, of Kantalipal in Keonjhar district, had administered three livestock injections to a 55-year-old Srikanta Mohanta suffering from back pain April 16.

The quack gave some tablets to Mohanta and suggested him to consume them twice a day.

The quack had charged ₹470 from the patient for administering injection meant for animals. Incidentally, the patient had no such adverse effect despite taking the livestock medicine.

However, Mahanta's son suspected the quack, who posed himself as a doctor. He sent the picture of injection to a doctor in Thakurmunda, who confirmed that the injection was meant for animals.

Mahuldiha police station registered a case against the quack. The quack was absconding after being allowed to go by the ASI.

The police have meanwhile launched a manhunt to trace the absconding quack.

ODISHA LIFT IRRIGATION CORPORATION LTD.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, LIFT IRRIGATION DIVISION, BOUDH

e-mail id- eolicboudh@gmail.com

'e' Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No. OLIC-BOUDH-01/2022-23 Date: 20.04.2022

No. 2260 The Executive Engineer, Lift Irrigation Division, Boudh on behalf of OLIC invites Percentage Rate bids in single cover system to be received in Online Mode only for the work Installation and Energisation of 08 No. New Lift Irrigation Projects under Boudh & Harbhanga Blocks in Boudh district as detailed in the table below. The Bid should be submitted by the eligible class of contractors as mentioned below registered with the State Government and contractors of equivalent grade / class registered with Central Government / M.E.S. / Railways / C.P.W.D. for execution of Civil Works with valid Electrical (H.T) License issued by ELBO Odisha through On-Line in the Govt. website www.tendersodisha.gov.in. The bidders should have necessary portal enrolment (with own digital signature certificate). The registered bidders from outside Odisha can also participate in this on-line tender process after necessary portal enrollment but shall have to subsequently undergo registration with appropriate authority of the State.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender Online for Bidding		Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	Date & time of Opening of tender in the Office of the Executive Engineer, L.I. Division, Boudh
		From	To		
1	2	3	4	5	6
Executive Engineer, L.I. Division, Boudh	OLIC/ Boudh/01/2022-23	25.04.2022 at 11.00 Hrs.	02.05.2022 at 17.00 Hrs.	30.04.2022 at 17.00 Hrs.	04.05.2022 at 11.00 Hrs.

1. Name of the Works:- Installation & Energisation of River Lift Irrigation Projects 08 Nos. with supply of all materials on Turnkey basis. 2. Total Nos. of Package:- 14. 3. Approximate Estimated Cost:-Rs. 21.27 Lakhs to Rs. 27.89 Lakhs, 4. Class of Contractor:- As mentioned against each package. 5. Period of Completion:- 120 Days for all projects from the date of issue of work order, 6. Other details as follows:-

Details can be seen from the Website www.tenderodisha.gov.in.
Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above website only.
Sd./- Executive Engineer, L.I. Division, Boudh

DISTRICT RURAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, BHADRAK ADVERTISEMENT

No. 1163/DRDA Date: 20.04.2022

No. CAD-260: Expression of interest are invited for engagement of Ombudsman under MGNREGS in Bhadrak district.

Interested persons may submit their written expression of interest to the Collector-cum-DPC, MGNREGS, DRDA, Bhadrak in the prescribed proforma available in our district website www.bhadrak.nic.in by 06.05.2022 at 1 P.M. through Speed Post/Registered Post.

For more details visit our website www.bhadrak.nic.in.

Sd./- Project Director
DRDA, Bhadrak
OIPR-19087/11/0001/2223

No. B-73

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER CUTTACK (R&B) DIVISION NO.-I, CUTTACK

E-Mail ID: eepwcuttack@gmail.com, Tel./Fax No. (0671) 2304128

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA ('e' PROCUREMENT NOTICE)

Bid Identification No. S.E. CTC (R&B) - 04 of 2022-23

- The Superintending Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Division No.-1, Cuttack on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites on Percentage rate basis bid in Single Cover System in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractor for building work as mentioned below.
- No. of work : 03 Nos.
- Nature of work : Roads & Building works
- Class of Contractor : "C" and "B" Class
- Tender Paper Cost : Rs.6000/- (Online)
- Available of bid document in the website : From 25.04.2022 to 5 P.M. of 09.05.2022
- Date of Opening of Bid : 11 A.M. of 10.05.2022
- The bidders have to participate in ONLINE 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 said website.

Sd./- (Er. P.K. Majhi)
Superintending Engineer
Cuttack (R&B) Division No.-I
OIPR-34091/11/0004/2223

EAST COAST RAILWAY

1) Tender Notice No. SBP-ELECT-2022-T-134
NAME OF WORK: ELECTRICAL WORKS FOR PROVISION OF CRANE SHED FOR MAINTENANCE OF 140 T BD CRANE AT SAMBALPUR.
Approx. Cost of the work (₹): 7,01,494.80, EMD (₹): 14,000.00.

2) Tender Notice No. SBP-ELECT-2022-T-135
NAME OF WORK: A) PROVISION OF 02 LIFTS EACH AT SAMBALPUR & TITLAGARH STATIONS OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION. B) ELECTRICAL WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH EXTENSION OF IOH AND BIO TANK MAINTENANCE AND TESTING AT COACHING DEPOT, SAMBALPUR.
Approx. Cost of the work (₹): 7,11,215.00, EMD (₹): 14,200.00.

3) Tender Notice No. SBP-ELECT-2022-T-136
NAME OF WORK: IMPROVEMENT OF SUB-STATIONS & STATION BUILDINGS WITH PROVISION OF DG SETS, SOLAR PLANT, REPLACING OF DAMAGED CABLE, PANEL BOARDS ETC. OVER SAMBALPUR DIVISION.
Approx. Cost of the work (₹): 18,96,056.80, EMD (₹): 37,900.00.

Completion period of the work : 06 Months (for all the tenders).

Tender Closing Date and Time :
At 1530 Hrs. of 13.05.2022 (for Sl. No. 01).
At 1545 Hrs. of 16.05.2022 (for Sl. No. 02).
At 1500 Hrs. of 25.05.2022 (for Sl. No. 03).

No manual offers sent by Post / Courier / Fax or in person 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 : http://www.ireps.gov.in

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigendum issued for this tender.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G), Sambalpur
PR-40/N/22-23

Sambalpur Municipal Corporation, Sambalpur

E-mail: sambalpurm.hud@nic.in., Ph:0663-2411012

Bid Identification No.01/SMS_SBP/2022-23

No.3823/SMC Date:21.04.2022

No.C-112:1.The Municipal Commissioner on behalf of the Sambalpur Municipal Corporation invites Expression of Interest (EOI) in two bid cover system (Part-I: General & Technical Bid and Part-II: Price Bid) in conformation with detailed EOI call Notice from qualified, experienced and financially sound Consultancy Firms/ Consultants / Engineering firm for "Empanelment of Consultants for Architectural / Engineering/ Structural & other related Services of Sambalpur Municipal Corporation" having license, registration certificate, GST,PAN, income tax clearance certificate through e-procurement in conformation with the term and condition from intending applicants fulfilling the eligibility criteria and other qualifying requirement. Each EOI should be submitted on-line through the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in by the eligible applicants.

Sl. No.	Scope of Work	Cost of Document in Rs. (Non-Refundable)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in Rs.
1	2	3	4
1	Empanelment of Consultants for Architectural / Engineering/ Structural & other related Services of Sambalpur Municipal Corporation.	10000/-	0

Last date & Time for submission of bid | Date & time of opening of bid
5.00 P.M. of 11.05.2022 | 11.00 A.M. of 12.05.2022

Name and address of the office | Municipal commissioner, Sambalpur Municipal Corporation, Sambalpur-768001
Email: sambalpurm.hud@nic.in

- Cost of EOI Documents; Cost of EOI Document specified in column 3 of table of N.I.T. should be paid online in a single payment. The applicant is solely responsible for successful payment. The will not be able to participate in case of failure. Department of State Procurement Cell, NIC and designated Bank should not be held responsible for failure of payment by the applicant.
- Earnest Money Deposit (EMD); As per office memorandum 8943/F / FIN-COD-MISC-0007-2019 dt 18.03.2021, 18281/WD dt.31.12.21 & 8475/F dt.05.04.22 no provision regarding Bid Security should be kept in the Bid Documents and only provision for " Bid Security Declaration" to be furnished by the Applicant.
- The Bid documents will be available in the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in from 11.00 AM of dt.22.04.2022 to 5.00 PM of dt.11.05.2022 for online bidding.
- The applicant must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class II or Class III.
- EOI shall be received "on line" on or before 5.00 PM of dt.05.2022.
- EOI received online shall be opened at 11.00 AM on dt.12.05.2022 in the office of the undersigned in the presence of the applicant who wish to attend. Applicant who participated in the bid can witness the opening of bids after logging on to the site through their DSC. If the Office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- The EOI document shall contain scan copy of (a) Registration certificate, (b) PAN, (c) GST registration certificate, license and other document required and special condition if any.
- Even if qualifying criteria are met, the applicant will be disqualified for the following reason
- if inquired and convicted by the undersigned as to making a false statement or declaration in APPENDIX-A to H
- Applicant should read the terms and conditions carefully before on-line bidding.
- The Authority reserves the right to cancel any or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd./- Municipal Commissioner, Sambalpur Municipal Corporation
OIPR-13122/11/0006/2223

FOCUS SUSTAINABILITY

'INVESTING' IN OUR PLANET



It is significant for all citizens to understand the meaning of the theme for this Earth Day, with the word 'invest' boldly planted in there. We need to return to the original meaning of 'invest', as clothing, and making beautiful. We need to clothe the earth with biodiversity of trees on our farms and forests, biodiversity of crops in our fields and gardens

thority to manage." The IEG works in partnership with the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) to create "a world-class platform to list these companies for trading, enabling the conversion of natural assets into financial capital."

In this, consider how earth systems have been further tortured to produce capital in a venture that has the among its investors these entities: NYSE, The Rockefeller Foundation, Inter-American Development Bank (founded 1959, considered the largest source of development financing for Latin America and the Caribbean) and Aberdare Ventures, a venture capital firm based in San Francisco. Citizens must be alert to what essentially is a new form of colonialism, a new ownership, a new enclosure of the commons that seeks to not only own nature but also her ecological services. The assets include "biological systems that provide clean air, water, foods, medicines, a stable climate, human health and societal potential."

IEG is one example of a larger thinking that is at the root of our crisis. The crisis is of greed, of the attempt to own nature's life-giving gifts like seeds and water and forest and the farms that are created with love to invest them with beauty. The more the real world is turned into a financial asset, the more homelessness and hunger will grow. We must recognise this Earth Day that this is a violation of nature's economy, the rights of mother earth, the rights of all beings and of human rights.

The human race can convert nature into cash through extractivism. But we cannot turn cash into nature. An African peasant captured the ontological and ecological difference between money and life with a simple statement: "You cannot turn a calf into a cow by plastering it with mud." To quote from the book (Africa in Crisis, Lloyd Timberlake, 1985), "The analogy is subtle but the meaning is clear... change must be organic and come from within; slapped on solutions from outside do not work."

The writer, a physicist, globally renowned author and eco-feminist, is the founder of the Navdanya movement which works to conserve traditional seeds.

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The theme of the 2022 Earth Day is "invest in our planet". The original meaning of the word "invest", from the root "vest" and the Latin "vestis" (garment) was to "make beautiful", and to clothe. I have often heard tribal peasants as they go to work in their fields say, "I am going to beautify the earth". But the word "invest" almost universally has a different connotation today. The change has an ugly colonial history. A mere 10 years after the creation of the East India Company in 1600, the meaning of investment changed from being diverse ways of clothing and "surrounding" to "use money to produce profit" in connection with corporate colonial trade. It was John Locke who extended it to the "circulation of money" to suit the needs of private property and the money-centred structures that were then being built by colonial commerce.

The currency of life is life, not money. Our planet connects us to her life and the earth family through flows of living currencies of energy and breath, water and nourishment. Currency means flow. It is the flow of life and love through the web of life in nature and society which sustains as one. It should therefore be plain that food, water, breath, care are the currencies of life. The diverse currencies of life grow the infrastructure of life so all lives can thrive. That was the meaning with its roots in Latin till the 17th century. Money is a mere means of exchange of real goods and services produced by earth and through real work by people.

GDP "growth", which is much treasured and even revered today, has been a journey in which money has mutated into a mysterious construct named "capital", which could create wealth by denying and appropriating the creativity of nature, women, farmers, workers; it could enclose the commons and own the commons as private property. This "capital" then mutated into "investment", which further mutated, through multiple follow-on constructions into "returns on investment" under which those who do no real work control wealth created by exploitation of nature. People can thus accumulate more wealth, and use the wealth to further exploit nature and society. The ecological crises grow. Poverty, misery, exclusion,

also grow.

Financialisation of nature is a further mutation of "invest" from giving care to meaningless profits for a few and relentless money-making. The delusion that money is the currency of life has allowed money-making and money-makers to be rewarded and even worshipped, while our sense of interconnectedness is extinguished, and our potential for compassion is lost.

It is therefore significant for all citizens to understand the meaning of the theme for this Earth Day, with the word "invest" boldly planted in there. We need to return to the original meaning of "invest", as clothing, and making beautiful. We need to clothe the earth with biodiversity of trees on our farms and forests, biodiversity of crops in our fields and gardens. We need to intensify biodiversity to intensify photosynthesis to intensify nature's flows of life. We need to plant seeds and care for the living soil so the seed, soil and sun can intensify the flow of their living energies, healing broken cycles. This can only happen when we further invest in love, care and compassion to regenerate the earth and stop the wars against the earth and her peoples.

For the money machine, "invest in the planet" means extract the last drop of life from the complex array of living and breathing

earth systems, extract the last freedom from humans and other species.

The robber barons who gave us oil and climate change want to create new markets of carbon, new property in nature's ecological services, reducing biodiversity and nature into financial assets to be owned and traded. Some are plain extractive capitalists. Others are neo-capitalists. And some others are philanthro-capitalists trying to own and privatise all of nature and our lives. They are mutating into "life lords" to whom we will have to pay rents to breathe, eat, drink. What nature provides for free as a gift will now be a commodity we "buy" at high cost and through "digital social credits" in the new economy which builds on the old colonisation.

Consider that in 2021, we saw the launch of an Intrinsic Exchange Group (IEG), which says it is "pioneering a new asset class based on nature and the benefits that nature provides (termed ecosystem services)". IEG says these "services include carbon capture, soil fertility and water purification, amongst others." This is called the "foundation of a new form of corporation called a NAC, short for Natural Asset Company, whose "primary purpose... is to maximise ecological performance, the production of ecosystem services, to which they have rights and au-

THE HUMAN RACE CAN CONVERT NATURE INTO CASH THROUGH EXTRACTIVISM. BUT WE CANNOT TURN CASH INTO NATURE



Vandana Shiva



Philippe Legrain

Even a deeply flawed European democracy is greatly preferable to autocracy

Anti-EU Populism

If you can always smile at life, life will always smile at you.

THE MOTHER



Russian President Vladimir Putin's war on Ukraine is a momentous tragedy, above all for Ukrainians, but also for people across Europe and around the world. But, as opinion polls for the final round of France's presidential election April 24 indicate, if the Russian barbarity in Ukraine can be said to have a silver lining, it is that Putin's unprovoked attack appears to be discrediting his supporters and allies in the West, and may well provide a new impetus for European integration.

To be sure, populists could yet capitalise on this crisis to win support from economically squeezed Europeans. That seems to be the Far-right Marine Le Pen's game plan as she campaigns to win the French presidency. As the prices of energy, commodities, and basic foodstuffs surge, inflation in Europe may hit double digits for the first time since the 1970s. Living standards in the EU could end up taking a bigger hit than they did in the aftermath of the 2008 global economic crisis.

Already, these challenges seem to have bolstered Viktor Orbán, Hungary's autocratic PM. Orbán, a longtime Putin ally who has systematically rigged the electoral system in Hungary in his favour, has sought to insulate Hungarians from rising food and fuel prices. His Fidesz party won this month's general election in a landslide, ensuring him a fourth consecutive term in office.

To prevent that outcome from presaging a broader trend, EU governments must provide support for vulnerable people, avoid premature austerity, diversify energy supplies, and accelerate investments in low-cost clean technologies. The good news is that, so far, policymakers largely seem intent on doing just that. Their success would go a long way toward restoring trust in Europe's political and technocratic elites.

It helps that the Ukraine war has also eroded the political credibility of populists who have long associated themselves with Russia and praised Putin. Since the invasion, populists such as Italy's Matteo Salvini and the UK's Nigel Farage have been scrambling to distance themselves from Russia.

In the run-up to the first round of France's presidential election, both leading Far-right candidates attempted to do the same. After years of maintaining close ties to Putin and receiving significant financing from Russia, National Rally's Le Pen called the invasion of Ukraine unjustifiable. Reconquest's Eric Zemmour, who once said he dreamed of a French equivalent to Putin, was similarly forced to condemn the war. But their statements seem not to have been enough. In the first round, both candidates lost to centrist President Emmanuel Macron. He won nearly 27.6% of the vote and seems likely to win re-election in the runoff against Le Pen later this month.

While many Europeans remain aggrieved by their loss (or perceived loss) of income or status, or fearful of suffering such a loss – a major factor fueling support for populists – they have found a new sense of compassion for refugees, the favourite scapegoats of populists. Of course, European sympathy does not extend to all those fleeing violence. Moreover, the willingness to accept Ukrainian refugees could prove limited, especially if the costs of integrating newcomers rise. But even if Europe's newfound compassion for refugees does not last, the threat from Putin's Russia will persist. This discredits yet another belief that has long bolstered the populists: the notion that things can't get any worse.

For voters across Western Europe, the Ukraine war has highlighted just how fortunate they are to live in countries that are peaceful, secure, and free. While European liberal democracies and capitalism are far from perfect, they need reforming, not dismantling. Even a deeply flawed European democracy is greatly preferable to autocracy.

In Central and Eastern Europe, it is governments that needed the reminder. In particular, Poland's prickly populist administration appears to have gained a renewed appreciation for the security that EU membership provides. Poland's informal anti-Brussels alliance with Orbán now looks ruptured.

After years of internal division, Europeans are being forced to unite against an alarming external enemy, as they did during the Cold War. The EU now has a golden opportunity to prove its worth by marshaling collective efforts to enhance security, in terms of defence, energy, and the economy.

While the US will remain essential to European defence, the EU will also need to take greater responsibility for its own security, not least because there is no guarantee that future American leaders will remain committed to NATO. Progress on energy security will require a massive collective effort to source alternatives to Russian supplies, increase gas-storage capacity, build pan-EU gas networks, and accelerate EU-led decarbonisation efforts. And EU governments will need to pursue a common initiative to bolster economic security, modeled on the Next Generation EU pandemic recovery fund.

Josep Borrell, the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, recently argued that Putin's war has given birth to geopolitical Europe. He is right. This longstanding French ambition had repeatedly been thwarted by Britain's Euroskeptical Atlanticism and Germany's mercantilist pacifism. But the UK is no longer an EU member, and Germany is embracing a more muscular strategic approach. More broadly, Europeans now see with alarming clarity the EU's primary purpose: protecting them from threats like Putin's Russia.

The writer is Visiting Senior Fellow at the London School of Economics' European Institute.

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WISDOM CORNER

- Things are beautiful if you love them. **JEAN ANOUILH**
- Excellence is not a skill, it's an attitude. **RALPH MARSTON**
- It always seems impossible until it's done. **NELSON MANDELA**

WORDSWORTH

Spelunking

There are two words that refer to exploring caves. The older is speleology, with its derived speleological and speleologist. These have been around since the middle 1890s and were brought over directly from French, where pioneers such as the lawyer Edouard Martel had explored caves from the 1880s on; in 1895 he founded the Société de Spéléologie. French got the words from Latin spelaeum, which variously meant a cave, cavern, den, or grotto (it derives from Greek spelaios, a cave). These days speleology refers in particular to the scientific study of caves, as opposed to hobby or sport exploration, though that wasn't necessarily true when it first appeared. Spelunking, plus spelunker for a person who does it, came along in the early 1940s in the US for somebody who explores caves as a hobby. It is said to have arisen in New England and was presumably coined by some learned person on a different classical Latin word, spelunca, which the Romans took over from the Greek spelunx. Spelunk for a cave, borrowed from the Latin via Old French, did briefly exist in English but was last recorded in 1563 (though the related adjective speluncar had a brief flowering in the nineteenth century).

SPECTRUM EARTH DAY

Caring for nature is caring for life



Nikunja Bihari Sahu

THE MOST VULNERABLE TO THE EVENTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ARE THE COMMUNITIES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THAT HAVE LIMITED FINANCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The earth is the only known planet in the universe to possess life forms. It is very unique in many respects that makes life possible on it. First, its proper distance from the sun ensures the right temperature range prevailing on it in which water, the basic necessity for life, can exist in all its three different forms (solid, liquid and vapour). Second, it has an atmosphere which is a mixture of several life saving gases in proper proportions. The greenhouse gases present in our atmosphere trap the sun's radiant heat and provide a suitable temperature for life. Without them, the earth would have been incredibly colder with an average temperature of -18°C (instead of the present 14°C) where no life could exist! Third, a layer of Ozone at our lower atmosphere cuts off the harmful ultraviolet radiations coming from the sun protecting life on earth. Under these unique favourable conditions, flourish a vast diversity of life in air, water and land in perfect

harmony with one another.

However, due to the climate change induced by global warming as a result of man's interference with nature, these favourable conditions are slowly vanishing, turning our planet increasingly inhospitable for life. Accumulation of greenhouse gases primarily from the burning of fossil fuels traps the sun's heat making the earth warmer day by day. As a result, a rise of nearly 2.7°C is expected by the end of the century as compared to pre-industrial times which is way higher than the safe level.

Climate change has drastically affected rainfall and agricultural yields, and led to high frequency of extreme weather events like tropical storms and the El Nino system that regulates global weather phenomena. The fact that the summertime temperature is inching towards 50°C and the fact that the monsoons have become highly unpredictable in the Indian subcontinent in recent years with an in-

crease in natural disasters like floods and droughts remind us of the grim consequences of the fury of Mother Nature. Warming and acidification of the seawater had also resulted in the bleaching of coral reefs which are the breeding and spawning grounds of fish, decreasing the fish catch and the seafood industry across the world.

This has affected the lives and livelihoods of people at various places leading to conflict, hunger and poverty. The most vulnerable to the events of climate change are the communities of developing countries and small island nations that have limited finance and technology to combat the menace of climate change.

The COP-26 climate summit held at Glasgow in 2021 has called for protecting these communities and their natural habitats from the wrath of climate change related events by mobilising additional finance through increasing the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) of parties.

This will not only ensure the climate resilience of communities by increasing their adaptability to climate change, but also facilitate the transfer of green technologies for a smooth transition from the fossil fuel based economy to a green economy. The parties have also pledged to act collectively to achieve the goal of zero carbon emission by the middle of the century.

It is to be remembered that the planet earth knows no territorial boundaries and geographical demarcations in its conservation measures as it is a single biosphere entity of human habitat. We must act together to bring back its lost glory by strengthening the life support system of the planet of which we are an integral part. The celebration of Earth Day reminds us of our commitments to achieve this goal in the most sustainable, innovative and equitable way.

The writer is Education Officer, Regional Science Centre, Bhopal.

Short-sighted approach

Sir, Leaders of political parties that are in power in states, especially leaders of parties that have newly come to power, are eager to please voters. They do not want to cause displeasure to voters. The freebie culture followed by some leaders is a strategy to cling on to power. The Punjab government's recent announcement that 300 units of free electricity will be given to every household indicates that the freebie culture is spreading to different parts of the country. It is estimated that free power will cost the state exchequer ₹5,000 crore every year. Another promise by the AAP government is that every woman will get a monthly cash of ₹1,000. This will cost the exchequer ₹12,000 crore every year. It is ironic that in spite of Punjab being a revenue-deficit state, the AAP government is not worried about how it will find the money to fulfil the promises. In its frantic efforts to expand to other states, the AAP wants to prove that it is keeping its election promises. In fact, offering such freebies is not a responsible and right way of governance. What is the logic of wasting such a substantial amount of money, that too, in a debt-ridden state? Instead of spending money for giving freebies, the government could utilise the money for development of infrastructure, health and education. Politicians who are short-sighted in their approach to development are not worried about the future. The freebie culture has spread to others states like Himachal Pradesh. There the government has promised 125 units of free power to all households. In addition to this, rural households will get free water. Governments must use money wisely and work towards welfare of people.

Venu GS, KOLLAM

Soaring inflation

Sir, Inflation is at 30-year high and it seems to be increasing each day. According to the latest data released by the Union commerce ministry, Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation surged to a 30-year high of 12.96% in FY-22. This has led to price rise in almost every sector. It is too hard for middle and lower middle-class families to run their households in this situation. India was slowly recovering from the pandemic loss and now has to deal with global geopolitical hostilities. The government needs to find a way out so that the people could find relief from the growing inflation.

Deba Prasad Nayak, CUTTACK

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST
B-15, Rasulgur Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

national

of the day quote

To solve the problem of overcrowding of prisoners in jails, new barracks should be constructed in old jails. Land should be purchased for the construction of district jails in Amroha, Sambhal, Shamli, and Muzaffarnagar



YOGI ADITYANATH | UTTAR PRADESH CM

We had also received a request for over-flight clearance for Japanese SDF (Self-Defense Force) aircraft carrying humanitarian cargo for Ukraine. This was processed and approved as per established norms



ARINDAM BAGCHI | MEA SPOKESPERSON

Vijayan should understand that he is testing the patience of the people here as it is high time he ends his autocratic style of functioning to hit the people using the police. He should desist from this style as this project (K-Rail) is not going to materialise



K SUDHAKARAN | PRESIDENT OF THE KERALA PCC

SHORT TAKES

Thailand gets India made Cov vaccines

New Delhi: Thailand Thursday received 200,000 doses of India-made Covovax vaccines as part of a flagship initiative of the Quad grouping to help countries combat the pandemic. The vaccine doses were handed over to Thai Deputy Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul in Bangkok by India's Ambassador to Thailand Suchitra Durai, Australian envoy Allan McKinnon, Japan's Nashida Kazuya and US Charge d'Affaires James Wayman, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

CBI chargesheets Chitra Ramkrishna

New Delhi: The CBI has filed its charge sheet against former NSE MD and CEO Chitra Ramkrishna and ex-Group Operating Officer Anand Subramanian in connection with its probe into a co-location scam case. Ramkrishna and Subramanian are both in judicial custody following their arrest by the CBI March 6 and February 25 respectively, they said. In its charge sheet filed in their Special Court here, the CBI has alleged that Ramkrishna allegedly abused her official position in key decisions among other charges. The SEBI February 11 had charged Ramkrishna and others with alleged governance lapses in the appointment of Subramanian as the chief strategic advisor and his re-designation as group operating officer and advisor to MD.

All eyes on Friday's Guwahati civic polls

Guwahati: All eyes are focused Friday's elections to the 60-seat Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC), where polling will be held after a gap of nine years. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has fielded 40 candidates, giving added importance to the GMC elections while the ruling BJP is making all out efforts to win the polls. After its success in the recent Punjab Assembly elections and buoyed by its first taste of success in two municipal wards in Lakhimpur and Tinsukia districts in last month's civic polls, the AAP is seeking to expand its base in Assam and in the northeastern region.

'Several trapped in J'khand coal mine'

Dhanbad (Jharkhand): Local people Thursday claimed that several persons are feared trapped in an abandoned coal mine in Jharkhand's Dhanbad district after it collapsed during illegal mining, but none was found during a rescue operation till late evening, officials said.



Action against terrorism cannot be contradictory to human rights. It is absolutely necessary to root out terrorism to protect human rights

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

STAY ALERT

In the backdrop of the Russia-Ukraine war, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Thursday asked the top commanders of the Army to prepare for every possible security challenge that India may face in future including that of unconventional and asymmetric warfare



JAHANGIRPURI ANTI-ENCROACHMENT DRIVE

Top court extends stay on demolition drive

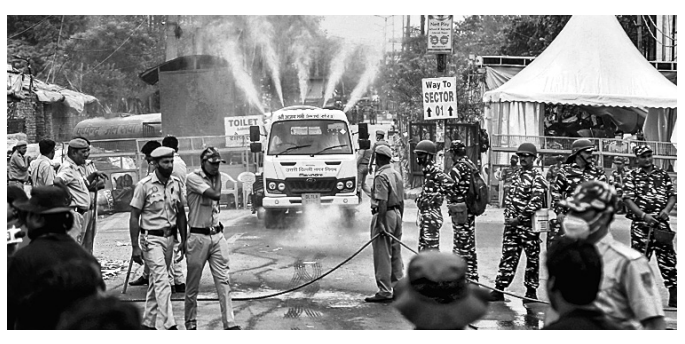
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 21: The Supreme Court Thursday extended its order directing maintenance of the status quo on the razing of buildings in the violence-hit Jahangirpuri area of the national capital and said it would take a "serious view" of the demolition that was carried out even after its order was communicated to the North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) mayor.

The top court in its order said, "issue notice, returnable May 9, 2022. Pleading to be completed in the meanwhile. Additional affidavit/documents, if any, may be filed after serving the same to the other side before the next date of hearing. Status Quo, as exists today (Thursday), shall be maintained, until further orders."

The hearing saw CPI(M) leader Brinda Karat also moving to the top court complaining that the demolition drive was not stopped despite an order to maintain the status quo and she had to physically stand to stop the process yesterday, otherwise they would have completed the demolition of the entire Block C in Jahangirpuri.

Taking note of the submissions of senior advocate Dushyant Dave, appearing for Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, and others, a bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao and B R Gavai, said "we will take a serious view of the demolition which was carried out even after Supreme Court orders, and even after NDMC Mayor



Water being sprayed in a locality a day after an anti-encroachment drive, in the violence-affected Jahangirpuri area, in New Delhi

was informed. We will take that up later." "We want affidavits from the petitioner on the notices if served, and counter-affidavits, and till then, status quo order will continue," it said. Dave started the arguments and said this matter raises far-reaching questions of constitutional and national importance. Reacting to the submission, the bench asked, "What is national importance in this matter? It is only pertaining to an area."

Dave replied that this is going on everywhere wherever riots are taking place. "Is it an instrument of state policy to engage in fake encounters and now bulldozers," he asked. "They never did anything like this in 1984 and 2002 then why now. Delhi has an Act of 2011 which protected every illegal encroachment till December 2023. A particular section of society is being targeted. This is the warning constitutional framers gave us. I will

read Sardar Patel and Dr. B R Ambedkar on this. They spoke about this eventuality," he said.

He said the Delhi Police registered an FIR against the VHP that you carried out procession despite our objection and said we told you this is a sensitive area don't go there. "What happened there is a matter of inquiry by an appropriate judicial process but what you do is make large-scale arrests from people of only one community and start bulldozing," Dave said adding they carried out demolition despite the apex court's order against it. "This is not confined to Jahangirpuri and affects the social fabric of the country. If we allow this, there will be no rule of law or democracy left," he said and added, "How can a BJP leader write a letter that you demolish and NDMC demolishes it? Delhi Municipality Act has provision for notice and there is provision for appeals too."

CBI registers two FIRs related to graft allegations by Malik

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 21: The CBI has registered two FIRs in connection with corruption allegations levelled by former Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik in the awarding of contracts for a group medical insurance scheme for government employees and civil work worth Rs 2,200 crore related to Kiru hydroelectric power project in the erstwhile state, officials said Thursday.

The CBI, after registering the FIRs, carried out searches Thursday morning at 14 locations in Jammu, Srinagar, Delhi, Mumbai, Noida in Uttar Pradesh, Trivandrum in Kerala and Darbhanga in Bihar, they said.



The central agency has named Reliance General Insurance and Trinity Re-Insurance Brokers Limited as accused in its FIR related to a controversial health insurance scheme for Jammu and Kashmir government employees reportedly cleared by Malik in the state administrative council meeting August 31, 2018.

Delhi: Omicron sub-variant could be behind surge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 21: Omicron sublineage BA.2.12 has been detected in a majority of the samples sequenced from Delhi in the first fortnight of April and it could be behind the recent surge in Covid-19 cases in the city, sources said Thursday.

However, an Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) source has claimed that Omicron variant derivative BA.2.12.1 has also been found in a few samples in Delhi which is said to be contributing to the recent rise in cases in the US.

But officials have not confirmed that it indeed was found in some samples in Delhi.

An official source said, "New sub-variants BA.2.12 (52 per cent samples) and BA.2.10 (11 per cent samples) are showing high transmission and have been found in over 60 per cent of the total samples from Delhi sequenced recently."

"The BA.2.12 variant appears to have a growth advantage of about 30% to 90% per week over BA.2 (Omicron)," the source added.

Over 300 samples have been genome sequenced in Delhi in the first fortnight.

The official said the same sub-variants more or less have been found in samples sequenced in neighbouring districts in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. Delhi logged 1,009 fresh Covid cases Wednesday, a 60 per cent jump from a day ago.

Explaining the surge in Delhi, a senior scientist said Omicron's reproductive number is 10 which has the highest transmissable level so its derivatives will also have same transmissibility and will spread in absence of hand hygiene, social distancing and masks.

No foreigner has right to get Indian visa: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 21: No foreigner has the right to get a visa and in case of blacklisting of such a person, the authorities will decide on a visa plea on a case-to-case basis after the Centre serves them with the notice, the Supreme Court observed Thursday.

A bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar was hearing the pleas, including those challenging the orders blacklisting several citizens of 35 countries from travelling to India for 10 years for alleged involvement in Tablighi Jamaat activities.

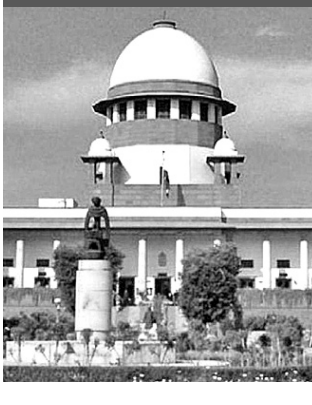
The Centre, represented by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, said that the right to deny or grant a visa is the executive decision and the government is trying to find a solution so that the national interest and the interest of the foreigners are protected. Senior advocate C U Singh, appearing for some of the foreign nationals, said that hundreds of foreigners have been blacklisted and they cannot apply for the visa for 10 years.

The bench, which also comprised Justices Abhay S Oka and C T Ravikumar, said "Every time you apply, do you think the visa has to be granted to you? The answer is 'No'. It is for the government to decide. The visa is always a tenure visa...For one year or two years or some fixed period."

The senior lawyer said that foreigners have no dispute over India's right to reject or grant a visa and the problem was that of blacklisting which has been done for 10 years and is applicable to those also who have been discharged or acquitted by the courts in Tablighi jamaat congregation case during Covid-19 in 2020.

"When you apply fresh it has to be considered as per the regula-

TABLIGHI CASE



tions applicable at the relevant time...The blacklisting should go automatically in cases where the accused have been discharged or acquitted and we will leave it to the authority to examine this on a case-to-case basis," the bench observed. The law officer said this will have ramifications and urged deferment of the hearing to Tuesday saying he was trying to find a solution that was allowed by the bench.

Earlier, the Centre had requested the bench to examine the question regarding the scope of the rights of a foreign national to approach the local courts in a matter of violation of visa conditions. In January this year, the solicitor general had told the bench that a very important "constitutional question" arises for consideration which relates to the rights of a foreigner concerning visa restrictions. The apex court is seized of pleas filed by several foreigners who have challenged the Centre's orders blacklisting more than 2,700 citizens of 35 countries from travelling to India for 10 years for alleged involvement in Tablighi Jamaat activities.

Pilot meets Sonia, discusses forward plan for Rajasthan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 21: Senior Congress leader Sachin Pilot met party chief Sonia Gandhi here Thursday after which he asserted that the objective is to retain power in Rajasthan and called for moving forward on organisational and government changes made earlier in the state.

Speaking with reporters after the over-hour-long meeting at Gandhi's 10-Janpath residence, Pilot stated that he would fulfil any responsibility the Congress president directs him to perform, stressing that he wants to repeat the Congress government in his home state.

"Some work has been done through the AICC committee but there is a need to do more hard work and I am confident that if we work unitedly, the Congress government would be formed in the assembly polls next year," he said.

Sources said Pilot had a "good meeting" with the Congress president and he was "happy with the outcome". They said poll strategist Prashant Kishor's plan for the party's revival and the strategy he has presented for 2024 general elections and assembly polls, including in Rajasthan next year, was also discussed during the meeting. "A number of topics were discussed. We liberated upon the struggle that



we need to undertake for the issues of the people. The repressive policies of the BJP at the Centre and states are before us. How the party has to be strengthened to work for the common people and become their voice was discussed," Pilot said after the meeting. "Organisational polls are ongoing and that process was also discussed. I have given the feedback on the political situation in Rajasthan going forward, which was discussed," the former Rajasthan deputy chief minister said. He said there is a convention that the Congress and BJP come to power alternately in Rajasthan and stressed that it was important to change that.

Some changes in government and organisation in the right direction have been made through the AICC committee that was formed about two years ago and "we have to move forward on that", Pilot

said. Asked about what role he would be getting, Pilot said, "I have been working for the last 22 years in the party. Whenever the party has given me any responsibility - in Delhi, Jaipur, state, organisation, ministry, Centre, I have fulfilled that with all my commitment. I would do the job that the Congress president directs me to do."

Pilot's meeting with Gandhi comes a day after she met chief ministers of Congress-ruled Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh -- Ashok Gehlot and Bhupesh Baghel. Earlier this month, Pilot had met Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and according to sources had discussed with them the political situation in Rajasthan, ways to strengthen the party in the state, organisational elections, upcoming polls in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh and the revival of the party.

Gandhi Ashram, JCB factory, Adani: Boris' day out in India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad/New Delhi, April 21: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson arrived in Ahmedabad Thursday as part of his two-day India trip and visited the famous Sabarmati Ashram and met industrialist Gautam Adani, a day before his formal talks with his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi on key international and bilateral issues in New Delhi.

Ahead of Johnson's visit, the British High Commission said the UK and Indian businesses will confirm more than one billion pounds (£1 GBP= Rs 99.63) in new investments and export deals in areas from software engineering to health, creating almost 11,000 jobs across the UK. The British PM's engage-

ments in Gujarat also included visits to a manufacturing facility of JCB, a British construction equipment firm in the Panchmahal district and the famous Akshardham temple of the Swaminarayan sect in Gandhinagar. On Friday, he is scheduled to hold talks with Modi.

When asked about India's position on Ukraine, Johnson said his country has already raised the Ukraine war issue with Modi at a diplomatic level, and added that everybody understands that India and Russia shared "very different relationships historically".

"Well, we have already raised the issue of Ukraine with Prime Minister Narendra Modi diplomatically. Actually, they (India) were very strong in condemnation of atrocities in Bucha (a city in



Ukraine)," Johnson told reporters at an event to inaugurate a new JCB factory, to be set up at an investment of 100 million pounds

(nearly Rs 995 crore). Johnson's visit to India comes at a time when India has taken a neutral stand on the Russian invasion of Ukraine, draw-

ing sharp criticism from western countries, especially the US, which has accused India of not taking a clear stance against Russia. Johnson, who is the first British Prime Minister to visit Gujarat, was received at the Ahmedabad airport by state Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and Governor Acharya Devvrat, and was accorded a grand welcome along the four-km route from the airport to a hotel in the city. Johnson started his public engagements by visiting Sabarmati Ashram, the place from where Gandhi led India's struggle for freedom from the British colonial rule for more than a decade. He also held a meeting with industrialist Gautam Adani at the group's global headquarters at

Shantigram on the outskirts of Ahmedabad city.

The British PM also visited the campus of under-construction Gujarat Biotechnology University in Gandhinagar which is coming up in cooperation with the UK's University of Edinburgh.

Johnson has expressed his support for more skilled visas for Indians as part of the efforts to expedite the ambitious free trade agreement (FTA) being negotiated between the two countries.

Speaking to reporters from the UK on the prime ministerial flight to Ahmedabad Wednesday night, Johnson acknowledged a massive shortage of experts in IT and programming sectors and said Britain needed "hundreds of thousands" of workers with in-demand skills.

BLACK FLAG PROTEST AGAINST TN GUV

AIADMK writes to Prez, PM & CJI

A black flag demo was held against TN Gov Ravi April 19 with the agitators opposing him over the pendency of the state's anti-NEET Assembly Bill

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, April 21: Keeping up the heat on the ruling DMK over the black flag protest against Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi, alleging he was attacked, the opposition AIADMK has written to President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi among others, seeking an appropriate enquiry to ascertain if it was pre-planned or there was a failure to provide protection to the state's constitutional head.



leased to the media Thursday, Murugavel alleged the Governor was attacked by certain anti-social elements belonging to DMK and its affiliated parties.

On April 19, a black flag demo was held against Ravi during his visit to a Saivite mutt in Mayiladuthurai district, with the agitators opposing him over the pendency of the state's anti-NEET Assembly bill.

Murugavel is the AIADMK's Joint secretary, State Legal Wing and also its official spokesperson. In his letter dated April 20, re-

poles, an accusation that has been outrightly rejected by the state government, with Chief Minister MK Stalin asserting not even a speck of dust fell on Ravi during the protest and that there will be no compromise with his security.

In his letter, Murugavel said the incident has negatively affected the reputation of Tamil Nadu.

The state governor was attacked by certain anti-social elements belonging to DMK and its affiliated parties, he claimed in the letter.

His convoy was intercepted and assaulted by blocking the way and by protesting using black flags and the unlawful mob broke the police cordon and hurled stones and sticks at the convoy vehicle. According to information available, it has been apparent that the vehicles in-charge of Governor's security were attacked using slippers, stones and black flags. Fortunately, our Hon'ble Governor and his convoy passed unharmed, he said.

With the governor's schedule

having been notified much prior and well informed, the Tamil Nadu police had the bounden duty to take note of such circumstances that has created hindrance to the travel through the Intelligence Department and should have taken necessary steps to protect him, he said.

It expressly denotes the failure of Tamil Nadu police along with its ancillary wing and the Intelligence Department too. There should be an appropriate enquiry to verify whether the incident is a well-planned activity or a failure towards providing protection to the Hon'ble Governor, Murugavel said.

He claimed ruling DMK's allies - Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) and the Left parties have also been involved along with DMK in these anti-social activities that has created a breach to the security of the Governor of Tamil Nadu. ...Necessary enquiry befittingly to be headed by any retired Hon'ble Judge of Supreme Court of India should be held and stringent and rigorous action should be taken against the perpetrators, accused persons, accomplices and conspirators along with DMK state government and its affiliated parties who had involved in the incident and also for their inaction as mentioned above, he urged.

'Shrinking habitat, prey scarcity force leopards to stray into Guwahati'

At least 16 people were killed in man-animal conflicts in 2021-22 in Kamrup East and Kamrup West forest divisions, under which Guwahati falls



A forest official tries to rescue a tranquillised leopard in a residential area in Guwahati, Tuesday
PTI PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, April 21: Shrinking natural habitats and scarcity of prey are forcing leopards to stray into Guwahati from nearby forests, experts said Thursday.

A leopard was captured Tuesday in the city's Pandu locality - one of the areas the felines mostly wander out to, officials said.

Before the animal could be tranquillised, it attacked a woman and critically injured her, they said.

The woman was immediately taken to Gauhati Medical College and Hospital, where she is undergoing treatment, they added.

At least 16 people were killed in man-animal conflicts in 2021-22 in Kamrup East and Kamrup West forest divisions, under which Guwahati falls, officials said.

Another six people were injured in the same period, they said.

"It was an old male leopard that had taken refuge on a tree after people of the area created a ruckus on spotting it. We were able to tranquillise it in the first attempt. It was brought back to the zoo and will be released into the wild after necessary treatment," said a wildlife expert who was involved in the rescue.

Abhijit Talukdar, a resident of the area, said the leopard was frequenting the locality for quite some nights and also killed a few domestic animals, including goats.

Not just this one, many other

leopards wander out to localities in search of food. They target domestic animals and stray dogs. Three goats were killed by a leopard in broad daylight April 4, he said.

Another resident of the area said the construction of a new road to Kamakhya Temple, situated atop Nilachal Hill, from Pandunath has also affected the leopard habitat.

There is a substantial leopard population on the Nilachal Hill and adjoining forests. With rapid encroachment and scarcity of food, these animals stray into human habitations, he said.

Not just humans, the animals are also injured or even get killed when they venture close to residential areas, a veterinary expert said.

A leopard was killed on the Kamakhya Temple road around four months ago after being hit by a speeding vehicle, he said.

More than 10-12 leopards have been tranquillised and captured from different parts of Guwahati in the last couple of years, he said.

While most are released into the wild, the severely injured, old and juvenile are rehabilitated in the state zoo, he said.

Prey scarcity and diminishing living space are forcing these animals into human habitations. Solution for the problem has to be worked out in consultation with all stakeholders, including the Forest Department and locals, the expert said.

TN to build Mega Sports City, hold Beach Olympics: Stalin



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, April 21: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin Thursday said the government will build a Mega Sports City near here with necessary infrastructure for various sports.

taken to set up one Olympic Academy each in the four regions of the state and in every Assembly constituency, a small sports stadium at an outlay of ₹3 crore will be set up.

The other announcements made by Stalin include a boxing academy in North Madras with facilities for other sports like Volleyball, Badminton, Kabaddi and a gym will be built at an outlay of Rs.10 crore, a stadium for Jallikattu - bull taming sport - to be built in Alanganallur, revival of Chennai Open ATP Tennis Championship and conducting Beach Olympics.

Referring to the 44th Chess Olympiad to be held in Mahabalipuram in July-August this year, Stalin said teams from about 180 countries are expected to participate in the event and a committee has been formed for holding that event successfully.

Assam to approach SC for Aadhaar to NRC applicants

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, April 21: The Assam government will file an Interlocutory Application in Supreme Court for providing Aadhaar cards to National Register of Citizens (NRC) applicants whose biometrics have been locked in the updating process of the citizenship document.

The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, here Wednesday evening.

Later Sarma tweeted: "Approval to filing of an IA (Interlocutory Application) in the Supreme Court for relaxation of Para 9 of the SOP and for providing Aadhaar cards to NRC applicants whose Aadhaar cards are kept on hold because of existing SOP."

This, he said, will benefit a large section of people below poverty line, students, pensioners, job seekers who do not have Aadhaar cards.

Over 27 lakh NRC applicants in the state had submitted their biometrics during the claims and objections phase for updating the state's NRC. Of these 19 lakh names were not included in the final draft of the NRC published August 31, 2019, and these people are now facing problems in generating Aadhaar



As many as 19 lakh applicants were not included in the final draft of the NRC published August 31, 2019

These people are now facing problems in generating Aadhaar as their biometrics have been locked due to a SC directive

as their biometrics have been locked due to a Supreme Court directive.

The apex court is overseeing the NRC updating process.

The state government had said in the Assembly last month that it has written at least twice to the Centre in the last two years requesting them to allow the Aadhaar

card issuing authority to access the biometrics of at least those people whose names had figured in the NRC final draft.

The meeting approved targeted subsidy for low end power consumers from May 10, 2022, which will benefit around 60 lakh households in the state, an official said.

The Cabinet also approved land for the Royal Bhutanese Consulate General Office at Dimoria under Sonapur Revenue Circle and for establishment of a battalion camp of CRPF at Chhaygaon Panthan under Chhaygaon Revenue Circle.

Sanction of ₹108 crore for Assam Microfinance Incentive and Relief Scheme (AMFIRS) 2021 was also given the nod, the official added.

Unicef handbook to help media coverage of kids' issues

The statewide campaign called Suraksha launched in 2020 with ASCPCR is an attempt to make people aware about child protection issues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, April 21: A Media Handbook, which looks into various policies, schemes and guidelines available for the protection of children while also focusing on how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted violence against them, was launched as part of UNICEF's Suraksha campaign here Thursday.

The Handbook is expected to help journalists in coverage of issues relating to children in print, broadcast and digital media, a release said.



issues so that every child is able to prosper in a safe and secure environment, and we do not lose out on the progress that we have made in securing the rights of our children before the pandemic," Hazarika added.

Speaking about the Handbook, UNICEF Assam's Chief of Field Office Madhulika Jonathan said, "The handbook has been designed to provide information and government data concerning the issue. It also looks into the various policies, schemes and guidelines available for the protection of children,

It is essential to address these issues so that every child is able to prosper in a safe and secure environment, and we do not lose out on the progress that we have made in securing the rights of our children before the pandemic
PIJUSH HAZARIKA | I&PR MINISTER, ASSAM

while also focusing on how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the incidences of violence against children."

Given the sensitive nature when it comes to reporting on children's issues, the Handbook is expected to help all journalists to examine how their issues can be covered prioritising the needs of our chil-

dren in print and broadcast and digital media, she added.

Bishnu Kamal Borah, Director, Information and Public Relations, in his speech, highlighted the role of media as an important stakeholder in safeguarding and promoting the rights of children.

He said, "Media can help build and shape attitudes and opinions, while raising awareness on issues of social importance; while also providing a suitable platform to children to share their voices on matters that affect them."

"However, reporting on the protection rights of children is a sensitive task - which requires an informed, sensitive and ethical body of reporters in the state," Borah added.

The launch also marked the start of media workshops that will be organised jointly by UNICEF, Directorate of Information and Public Relations of Assam government and Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (ASCPCR) in 10 districts, the release said.

The state-wide campaign called Suraksha, which was launched in 2020 with the Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (ASCPCR), is an attempt to make people aware about child protection issues such as violence, abuse, exploitation, discrimination, neglect, emotional and mental health issues that children face among others.

'States should enforce legislations like TN to stop vulture extinction'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, April 21: The first to enforce diclofenac legislation designed to protect vultures from certain extinction was by Tamil Nadu and other states should take such measures seriously, says a conservation group.

Tamil Nadu's Drugs Control of fice has registered over 100 cases against suppliers, distributors, manufacturers and retailers of diclofenac, the drug widely used by veterinarians as a painkiller and is the main cause of the dramatic 99 per cent vulture declines across Asia.

Since the 2006 ban of veterinary diclofenac, and the vial size restriction to 3ml needed for human use, this is the first time we are aware of that those contravening the bans are being prosecuted, says SAVE, Saving Asia's Vultures From Extinction (SAVE), a consortium of 24 partners.

Diclofenac has been used widely. Although it is clear that human formulations have been illegally used on a large scale, this (case registration) is an important step to discourage this irresponsible practice, it says.

The Tamil Nadu government drug inspectors are, to the best of our knowledge, the first to enforce diclofenac legislation designed to protect vultures with court actions, Chris Bowden, Globally Threatened Species Officer and SAVE Programme Manager, told IANS Tuesday.

Bowden said Tamil Nadu has once again demonstrated its commitment to vulture conservation by preventing the sale of large vials



of diclofenac, making it harder for veterinarians and cattle-owners to use the drug.

There are safe alternative drugs available, so there is no justification to allow this illegal practice of continued diclofenac use. Meloxicam and tolfenamic acid are cheap and safe options, he said.

The Government of India formally restricted diclofenac vial size in 2015 following evidence presented by the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), and this has been largely adhered to across India and has undoubtedly helped reduce the threat that diclofenac poses to the few remaining vultures.

Responding to the action, BNHS Director Bivash Pandav said, "This commendable step by Tamil Nadu needs to be followed by all states across India, and together with national bans of other toxic veterinary drugs like nimesulide and aceclofenac, so that vultures will have a real future as our environmental cleaners."

of the day quote

Reform in governance should be our natural stance. Governance reforms should be experimental and as per the needs of the time and country.




NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

Investment proposals worth ₹3.42 lakh crore were received by West Bengal in this year's business summit



MAMATA BANERJEE | WB CHIEF MINISTER

Indian cinema is our country's soft power which rules the hearts of millions of people across the world



ANURAG THAKUR | UNION MINISTER FOR INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

SHORT TAKES

Tractor-trolley falls into canal, 3 killed

Bhind: Two children and a man were killed and three others were injured when their tractor-trolley fell into a canal in Madhya Pradesh's Bind district, police said Thursday. The accident took place near Naounera village in the district in the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday, an official said. The victims were a part of a marriage party and were on their way to Nagour in the tractor-trolley, when the driver, who was drunk, allegedly lost control over the vehicle, Malanpur police station in-charge Vinod Singh Kushwah said.

Two gangraped on pretext of govt job

Noida: Two girls have alleged that they were gangraped by two youths on the pretext of providing them government jobs in Noida sector 63, police said Thursday. The victims have alleged that they were beaten up by the accused when they resisted their attempts. According to police, all of four were inebriated when they taken to police station where they created a ruckus for around three hours. Later, the girls' statements were recorded.

2 terrorists killed in J&K encounter

Srinagar: Two terrorists have been killed in an ongoing encounter with security forces at Malwah area in North Kashmir's Baramulla district, officials said Thursday. Among those killed is top Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander Yousof Kantroo who was involved in several acts of terrorism including attacks on police and security forces. "2nd terrorist also killed. Ops in progress. LeT cndr Yousof Kantroo had killed BDC Chairman Late Sardar Bhupinder Singh on 23/9/20 in his own native place in Khag area. Case FIR No 79/20 was registered against terrorist Kantroo in PS Khag," Jammu and Kashmir Police quoting Inspector General Police Kashmir zone Vijay Kumar tweeted.

Fire erupts at 7-storey building

Mumbai: A fire broke out in a seven-storey building in suburban Khar in Mumbai Thursday morning, a civic official said. While there was no report of anyone getting injured in the blaze, the fire brigade rescued four people from the terrace of the building, an official from the fire brigade said. The fire started in a flat on the fourth floor of Nothan Villa Building on Guru Ganeshwar Marg in Khar (West) around 10.30 am.



The civil services have played an important role in this journey of ours (since Independence) but all is not well with the services and they are in need of revamp, reawakening and reorientation to meet the challenges of the time

M VENKAIAH NAIDU | VICE PRESIDENT

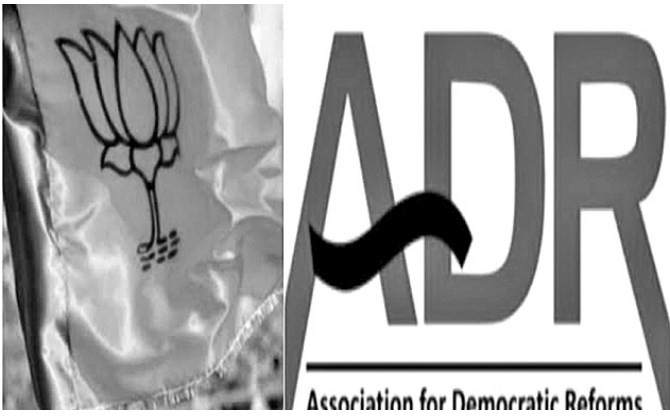
RARE STRATEGY

Lemons are now being offered free with mobile accessories. A shopkeeper in Varanasi is offering free lemons on the purchase of mobile accessories. The shopkeeper is also claiming to offer free petrol to consumers buying mobile accessories worth ₹10,000. The incentive is being offered since the prices of both lemons and petrol have escalated in recent weeks.



BJP HAS LION'S SHARE OF DONATION FUNDS: ADR

ELECTORAL TRUST IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANISATION FORMED IN INDIA FOR ORDERLY RECEIVING OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM CORPORATE ENTITIES AND INDIVIDUALS TO POLITICAL PARTIES



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 21: Seven electoral trusts received a total amount of ₹258.49 crore from corporates and individuals, and the BJP bagged more than 82 per cent of it, poll rights body ADR said.

Electoral trust is a non-profit organisation formed in India for orderly receiving of contributions from corporate entities and individuals to political parties. It aims at improving transparency in the usage of funds for election-related expenses.

The Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), in a new report, said 16 out of the 23 electoral trusts submitted details of their contribution for the financial year 2020-

21 to the Election Commission of India, of which only seven declared to have received donations.

"Seven electoral trusts which have declared receiving contributions during FY 2020-21, have received a total amount of ₹258.49 crore from corporates and individuals and distributed ₹258.43 crore (99.98 per cent) to various political parties," it said.

The BJP received ₹212.05 crore or 82.05 per cent of these donations, while the JDU secured ₹27 crore or 10.45 per cent of the amount.

Ten other political parties -- Congress, NCP, AIADMK, DMK, RJD, AAP, LJP, CPM, CPI and the Loktantrik Janta Dal together received ₹19.38 crore.

According to the rules formulated by the central government, electoral trusts are required to distribute at least 95 per cent of the total contributions received during the financial year, along with the surplus brought forward from the previous financial year, to eligible political parties before March 31.

The ADR report analyses the details of donors of seven electoral trusts formed after January, 2013, and the contributions made through them to political parties during a given year.

Of the 23 registered electoral trusts, 14 have been submitting copies of their contributions to the Election Commission consistently.

Another eight trusts declared that they did not receive any contribution or their contribution reports have never been available on the ECI website since their registration.

About 159 individuals have contributed to electoral trusts in FY 2020-21. Two individuals contributed ₹3.50 crore to Prudent Electoral Trust, 153 people contributed ₹3.202 crore to Small Donations Electoral Trust, three individuals gave a total of ₹5 lakh to Einzigtartig Electoral Trust and one person contributed ₹1,100 to Independent Electoral Trust, the ADR said.

GOVT PANEL RECOMMENDS EUA FOR CORBEVAX FOR KIDS AGED 5-11

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 21: An expert panel of India's central drug authority has recommended granting emergency use authorisation for Biological E's Covid-19 vaccine Corbevax for children in the five to 11 years age group, official sources said Thursday.

The Subject Expert Committee on Covid-19 of the CDSCO has, however, sought more data from Bharat Biotech to review its emergency use authorisation (EUA) application for use of Covaxin among those aged between two and 11 years, they said.

The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) had approved Covovax for restricted use in emergency situations in adults on December 28 last year and in the 12 to 17 years age group, subject to certain conditions, March 9 this year.

Biological E's Corbevax is being used to inoculate children against Covid-19 in the age group of 12 to 14 years. Covaxin has been granted Emergency Use Listing (EUL) by the DCGI for the age group of 12 to 18 years December 24, 2021.

The countrywide vaccination drive was rolled out January 16 last year with healthcare workers getting inoculated in the first phase. Vaccination of frontline workers started from February 2 last year.

The next phase of Covid-19 vaccination commenced March 1 last year for people over 60 years of age and those aged 45 and above with specified co-morbid conditions.

Kejri sounds AAP bugle in Karnataka

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, April 21: Arvind Kejriwal, the national convener of the Aam Admi Party (AAP) and Chief Minister of Delhi, addressed a huge gathering in Bangalore Thursday, where he urged the people of the state to vote for AAP if they want free education, healthcare, power and an 'honest' government.

Addressing a convention organised to announce the pact between the Karnataka State Farmers' Association and AAP, Kejriwal said: "AAP is not a party of gangsters and rapists. AAP runs an honest government."

Kejriwal also compared the attitude of the Centre on the now-repealed farm laws to the arrogance of Ravana, and congratulated the farmers for compelling the government to withdraw the agri laws.

"The previous one was a 20 per cent (commission) government in Karnataka, the present one is a 40 per cent government. In Delhi, we have a corruption-free government. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had given a certificate of honesty to me as after successive raids at my house and office, they could not find anything. At least 20 MLAs of the party were also raided, but they could find nothing."

"I understand the pain of the common people. The government schools in Delhi are better than private schools. They have achieved 97.7 per cent results. These schools have swimming pools, auditoriums. At least four lakh children have shifted to government schools



When the anti-corruption agitation was first launched at the Ramlila Maidan in Delhi, politicians had mocked it and challenged us to come to power and deliver corruption-free governance. They also provoked the common man. But our government was formed in Delhi and then in Punjab, and now we have to form government in Karnataka

ARVIND KEJRIWAL

from private schools. If you want a similar magic in Karnataka, AAP has to come to power. Healthcare is free in Delhi. Power is free. How could we do it? It was made possible through honesty. The money which we saved through honesty suffices for all free services," he added.

The President of Karnataka State Farmers' Association, Kodihalli Chandrashekar, pledged the support of peasants to AAP. He also gave a call to farmers not to relent until AAP comes to power in the state.

Tweet on PM leads to arrest of Mevani



AGENCIES

Currently, the only Independent MLA in the Gujarat Assembly, Jignesh Mevani is among the most vocal critics of the BJP government in the state and the Centre

of the tweet "caused widespread criticism and has the propensity to disturb public tranquility, prejudicial to maintenance of harmony among a certain section of people".

He also said that "there may be some unseen hands trying to capitalize on such sensitive issues to disturb the unity, peace and brotherhood".

The purported post has been withheld by Twitter "in response to a legal demand". Mevani is independent MLA from Vadgam seat in Banaskantha. He recently pledged his support to the Congress. Playing the arrest, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi termed it as "undemocratic" and "unconstitutional". Rahul said it was an insult to the people who elected him as a public representative. In a statement, K C Venugopal said: "The unlawful and unconstitutional arrest of Jignesh Mevani at midnight by Assam Police is the latest proof of authoritarianism under BJP."

"Such an arrest of a people's representative not only betrays their fear of criticism but also attacks the foundations of our democracy," he added.



A woman with her child rows a boat during rain at Dal Lake in Srinagar

PTI PHOTO

EV scooter fires: Gadkari warns of heavy penalty

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 21: With increasing incidents of electric two-wheelers catching fire, Union minister Nitin Gadkari Thursday said the government will issue necessary orders on defaulting companies after receiving the report of an expert panel that has been formed to enquire into the matter.

In a series of tweets, Gadkari said several mishaps involving

electric two-wheelers have come to light in the last two months.

"We have constituted an expert committee to enquire into these incidents and make recommendations on remedial steps.

"Based on the reports, we will issue necessary orders on the defaulting companies," the road transport and highways minister said. Gadkari added: "We will soon issue quality-centric guidelines for Electric Vehicles."

The minister asserted that if

any company is found negligent in its processes, a heavy penalty will be imposed and a recall of all defective vehicles will also be ordered. Meanwhile, companies may take advance action to recall all defective batches of vehicles immediately, Gadkari tweeted.

"Under the leadership of PM Shri @narendramodiji, our government is committed to ensure safety of each and every commuter," he tweeted.

The government had ordered a probe last month after an e-scooter

launched by ride-hailing operator Ola's electric mobility arm caught fire in Pune.

The Centre for Fire Explosive and Environment Safety (CFEES) had been asked to probe the circumstances that led to the incident and also suggest remedial measures, according to the road transport ministry.

The ministry had also asked CFEES to share the findings along with its suggestions on measures to prevent such incidents.

7 in 10 in favour of 'warning sign' on unhealthy packaged food: Survey

There has been a significant rise in consumption of junk food, especially, packaged and processed food, among Indians over the last two decades

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, April 21: Seven out of 10 Indians are in favour of a "red warning sign" on packaged food containing high fat, sugar, and salt, according to a new survey.

The study conducted by Local Circles, a community social media platform, showed 31 per cent of the 11,439 consumers are in favour of a "red warning sign" on such packaged products.

Another 39 per cent said that in addition to the red sign, "there should be a green or orange sign on healthy products" while 20 per cent said every product should have a star rating based on its contents.

Only 8 per cent of the respondents said that "none of the above is needed, packaged food products must continue to be sold without any warnings or signs".

There has been a significant rise in consumption of junk food, especially, packaged and processed food, among Indians over the last two decades.

This has led to an adverse effect on public health as most of these foods contain a high amount of sugar or salt and bad fat ingredients, which result in an increase in non-communicable diseases (NCDs) like obesity as well as rise in conditions, such as diabetes and heart disease.



It is estimated that nearly 5.8 million people in India die due to

NCDs every year. One of the solutions to address this fast-growing

problem is the introduction of regulations that will help consumers make informed choices when they are planning to consume processed foods, the survey said.

People should be able to distinguish between packaged and processed foods and the one that contains a high amount of salt, sugar, fat (HFSS) content, it said.

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has proposed a plan to introduce Health Star Rating (HSR) for packaged food products.

The HSR rates foods on a five-star scale are based on factors such as energy, saturated fat, sodium, total sugar, and healthier

aspects such as protein, and natural ingredients.

The regulator has decided to go ahead with a new star rating system for packaged foods and beverages, despite criticism from consumer activist groups and food experts. Consumer activist groups have written to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare warning that such a system can be easily manipulated by the industry, compromising public health.

They point out that though the 'nutrition information' provides some idea about the product, it does not help consumers in making a healthy choice.

international



The global community is facing a human catastrophe from a food crisis in the wake of Russia's continued war against Ukraine
DAVID MALPASS |
WORLD BANK PRESIDENT

DISNEYLAND REOPENS

Hong Kong Thursday relaxed pandemic restrictions, with Disneyland and museums reopening and night time restaurant dining resuming as the city's worst COVID-19 outbreak appears to be fading



of the day quote

The secretary-general said, at this time of great peril and consequence, he would like to discuss urgent steps to bring about peace in Ukraine and the future of multilateralism based on the Charter of the United Nations and international law

STEPHANE DUAIRRE | SPOKESPERSON FOR THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The steps we take for our political-economic relations with Israel... are different from the Palestinian cause

RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN | TURKISH PRESIDENT

Countries should stay committed to taking the legitimate security concerns of all countries seriously, uphold the principle of indivisible security, build balanced, effective, and sustainable security architecture, and oppose the pursuit of one's own security at the cost of others' security

XI JINPING | CHINESE PRESIDENT

Putin calls off 'pointless' storming of Mariupol



A fourth player is seen inside an apartment building destroyed in the southern port city of Mariupol, Ukraine

AGENCIES

Kyiv, April 21: Russian President Vladimir Putin claimed victory in the battle for Mariupol on Thursday, even as he ordered his troops not to risk more losses by storming the giant steel plant containing the last pocket of Ukrainian resistance in the city.

Instead, he directed his forces to seal off the Azovstal plant "so that not even a fly comes through". Russian troops have bombarded the southeastern port city since the early days of the conflict and largely reduced it to ruins. Top officials have repeatedly claimed it was about to fall, but Ukrainian forces have stubbornly held on.

In recent weeks, a few thousand defenders, by Russia's estimate, holed up in the labyrinth of tunnels and bunkers at the sprawling steel plant, as Russian forces pounded the site and repeatedly issued ultimatums ordering their surrender. But on Thursday, as he has done before, Putin seemed to shift the narrative and declared victory without taking the plant.

"The completion of combat work to liberate Mariupol is a success," he said in an appearance with his defence minister. "Congratulations." Ukraine scoffed at the idea that a Russian victory in Mariupol was already achieved.

"This situation means the following: They cannot physically capture Azovstal. They have understood this. They suffered huge losses there," said Oleksiy Arystovych, an adviser to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. By painting the mission as a

Biden announces \$800 million for Ukraine

Washington: President Joe Biden Thursday announced an additional USD 800 million in military aid to help Ukraine fight back against the Russian invasion, but he also warned Congress will need to approve additional assistance. The new military assistance package includes much needed heavy artillery, 144,000 rounds of ammunition, and drones for Ukrainian forces in the escalating battle for the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine. It builds on roughly USD 2.6 billion in military assistance that Biden had previously approved for Ukraine.

success, Putin may be seeking to take the focus off the plant, which has become a global symbol of defiance. Even without the plant, the Russians appear to have control of the rest of the city and its vital port, though that facility seems to have been extensively damaged.

The capture of Mariupol would represent the Kremlin's biggest victory of the war in Ukraine yet. It would help Moscow secure more of the coastline, complete a land bridge between Russia and the Crimean Peninsula, which Russia seized in 2014, and enable Putin to shift more forces to the larger battle for Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland.

Russia Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said about 2,000 Ukrainian troops remained at the steel plant, which has 24 km (15 miles) of tunnels and bunkers spread out across about 11 sq km (4 square miles).

CURFEW LIFTED; TROOPS DEPLOYED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, April 21: The Sri Lankan government Thursday deployed troops as a precautionary measure in the southwestern region of Rambukkana where one person was killed and 13 others were injured in violence after the police opened fire at unarmed anti-government protesters demonstrating against the latest fuel price hike.

Earlier, the authorities lifted the curfew at 5 AM (local time) on Thursday. At least three of the 14 hospitalised protesters at Rambukkana, some 90 kilometers northeast of Colombo, were critical at the Kegalle hospital, an official said. Fifteen police personnel have also been injured.

Chaminda Lakshan, a 41-year-old man who died of gunshot wounds, is survived by two children. "I want justice for my father's death. I do not want money or any other help," his 16-year-old daughter Piyumi Lakshani told reporters. She said that her father was not a protester and had gone to buy petrol for his motorcycle.

The death of the protester was the first during the ongoing protests over the worst-ever economic crisis in the country's history. The government on Thursday said that



A special gazette dated April 21 was issued to call the troops to provide security in the area after the curfew was lifted

troops have been deployed at the Rambukkana area at the request of the police in view of the funeral of the man. They will remain in the area until Saturday.

A special gazette dated April 21 was issued to call the troops to provide security in the area after the curfew was lifted. Inspector General of Police C.D. Wickramaratne has directed the CID to conduct an impartial inquiry into the death of a person while using police force to disperse protesters in Rambukkana on April 19.

Meanwhile, three top police officials in the area, including the SP of Rambukkana Police and the

SSP of the Kegalle Police have been transferred with immediate effect. The IGP has also ordered the DIG in charge of the CID to submit a report in three days, Daily Mirror newspaper reported.

The IGP and several senior police officers have also been summoned for questioning by the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka over the Rambukkana incident.

Earlier, Foreign Minister G L Peiris told reporters: "We have requested the Human Rights Commission to conduct an impartial inquiry. We want to be honest and we do not want to sweep any-

thing under the carpet". Top bureaucrat of the public security ministry Jagath Alwis said the protesters tried to set on fire a fuel tanker having 33,000 liters of fuel. The police were forced to open fire to prevent a fuel bowser being set in flames by the protesters.

Alwis said a three-member probe committee has been appointed to probe if the police had used excessive power in opening the fire at protesters. The embassies of the US, the EU, and the UN resident coordinator have issued statements condemning the police shooting.

The latest fuel price hike on Monday night triggered street protests in many areas on Tuesday. Oil entities in the island nation have been hiking the price regularly due to the shortage of fuel.

Kegalle Magistrate Wasana Navaratne visited the site of the shooting and ordered the police not to intimidate witnesses. The police had produced one protester in court.

Meanwhile, the police said that a 20-member panel has been appointed to investigate the shooting incident. Protests continued in most parts of the island nation against the government for its mishandling of the economic crisis.

SHORT TAKES

'Intruder' shot dead in US

Washington: An alleged "intruder" at the Peruvian Embassy in Washington, D.C., was shot dead by Secret Service, according to the police. The suspect was found smashing windows of the Peruvian Ambassador's residence in the Forest Hills neighbourhood of northwest D.C., Metropolitan Police Chief Robert Contee told reporters on Wednesday evening. The ambassador's relatives were inside and called the police just after 8 a.m., Xinhua news agency quoted Contee as saying.

US Capitol briefly evacuated

Washington: The US Capitol and its surrounding buildings in Washington D.C. were briefly evacuated due to "a probable threat" from an aircraft. The US Capitol Police sent out an alert Wednesday evening telling individuals in the Capitol Complex to leave, reports Xinhua news agency. The advisory was rescinded about 20 minutes later.

Five dead in plane crash

Port-Au-Prince (US): A small plane crashed Wednesday in the bustling Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince, killing at least five people and injuring several others, authorities said. The plane was headed to the southern coastal city of Jacmel when it tried to land in the community of Carrefour and hit a truck transporting soda bottles, said Pierre Belamy Samedi, a police commissioner for that region.

2 Indians killed in Nepal explosion

Kathmandu: Two Indian nationals were killed and six others injured Thursday in an explosion at an oxygen plant in an industrial area in Lalitpur district near Kathmandu. The explosion took place at the Sagarmatha Oxygen Plant inside the Patan industrial estate on Thursday morning while workers were filling gas in a cylinder, police said.

Storm toll rises

Manila: The death toll in the Philippines due to the landslides and flooding triggered by tropical storm Megi has increased to 224, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said Thursday.

VOICING CONCERN



Students hold posters with portraits of President Joko Widodo during a rally in Jakarta, Indonesia, Thursday. Hundreds of protesters, mostly students, took to the streets in Indonesia's capital, demanding the government stop attempts to postpone the 2024 presidential election, which would allow President Joko Widodo to remain in office beyond the two-term legal limit, calling it a threat to the country's democracy

AP/PTI PHOTO

Imran blames Bajwa for ouster

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lahore, April 21: In a veiled attack on Pakistan Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa, former Prime Minister Imran Khan has alleged that "some elements" in the powerful establishment who indulged in "bad practices" were responsible for his unceremonious ouster from power.

Addressing party workers on Twitter on Wednesday night, Imran said: "There are also humans in institutions. If one or two individuals do something wrong, the entire institution is not responsible. If one person (in an apparent reference to Army chief Gen. Bajwa) makes a mistake, this does not mean that the whole institution is at fault."

Former information minister Fawad Chaudhry told a news channel on Wednesday that relations between the establishment and Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) govern-



ment had strained for months. "We tried our best, including myself, to remove misunderstandings with the establishment but could not succeed," he said.

The Pakistan Army, which has ruled the coup-prone country for more than half of its 73 plus years of existence, has hitherto wielded

UK lawmakers approve probe into Boris Johnson's alleged lies

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, April 21: British lawmakers have ordered a parliamentary investigation into Prime Minister Boris Johnson for allegedly lying about whether he broke coronavirus restrictions by attending illegal gatherings during the pandemic.

The move, approved by cries of "aye" and without a formal vote in the House of Commons, means Parliament's Committee of Privileges will investigate whether Johnson knowingly misled Parliament - historically a resigning offense if proven.

The probe piles more pressure on a Conservative prime minister whose grip on power has been shaken by claims he flouted the pandemic rules he imposed on the country, then repeatedly failed to own up to it.

The move was instigated by the opposition Labour Party and

passed after the government abandoned efforts to get Conservative lawmakers to block it. Johnson was fined 50 pounds (\$66) by police last week for attending a party in his office in June 2020.

The move would put more pressure on a Conservative prime minister whose grip on power has been shaken by claims he flouted the pandemic rules he imposed on his country and then repeatedly failed to own up to it.

Johnson was fined 50 pounds (\$66) by police last week for attending his own birthday party in his office in June 2020, when people in Britain were barred from meeting up with friends and family, or even visiting dying relatives. Johnson is the first British prime minister ever found to have broken the law while in office. He has apologised, but denied he knowingly broke the rules.

Queen Elizabeth's 96th birthday marked with gun salutes

ELIZABETH BECAME THE QUEEN OF BRITAIN AND MORE THAN A DOZEN OTHER REALMS INCLUDING CANADA, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND ON THE DEATH OF HER FATHER KING GEORGE VI ON FEBRUARY 6, 1952, WHILE SHE WAS IN KENYA ON AN INTERNATIONAL TOUR

REUTERS

London, April 21: Queen Elizabeth celebrated her 96th birthday at her Sandringham estate on Thursday as gun salutes rang out across London and Windsor and military bands played "Happy Birthday".

Britain's longest serving monarch, who celebrates a historic platinum jubilee this year, was pictured with two white ponies in a photo released for the occasion.

Government ministers joined members of the royal family in sending their best wishes to the queen, who has stepped back from most public duties this year over concerns about her health.

She has travelled from Windsor Castle, west of London, to spend her



birthday at her estate in Sandringham, Norfolk.

"An inspiration to so many across the UK, the Commonwealth and the world, it's particularly special to be celebrating in this

Platinum Jubilee year," her grandson Prince William and his wife Kate said on Twitter.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who is visiting India, wished the queen a happy birth-

day and paid a "heartfelt tribute" to her "70 years of dedicated and faultless service to our country and the Commonwealth" in a video message.

Toymaker Mattel launched a commemorative Barbie doll of the queen dressed in an ivory gown with a blue sash and wearing her wedding tiara to mark the jubilee.

Elizabeth became the queen of Britain and more than a dozen other realms including Canada, Australia and New Zealand on the death of her father King George VI on February 6, 1952, while she was in Kenya on an international tour.

The news was broken to her by her husband Prince Philip, who died last year aged 99 after more than seven decades by her side.

When she ascended the throne, Josef Stalin, Mao Zedong and Harry Truman were running the Soviet Union, China and the United States, respectively, while Winston Churchill was British Prime Minister.

Elizabeth has largely avoided the public spotlight after spending a night in hospital in October for an unspecified ailment and being ordered to rest. She tested positive for COVID-19 in February and has said she was left very tired.

She has missed events including the Remembrance Sunday gathering and Easter service, but she joined other members of her family and dignitaries at a memorial service for her husband at London's Westminster abbey last month.

business



Things are moving on track, things are moving on 5G as per the schedule
ASHWINI VAISHNAW | COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER

GOVT MAY REVISIT BPCL PRIVATISATION

The government may take a fresh look at BPCL privatisation, including revising the terms of sale, an official said. We need to go back to the drawing board on BPCL. There are issues in terms of consortium formation, geopolitical situation and energy transition aspects," an official said



of the day quote

In view of increasing trade deficit and surge in imports, a committee may be formed to evaluate the trend in imports and encourage domestic production of such products to reduce the increasing deficits

SAKTHIVEL | FIEO CHAIRMAN



It is a challenge between the value which has been created in each of these enterprises and then there is a valuation expectation. I think there is a discord between the value and the valuation

KV KAMATH | CHAIRMAN, NBFID



Bringing the synergies of Honda's global expertise with strong indigenous support, HMSI will further expand its horizons in India

ATSUSHI OGATA | MD, PRESIDENT & CEO, HMSI



Draft battery swapping policy out

THE DRAFT POLICY ALSO COMES AT A TIME WHEN THERE ARE RISING CONCERNS OVER SAFETY ISSUES AROUND ELECTRIC VEHICLES IN THE WAKE OF MULTIPLE INSTANCES OF SUCH VEHICLES CATCHING FIRE



KEY PROPOSALS IN THE DRAFT

Reduction of difference between tax rates on lithium ion batteries and electric vehicle supply equipment. Currently, batteries attract GST at 18%, while EV supply equipment attract GST at 5%

Offer the incentives that EVs with fixed batteries get to EVs with swappable batteries

State governments to ensure that public battery charging stations are eligible for power tariffs at concessional rates

Ease the registration process for EVs sold without batteries or those with swappable batteries

Assign a unique identification number to swappable batteries and battery charging stations

Set up battery swapping stations at locations like retail fuel stations, public parking areas, malls, etc

New Delhi, April 21: Government think tank Niti Aayog Thursday came out with a draft battery swapping policy for electric vehicles and suggested incentives as well as a rigorous testing protocol for swappable batteries.

The Aayog in its draft policy further said all major cities such as state capitals, UT headquarters and cities with population above 5 lakh will be covered under the second phase, given the importance of the two-wheeler and three-wheeler vehicle segments in growing cities.

The policy seeks a level playing field across business models involving the sale of EVs with fixed or swappable batteries.

The draft policy also proposes that demand side incentives offered under existing or new schemes for EV purchase can be made available to EVs with swappable bat-

teries eligible under this policy. "The size of the incentive could be determined based on the kWh rating of the battery and compatible EV," it suggested.

As per the draft policy, an appropriate multiplier may be applied to the subsidy allocated to battery providers to account for the float battery requirements for battery swapping stations.

It is also proposed that a seamless mechanism for the disburse-

ment of subsidies shall be worked out by the ministry or department concerned, the draft policy stated.

To ensure a high level of protection at the electrical interface, the Aayog proposed that a robust/rigorous testing protocol shall be adopted to avoid any dielectric breakdown, arc phenomenon, or any unwanted temperature rise at the electrical interface.

Battery management system (BMS) of the battery must be self-

certified and open for testing to check its compatibility with various systems, and capability to meet safety requirements, it said.

The draft pointed out that as per the current Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, the tax rates on lithium-ion batteries and Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) are 18 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively.

"The GST Council, the decision making body on GST provisions, may consider reducing the differential across the two tax rates," it suggested.

According to the draft policy document, to provide improved information on battery health and performance, and to enable more flexibility to consumers through peer-to-peer roaming networks, data sharing agreements among major battery providers will be encouraged.

To implement unique traceability across the battery lifecycle, the draft policy also proposes to assign a Unique Identification Number (UIN) at the manufacturing stage for tracking and monitoring EV batteries. It said any individual or entity is free to set up a battery swapping station at any location, provided that the specified technical, safety and performance standards are adhered to.

Considering the constraint of space in urban areas for setting up charging stations at scale, Finance Minister in her Budget speech 2022-23 had announced that the Centre would be introducing a battery swapping policy and interoperability standards in order to improve efficiency in the EV ecosystem.

FinMin bars PSEs from bidding for state-owned firms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 21: The finance ministry has barred public sector enterprises from bidding for other Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) which are on the block for privatisation, as it would defeat the very purpose of the disinvestment policy.

Stating that transfer of management control from the government to any other government organisation or state government may continue the "inherent inefficiencies" of state-run firms, the ministry said such transfer would defeat the very purpose of the new PSE policy.

"As a general policy, Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) (Central/State/ Joint) / Governments/ Cooperative Societies controlled by the Governments... Are not permitted to participate in the strategic disinvestment/ privatisation of other PSUs as bidders unless otherwise specifically approved by the central government in public interest," the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) said.

PSEs controlled by the government include those where 51 per cent or more ownership is with the Centre/state governments or jointly with central and/or state governments.

In the past, the government has sold its majority stake in certain



As per data available, between 2000-01 to 2019-20, the govt has sold its entire stake in nine CPSEs to other similarly placed public sector enterprises, garnering a cumulative ₹53,450 crore

CPSEs to public sector companies operating in similar sectors - which helped it meet the disinvestment target set for a particular fiscal.

In 2001-02, 74 per cent government stake in Indo Burma Petroleum Co (IBP) was sold to Indian Oil Corp (IOC) for ₹1,153 crore. More recently, in January 2018 Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) bought the government's entire 51.11 per cent stake in HPCCL for ₹36,915 crore.

In March 2019, state-owned Power Finance Corporation (PFC) had acquired the government's 52.63 per cent equity in REC for ₹14,500 crore.

SHORT TAKES

RE capacity of 13.5 GW added

New Delhi: India added 13.5 GW of renewable energy capacity in 2021-22, which is 128 per cent higher than that in 2020-21, a statement said Thursday. India added 10.21 GW of utility scale solar capacity, 1.11 GW of wind power and 2.22 GW of rooftop solar capacity in FY 2021-22, consultancy BRIDGE TO INDIA said in the statement. Rajasthan (5,806 MW) and Gujarat (2,469 MW) added the highest capacity in these 12 months, accounting for 61 per cent of total capacity addition.

OneWeb inks pact with ISRO's arm

New Delhi: Bharti group-backed OneWeb and New Space India Limited, the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation, have entered into an agreement that will help ensure OneWeb completes its satellite launch programme. The first launch with New Space India is expected in 2022 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota. The launches will add to Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite communications firm OneWeb's total in-orbit constellation of 428 satellites.

Kia forays into India's EV mkt

New Delhi: Carmaker Kia India Thursday entered India's EV market with 'EV6'. The 'EV6' is the first BEV (battery electric vehicle) from Kia and was unveiled globally in March 2021. The vehicle is built on Kia's new dedicated EV platform 'E-GMP' and is pegged to offer premium mobility solutions to its customers. "The brand will only be bringing limited units of the car and bookings of the vehicle will commence on May 26, 2022, followed by its launch soon after," the company said in a statement.

Nestle Q1 net profit slips 1.25%

New Delhi: FMCG major Nestle India Ltd Thursday reported a 1.25 per cent decline in its net profit to ₹594.71 crore for the first quarter ended March 2022. The company, which follows January-December financial year, had posted a profit of ₹602.25 crore in the same period a year ago, Nestle said in a BSE filing. However, Nestle India's net sales increased 9.74 per cent to ₹3,950.90 crore during the quarter against ₹3,600.20 crore in the corresponding period last fiscal, the company added.

HRAO elects new office bearers for FY2023-25



THE HRAO STARTED IN THE YEAR 1984 WITH SIX MEMBERS AND TODAY HAS 286 MEMBERS ACROSS THE STATE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 21: The Hotel and Restaurant Association of Odisha (HRAO) association conducted its 33rd Annual General Meeting-cum-Election FY 2023-25. While JK Mohanty Bhubaneswar, was elected as the Chairman, Srinibash Subudhi, Bhubaneswar was chosen as the Working President.

Among the other elected, Jonathan Raul, Bhubaneswar was elected as Vice Chairman (VC), (Hd Qrs) for Central Zone-2; Tarini P Mohanty, Bhubaneswar as VC for Central Zone-1; Raj Kishore Patra, Puri as VC for Puri Zone; US Panigrahy, Berhampur as VC for South Zone; Sankracharya Pradhan, Angul as VC for West Central Zone;

Ashis Palit, Jharsuguda as VC for Western Zone; Sarosh Bodhanwalla, Balasore as VC for Northern Zone. Meanwhile, Milind Gupta, Bhubaneswar was elected as Secretary General, while Sujit Kumar Mohapatra was selected as Treasurer. Prasant Kumar Jena was chosen as the Joint Treasurer.

All the 30 Districts of Odisha had representation with 31 Executive Committee members, seven Vice Chairmen and eight Joint Secretaries. The HRAO started in the year 1984 with six members and today has 286 members across the state.

The HRAO, affiliated with the Federation of Hotel & Restaurant Association of India (FHRAI) and Hotel & Restaurant Association of Eastern India (HRAEI), has not only been successfully working in close cooperation with the Central and the state governments for the development and promotion of tourism but also imparting knowledge to members on the new laws formulated by the government and other bodies from time to time and also promotes fairs and festivals across the state through its members.

BIZ BUZZ

Startup Odisha, HDFC organise 'Startup Connect' with SLBC

Bhubaneswar: With efforts to support startups in state, Startup Odisha organised a 'Startup Connect' programme with the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) Odisha. The event was chaired by PK Jena, Development Commissioner, along with Ranjana Chopra, Principal Secretary, MS&ME, Vishal Dev, Principal Secretary, Finance Department, Uday N Das, Addl Secretary, MS&ME, MD Saddique Alam, IAS, Director of Industries-cum-CEO, Startup Odisha, Pragyanmita Sahoo, Director of Institutional Finance and Arupanjana Jena, Convenor SLBC. With MS&ME being the nodal Department of Startup Secretariat, Ranjana Chopra, gave significance that good ideas should be nurtured & informed about the gamut of services like testing, mentoring, marketing etc are being made available to the budding ecosystem at O-Hub, Startup Odisha Incubation Centre. With the budding ecosystem growing bigger, Chopra was of the opinion that such meetings are just precursor for Make in Odisha 2022 to be held during Nov-Dec. Meanwhile, PK Jena addressed the gathering and said that a dedicated guidance and mentoring support should be provided to the first-time entrepreneurs. He informed about the funds being made available for the startups and how the state government has been reshaping procurement policies for the startups. Four shortlisted startups were given HDFC Bank CSR Grant Cheques by Jena. Other members that were present during the event were Deepak Kumar Singh Zonal Head, HDFC Bank other senior officials from Government Department, Banker's, Incubation Centre and Startups.



DITI celebrates silver jubilee



Rajgangpur: Dalmia Private Industrial Training Institute (DITI), one of the pioneering skill enhancement institutions in India, celebrated its Silver Jubilee Anniversary at Dalmia Auditorium, here. The commemoration was graced by the Governor Ganeshi Lal as the chief guest, and Senior Executive Director and National Manufacturing Head, Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited, Ganesh Jirkuntwar as the guest of honor. The Deputy Executive Director, Saroj Kumar Rout, began the event by delivering the welcome address followed by Dalmia IPI Principal Debabrat Pradhan's speech about the achievements of DITI while presenting the annual report. Applauding the celebration, the Governor said, "I extend my warm wishes to the management of DITI for achieving the silver jubilee mark this year. It was a complete delight to attend a celebration with splendid performances amidst strong and enthusiastic minds. I congratulate all the winners for their achievements and hope that DITI continues to add its value to our state and its people in the coming years."

GRIDCO, GIZ, hold workshop on Odisha energy action plan

Bhubaneswar: A sensitisation workshop was jointly organised by GRIDCO and GIZ, India, here Wednesday discussing long-term energy action plan for the state of Odisha. Minister for Energy Industry & MSME, Dibya Shankar Mishra inaugurated the workshop. Meanwhile, Nikunja B Dhal, Principal Secretary, Energy, gave keynote address at the workshop. Attending the workshop, Managing Directors of GRIDCO, OPTCL OPDC, OHPC, Secretary, OERC, EIC (Electricity), CEOs GRIDCO & TPCODL, Jt. Director, OREDA and senior officers of various Departments of Govt. of Odisha participated in the high-level deliberation towards preparation of the energy action plan for various energy consuming sectors such as Industries, Transport, Agriculture, Urban Development, Fisheries, MSME and Housing. In his address, Mishra emphasized on transition to a low carbon economy so as to preserve resources and protect the climate and urged upon the departments to galvanize their efforts in respective sectors. Principal Secretary, Energy highlighted the role of captive industries which are mostly dependent upon fossil fuel as captive generation plants accounts for about two third of the energy consumed in the State.

ELON MUSK SECURES \$46.5BN IN FUNDING FOR TWITTER BID

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, April 21: Elon Musk says he has lined up \$46.5 billion in financing to buy Twitter, and he's trying to negotiate an agreement with the company.

Last week, Musk announced an offer to buy the social media company for \$54.20 per share, or about \$43 billion. At the time, he did say how he would finance the acquisition.

The Tesla CEO says Thursday in documents filed with US securities regulators that he's exploring what's known as a tender offer to buy all of the social media platform's common stock for \$54.20 per share in cash. Under a tender offer, Musk, who owns about 9% of Twitter shares, would take his offer directly to other shareholders, bypassing the board.

But Musk hasn't decided yet whether to do that. The documents say Twitter has not responded to Musk's proposal.

Last week Twitter's board adopted a "poison pill" defence that could make a takeover attempt prohibitively expensive.

The filing states that "entities related to (Musk) have received commitment letters committing to provide an aggregate of approximately \$46.5 billion".



Push continues for six airbags in cars despite resistance

THE COMMENTS COME A WEEK AFTER INDIA'S BIGGEST CARMAKER SAID THAT SUCH A RULE WILL MAKE SMALL CARS MORE EXPENSIVE AND DRIVE AWAY SOME POTENTIAL BUYERS WHO CANNOT AFFORD TO SHELL OUT MORE FOR A VEHICLE

REUTERS

New Delhi, April 21: India's road transport ministry is pushing ahead with its decision to require all passenger cars to have six airbags, despite resistance from some carmakers which say it will increase the cost of vehicles, a senior government source told Reuters.

"Safety is non-negotiable. The ministry is finalising the rules, which will take some time to be notified," he said, without committing to a timeline.

India in January issued draft guidelines requiring all new cars from Oct 1 to be fitted with six airbags, including four passenger



airbags and two side or curtain airbags. It was expected to finalise

the rules a month later but is still analysing feedback from auto com-

The government estimates adding four more airbags would cost no more than \$75

Auto market data provider JATO Dynamics, however, estimates it could increase costs by at least \$231

The ministry estimates that having airbags, along with seat belts, would have saved the lives of at least one-third of the 39,000 people who died in road accidents in 2020 due to head-on or side collisions

panies, the source said. "The cost implication is exaggerated. The ministry has con-

sulted airbag makers on the cost and time needed to make the parts locally," the person said.

Some companies export cars with additional airbags but the models they sell in India only meet the minimum requirements. Also, top-end variants of cars are typically fitted with four or more airbags but the base models usually have just two, forcing people to pay more for their safety, he said.

"Carmakers should provide airbags as a matter of safety, it should not have to be mandated by the government. We're having to step up regulations because companies are not doing it on their own," he said.

MSD SHOWS HIS MIDAS TOUCH

Ponting's pep talk lifted our confidence, says Axar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Navi Mumbai, April 21: The great MS Dhoni turned back the clock to script a three-wicket victory for Chennai Super Kings against Mumbai Indians in the IPL here Thursday, following a heart-stopping finish that saw him hit a four off the last ball of the game.

CSK pacer Mukesh Choudhary (3/19) wreaked havoc with the new ball before Tilak Varma's responsible 51 not out (43b, 3x4, 2x6) lifted Mumbai Indians to 155/7.

Dhoni (28 n o, 13b, 3x4, 1x6) batted like the finisher of his hey days to help CSK get the required 17 runs off the final over to win their second game of the season and extend Mumbai Indians winless streak this season to seven games.

He smashed a six and four off third and fourth ball off Jaydev Unadkat (2/48) before maintaining his calm to put one past short-fine leg for the match-winning boundary, leaving the bowler and the rest of his Mumbai teammates shattered.

CSK were up against it with 48 runs off the last 24 balls and four wickets in hand but Dhoni with the help of Dwaine Pretorius (22) ensured his team got over the line in an absolute humdinger.

With seven losses in as many games, Mumbai Indians will need a miracle to come back from this



Mukesh Choudhary

position while it was a much needed win for CSK who too are looking for consistency after enduring a poor start to the season.

Earlier, Choudhary accounted for Rohit Sharma (0) and Ishan Kishan (0) in the first over and then dismissed Dewald Brevis (4), leaving Mumbai reeling at 23/3. However, Varma's knock, along with Unadkat's blazing unbeaten 19, helped Mumbai

cross the 150 run-mark.

Suryakumar Yadav (32) started with a boundary, an on drive. Mumbai were at 42/3 after the power-play. But it was Mitchell Santner (1/16), who dismissed Surya, whose sweep was easily caught by Choudhary at long-leg and Mumbai were reduced to 47/4.

Then Tilak and debutant Hrithik Shokeen (25), tried to rally the in-



MS DHONI

nings, but managed to add only 41 runs for the fifth wicket. The duo was brutal on Ravindra Jadeja (0/30).

Mumbai lost half their side for 85. Shokeen top-edged a Dwayne Bravo (2/36) short-ball, only to be caught at Robin Uthappa at mid-on. Wickets kept tumbling for Mumbai with Kieron Pollard (14) and Daniel Sams (5) also falling cheaply.

But thanks to a quick-fire 35-

run eight-wicket stand off 16 balls between Tilak and Unadkat, Mumbai gave their bowlers something to defend.

BRIEF SCORES: MI 155/7 (Tilak Varma 51, Suryakumar Yadav 32; Mukesh Choudhary 3/19, Dwayne Bravo 2/36) lost to CSK 156/7 (Ambati Rayudu 40, Robin Uthappa 30, MS Dhoni 28 n o; Daniel Sams 4/30) by 3 wickets.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 21: Hit hard by COVID-19 outbreak before their IPL game against Punjab Kings, Delhi Capitals all-rounder Axar Patel said a pep talk from head coach Ricky Ponting worked wonders in lifting the morale of the side, resulting in a comprehensive win.

DC showed remarkable resilience to overcome a COVID crisis in their camp and hand Punjab Kings a nine-wicket thrashing in an IPL game Wednesday night.

The match, which was shifted to the Brabourne Stadium from Pune, was given a go ahead barely an hour before the start of play after DC wicketkeeper-batter Tim Seifert tested positive Wednesday morning.

But head coach Ponting did all in his capacity to help his side stay focussed. "We were quarantined and we started practice two-three days after that, he (Ponting) told us to have two options. We have to play the match. You can think that there are positive cases, and the preparations aren't done.

"Or you can think all outside things are not in our hands and you should show commitment with regard to the effort and preparation," Axar said.

"We were focusing on our game (and) we did our planning (ac-

cordingly). So that's it, that was the speech and that was our mind-set," added the left-arm spinner, who grabbed two wickets and played a key role in bundling out Punjab for a sub-par 115.

Delhi first bowled out Punjab Kings for 115 and then cantered to the target in just 10.3 overs, riding on David Warner's unbeaten 60.

Axar was also happy with teammate Kuldeep Yadav's return to form, saying the Delhi team management gave him the much needed confidence to prosper after a disappointing last IPL, where he represented Kolkata Knight Riders.

"Like you said, the atmosphere is very important. I had earlier said when he (Kuldeep) came, he needed confidence. After you don't play well for a season or two, you are less confident, so Rishabh (Pant), I and the coaching staff - Ricky (Ponting) gave him the confidence, which was crucial," Axar said.

"We gave him confidence in the practice match and he was told that he would play all the matches and doesn't need to take tension about his performance.

"When he knows that he is playing all the matches, he needs to focus on his bowling. And that is happening. He is now focusing on his bowling and the way he is taking wickets, it becomes easy for me to partner with him," he signed off.

SARITA, SUSHMA SECURE BRONZE AT ASIAN C'SHIPS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ulaanbataar (Mongolia), April 21: Defending champion Sarita Mor was not at her best but still managed to win a bronze medal while Sushma Shokeen also earned a podium finish at the Asian Wrestling Championship here Thursday.

Competing in the five-wrestler 59kg category, Sarita, the 2021 World Championship bronze medalist, began with two defeats - against Mongolia's Shooovdor Baatarjav (1-2) and Japan's Sara Natami (VSU) - but made a comeback by winning her last two bouts.

She first beat Uzbekistan's Dilfuza Aimbetova by technical superiority and then followed that up with a 5-2 win over Diana Kayumova.

Also winning bronze was Sushma in 55kg category, which also featured only five wrestlers. She lost by technical superiority to Japan's Umi Imai but bounced back with a 5-0 win over Kazakhstan's Altyn Shagayeva in the next round. Then she enjoyed a stupendous bout against Uzbekistan's Sarbinaz Jienbaeva, winning by fall.

However, she ended with a heavy defeat against local girl Otgonjargal Ganbaatar, to whom she lost by technical superiority. The two wins were enough for her to secure a bronze.

Manisha was also in reckoning for a bronze in the 50kg but lost the medal match by fall to Uzbekistan's Jasmina Immaeva. Sonika Hooda (68kg) and Sudesh Kumari (76kg) could not reach the medal round.

India have so far won seven bronze medals at the championships. The Greco Roman wrestlers had won five bronze on the first two days of the continental championships.

Bumrah, Rohit, 3 others vie for Wisden Award

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, April 21: India captain Rohit Sharma and pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah have been named among five players in Wisden's 'Cricketers of the Year' in the 2022 edition of the Almanack.

Besides the duo, the list also features New Zealand batter Devon Conway, England pacer Ollie Robinson and Proteas women star Dane van Niekerk.

England's Joe Root has been named leading cricketer in the world, while South African women's team batter Lizelle Lee has been awarded with the title of leading woman cricketer.

Besides, Pakistan wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan has earned the title of leading T20 cricketer in the world.

Bumrah starred for India in their visit to England last summer. Rohit had an exceptional summer at the top of the order for India, scoring 368 runs in four Tests at an average of 52.57.

IT'S CHAHAL V KULDEEP IN BATTLE OF SPINNERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 21: Yuzvendra Chahal's bagful of tricks will meet its perfect match in Kuldeep Yadav's guile as the two wrist spinners are expected to dictate the narrative when Rajasthan Royals clash with Delhi Capitals in an IPL match, Friday.

With current 'Orange Cap' holder in Jos Buttler (375 runs) and 'Purple Cap' holder Chahal (17 wickets) in their ranks, Royals are a team that is looking pretty formidable at the moment even with a dysfunctional middle-order, save Shimron Hetmyer.

On the other hand, resurgent Capitals are battling the agony that comes with a mini COVID-19 outbreak in the camp but are still trying to put their best foot for-



ward to stay afloat.

In this backdrop, the two wrist-spinners, who are currently dominating the bowling charts will be itching



to show their wares with Kuldeep (13 wickets at No.2) expected to pose some questions for in-form Buttler in case there is a match-up.

For Delhi, Kuldeep along with Axar Patel and Lalit Yadav would like to stem the run-flow but stopping Buttler will be on top of their agenda on a Wankhede track that is expected to be good for batting.

For Chahal, how he varies the pace against a rampaging David Warner or the ever-attacking Prithvi Shaw and skipper Rishabh Pant will be a delight for the fans.

In the past five years, life has come to a full circle for 'Kul-Cha' who were the 'taste' of the nation between 2017 and 2019 when wrist spinners were in vogue during the Ravi Shastri-Virat Kohli era.

While Chahal got a body blow after being dropped from the last T20 World Cup squad and was sporadically picked in white ball formats, Kuldeep also lost his way.

But now, for Kuldeep, the smile

is back and so is the guile. The left-arm wrist-spinner's googly - the one that turns away from right-hander - is back and so is the conventional left-arm leg-break which comes into the right-hander.

Mustafizur Rahman's cutters and Khaleel Ahmed's clever change of pace could also trouble the likes of Sanju Samson and Riyan Parag. Similarly, if Trent Boult gets one to tail in first-up, Shaw's response and technique will be tested in earnest.

But Royals have now got a calm death bowler in West Indies' Obed McCoy, who was brilliant while bowling the final over against KKR. McCoy, who made his IPL debut in the last game, is tall and looked like using his height to a good advantage to create awkward angles and length for the Delhi batters.

If middle-order non-perform-

ance is an issue for Royals, the DC doesn't seem to have found the second Indian batter in that middle-order slot apart from skipper Pant, who can take the bowling apart.

Mandeep Singh was a massive failure against genuine quick bowling but Sarfaraz Khan is trying to play himself in. Rovman Powell till now has failed to show his destructive self and these are the players, who need to push the envelope when it comes to maintaining the momentum.

TODAY'S MATCH

RR VS DC

TIME: 07:30 pm

TELECAST
Star Sports channels & Hotstar

Gunners pile more misery on Chelsea



ON A ROLL: Eddie Nketiah (L) is ecstatic after scoring against Chelsea as his teammates join him for celebration at Stamford Bridge, Wednesday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, April 21: Bukayo Saka scored his first penalty for Arsenal to complete a 4-2 victory over Chelsea Wednesday that revived the push for Champions League qualification.

After Arsenal twice threw away the lead in the first half, Eddie Nketiah netted for a second time in the 57th minute and Saka converted the penalty in the second minute of stoppage time.

The 20-year-old forward ended Arsenal's three-match Premier League losing streak to move the team level on points with Tottenham, only behind its north London rival on goal difference. With six games remaining, the neighbors are still to play each other. Chelsea are five points ahead in third place with a game in hand. Arsenal took the lead against the run of play as a long ball over the top was not dealt with by Andreas Christensen, whose under-hit backpass was latched onto by Nketiah in the 13th minute for his first league goal of the season.

But Arsenal levelled inside four minutes after Nketiah gave away the ball and Timo Werner's strike deflected off Granit Xhaka into

the net. Emile Smith Rowe re-established Arsenal's lead in the 27th with a fine team goal, sweeping home a finish after impressive play from Xhaka and Martin Odegaard.

Chelsea drew level again in the 32nd with Cesar Azpilicueta getting on the end of Mason Mount's ball into the box. Nketiah scored again to send Arsenal in front for a third time in the 57th. It was Saka being dragged to the ground by Azpilicueta that led to the penalty that sealed the win that consigned Chelsea to three straight home losses in all competitions for the first time since 1993.

City reclaim top spot

MANCHESTER: Manchester City scored three times in the second half to reclaim top spot in the Premier League with a 3-0 victory over Brighton. The scoreline did not tell the full story of a nervy contest at Etihad Stadium in which the champions were frustrated by Brighton before the break. It took deflected strikes from Riyad Mahrez and Phil Foden for them to break through. Bernardo Silva settled any nerves completely with a fine third goal for the hosts eight minutes from time as City regained its one-point lead.

MAN UTD ROPE IN ERIK TEN HAG AS NEW COACH

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manchester, April 21: A model of stability in Alex Ferguson's long trophy-filled tenure, Manchester United hired a fifth full-time manager in nine years since his retirement by bringing in Erik ten Hag from Ajax.

Ten Hag's arrival was announced by United Thursday and the 52-year-old Dutchman will join at the end of the season to 2025. He's tasked with awakening a fallen superpower in European soccer that is enduring its longest trophy drought in nearly 40 years.

United has been led by interim managers Michael Carrick and currently Ralf Rangnick since Ole Gunnar Solskjaer was fired in November.



Adopting the attacking philosophy of the great Johan Cruyff, Ten Hag succeeded in bringing the good times back to Ajax, leading the biggest team in the Netherlands to two Eredivisie titles - it could be three in a few weeks - as well as the Champions League semifinals in 2019.

Returning United to its former heights is set to be an even bigger job. The three-time European champion might not even return to the Champions League next season. United is three points out of the Premier League top four with five games remaining. Ten Hag might be the biggest managerial gamble in United's turbulent post-Alex Ferguson era.

Benzema disappoints in Real win



NIGHT TO FORGET: Karim Benzema looks skyward in disappointment after missing two successive penalties against Osasuna, Wednesday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, April 21: Not even an off-day for Karim Benzema was enough to keep Real Madrid from moving closer to clinching the Spanish league title.

Benzema missed two penalty kicks seven minutes apart in the second half but Madrid went on to earn a 3-1 win at Osasuna Wednesday to open a 17-point lead over second-place Atletico Madrid, which can no longer catch its rival as both teams have five games left to play. Barcelona is 18 points back but has seven games left to play, meaning it still has a theoretical chance to catch Madrid.

Benzema went scoreless for only the second time in the last 11 games in all competitions. Both of his penalty kicks were saved by Osasuna goalkeeper Sergio Herrera in the 52nd and 59th minutes. He targeted both of his shots to the

same side, with Herrera diving to his right to make the saves.

Benzema is the league's leading scorer with 25 goals and has netted 15 times in the last 10 matches in all competitions. The French striker scored hat tricks and decisive goals to help Madrid reach the Champions League semifinals.

Madrid defender David Alaba opened the scoring in the 12th minute after an assist by Benzema, and forward Marco Asensio added to the lead in the 45th after the hosts had equalized through Ante Budimir in the 13th. Lucas Vázquez sealed the victory in stoppage time.

Osasuna, sitting in ninth place and coming off two straight victories, had a goal disallowed for offside in the 32nd. Alaba had to be substituted at halftime because of an injury, creating a concern ahead of Madrid's first leg against

Manchester City in the semifinals of the Champions League next week.

ATLETICO STALLS

Atletico Madrid's struggles in attack continued in a 0-0 draw at home against relegation-threatened Granada. It was the fourth time in the last five matches that Atletico failed to score. It had been winless in three games in a row before a last-minute 2-1 win against Espanyol Sunday.

The result left Diego Simeone's team in second place, one point ahead of both Barcelona and Sevilla. The Catalan club visits sixth-place Real Sociedad Thursday, while Sevilla plays at second-to-last place Levante.

Atletico opened a four-point cushion over fifth-place Real Betis, the first team outside the Champions League qualification places. Manuel Pellegrini's Betis lost 0-1 to Elche at home Tuesday.