



SHILPA'S DIGITAL DEBUT

Actor Shilpa Shetty says she is going to make her OTT debut with Rohit Shetty's upcoming series 'Indian Police Force'

LEISURE P2



NO INTERIM GOVT IN SL

A defiant Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa dismisses calls to form an interim government

INTERNATIONAL P10



TITANS BEAT KNIGHTS

Gujarat Titans register a narrow eight-run win over Kolkata Knight Riders in a thrilling IPL encounter

SPORTS P12



WC: India archery team bag gold

Antalya: Indian men's compound archery team of Abhishek Verma, Rajat Chauhan and Aman Saini downed France by one-point in a thrilling final to win the gold medal at the World Cup Stage 1 here in Turkey Saturday. This was the men's compound team's first World Cup gold medal since Shanghai 2017. India, however, lost out on a second medal after the compound mixed pair of Verma and Muskan Kirar went down 156-157 to Croatia in the bronze medal playoff. In the compound men's team final, the Indian trio started off with a one-point deficit, losing the first end 56-57 to their French rivals of Jean Philippe Boulch, Quentin Baraer and Adrien Gontier. **MORE P12**



Youth kills mom for ₹100 in Mayurbhanj

Baripada: A youth killed his mother for not giving him money to buy liquor at Hatapadia under Jashipur police limits in Mayurbhanj district, Friday night. The deceased was identified as Salandi Naik, 60, and her son as Saroj Naik, 21. The incident occurred when Saroj came home and demanded ₹100 from his mother to buy liquor. He flew into a rage when his mother refused to pay him the money. Saroj went on beating up his mother with a stick killing her on the spot. The villagers informed the police who along with a scientific team reached the spot and launched a probe into the incident.

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CBSE drops chapters on Islamic empires

The Board says the changes are part of rationalisation of syllabus and are in alignment with recommendations by the NCERT

AGENCIES
New Delhi, April 23: The CBSE has dropped chapters about the Non-Aligned Movement, the Cold War era, the rise of Islamic empires in Afro-Asian territories, the chronicles of Mughal courts and the industrial revolution from the history and political science syllabi of Class XI and XII.

Similarly, in Class X syllabus, the topic 'impact of globalisation on agriculture' from a chapter on 'Food Security' has been dropped. The translated excerpts from two poems in Urdu by Faiz Ahmed Faiz in the 'Religion, Communalism and Politics - Communalism, Secular State' section have also been excluded this year.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has also dropped from the course content chapters on 'democracy and diversity'. Asked about the rationale behind the choice of topics or chapters being dropped, officials maintained that the changes are part of rationalisation of syllabus and are in alignment with recommendations by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

The dropped chapter 'Central Islamic Lands' in Class XI history syllabus talks about the rise of Islamic empires in the Afro-Asian



Translated excerpts from two Urdu poems by Faiz Ahmed Faiz in the 'Religion, Communalism and Politics - Communalism, Secular State' section have been excluded

territories and its implications for economy and society, according to the description in last year's syllabus. The chapter focused on arenas of Islam in reference to its emergence, the rise of the caliphate and empire building.

Similarly, in the class 12 history syllabus, the dropped chapter titled 'The Mughal Court: Reconstructing Histories through Chronicles' examined the chronicles of Mughal courts to reconstruct the social, religious and cultural history of the Mughals. The syllabus shared with schools for the 2022-23 academic session also hints at the board's decision to revert to a single-board exam in a session from the two-term examination last year.

While the two-term exam was announced as a one-time special measure taken in view of the Covid pandemic, the board officials had last week said a final call will be taken in due course of time keeping

in mind the situation. "CBSE annually provides curriculum for Classes IX to XII containing academic content, syllabus for examinations with learning outcomes, pedagogical practices and assessment guidelines. Considering the feedback of stakeholders and other prevailing conditions, the board is in favour of conducting the annual scheme of assessment at the end of the academic session 2022-23 and the curriculum has been designed accordingly," a senior board official said.

However, this is not the first time the board has dropped from the syllabus certain chapters which have been part of the curriculum for decades. The CBSE in 2020 had announced that chapters on federalism, citizenship, nationalism, and secularism in the class 11 political science textbook will not be considered while assessing students, triggering a major controversy.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



My focus is on getting the best portfolio. Reviving the party and winning the elections are Prashant Kishor's job

RIL calls off ₹24,713cr deal with Future Group

New Delhi, April 23: Reliance Industries Saturday said its ₹24,713-crore deal with the Future Group cannot go ahead as secured creditors of the latter have voted against it.

In a regulatory filing, Reliance said Future Group companies comprising Future Retail Limited (FRL) and other listed companies involved in the scheme have intimated the results of the voting on the scheme of arrangement by

their shareholders and creditors at their respective meetings. "... The secured creditors of FRL have voted against the scheme. In view thereof, the subject scheme of arrangement cannot be implemented," said RIL, while updating on the scheme of arrangement for the transfer of retail and wholesale business and the logistics and warehousing business of Future Group to its subsidiary Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL) and Reliance Retail and Fashion Lifestyle Ltd (RRFL).

LOOKING GLASS



Visitors taking a selfie at a stall at Adivasi Mela-2022 that was inaugurated by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at Idco Exhibition ground in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

Severe heatwave to singe Odisha

Bhubaneswar, April 23: Severe heatwave conditions continued to prevail in the state as mercury surged to 40 degrees Celsius or above at 22 places including the twin cities of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar, Saturday. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said that the temperature would rise by 3 to 5 degrees in next three days. Angul town recorded the maximum temperature of 42.1 degrees Celsius and turned out to be the hottest place of Odisha Saturday followed by Bhubaneswar (41.7 degrees C), according to Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre.

Similarly, Boudh, Deogarh and Dhenkanal recorded 41.5 degrees each whereas the day temperature was 41 degrees at Cuttack, Baripada, Bolangir and Paralakhemundi towns. The prevailing heatwave condition will continue to sweep the state for next few days. Due to northwesterly-westerly dry air and high solar insolation, the day temperature is very likely to gradually rise by 3 to 5 degrees at many places over the districts of interior Odisha during next three days.

Ore smuggling on NH rampant as i3MS fails

Iron ore mafia active on NH-16 and NH-53 manipulate the weight of the loaded vehicles at government weighbridges to plunder the minerals



The i3MS solution was designed to enable the Steel & Mines department officials to regulate the mining activities through electronic mode. However, the GPS trackers which are vital for functioning of the i3MS are missing in most of the vehicles. Moreover, no one is monitoring the duration of halts the vehicles make in between departure and arrival points. It is also alleged that the truckers are manipulating the weight of the minerals with the help of staffers at government weighbridges in these districts. A few weeks ago, huge stacks of iron ore were seized from an area near Bandalo Square on NH-16 under Barchana police limits in Jajpur district. Police had also seized the truck. Although the

driver was arrested, police are yet to nab the mastermind of the illegal trade. Similarly, huge amount of iron ore was seized April 6 by a special squad led by Jajpur SP Rahul PR from Nuasahi locality under Jenapur police limits. A man was arrested and a JCB machine was also seized. Jenapur police had forwarded the mastermind, identified as Sheikh Manan of Dhanmandal area, to court. It is learnt that a racket is operating from Chandikhole. The racket helps in transportation of iron ore to Paradip Port by preparing fake transit permits. Barchana inspector in-charge Sushil Kumar Nayak said, "We raid different locations on being tipped off about the illegal trade of iron ore. However, we will henceforth be more vigilant in this regard." Though the deputy director of Jajpur Road Mining department was asked about the issue, he parried the questions.

Avoid scandalous headlines: Centre to TV channels

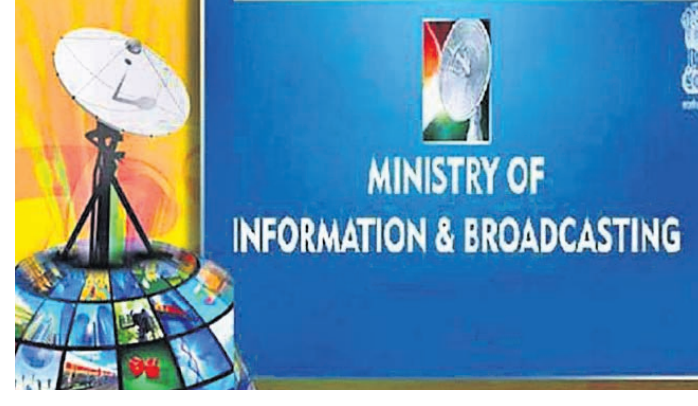
Taking exception to 'hyperbolic' statements by some news anchors, the I&B Ministry asks the TV channels not to violate the provisions under Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 23: In a strong advisory to private television channels, the Union government Saturday said certain debates on the coverage of the Ukraine-Russia conflict and the Delhi riots had provocative and socially unacceptable language, and it took exception to headlines such as 'Parmanu (nuclear) Putin' and 'Ali, Bali aur Khalbali (unrest)'.

claims" and "frequently misquoting" international agencies while reporting on the Ukraine conflict, it took objection to the reportage on 'incidents' in northwest Delhi, contending that channels had given communal colour to the actions of authority. It also said that certain debates on television channels on the Delhi violence had unparliamentary, provocative and socially unacceptable language.

Having regard to the above, the government expresses serious concern about the manner in which the television channels have gone about their operations in the matter of transmitting content... read the advisory issued by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry to self-regulating bodies of television channels. It also "strongly advised" them to immediately refrain from publishing and transmitting any content which is violative of the aforemen-



tioned provisions of The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, and the rules thereunder. The government cited specific instances of 'hyperbolic' statements by news anchors and "scandalous headlines/taglines" while reporting on the Ukraine-Russia conflict and disrupting the investigation process into the incidents in north-

west Delhi by airing unverified CCTV footage. Section 6 of the Programme Code under the Act states that "no programme should be carried in the cable service which - offends against good taste or decency; contains criticism of friendly countries, contains attack on religions or communities or visuals or words

contemptuous of religious groups or which promote communal attitudes; contains anything, obscene, defamatory, deliberate, false and suggestive innuendos and half truths".

The advisory said that while reporting on the Russia-Ukraine conflict it has been observed that channels have been making false claims and frequently misquoting international agencies or actors, and using "scandalous headlines or taglines" completely unrelated to the news.

The advisory also cited instances of headlines or taglines such as 'Parmanu Putin se pareshan Zelenski' (Zelenski worried about nuclear Putin), 'Parmanu action ki chinta se Zelenski ko depression' (Zelenski goes into depression over nuclear action), and making of "unverified claims misquoting" international agencies that the third world war has already started.

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BRIDGERTON S2 GARNERS 2.5 BILLION VIEWS

Streaming giant Netflix's *Bridgerton* was watched for more than 2.5 billion minutes during the week of its Season 2 debut, according to Nielsen's newly released streaming Top 10 rankings.

DOCTOR STRANGE IN THE MULTIVERSE OF MADNESS BANNED IN SAUDI ARABIA

Marvel Studios' much anticipated movie *Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness* has been banned in Saudi Arabia and several other Arab countries due to the presence of a gay character. The sequel, which will release in the US on May 6, was originally scheduled for hit theatres in the Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries on May 5.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

You have been too busy with work and social obligations. It is high time you took a break and did something for yourself. Your health may need attention. Ganesh says, everything else should take a backseat if you're stressed out.

TAURUS

You will manage to achieve all short-term goals that you had set today and your focus will now shift to setting long-term ones. Work pressure will continue but you will make it a point to find some time to renew your leisure activities. Family and friends will also figure in your scheme of things, predicts Ganesh.

GEMINI

You will spend your time figuring out other people and their motivations today. You will probably spend time discussing issues of security and finance with your family members today. You will gain love and appreciation from people owing to your caring nature, says Ganesh.

CANCER

You will display a special attention towards beloved ones. This is an apt time for a frank chat on vital issues with your life partner, says Ganesh. You never allow heart to dictate terms to mind, yet today will be sentimental with your wife. Today is the day to feel myriad emotions, says Ganesh.

LEO

Your day will be one of mixed results. On one hand you will be dis-satisfied with your spouse or business partner, on the other hand you will make fantastic returns on your speculations. You will be able to maintain a balance owing to the advice of some friend, says Ganesh.

VIRGO

You will take your destiny in your own hands today. You possess the vision to penetrate the masks that people wear to hide their true selves. You will carefully select the friends to spend your time with, and you will also make plans for success. You need to brush up your presentation abilities, and may have to put in some extra efforts to get your ideas approved, says Ganesh.

LIBRA

Ganesh says today is a good day for government related work. Those of you who are government employees will be able to get good results for their work. Your work will be rewarded and your performance and efficiency will be praised. You will be able to have a heart to heart talk with your loved one. Ganesh shows you with his blessings today.

SCORPIO

Free your mind from negative thoughts. You need to be in high spirits to work with your team and delegate equal responsibilities to your team mates. Know their calibre and designate accordingly. Trust them with their work and the rest would fall in place.

SAGITTARIUS

The morning seems to begin on a lazy note today, as your energy level is equal to zero. Thus, you may try to decentralise your activities and divide it between your co-workers. But make sure the responsibilities are delegated in the right hands or you may have to regret your decision.

CAPRICORN

You will want to expand the horizon of your business. But, you will be confused about the path to take for the expansion. You want to reach to the sky, but such a dilemma will keep you in a double mind. Listen to what your heart says, as it will guide you to the right direction, feels Ganesh.

AQUARIUS

You have managed to carve a niche for yourself. Today, you may see the tangible benefits of all your past hard work. But business rivals may poke and pinch; even your health may trouble you. However, you will manage to smile and take things in the right spirit, approves Ganesh.

PISCES

You will experience mixed feelings today. On one hand tension and stress about how to set a deteriorating situation right will keep you worried, and on the other hand you will be in a mood to accept things for what they are. What you learn now will be very vital in your development, and will help you progress and become a better person in the future, says Ganesh.

Tiger's Heropanti 2 trailer sends pulses racing



MUMBAI: The second trailer of Tiger Shroff-starrer *Heropanti 2* is out now and it surely offers what the audience can expect from his movie, a complete package of action, thriller, crime, romance and a tinge of comedy.

While in the first trailer the audience saw the style of the film, the second brought out its soul.

The second trailer actually shows the desi tadka that the audience enjoys to watch.

Moreover in the second trailer Tiger is shown in action from his dialogues, gymnastic moves, dance to everything that the audience loves about him. The makers should have brought this trailer before along with *Whistle Baja*.

Seems like Tiger Shroff and Sajid Nadiadwala have finally hit the right chords. The masses of tier 2 and 3 cities are going to see a storm just like one witnessed during *Baaghi 2* and *Baaghi 3*.

The film also features Tara Sutaria and Nawazuddin Siddiqui in the lead roles.

IANS

Shilpa to make digital debut

Mumbai: Actor Shilpa Shetty has revealed that she is going to make her OTT debut with Rohit Shetty's upcoming series, *Indian Police Force*. The actor will play a cop in the series which stars Sidharth Malhotra in the lead. She shared a picture from the show to make the reveal.

In the photo, Shilpa is seen in a black police uniform, holding a gun. Massive explosions and burning cars are also seen behind her.

Sharing the picture, Shilpa wrote, "Ready to set the OTT platform on fire for the first time. Superr Thrilled to join The Action King Rohit Shetty in his Cop Universe!"

Shilpa's followers were excited to see her in a new avatar. "Woohoooo!! So so happy for you Shilpa! You look fabulous. Congratulations," read a comment on her post. Her sister Shamita Shetty wrote, "Super! looking forward."

Directed and produced by Rohit Shetty, the action series has been set up at streaming service Prime Video and will star Sidharth Malhotra as a Delhi Police officer. As per the team behind the show, *Indian Police Force* pays a tribute to police officers across the country. The eight-part series is also the first OTT project of Shilpa and Sidharth.

Talking more about the series, Rohit said, "*Indian Police Force* is a very special one for me and I've been working on it for years. I'm delighted to be collaborating with Amazon Prime Video to breathe life into this story which will transcend geographies and linguistic barriers, providing me an opportunity to showcase the same to audiences worldwide."



'Gangubai Kathiawadi' role has made ALIA AMAR'

Mumbai: Actor Mrunal Thakur has heaped praises on actor Alia Bhatt-starrer *Gangubai Kathiawadi*, adding that her character in the film has immortalised her as an actor.

In a new interview, Mrunal also revealed that she wanted to be a part of the film as it 'felt very personal'. Taking a trip down memory lane, she recalled working in a similar film at the beginning of her career.



Mrunal, in 2012, started working in films with *Love Sonia* which released in 2018 after several delays. She essayed the role of a village girl caught in the clutches of sex-trafficking. It marked Mrunal's first Hindi project. She was later seen in *Super 30*, followed by *Batla House*, and *Ghost Stories*. She also featured in *Toofaan* and *Dhamaka*. The actor has also appeared in several music videos.

In an interview with Zoom, Mrunal said, "I saw *Gangubai* four-five times in the theatre and I felt like, har ek character ek actor ko amar kardeta hai (every character immortalises an actor), jaise (such as) be it Madhubala for *Mughal-E-Azam*, ya *Dirty Picture* mein Vidya Balan. Similarly, Alia ka career me it is *Gangubai* (In Alia's career it's *Gangubai*)."

"When I watched it I really felt like, the way it was shot... And who doesn't want to be a part of a Sanjay Leela Bhansali film? It was such a bold and risky subject. This is how I started my career with, a film based on brothels and sex trafficking so I really felt like I wanted to be a part of that film as well. It felt very personal because I started my journey with a film like this," she added.

Helmed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali, *Gangubai Kathiawadi* chronicles the journey of sex worker *Gangubai* of Kamathipura, who rose to be one of the most powerful figures in the Mumbai mafia.

AGENCIES



Sanya gets gun training for action shoot with SRK

MUMBAI: Sanya Malhotra is set to be seen in an all-new action-heroine avatar for her next with Shah Rukh Khan.

The actors, who are teaming up for the first time in director Atlee's next, reportedly have an intense action scene that will see them stepping up with guns blazing. As per the latest reports, the actress had to film high-intensity stunts during the schedule. However, as undergoing intensive gun training was not possible, owing to her packed schedule, she

had to learn to work her way around the gun just before the cameras started rolling. "She underwent an intense prep of a few hours that familiarised her with the working of guns," states a report.

The actress apparently headed to Atlee's sets soon after wrapping up a schedule of Monga's film in Madhya Pradesh. In keeping with the mood of the actioner, the director reportedly has a bunch of high-octane stunts that will be shot over the span of seven days.

AGENCIES



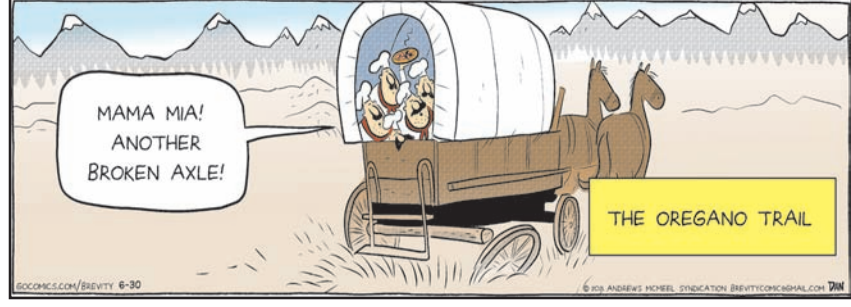
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

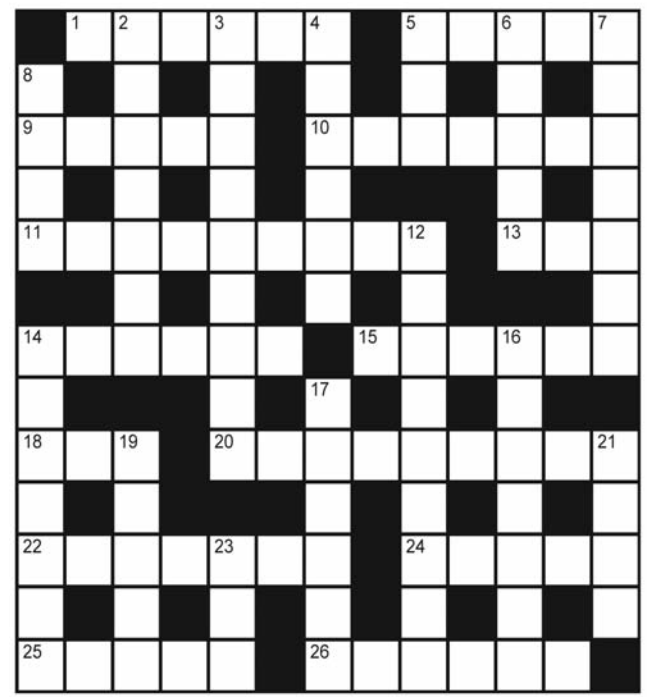


BREVITY



FUN post

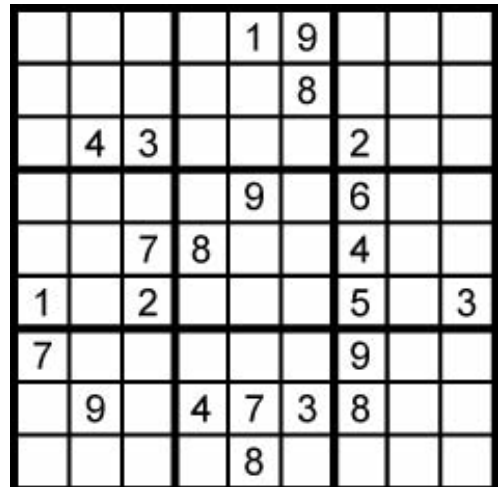
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Homes with domes
 - 5 Honkers
 - 9 Reserved
 - 10 Fencing cry (2,5)
 - 11 Theatre attraction (5,4)
 - 13 Swedish shag rug
 - 14 Drops by
 - 15 Unusual
 - 18 Séance sound
 - 20 Worm gatherer (5,4)
 - 22 Health profession
 - 24 Burger topper
 - 25 Greek Titan
 - 26 Cunning
 - 5 Harpoon
 - 6 Miscue
 - 7 Raise up
 - 8 Unguent
 - 12 Cold symptom (5,4)
 - 14 Lanai, in Hawaii
 - 16 Tonic water
 - 17 Calamitous
 - 19 Jeopardy
 - 21 Musty
 - 23 Psyches

SUDOKU

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

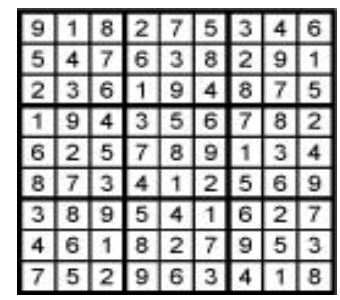


SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



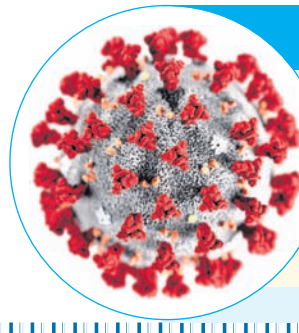
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



DANCING SKILLS

Girls present a cultural event at the district-level science exhibition at Biswambhar Bidyapitha in Puri, Saturday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	50,87,46,412	46,11,78,811	62,41,033
India	4,30,54,952	4,25,17,724	5,22,149
Odisha	12,87,980	12,78,729	9,124

Naveen seeks poll performance reports from dist observers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 23: Biju Janata Dal (BJD) president and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has asked party's district observers to submit reports on BJD's performance in recently concluded panchayat and urban local body (ULB) polls along with recommendations to further strengthen the party at the grassroots level.

Patnaik held one-on-one meetings with the BJD observers for Koraput, Malkangiri, Kendrapara, Balasore, Nayagarh, Angul, Nabarangpur, Dhenkanal, Gajapati, Kandhamal, Sonepur, Jagatsinghpur and Sundargarh districts at his residence here, Saturday.

He is scheduled to meet party observers for the remaining districts in phases. The meetings will continue till Monday. The ruling BJD has 33 organisational districts in state, sources said.

With this exercise, the ruling party has started its preparation for the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections of 2024, said a political observer. According to sources, Patnaik is planning to revamp BJD's organisational structure to further strengthen the party at grassroots level before the 2024 polls. This exercise is also fueling speculation regarding the



The BJD supremo held one-on-one meetings with the BJD observers for Koraput, Malkangiri, Kendrapara, Balasore, Nayagarh, Angul, Nabarangpur, Dhenkanal, Gajapati, Kandhamal, Sonepur, Jagatsinghpur and Sundargarh districts at his residence here, Saturday.

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Cabinet reshuffle in state.

"Our party president asked us about the panchayat and ULB election results. He sought to know the reasons behind the party's victory or defeat in the twin polls. He put emphasis on places, where the party had lost the election. We also de-

liberated on various measures to strengthen the party," said BJD leader PK Deb, who is party's observer for Balasore district.

The BJD Supremo has also asked about details regarding any lacuna in our poll management during the meeting, Deb added.

"After reviewing party's performance in the twin polls, our party president has asked us to submit a detailed report for each organizational district within 10 days," said Padmanabha Behera, who is BJD observer for Nayagarh district.

Our party president usually holds a meeting with the district observers soon after the completion of an election in state to review the poll outcome. This time, he is holding the review meetings in a phased manner, said BJD leader Debashish Samantaray.

BJD sources said Patnaik is collecting feedback on the party's organisational strength and performance in the panchayat and civic body polls to make necessary changes in the rank and file of the ruling party for further strengthening its base at the grassroots level.

The party would prepare a blueprint for the 2024 elections by taking into account the feedback received from the observers and other sources, it is learnt.

Doc held for 'deceitfully marrying woman'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 23: The Commissionerate Police Saturday arrested a doctor on charges of deceitfully marrying a woman in the city here.

Accused Ashis Patnaik works as Assistant Professor in the Plastic Surgery department at the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack. Patnaik had earlier married two women, sources said.

The victim, who is reportedly

the third wife of Patnaik, lodged a complaint at the Mahila police station here Friday. The police arrested the accused from Pahala area after registering a case (54/22) in this regard.

In her complaint, the victim, who works as a nurse in a hospital here, claimed that she came into contact with Patnaik in 2019.

Later, the duo got married at a temple in the capital city here. The complainant alleged



The accused doctor that Patnaik had shown her certain documents and claimed

that he had registered their marriage with the competent authority. But the documents were later found to be fake ones, she alleged.

Moreover, the accused had not divorced his second wife before marrying the complainant. The victim also alleged that Patnaik has developed illicit relationship with some other women.

The accused is likely to be produced in a local court Sunday, sources said.

Tent house owner killed in Gop

POST NEWS NETWORK

Gop, April 23: Tension ran high in Gop area of Puri district after a proprietor of a tent house was beaten to death by a DJ owner and his staff during a wedding procession at Bedapur-Balikandala village Friday night.

The deceased has been identified as Lipun Pradhan, 22, of Erabanga village who was running a tent house business in the area. His death triggered unrest as angry locals and relatives staged a protest and blocked the Gop-Konark road.

According to police, a heated argument erupted between the accused DJ owner and the victim after a vehicle carrying the DJ equipment during the wedding procession tore a portion of the tent

Irrked villagers resorted to protest and blocked the road by burning tyres while seeking immediate arrest of all the accused and adequate compensation for the victim's family.

Traffic came to a standstill with hundreds of vehicles stranded on both sides



The locals staged a road blockade seeking immediate arrest of the accused

of the road due to the protest. Commuters were stuck for hours and had to go through unwanted problems due to the road blockade.

On being informed, Puri SP Kanwar Vishal Singh and other senior officials reached the spot and convinced the irate villagers to call off the strike. The body was later seized and handed over to family members after autopsy.

The agitation was called off after police assured the victim's family members of compensation and detained one of the accused. A case has been registered in this connection and a manhunt has been

launched to nab the other accused, who absconded soon after the incident.

According to police, a heated argument erupted between the accused DJ owner and the victim after a vehicle carrying the DJ equipment during the wedding procession tore a portion of the tent.

Things took an ugly turn when, in a fit of rage, the DJ owner and his staff mercilessly beat up the victim and also attacked him with sharp-edged weapons. He was rushed to Gop government hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries. "A detailed probe is underway and we will nab the accused soon," SP Singh assured.

Biju Babu's Dakota aircraft to reach Bhubaneswar soon

THE AIRCRAFT IS NOW LYING IN A STATE OF DISREPAIR AT THE NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN KOLKATA



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, April 23: A Dakota aircraft, presumably the same one flown by Biju Patnaik to Java in Indonesia to rescue the country's then Prime Minister Sutan Sjahrir and Vice President Mohammad Hatta July 21, 1947, is expected to be dismantled and taken to Bhubaneswar by the end of this year.

The aircraft is now lying in a state of disrepair at the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International (NSCBI) Airport in Kolkata.

The Odisha government has floated a tender to engage an agency that will dismantle the Dakota and transport it by road to Bhubaneswar where it will be put together and displayed after necessary repairs and a fresh coat of paint at a prominent location.

"The aircraft means a lot to us. Biju Patnaik means a lot to the people of Odisha. The process was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The tendering process is now on and we expect the aircraft to arrive by the end of this year. We have already received necessary clearances from the Directorate General of Commercial Aviation (DGCA) and Airports Authority of India (AAI). Some

security clearances will be required on the ground for the team that dismantles the aircraft as it is parked close to the taxiways of Kolkata airport," a senior official of the Odisha government said.

"The work will also have to be carried out carefully, so as not to disrupt any services at the busy airport. Space for the aircraft has already been selected in Bhubaneswar. We will create a base for it there. Once the portions arrive, some time will be required to carry out structural repairs before reassembly. The aircraft will then be painted," the official added.

Biju Patnaik, father of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, was a towering figure in Indian politics. At 6'2", he was actually an imposing figure. An ace pilot, Biju Patnaik is considered by some as a maverick.

Despite having enrolled with the Royal Indian Air Force, he clandestinely flew Indian freedom fighters from one location to another. He is also said to have dropped leaflets on Indian soldiers of the British Indian Army, asking them to revolt. Later, Biju Patnaik set up Kalinga Airlines with his fleet of Dakotas. This was ultimately merged with Indian Airlines.

"Probably, his greatest moment came in 1947 after the Dutch attempted to recapture Indonesia. Biju Patnaik was

asked by Jawaharlal Nehru to fly to Java and bring out Sjahrir and Hatta so they may inform the world about the situation in their country. Biju Patnaik and his wife Gyan Devi (an accomplished pilot herself) did just that. It is said that the Dutch warned him and said that his aircraft would be shot down. The Dutch had actually shot down a Dakota with a number of Indonesian leaders on board before that. Biju Patnaik is said to have calmly responded that if his aircraft was brought down, no Dutch flights would be able to fly across India safely. The Dutch not only allowed him to land in Java but also leave with Sjahrir and Hatta. Since then, Biju Patnaik became a legend in Indonesia. He was also a personal friend of the country's first president Sukarno," an official in New Delhi said.

"Biju Patnaik refused to accept gifts of land and a palatial building from the Indonesian government. However, the Indonesian government did declare him a 'Bhoomi Putra'. His relationship with Sukarno continued and it was he who named the Indonesian premier's daughter as Megawati Sukarnoputri. It's another matter altogether that Sukarno forgot all this and offered to help Pakistan during the 1965 Indo-Pak War by sending its naval ships to capture the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. India's naval force in that area at that time was negligence while Indonesia had a strong navy with 12 submarines," the official added further.

Biju Babu's Dakota at NSCBI Airport has undergone much wear and tear. In recent times, Cyclone Amphan caused some damage to the outer shell. It is high time that the Dakota gets the respect it deserves.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
Integrated Regional Office, A/3, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar-751 023, Odisha
Telephone: 0674 - 2301213, 2302432, 2301248, 2302452, 2302453 E-mail: roez.bsr-mef@nic.in

No.5-QRC496/2022-BHU 25th January 2022

To
The Addl. Chief Secretary,
Forest & Environment Dept.,
Government of Odisha,
Bhubaneswar-751 001.

Sub: Diversion of 16.463 ha of forest land (12.649 ha in Keonjhar Division and 3.814 ha in Bonai Division) for laying of 20" dia dual pipelines (slurry and water), Power and communication cables from Kalamang Ghoraburuni-Sagasahi Block, Koira Tahasil, Sundargarh District to Beneficiation plant at Dubuna under Barbil Tahasil of Keonjhar District by M/s Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India Ltd. (Formerly known as M/s Essar Steel India Ltd.).

Madam,
I am directed to refer to State Govt, letter No. 10F(Cons)/06/2021-22929/FE&CC dated 28.12.2021 on the above-mentioned subject seeking prior approval of the Ministry of environment, Forest & Climate Change under section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

2. After due consideration of the proposal of the State Government and on the basis of decision of Regional Empowered Committee meeting held on 18.01.2022, the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change hereby conveys 'Stage-I-in-principle' approval for diversion of 16.463 ha of forest land (12.649 ha in Keonjhar Division and 3.814 ha in Bonai Division) for laying of 20" dia dual pipelines (slurry and water), Power and communication cables from Kalamang Ghoraburuni-Sagasahi Block, Koira Tahasil, Sundargarh District to Beneficiation plant at Dubuna under Barbil Tahasil of Keonjhar District by M/s Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India Ltd. (Formerly known as M/s Essar Steel India Ltd.), subject to the fulfillment of the following conditions.

A: Conditions which need to be complied prior to handing over of forest land by the State Forest Department.

- The user agency shall transfer online, the Net Present Value (NPV) of 16.463 ha forest land being diverted under this proposal, as per the Orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 28.03.2008, 24.04.2008 and 09.05.2008 in Writ Petition (Civil) No.202/1995 and the guidelines issued by this Ministry vide its letter No.5-3/2007-FC dated 05.02.2009. The requisite funds shall be transferred through online portal in CAMPA account of the State concerned.
- The identified non-forest land of 16.466 ha for raising compensatory afforestation shall be transferred and mutated in the name of Forest Department and notified as R/P/PF prior to Stage-II approval.
- The land identified for the purpose of Compensatory Afforestation /Addl. C.A. shall be clearly depicted on a Survey of India Topo sheet of 1: 50,000 scale.
- The KML tiles of the area to be diverted and the CA/Addl. CA areas shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal with all requisite details before issuing working permission towards linear projects or submitting compliance report for seeking Stage-II approval, as the case may be.
- The user agency shall transfer the cost of raising and maintaining the compensatory afforestation at the current wage rate in consultation with State Forest Department in the account of CAMPA of the concerned State through online portal. The Scheme may include appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years.
- All the funds received from the user agency under the project shall be transferred/deposited in CAMPA account only through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in>). Amount deposited through other mode will not be accepted as compliance of the Stage-I clearance.
- The cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the user agency with the State Forest Department. The user agency shall explore the possibility of successful transplantation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled and shall ensure that any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department.
- The compliance report of the Stage-I approval shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in>).
- The complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensured by way of prescribed certificates from the concerned District Collector.
- The boundary of the proposed forest land for diversion, shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS co-ordinates.

B: Conditions which need to be strictly complied on field after handing over of forest land to the user agency by the State Forest Department but the compliance in form of undertaking shall be submitted prior to Stage-II approval.

- Legal status of forest land proposed for diversion shall remain unchanged.
- Compensatory afforestation shall be raised over 16.466 ha of non-forest land identified in Plot No.502 & 503(P) of Khata No.67 (AAA) of village Podadihi of Banspal Tahasil under Keonjhar District within three years from the date of Stage-II Clearance and maintained thereafter by the State Forest Department, at the cost of user agency.
- Addl. Compensatory afforestation shall be raised over 40.00 ha of degraded forest land identified in Kalapat RF under Telkoi Range of Keonjhar Forest Division within three years from the date of Stage-II Clearance and maintained thereafter by the State Forest Department, at the cost of user agency.
- The species to be planted in the CA/Addl. CA scheme shall be of native species (same species felled as far as possible) avoiding Teak and exotic species. At least 18 month old seedlings should be planted. Intensive monitoring of the plantation needs to be done and documented using Geo tagging so that the increase of canopy density and survival and growth of plantation can be evaluated at regular intervals.
- At the time of payment of Net Present Value (NPV) at the then prevailing rate, the user agency shall furnish an undertaking to pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
- As proposed by the State Govt, the slurry, water, power and communication cables shall be laid minimum 1.0 meter below the ground with 1 mtr. width and after lying down of the pipeline the ground will be leveled.
- Laying of pipeline should be done simultaneously with digging of trench.
- The user agency shall obtain Environmental Clearance as per the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1980, if applicable.

ix. The user agency shall take adequate safety measures for accidental leakage of slurry, water, power and communication cable pipelines.

x. The user agency shall implement intensive Soil & Moisture Conservation measures along both sides of the proposed pipeline corridor passing through forest area at project cost.

xi. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the user agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas.

xii. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for any activity related to the project work.

xiii. The user agency while executing works, shall not fell any tree or damage forest growth in the surrounding forest area in any manner.

xiv. The layout plan of the proposed forest land shall not be changed without the prior approval of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.

xv. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.

xvi. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other user agency, department or person without the prior approval of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.

xvii. No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused.

xviii. The concerned Divisional Forest Officer, will monitor and take necessary mitigative measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forests in the surrounding area.

xix. The user agency shall submit annual self-monitoring report on compliance of stipulated conditions to the Nodal Officer (FCA) of the State and concerned Integrated Regional Office of this Ministry by the end of March every year.

xx. Any other conditions that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may impose from time to time in the interest of afforestation, conservation and management of flora and fauna in the area, shall be complied by the user agency.

xxi. The State Govt, and user agency shall ensure compliance to provisions of all the Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, NGT Order (s) & Hon'ble Court Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.

3. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in Para 1.21 of Chapter 1 of the Handbook of comprehensive guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as issued by this Ministry's letter No.5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.2019.

4. After receipt of the report on compliance to the conditions stipulated above, from the State Government of Odisha, final/Stage-II approval for diversion of the said forest land under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 will be issued by this Ministry. Transfer of forest land to user agency should not be effected by the State Government of Odisha till final/Stage-II approval for its diversion is issued by the Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change.

5. "The State Govt, or a Senior Officer not below the Rank of a Divisional Forest Officer having jurisdiction over the forest land proposed to be diverted, duly authorized in this behalf by the State Govt, can pass an order for tree cutting and commencement of work of a linear project in forest land for a period of one year. Such order shall be passed only after full realization of funds for compensatory afforestation. Net Present Value (NPV) Wildlife conservation Plan, plantation of dwarf species of medicinal plants, and all other compensatory levies, specified in the Stage-I (in-principle) approval from the User Agency, and where ever applicable, transfer and mutation of non-forest/revenue forest land in favour of State Forest Department" as stipulated in Para 11.2 of Chapter-11 of Handbook of Guidelines issued under F.C. Act, 1980 vide Ministry's letter No.5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.2019.

Yours faithfully,
Sd/-
(Padma Mahanti)
Dy. Inspector General of Forests (C)

Copy to:-
1. The PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Govt. of Odisha, Aranya Bhawan, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar-751023.
2. The Authorized Signatory, M/s Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India Ltd., (Formerly Essar Steel India Ltd.) Udayabata, Paradip, Jagatsinghpur-754142, Odisha.
Sd/-
Dy. Inspector General of Forests (C)

No.5-QRC496/2022-BHU 27th January, 2022

To
The Addl. Chief Secretary,
Forest & Environment Dept.,
Government of Odisha,
Bhubaneswar-751 001.

Sub: Diversion of 6.463 ha of forest land (12.649 ha in Keonjhar Division and 3.814 ha in Bonai Division) for laying of 20" dia dual pipelines (slurry and water), Power and communication cables from Kalamang Ghoraburuni-Sagasahi Block, Koira Tahasil, Sundargarh District to Beneficiation plant at Dubuna under Barbil Tahasil of Keonjhar District by M/s Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India Ltd. (Formerly known as M/s Essar Steel India Ltd.).

Madam,
In continuation to this office in-principle/Stage-I approval letter of even number dated 25.01.2022, I am directed to inform that NPV of the above proposal may be realized from the user agency as per MoEF&CC's letter No.5-3/2011-FC (Vol-I) dated 06.01.2022 & 19.01.2022

Yours faithfully,
Sd/-
(Padma Mahanti)
Dy-Inspector General of Forests (C)

Copy: -
1. Department, Govt. of Odisha, Aranya Bhawan/Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar for kind information and necessary action
2. The Authorized Signatory, M/s Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India Ltd., (Formerly Essar Steel India Ltd.) Udayabata, Paradip, Jagatsinghpur - 754142
Sd/-
Dy. Inspector General of Forests (C)

Only one daily Cov case; 1st time since outbreak

ODISHA'S FIRST COVID PATIENT WAS A STUDENT, WHO HAD RETURNED FROM ITALY, AND HAD SUBSEQUENTLY RECOVERED FROM THE DISEASE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, April 23: Odisha Saturday reported only one fresh Covid-19 case for the first time since the outbreak of the pandemic, a Health department official said.

Thirteen of the 30 districts have turned coronavirus free, the official said.

The development has brought some relief to the medical personnel even as Delhi and several states are reporting a spike in Covid cases.

"For the first time in over two years, Odisha has reported only one Covid case," the official said, adding that the first infection was detected in Bhubaneswar March 16, 2020.

Odisha's first Covid patient was a student, who had returned from Italy, and had subsequently re-



The development has brought some relief to the medical personnel even as Delhi and several states are reporting a spike in Covid cases

covered from the disease.

The state's tally now stands at 12,87,980. The total number of active cases has dropped to 85, while 12,78,718 patients have recovered

from the disease and 9,124 have succumbed to the infection to date. Besides, 53 other Covid patients have died due to comorbidities, he said.

The administration tested 19,500 samples for Covid in the last 24 hours.

Though only one fresh case was detected, Health Services Director Bijay Mohapatra said that the next three weeks will be crucial for Odisha as it has been noted that infections spread to the state a month after the spike in cases in the national capital.

He urged people to maintain all Covid protocols to prevent resurgence in cases in the state. Mohapatra suggested that parents maintain strict vigil on their children who haven't been fully vaccinated. If children exhibit symptoms, they should undergo testing and maintain isolation, he added.

FOUNDATION DAY



Dignitaries unveiled magazines at the 77th foundation day celebration of ICAR-National Rice Research Institute at MKCG Platinum Jubilee Auditorium in Cuttack, Saturday

OP PHOTO

'Democratising urban governance key to transform Bhubaneswar'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 23: Citing the Capital city's improvement in the Ease of Living Index, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Mayor Sulochana Das emphasised on democratising urban governance and requested residents to complement BMC in implementing various projects here.

"The citizens' committees in each ward can play a vital role in identifying the problems and apprising the appropriate authorities. The BMC is taking initiatives to strengthen the committees in all

the 67 wards. The committees should act as guards to ensure proper sanitation, availability of civic facilities and making the city encroachment-free," she said while speaking at a consultation on 'Democratising Urban Governance - A Case of Bhubaneswar' organised by the Centre for Youth and Social Development (CYSD).

Smart City Bhubaneswar has been ranked second after Shimla in the Ease of Living Index-2020 by attracting more and more people from across the state and the country to settle. With this, people's expectations on provision of shel-

April 2022, CYSD



ter, infrastructure, drinking water, sanitation, waste management, space for public utility and market have been increasing.

As citizens' representatives highlighted on City's water-logging and drainage problem, Das

maintained that the BMC is catalysing measures to ensure that all the drains of the city get de-silted before the onset of monsoon. She urged people to cooperate in waste management process conducted by the BMC, monitor the de-siltation process in their areas and apprise the BMC immediately if they observe any loophole.

According to CYSD co-founder Jagadananda, as per the 74th Constitution Amendment Act (CAA), the urban local bodies are provided a uniform charter to function as effective democratic units of local self-government. Besides, constitution of the

Finance Commission under Article 243-A provided a good opportunity to the ULBs to receive various financial grants from central and state finance commissions to operate their functions with autonomy.

Jagadananda further added that BMC is taking a lot of initiatives on health and sanitation, slum development, disaster management, city beautification, citizen's services, solid waste management, and underground sewage system among others. However, the effectiveness of these services requires citizens' participation, awareness and monitoring.

Sundargarh women taste success at Utkal Kitchen



Earlier, we used to make food only for our families. Now we cook for various people and we are very happy to serve them. The initiative has helped ensure financial security for our families

LILY SUNANI | SAI SHRADHA WSHG PRESIDENT

These women were limited to making pickle, papad and badi. Now they are engaged in various unconventional and semi-technical fields. The operation of Utkal Kitchen in Sundargarh has created a new livelihood opportunity for them

BHAIRAB SINGH PATEL | PROJECT DIRECTOR, DISTRICT RURAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 23: Sundargarh administration's initiative 'Utkal Kitchen' has proved to be a double advantage in the district by providing hygienic food at affordable prices to the public while achieving livelihood for women.

Utkal Kitchen augments livelihood of Women Self Help Groups (WSHGs) and is operated under the Odisha Livelihoods Mission (OLM) of the state government. This modern restaurant, fully managed by Mission Shakti women, meets the daily fooding needs of the government officials and visitors to the block headquarters.

The first Utkal Kitchen which began in July 2021 became operational at Kuarmunda block headquarters of Sundargarh. The kitchen run by Sai Shradha WSHG members prepares breakfast, lunch, tea, coffee and snacks. The women also prepare dinner as per demand. The

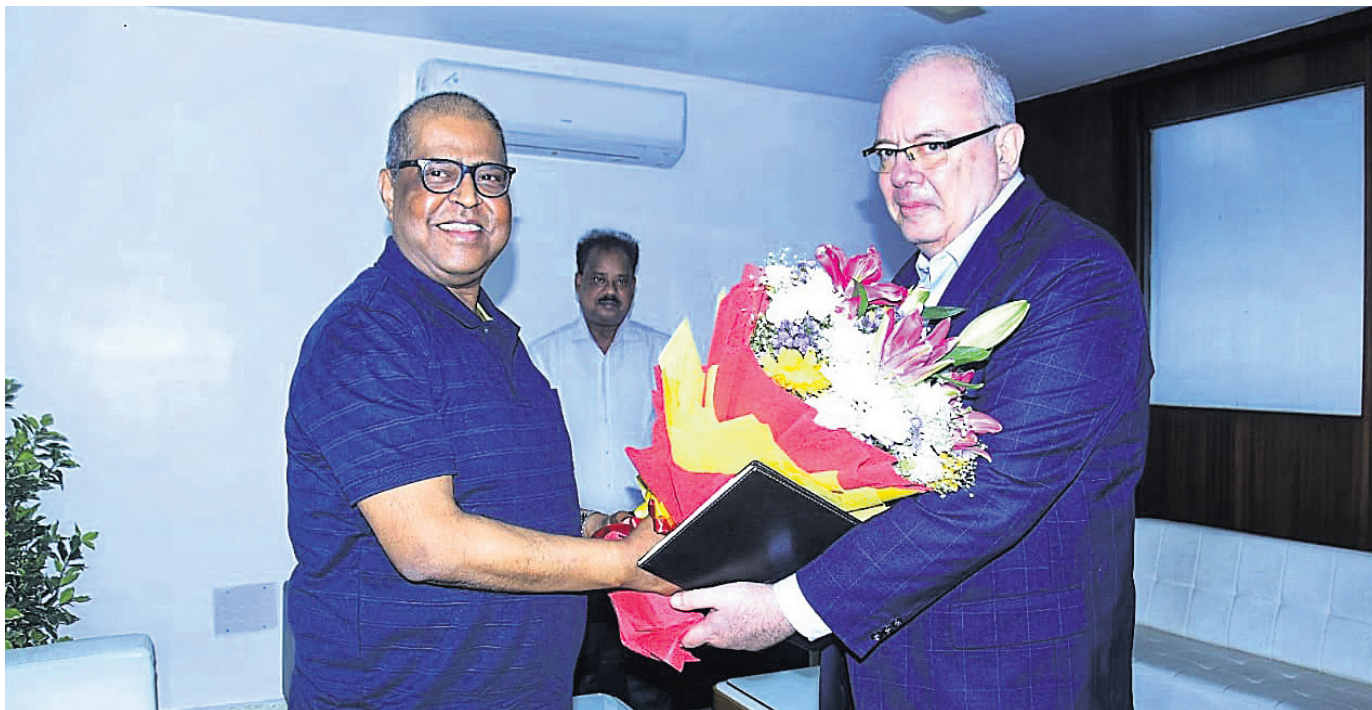
restaurant is open from Monday to Saturday, 8 am to 7 pm. Snacks like vada, aloochoop, idli, upma etc are served. At lunch, rice, dal, curry, chips, fries, saag, fish, chicken and egg etc are prepared here.

The Kuarmunda kitchen engages eight to ten WSHG members while serving 100-150 customers daily. The administration has now planned to open such units in the remaining 16 blocks with support of District Mineral Foundation (DMF), Sundargarh, to ensure livelihood to over 150 women and touch 2,000-2,500 people every day.

Moreover, various food products, snacks and bakery items produced by local WSHGs are being sold here too. Eggs from poultry clusters of the block are supplied to this restaurant, establishing a linkage for sale of various products of local women.

Odisha Mineral Bearing Areas Development Corporation (OM-BADC) financially supports the Kuarmunda unit of Utkal Kitchen.

URUGUAY AMBASSADOR MEETS SOA FP



Ambassador of Uruguay to India Alberto A Guani Mah on Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) Founder President Manojranjan Nayak in Bhubaneswar, Saturday. They discussed matters of mutual interest. SOA Director Mahendra Prasad too was present during the meeting. Guani had come to address the valedictory ceremony of the two-day International Conference on 'Trends and Disruptions in Hospitality and Tourism' organised by the School of Hotel Management

OP PHOTO

OSIC logs 40% growth despite Covid pandemic

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 23: Despite the pandemic, the Odisha Small Industries Corporation (OSIC) showed a 40 per cent increase over the last year, registering a turnover of ₹716.11 crore and earning profit worth ₹8.83 crore.

Corporation Chairman Chinmay Kumar Sahoo handed over ₹1.40 crore dividend cheque to the state government through Chief Secretary with the virtual presence of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and 5T Secretary VK Pandian after it was recommended by the corporation's management.

It can be mentioned that the corporation witnessed the growth after bringing fundamental changes in business by providing marketing support. The corpora-

tion has expanded its business after taking various projects in the field of infrastructural development in transformation of schools, power supply to the rural areas through various flagship projects of state government under the supervision of 5T department.

Sources said that the corporation now aims to increase the business from ₹260 crore of last financial year to ₹500 crore in next financial year through consortium marketing.

Along with providing wide platform to create market for small and medium enterprises, the corporation has aimed to achieve ₹1,000 crore turnover in next two years.

The corporation has also planned to provide handholding support to 1,000 small and medium enterprises and 1,000 start ups.

IIM-C publishes case study on SAI Int'l founder

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 23: The Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta (IIM Calcutta), has published a case study on the life of SAI International Founder-Chairman late Bijaya Kumar Sahoo and the journey of SAI International.

The case study 'SAI International School: In Pursuit of Academic Happiness' was published March 17, 2022, on the official website of IIM Calcutta. It will be taught to all management students who attend the MBA program at the prestigious institution. One of Asia's finest management institutions, IIM Calcutta, has included this case within their core curriculum of management to teach the country's finest leaders the concept of SAI, the art of entrepreneurship, and education management.

The study was conducted by Aditi Bhutoria, Assistant Professor, Public Policy and Management Group along with Bhaswati Mukhopadhyay from IIM Calcutta. The thesis states that happiness and education not only can but should co-exist and must be taken seriously by everyone concerned about preparing children and young adults to be better 'leaders of tomorrow'.

"With education, we bring in new perspectives in the life of the children by exploring and enhancing their infinite possibilities," Bijaya Kumar Sahoo had once said as a believer in education being fundamental to the happiness of an individual. For his immense contribution to education in East India, Today, even after he has left this world, his work continues to be celebrated across India. "We are extremely humbled and



happy that IIM Calcutta published our story as a 35-page case study which will be taught to MBA students studying there, in order to impart valuable entrepreneurship lessons to the students. I am sure students will gain an insight into building an environment of happiness in a school," said Silpi Sahoo, Chairperson of the SAI International Education Group.

'SAI International School: In Pursuit of Academic Happiness' is a revolutionary case study that speaks volumes about the affiliations between education & happiness. This thesis explores what we ought to teach if we take happiness seriously as an aim of education. If educators were to accept its premise and be guided by its arguments, those involved in educating children and youth would have to dramatically rethink what they need to accomplish with their students; and restructure what they do in classrooms, not only the content but also the interactions they have with students.

The case study has been successfully published under the thematic group of entrepreneurship. It is available for purchase and download on the IIM Calcutta website <https://www.iimcal.ac.in/case-studies-lists#accordion-2>.

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit before Executive Magistrate, Cuttack Sadar, I have changed my name from Snehasarala Routray to Sneham S. Routray. Henceforth I shall be known as Sneham S. Routray for all purposes.

By virtue of an affidavit before Notary, Bhubaneswar I have changed my name from Tanjum Taranum Nishan to Tanjum Neshan for all purpose.

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SHORT TAKES

MEDICO'S DEATH

Parents allege murder

POLICE START PROBE, SEIZE DIARY FROM HIS HOSTEL ROOM AT BBMCH



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, April 23: In a major development in medico Nishant Kumar's death at Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital (BBMCH) in Bolangir, his parents and kin Saturday alleged that he was murdered after days of ragging. Nishant fell off a five-storied hostel building, Friday. His death is suspected to be a suicide case.

Meanwhile, police have started an investigation with a scientific team, Saturday. Nishant Kumar's parents and his two uncles Saturday reached Bolangir and alleged that he was tortured physically and mentally by senior students and later murdered.

"My son was a genius and he had cleared NEET in the first attempt without taking any coaching. He had joined college just 10 days back. But, he was subjected to ragging and tortured by the seniors. He was not able to concentrate on

his studies due to persistent ragging. Whenever I told him to report the matter to the authorities concerned, he explained me saying that the seniors would torture him more if he complains against them," Nishant's mother alleged.

Meanwhile, a scientific team Saturday swung into action and began the investigation into the matter. Sadar SDPO Tofan Bag, Sadar IIC Sashikant Sahu and Town IIC Priyanka Routroy examined Nishant's hostel room no-312 and collected some documents, a diary and other articles for verification.

It is pertinent to mention here that Nishant Kumar, 19, a first-year MBBS student from Karnal in Haryana, had taken admission in BBMCH and just joined the hostel 10 days back. He was residing alone in Room-312 of the New Boys' Hostel.

While police are yet to ascertain the exact reason for Kumar's death, rumours of him commit-

ting suicide by jumping off the building due to ragging have been doing rounds. According to sources, after having his lunch April 22, Kumar had gone to the roof of the hostel. However, it is not clear what happened on the roof and how he fell off. He was immediately rescued and rushed to the hospital, where the doctors declared him dead upon arrival. On the other hand, Sabita Mohapatra, the Dean of the Medical College, has refuted the allegations of ragging.

"There is no chance of ragging on the hostel premises. We have set up a 10-member anti-ragging committee and have an anti-ragging squad. Every day a group of faculty visits the boys' and girls' hostels to monitor situation in the hostel rooms of first-year students

SABITA MOHAPATRA I
DEAN OF THE BBMCH

ting suicide by jumping off the building due to ragging have been doing rounds.

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"There is no chance of ragging on the hostel premises. We have set up a 10-member anti-ragging committee. We also have an anti-ragging squad. Every day a group of faculty visits the boys' and girls' hostels for monitoring the situation in hostel rooms of first-year students," Mohapatra said.

"Moreover, the squads keep track of any kind of ragging and keep me informed. I haven't received any complaint regarding any ragging recently," she added.

BUDDING SCIENTIST



A girl explains her project to Collector Siddharth Shankar Swain at a science exhibition held on the Angul High School premises

15 students taken ill, 3 faint

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sajanagad, April 23: At least 15 students fell sick while three girls among them fainted while participating in a drill session on the Odisha Adarsh Vidyalaya premises at Jamudiha panchayat under Nilagiri block of Balasore district, Saturday.

The affected girls were identified as Harapriya Patra, Jyotsharani Behera and Kabita Jena. Two of them are in Class-IX while another is a student of Class-VIII.

Over 200 students were participating in the drill session on the school premises. School authorities immediately rushed the sick girls to Nilagiri hospital where they received preliminary treatment, and later shifted to the district head-



OP PHOTO

quarters hospital for advanced treatment. Contacted, headmaster Karunakar Panda rejected the charges stating that the girls became unconscious not because of drill but due to strenuous travelling on empty stomach from distant places since morning. The students developed acidity due to an empty stomach for which they fell unconscious.

Locals, however, spoke in contrast stating that the reason behind their

sickness is the unhygienic food served at the private hostels. Many students also come cycling from a distance of over 10 km.

They alleged that the hostel works on the school premises have been completed but the authorities are yet to make it functional and accommodate the students. As a result, students coming from far-off places are forced to reside in some private hostels functioning around the schools.

Minor raped, accused held

Barbil: A minor girl was allegedly raped by an elderly person in Barbil area of Keonjhar district. Police registered a case of rape and arrested the 67-year old Krishna Prasad Keshari of Sadhu Singh hutting. Reports said, a 10-year old girl was out to pass the call of nature in the afternoon Friday. However, she did not return home. Her family members searched for her and found her naked and unconscious near the house of the accused Krishna. She was immediately rushed to the Barbil Community health centre and later shifted to the district headquarters hospital in Keonjhar as her condition turned critical. Her family members lodged an FIR with police Saturday, alleging that her dress was torn off, she was beaten and raped.

Brown sugar seized; 2 arrested

Rupsa: Police Saturday seized 42 gram of brown sugar worth Rs 4.2 lakh and arrested two peddlers from the Haldiapada bypass bridge on National Highway-60 under Sadar block in Balasore district. The accused were identified as Sk Rasko of Ramachandrapur area and Prafulla Das of Samanathpur. The two peddlers were waiting for their customers when police raided the place and arrested them. A case was registered in this connection and the accused were produced in court. But their bail pleas were rejected by the court.

Tusker tramples man to death

Anandapur: A jumbo trampled an elderly man to death at Naranapur village near Nua Baripal reserve forest under Anandapur sub-division in Keonjhar district Saturday. The deceased was identified as Dusanan Jena. According to reports, Jena along with other fellow villagers had gone to collect firewood Saturday morning. Meanwhile, they came across a tusker in the reserve forest. The tusker attacked Jena while others managed to run away. The tusker trampled him to death.

Mob vandalises Collector's vehicle

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, April 23: Mayurbhanj Collector Vineet Bhardwaj had a close shave after a group of villagers vandalised his official vehicle and pelted stones at him over construction of a new building of Bhagabanpur panchayat under Kuliiana block, Saturday.

SP Rishikesh Dnyandeo Khilari rushed to the spot with forces and rescued the Collector.

Prohibitory orders under Section-144 were clamped and three sections of police forces were deployed in the area.

The state panchayatiraj department had halted the construction of the office building while public representatives had moved the Orissa High Court against it. The row has been continuing for the last 20 years.

However, the construction work resumed recently after the court order. Opposing the order, residents swarmed to the worksite and ransacked the ongoing construction work. They even assaulted the work-in-charge. Later, hundreds of men and women of five wards in Nuagaon area staged a road blockade over the highhandedness.

Tehsildar Umesh Chandra Ojha tried to placate the people but they refused to yield.

On the other hand, residents of Bhagabanpur area staged a road blockade and demonstration at Souri Square on National Highway-

CONTROVERSY OVER PANCHAYAT BUILDING



18 from 1 pm.

Later, Kuliiana BDO Debashis Mohapatra and IIC Krushna Chandra Jani assured the people to convene a meeting of both the groups April 26 to find a solution.

Meanwhile, the Collector who was on his way to Bangiriposi from Baripada learnt about the road blockade. His vehicle took a detour through Kucheji village. There the people of Nuagaon who were blocking the road near the Dola Mandap tried to detain his vehicle. The vehicle went little ahead and stopped when the agitating people surrounded the vehicle and demanded to resolve the problems of the panchayat.

They demanded the Collector to come out of his vehicle. They flew into a rage when he did not step out. They heckled his personal security officer (PSO) and snatched away his licensed gun. Later, they returned the gun on demand by the PSO, and pelted stones at the official vehicle and damaged it.

Robbers' gang busted; 18 held in Kendrapara

AGENCIES

Kendrapara, April 23: An inter-district robbers' gang was busted in Kendrapara district Saturday with the arrest of 18 people, police said.

Those arrested are wanted in over 100 cases, they said.

They used to target houses located in secluded places, and families living without adult male



members, said Sub-Divisional Police Officer Rajib Lochan Panda.

Around 145 gm of gold, 300 gm of silver, Rs 90,000 in cash, two pis-

tols, ammunition, swords, two motorcycles and a car were seized from them, he said.

The gang was busted after peo-

ple of Kakatpur village in Tantiapal marine police station area foiled a robbery bid recently and caught two members of the gang, Panda said.

After interrogation of the duo, the remaining members of the gang were arrested, he added.

Prima facie evidence suggests that the gang was involved in robbery cases in Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Bhadrak and Puri districts, the officer said.

Forest protection assistant shot at by poachers, critical

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, April 23: A forest protection assistant was left battling for life after he was shot at by unidentified poachers at Bhanjabasa area of Simlipal Tiger Reserve in Mayurbhanj district on the night of April 21.

He has been identified as Sunaram Singh. Sunaram along with six forest guards had gone for patrolling and came face to face with a few poachers who were setting the forest on fire. On the fear of being arrested, the poachers opened fire at the patrol team and fled the spot taking advantage of the darkness.

Sunaram sustained more than three bullets on his thighs and was grievously injured. Forest officials rushed him to Udala community health centre (CHC). After preliminary treatment, he was shifted to Baripada-based PRM Medical College and Hospital. A case has been registered in this connection and manhunt to nab the poachers is launched, said Dukura ranger Prasant Kumar Sahu said.

Notably, the forest department has deployed many forest guards, protection assistants and trained dogs to curb forest fires and poaching. Sunaram is one of the many protection assistants deployed in the STR.

State's 1st jumbo overpass in Kapilash soon

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, April 23: To ensure safe movement of wild elephants across railway tracks and ward off any fatal mishap threatening them, an animal overpass will come up in the Kapilash wildlife sanctuary of Dhenkanal district.

This underpass will be first of its kind in the state. This was informed by a forest official here, Saturday.

"An elephant overpass will come up at Compartment No-1 in Kapilash Wildlife Sanctuary close to railway tracks of Joranda station. Plans are now afoot for an expansion of the existing railway infrastructure. Hence, it has also been decided to construct the animal overpass. The National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) had given its nod to a 100-metre-long animal overpass in December, 2021," Dhenkanal divisional forest officer (DFO) Prakash Chand Gogineni stated.

Structural design of the overpass project and its construction site will be finalised soon by a joint team of officials from the Forest and Railway de-



partments. It was also decided that the construction work will be executed by the Railway department, the DFO informed. "Its design is likely to be finalised within next three to four months and it will take two years for project completion," the DFO added.

The pilot overpass project will cover a large patch of land stretching from Rajathagarh railway station in Cuttack up to the Joranda Road railway station of Gobindapur in Dhenkanal, Gogineni clarified. According to another official, a sur-

vey work for the country's first ever pilot project to safeguard wildlife has already been done. Another such pilot project is also to come up in a reserve forest of Bihar.

As per expansion plans, the proposed overpass project in the Kapilash sanctuary will be of four lanes with two up and two down tracks.

Reacting to the decision, environmentalist Sishir Satpathy said, "It is certainly a welcome step and the authorities concerned should identify more sensitive elephant corridors in

Dhenkanal and the other districts where overpasses can be constructed to protect the wildlife."

It is pertinent to mention, the sanctuary spreads from Dhenkanal up to Khuntuni under Athagarh forest division of Cuttack. Bhubaneswar-Dhenkanal-Talcher-Angul-Sambalpur railway line passes through the reserve forest. However, herds of the pachyderms entering into the Kapilash sanctuary from Chandaka through Athagarh forest division and the vice versa often face problems leading to their deaths at times.

Jumbo herds have to often cross the railway tracks in the corridor areas of Athagarh forest division, Ranabania and the Kapilash wildlife sanctuary.

Environmentalists opined that the jumbo overpass would play a crucial role in protecting the animals from accidents on the railway tracks.

In order to curb the elephant casualties due to train accidents, the state government has plans to erect iron barriers near railway tracks at sensitive spots for safety of the animals.

यूनियन बँक Union Bank of India		REGIONAL OFFICE: CUTTACK		POSSESSION NOTICE	
M-14, Baramunda Housing Board Colony, Bhubaneswar- 751003		M-14, Baramunda Housing Board Colony, Bhubaneswar- 751003		(For Immovable Property)	
[RULE 8(1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES - 2002]					
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India, Concerned Branches under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices calling upon the Borrowers/Guarantors in loan A/c mentioned below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice plus interest & expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules. The Borrowers/Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Union Bank of India, Concerned Branches for an amount mentioned below with interest thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to the Borrower to redeem the secured assets.					
BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrowers/Guarantors	Liabilities due as per Notice (in ₹)	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession	Description of Immovable Properties		
DHENKANAL UBI BRANCH/ 1) Mr. Babuli Behera, S/o.: Sura Behera, At: Chainpur Patna, P.O.: Gadasila, Dhenkanal Sadar, Dist.: Dhenkanal-759025, 2) Mrs. Kalpana Behera, W/o.: Babuli Behera, At: Chainpur Patna, P.O.: Gadasila, Dhenkanal Sadar, Dist.: Dhenkanal-759025	₹5,62,345.85 as on 30.11.2021 with further interest, cost & expenses	31.01.2022 / 21.04.2022	EMD of Land & Building at Plot No.: 101/249, Mutation Khata No.: 20/70, Area: Ac.0.040 Dec., at Mouza: Chainpur Patna, Tahasil: Dhenkanal Sadar, Dist.: Dhenkanal in the name of Shri Babuli Behera		
DHENKANAL UBI BRANCH/ 1) Pradip Kumar Pattnaik, S/o.: Sahananda Pattnaik, Quarter No.: B-35, Bhagirathi Vihar, Gudia Nali, Dhenkanal-759001, 2) Bhagyalaxmi Pattnaik, W/o.: Sri Pradip Kumar Pattnaik, Quarter No.: B-35, Bhagirathi Vihar, Gudia Nali, Dhenkanal-759001, 3) Mr. Saroj Kumar Pattnaik (Guarantor), At: Deula Sahi, Dhenkanal, Dist.: Dhenkanal-759001	₹3,00,877.67 as on 30.11.2021 with further interest, cost & expenses	31.01.2022 / 21.04.2022	EM of Land & Building at Plot No.: 424/1447, Khata No.: 387/125, Mouza: Sanasathia Batia, P.S.: Dhenkanal Sadar, Dist.: Dhenkanal in the name of Bhagyalaxmi Pattnaik		
JAGATSINGHPUR e-AB BRANCH/ Borrower: M/s. Nigam Store, Prop.: Mr. Sudarsan Jena, S/o.: Pitabas Jena, At: Dighi, P.O.: Sithalo, P.S.: Niali, Dist.: Cuttack, PIN-754294 / Guarantor: Ugrasen Jena, S/o.: Mayadhar Jena, At: Dighi, P.O.: Sithalo, P.S.: Niali, Dist.: Cuttack, PIN-754294	₹16,57,005.63 as on 01.02.2022 with further interest, cost & expenses	03.02.2022 / 19.04.2022	EMD of Land and Building over Plot No.: 2755/3208, 2756/3209, under Khata No.: 598/43 situated at Village: Dighi, P.O.: Sithalo, P.S.: Niali, Mouza: Dighi, Dist.: Cuttack of Area: Ac.0.250 Dec. and EMD of Plot No.: 115/3212, under Khata No.: 598/66, at Mouza: Dighi, P.O.: Sithalo, P.S.: Niali, Dist.: Cuttack of Area: Ac.0.080 Dec., in the name of Sudarsan Jena, S/o.: Pitabas Jena and Ugrasen Jena, S/o.: Mayadhar Jena		
JAGATSINGHPUR UBI BRANCH / Borrower: M/s. Taaz Traders, Prop: Malka Taranum, W/o.: Late Taaz Uddin Noorani, Representing the Estate of Taaz Uddin Noorani, At: Talapatka, P.O.: Anakhia, P.S.: Biridi, Dist.: Jagatsinghpur, Odisha, PIN-754102	₹9,80,301.35 as on 31.01.2022 with further interest, cost & expenses	04.02.2022 / 19.04.2022	All that part and parcel of immovable property consisting of Plot No.: 417 of Khata No.: 193/17, Area: Ac.0.06 Dec., Mouza/Village: Talapatka, Tahasil: Biridi, Total extent of Ac.0.06 Dec. or 2613.6 sq.ft., situated at Talapatka, P.S.: Biridi, P.O./Dist.: Jagatsinghpur, Odisha-754103, in the name of Taaz Uddin Nurani		
JAGATSINGHPUR UBI BRANCH / Borrower: M/s. New Umasankar Jewellers, Prop.: Mr. Sarada Prasad Sahoo, S/o.: Niranjan Sahoo, At: Mukundapur, Sipi, P.O./P.S./Dist.: Jagatsinghpur, Odisha, PIN-754103 / Guarantor: Mr. Manasa Ranjan Sahoo, S/o.: Niranjan Sahoo, At: Mukundapur, Sipi, P.O./P.S./Dist.: Jagatsinghpur, Odisha, PIN-754103	₹9,77,797.69 as on 28.12.2021 with further interest, cost & expenses	17.01.2022 / 19.04.2022	All that part and parcel of immovable property consisting of Plot No.: 2258 of Khata No.: 709, Area: Ac.0.06 Dec. of Mouza/Village: Mukundapur, Tahasil: Jagatsinghpur, Total extent of Ac.0.06 or 2613.6 sq.ft., situated at Mukundapur, P.O.: Jagatsinghpur, P.S.: Jagatsinghpur, Odisha-754103		
ANGUL e-CB BRANCH/ Borrower: Mr. Prafulla Kumar Pattanaik, S/o.: Damburudhar Pattanaik, TBT/05, Nalco Nagar, Nalco, Angul, Odisha-759145 / Guarantor: Smt. Sucharita Rana, W/o.: Pramod Kumar Pattanaik, Address-1: Plot No.: 6276/9379, Khata No.: 932/1468, Kumdanda, Angul-759122, Address-2: TBT/01, Nalco Nagar, Angul, Odisha- 759145	₹29,01,671.39 as on 30.09.2022 with further interest, cost & expenses	23.11.2021 / 21.04.2022	All that part and parcel of immovable property consisting of Khata No.: 932/1468, Plot No.: 6276/9379, Area: Ac.0.45Dec., Village/Mouza: Kumdanda, P.S.: Angul, Dist.: Angul, Standing in the name of Smt. Sucharita Rana, Bounded by North: Narayan Swain, South: Road, East: Kalyani Banarjee, West: Malaya Swain		
Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 22.04.2022 Sd/- Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India					

“ We must watch over our thoughts. A bad thought is the most dangerous of thieves. **”**
THE MOTHER



Why Hindu Rashtra?

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh was founded in 1925 and in three years will be 100. Some have felt, especially after the events since 2019, that 2025 will herald the transition of India to a Hindu Rashtra. I explored what that could possibly mean in a previous book and am taking up some aspects of that here.

A nation can be secular; Hindu Rashtra, Islamic State or any other thing based on the law. It is the laws that define the nature of the State. Today India is governed through a Constitution which was adopted after Independence, and a set of criminal laws codified in the 19th century. These laws, the Indian Penal Code, came in 1860 and have remained more or less intact across South Asia. To understand what changes can come here we must first try to understand what the term Hindu Rashtra means.

To my mind it could mean one of two things. The first is that it is an interpretation of the Hindu texts and the construction of a State and laws based on these texts. The problem here, as Ambedkar has examined in his classic essay 'Annihilation of Caste', is that these texts are not applicable. Enforcing the caste theory in law is not possible in our time, for no reason other than the fact that the majority of Hindus would be disadvantaged by this. It is for this reason that Nepal was an incomplete Hindu Rashtra, which it was till 2008. In the kingdom of Nepal executive authority flowed from a Kshatriya king, as prescribed in the Manu Smriti, and he was advised by a Brahmin, called the Mool Purohit or Bada Gurujyu, in his court. But no other part of the caste framework was applied, because it could not be. So we can rule out a Hindu Rashtra in India where only those born Kshatriya will rule us advised by Brahmins and the rest of us have few or no rights.

The other form Hindu Rashtra could take would be to be exclusionary. This is the form that many religious States, including Pakistan, have taken. In Pakistan no non-Muslim can become prime minister by law (article 91). This was also the case for the president (article 41), which is important because Pakistan's president had the power to dismiss parliament, which was not something the Indian president had.

So a Hindu Rashtra of this type can mandate by law that no non-Hindu can become prime minister or chief minister, and only Hindus can hold certain offices. We should consider here that though we have no such law, there is no Muslim chief minister in this country, that no Muslim has ever served a full 5 year term as CM in any state besides Kashmir, and of course there has never been a Muslim prime minister in India.

This type of Hindu Rashtra can also adopt some of the other discriminatory aspects against its religious minorities that States like Pakistan have chosen. For instance, non-Muslims vote in separate electorates, and the apostatised community of Ahmadis cannot call themselves Muslims and have no religious freedom. The BJP MP Subramanian Swamy has proposed that Muslims be disenfranchised, meaning lose their right to vote.

Germany in the 1930s adopted a set of laws that prevented inter-marriage between communities. In India, after 2018, seven BJP states have passed laws that also criminalise marriage between Muslims and Hindus. German laws excluded Jews from citizenship, and India has of course adopted the CAA excluding Muslims and the home minister has promised the NRC, which also targets what he calls 'termites'.

Many of the things that India has done especially since 2019, with targeted laws and policy on namaz, hijab, beef, bulldozer, talaq and so on would also be something that we can see in an exclusionary Hindu Rashtra.

So the question is, if we have already excluded Muslims from political office by default, and if we are already harassing them daily through laws, like Nazi Germany did and like Pakistan did, then why do we need a Hindu Rashtra or a change from the present set of laws? My book concluded that we did not. That the present Constitution and laws give Hindus enough freedom to apply discrimination against non-Hindus legally, while still pretending to be pluralist, democratic and secular. There appears to be no particular advantage or benefit that we get in officially changing our Constitutional and legal State from secular to Hindu Rashtra.

Of course we can still do it because it can give us pride and we can humiliate Muslims further and tell them they have no stake in India. Some have written that many Muslims might prefer this honesty rather than be marginalised through hypocrisy as they have been done.

Whatever we decide, it will interest the world. The era of religious States is over and no new ones of significance have been founded in the 21st century. Many States founded on religion have reversed their discriminatory laws because birth and faith are too narrow a frame to view individuals through. While for citizens this period may be traumatic, and it is for me the worst period of my life, for writers it is rich with material as a nation once admired around the world is eating itself alive.



Aakar Patel

The present Constitution and laws give Hindus enough freedom to apply discrimination against non-Hindus legally, while still pretending to be pluralist, democratic and secular



NC Bipindra

MANY SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES, WHICH ARE UNABLE TO ACQUIRE EXPENSIVE MILITARY TECHNOLOGY FROM OTHER RELIABLE SOURCES, PROCURE SEEMINGLY INEXPENSIVE WEAPONS AND SYSTEMS FROM CHINA

Of late, China has raised security concerns in the Indian Ocean region with strategic military sales like submarines to Bangladesh and Pakistan. China contends to be a key defence exporter to many Asian and Southeast Asian countries in India's neighbourhood. Many of these countries, who are unable to acquire expensive military technology from other reliable sources, procure seemingly inexpensive weapons and systems from the Chinese market. To this effect, the Bangladesh military imported two Type-035G submarines of 1970s vintage and Type-053H frigates from China, with its import dependence on Chinese hardware touching nearing 85%.

Myanmar, after the military coup in 2021 and sanctions by the West, has turned towards China for procuring majority of its military hardware. Pakistan is shifting its reliance to cheap Chinese hardware with its procurement of Yuan class submarines, J-10/JF-17 fighter's aircraft and Type-054 stealth warships. Sri Lanka has been given warships and military aircraft (Harbins, J-7) in recent times. Nepal is also being aggressively pursued by China in the recent years for procuring Chinese military hardware with NPR 2.5 billion grant for the Nepalese Army.

Chinese development of overseas bases in the region is also bothering Indian military planners. Commissioning of the Djibouti military base in 2017, development of Gwadar port in Pakistan and taking over of Hambantota port in Sri Lanka gives them a credible infrastructure to position military assets in the region. The new entrant in this club is Pekua port in Bangladesh. China plans to develop this port and offer it for berthing and maintenance of submarines given to Bangladesh. However, its real intent might be to establish a transit base for its nuclear submarines, which are likely to increase their forays in the Indian Ocean region in the future. Hence, if we envisage a conflict with China or our neighbouring

FOCUS CHINESE ARMS

BUYERS BEWARE!



The lack of quality of military hardware from China is increasingly coming under scanner and has brought to fore the substandard capabilities being sold to economically weaker countries in the garb of supporting them

countries, we can anticipate that the stance of these countries will be largely driven by Chinese interest in the region.

However, everything is not as rosy for Beijing's customers as it seems. They, at their own peril, do not factor the lifecycle costs and reliability factors of Chinese products. Poor quality and workmanship of Chinese military weapons and systems has turned out to be the bane for its clients. Countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Nepal have found this out the hard way.

Thai PM Prayut Chan-o-cha April 4 threatened to cancel a deal for purchase of Chinese S26T Yuan Class submarines, unless Beijing includes the German-made MTU 396 engine. Beijing has supposedly requested modification in the contract to replace German engines with Chinese MWM 620 engines. Considering the poor reputation related to anything Chinese made, the Thai don't appear willing to go ahead with the deal unless their demands are met.

Earlier in January, Nepal Airlines had grounded six Chinese-made aircraft, saying that it was proving to be unaffordable to fly them. These sub-standard planes delivered extremely poor serviceability rates and required heavy maintenance. The loan from China for these aircraft has, however, continued to haunt the airlines. Dues worth \$35.1 million, at a steep

interest rate along with a service charge and management expenses, are still pending. Beijing had gifted two 1970s era Ming class Type-035G submarines to Bangladesh valued at \$100-million each in 2017. These were later re-inducted by the Bangladesh Navy as BNS Nobojatra and BNS Joyjatra. However, both the platforms have been lying idle due to technical issues and could not be used as intended. The year 2020, witnessed China gifting Dhaka with two Chinese 053H3 frigates - BNS Umar Farooq and BNS Abu Ubaidah. According to sources, the Type-053H3 frigates gifted to the Bangladesh Navy have defects in fire control system as well as in the helicopter fuelling and defueling system. Defects have also been discovered in the gyro compass.

With regard to naval platforms built by China Shipbuilding and Offshore International Co. Ltd., issues that have surfaced are poor metallurgy, lack of spare part support, machinery failure, defective radars and poor armaments. Defects have also been detected in basic trainer aircraft and K-8 aircraft for the Bangladesh Air Force and short-range air defence system for the Bangladesh Army.

Pakistan, despite being closest to Beijing, has also faced similar issues. Pakistan armed forces, which have been traditionally used to superior quality products made in the West, had to deal with

defective military equipment supplied by China. The Chinese-supplied WLIIUCAVs were grounded within days of induction into the PAF due to serious defects. A similar story has emerged with the joint production JF-17 fighters.

As per reports, approximately 40 aircraft are not airworthy due to a shortage of spare parts and the RD-93 engine have reportedly experienced frequent cracks in guide vanes, exhaust nozzles, and flame stabilizers. The Chinese are desperately trying to replace the existing engine with the Chinese made WS-13 engines. However, when these will be made available to Pakistan remains the moot issue. Similar is the case with the SAM system on the Zulfiqar class frigate procured through a multi-million-dollar loan from the Chinese EXIM Bank. The system, itself a clone of the French Crotale system, has been plagued with serviceability issues leading to the Pakistan Navy turning to European suppliers for future inductions. Other cases of supply of poor-quality drones, armoured personnel carriers, missiles and even warships across the globe are well documented. In some cases, loss of lives due to malfunctioning equipment has also been reported. The lack of quality of military hardware from China is increasingly coming under scanner and has brought to fore the substandard capabilities being sold to economically weaker countries in the garb of supporting them.

The world over, reliability and quality of defence equipment are known as the true mark of a nation's technology, manufacturing ability and maintenance practices. One would have expected Chinese defence manufacturers to have taken this onboard as an inviolable fundamental. If one is to believe open-source narratives, here too China seems to have missed the mark, opting for quantity and quick delivery over quality. Buyers beware!

The writer is Chairman, Law and Society Alliance, a New Delhi-based think-tank.

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SPECTRUM PANDEMIC

Applying COVID blueprint to cholera

Since COVID-19 engulfed the world two years ago, 'unprecedented' has become something of a buzzword. But while the coronavirus has posed unique challenges at a time of deep global interconnectedness, pandemics are nothing new. COVID is not even the only one we are currently experiencing. In much of the developing world, cholera outbreaks are proliferating. Whereas SARS-CoV-2 virus is 'novel,' cholera - a waterborne diarrheal disease caused by the bacteria Vibrio cholerae - is ancient, as is its history of widespread devastation. The current cholera pandemic is world's seventh since early nineteenth century.

Despite their apparent differences, COVID-19 and cholera have much in common. Both are at least partly controllable by vaccination, and both spread most easily in crowded, unsanitary environments. Ensuring adequate shelter and strengthening water, sanitation, and hygiene practices and infrastructure are therefore vital to limit transmission. These commonalities explain why measures to limit COVID-19, such as decreased travel and increased vigilance regarding personal hygiene, brought about a decline in cholera cases. But as the world's governments roll back pandemic restrictions, cholera is returning with a vengeance. At the end

of 2021, there were 16 active cholera outbreaks around the world.

Yet the response to COVID still holds valuable lessons for bolstering the fight against cholera - beginning with the importance of research to combat disease outbreaks. The emergence of SARS-CoV-2 triggered a massive and largely coordinated global research push, which enabled evidence-based decision-making at all levels of prevention and control. Initiatives like WHO's Global Research Roadmap for COVID helped guide this effort, ensuring resources were channeled to areas where knowledge and innovation were most needed.

Research is no less important in the fight against cholera. That is why, last year, the Global Task Force on Cholera Control launched the Cholera Roadmap Research Agenda. Representing the collective vision of 177 global cholera experts and other stakeholders, the agenda identifies the highest-priority research questions. Many of the questions could just as easily be found in a COVID-19 research agenda. For example, what is the fastest, most cost-effective way to deliver a limited supply of vaccines? How can we enhance the uptake and sustainability of response measures to prevent the disease from reaching epidemic- or pandemic-level proportions? How do we engage

meaningfully with at-risk communities in designing and implementing interventions?

The questions may be the same, but the effort devoted to answering them has been very different. With COVID, strong political will and massive investment enabled researchers to produce answers quickly. Though cholera has been around much longer, solutions remain elusive. A key reason is that, whereas COVID ravaged developed and developing countries alike, cholera was eradicated from the Global North more than 150 years ago. It is much harder to mobilise resources to tackle a disease affecting the world's poorest and most marginalised people.

With just a fraction of the commitment underpinning the fight against COVID, lifesaving progress could be made in cholera research. Epidemiological surveillance would enable the mapping of transmission patterns. New and innovative diagnostic tests could increase the speed, efficiency, and quality of detecting and confirming cases. And new or improved vaccines would strengthen the connection between emergency response and long-term control and prevention.

Optimising the timing and dosage of vaccines is essential, as is learning how to engage communities to ensure that the needs of margin-

alised populations are addressed. Transforming treatment for vulnerable communities requires studying the impact of antibiotics on cholera transmission, and understanding what enables - and blocks - integration of cholera treatment into case management by community health workers. Equipped with this knowledge, countries and health partners would be better positioned to choose the most effective tools and approaches as they pursue their National Cholera Plans.

We have learned so much during the pandemic. We have listened to public-health officials and taken steps to limit spread of the virus. We must leverage this increased awareness and momentum to make further public-health gains, not just in our own communities, but worldwide. That means taking aim at other, much older scourges. We have the tools we need to defeat cholera, but we must still do the research that is required to identify how, when, and where to use them. Only then can we protect the world's most vulnerable populations from this all-too-precedented disease.

Firdausi Qadri is Senior Scientist and Md. Taufiqul Islam is Deputy Project Coordinator at the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

- “** It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop. **”** CONFUCIUS
- “** Weakness of attitude becomes weakness of character. **”** ALBERT EINSTEIN
- “** If the path be beautiful, let us not ask where it leads. **”** ANATOLE FRANCE

WORDSWORTH

Sphairistike

This was an ancient Greek term, meaning skill in playing at ball, which Major Walter Wingfield borrowed for the recreation he patented in 1874, in part a conflation of elements borrowed from earlier games: the net from badminton, the ball from fives, and the scoring from racquets. The name was never popular, not least because only those few people well versed in ancient Greek knew how to say it (the Morning Post complained about this in August 1874). Most converted it into a three-syllable word that roughly rhymed with "pike". This was soon abbreviated either to sticky or to the mock-French stick; some early writers Frenchified the full name by adding an accent: Sphairistiké. Luckily, Major Wingfield also called his new game lawn tennis, a name chosen to distinguish it from the much older indoor game then called simply tennis. This immediately caught on, though noticed only dismissively by practitioners of more established games, as in this cricket report later in the spring: We also observed a further accessory for the amusement of ladies in the shape of "Lawn Tennis," on the croquet ground at the north side of the carriage drive. -- Daily News, 7 May 1874. A modified version of his game immediately became hugely popular under that name, though it was soon abbreviated just to tennis, so that the aficionados of the older game in snobbish retaliation started to call theirs by the retronym real tennis, a term later mistakenly converted to royal tennis in Britain and some other countries.

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, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Indo-UK defence ties

Sir, This refers to 'India, UK agree to deepen defence ties', Orissa POST, April 23. The public bonhomie that marked talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his British counterpart, Boris Johnson, is in tune with the expansive ambition that marks bilateral engagement and the rapid progress on a range of issues including trade, defence, advanced technologies, clean energy, climate change, and regional collaboration. In the run-up to Johnson's visit, the international chatter was all about the differences on the war in Ukraine sinking the British PM's visit. While the two leaders briefed each other on their respective views on the crisis, Indian officials say there was no pressure from Britain. In the joint press conference, Johnson did not refer to Ukraine; nor did he criticise India in his separate presser. The two leaders had more on their plate than Ukraine. At the top of the agenda is the effort to conclude an agreement on Enhanced Trade Partnership (ETP). While India welcomed Britain's Indo-Pacific tilt, Britain has announced the decision to ease the transfer of defence equipment and technology for India. The two sides are also determined to begin joint research, development and production of advanced weapons and related technologies. Tying all these initiatives across a broad spectrum is the determination to strengthen the 'living bridge' between the two nations - marked not only by a large Indian diaspora in Britain but also the immense possibilities for collaboration between various sectors of the two civil societies.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Unsung heroes

Sir, Heroes are not born but made by situations. There are many heroes who adorn each and every corner of our diverse country. Some get recognised and many go unnoticed. Recently I came across Ajeet Singh's story who has single-handedly worked towards rescuing more than 1500 minor girls from sex trafficking. He has been doing this since the early 1990s but it is now after three decades that people are knowing about him and the wonderful work he has been doing all these years. It is surely a failure of the media which is more concerned about which designer wears celebrities wearing than doing real work. It pains to see the fourth pillar of democracy running after trivial issues like which car did a certain celebrity recently bought or how much did the Prime Minister's overcoat cost. Reporting is not meant to be done only on red carpets, it has to cross muddy terrains and climb heights.

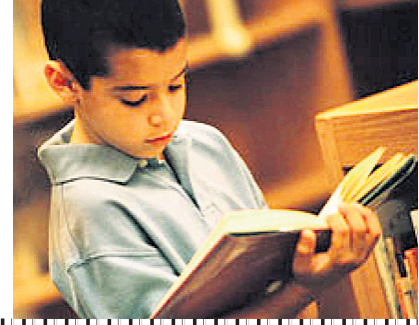
Noopur Baruah, TEZPUR



India has no option but to make itself stronger to ensure its defence, peace and stability as the world order is changing rapidly
RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

READING CAMPAIGN

Oxford University Press (OUP) India has launched a campaign to foster love of reading among children. The READ campaign is designed to support students, teachers and parents to come together as a community to help children read, engage and develop, an OUP India statement said



of the day quote

The drone service sector holds tremendous promise and will provide about one lakh jobs in the next four-five years



JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA | CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER

In summer, school buses should get the same priority, on the road, as ambulances so that students can reach home early



HEMANT SOREN | JHARKHAND CM

The Centre is implementing public welfare projects without any discrimination on the basis of caste and religion. The government is committed to development and betterment of every section of the society



RAMDAS ATHAWALE | UNION MINISTER

Kishor flags biggest worry

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, April 23: In his presentation to the Congress top brass, electoral strategist Prashant Kishor flagged that the biggest worry is that members of decision-making bodies in the party are all nominated, not necessarily connected at the grassroots and barely fight elections.

For the 2024 general elections, Kishor has suggested a "pan-India avant-garde campaign to reach, connect and mobilise all of India for a mega movement leading to reincarnation of Congress and election of a transformational government".

To win, 45 per cent of votes are required which means a target of 30 crore, Kishor has said. Within the country's digital consciousness, the BJP and its leaders currently score vastly above the Congress, he pointed out.

With a theme of "India Deserves Better", Kishor has suggested to the Congress to build a unified platform to provide strategic support and resources to non-political influencers and mount a sustained campaign against the ruling dispensation.

In his presentation, Kishor said his "Reincarnation of Congress" is about "preserving the soul, creating a new body". The inspiration of the campaign is the symbols of Nataraja namely Creation, Protection, Liberation, Destruction, Concealment and Connect.

The resolves include the cre-

The resolves include the creation of a new Congress which will be a political platform of choice for the masses. Destroy a sense of entitlement, lack of accountability and sycophancy, Kishor said in the presentation

Within the country's digital consciousness, the BJP and its leaders currently score vastly above the Congress, Kishor pointed out

ation of a new Congress which will be a political platform of choice for the masses. Destroy a sense of entitlement, lack of accountability and sycophancy, Kishor said in the presentation.

It notes that perhaps for the first time, Congress leadership does not appear fully aligned in terms of goals, strategy, method, approach, tactics and the way forward; leading to a complete lack of cohesion, at times confusion and stalemate.

There is a need for a non-Gandhi Working President/Vice President who can effectively work on the ground as per direction of Congress leadership, it suggests. It advocates a Congress Plus alliance structure with a national character but having 5-6 partners.

The Congress should contest 75-80 per cent of the Lok Sabha seats with a few regional alliances like NCP, DMK, JMM, YSR Congress and TMC. On beefing up the organisational structure, Kishor has called to identify and meaningfully engage 15,000 grassroots leaders and activate 1 crore foot soldiers across India.



Tirumala shocker: Movie songs on LED screen

Friday evening, the LED screen in front of a shopping complex at Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple suddenly started showing Hindi songs, leaving the devotees dumbfounded as the screen is meant to telecast only spiritual activities



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Tirupati, April 23: Devotees at Tirumala temple near here were in for a shock when a LED screen at the famous hill shrine started showing movie songs instead of spiritual ones.

On Friday evening, the LED screen in front of a shopping complex at Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple suddenly started showing

Hindi songs, leaving the devotees dumbfounded as the screen is meant to telecast only spiritual activities.

While the songs continued for about 15 minutes, some devotees even recorded it on their cell phones and made them viral on social media.

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD), which manages the affairs of the world's richest temple, has a broadcasting wing. Lack of proper supervision of the employees is believed to have led to this incident. A similar incident had occurred in the past as well, when a LED screen started telecasting a private channel.

TTD Executive Officer Dharm Reddy clarified that Friday's inci-

NO RESPITE



Students use umbrellas to shield themselves from the scorching sun in Gurugram, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

PM to inaugurate projects worth ₹20K crore in J&K

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 23: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will Sunday inaugurate and lay foundation stone of development projects worth over Rs 20,000 crore in Jammu and Kashmir, including the opening of the Banihal-Qazigund road tunnel to establish all-weather connectivity between the two regions of the union territory.

Modi is travelling there to participate in the celebration for the National Panchayati Raj Day and address 'Gram Sabhas' across the country, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a statement. He will also visit Palli Panchayat in Samba district.

Seeking to develop and rejuvenate 75 water bodies in every district of the country, the prime minister will launch a new initiative named 'Amrit Sarovar', it



said. Modi is scheduled to attend the Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Awards Ceremony in Mumbai later in the evening where he will receive the first Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award, the statement said.

The award has been instituted in the memory of Lata Mangeshkar and will be given every year to a person for exemplary contribution towards nation building, it noted. In the statement on Modi's visit to Jammu and Kashmir, the PMO

Modi will inaugurate the Banihal-Qazigund road tunnel, built at a cost of over ₹3,100 crore

said the government has been focussed on bringing about wide ranging reforms to substantially improve governance and enhance ease of living for the people of the region at an unprecedented pace following the "constitutional reforms" of August 2019, a reference to the abrogation of Article 370 and making the erstwhile state into a union territory.

The projects being inaugurated or whose foundation stones will be laid in this visit will go a long way in facilitating basic amenities, ensuring ease of mobility and development of infrastructure in the region, it said.

RAJNATH WARNS TERRORISTS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, April 23: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Saturday asserted that India would not hesitate to act against terrorists who target the country from across the border.

Speaking at a programme, where Assam-based veterans of 1971 India-Pakistan War were felicitated, Singh said the government was working to wipe out terrorism from the country. "India has been successful in giving out the message that terrorism will be strongly dealt with. We will not hesitate to cross borders if the country is targeted from outside," he maintained.

Praising the valour displayed by Indian soldiers in the recent standoffs with China, he said, "I am of the firm belief that no power in the world can do anything to bow down the head of 'Bharat Mata' (Mother India)."

Taking a dig at a section of opposition leaders who had questioned the Army's role in the matter, Singh said such criticism demoralised soldiers and hurt the sentiments of people.

"I am regularly in contact with chiefs of our armed forces. I told them what I had to and they did what they had to. They have kept Bharat Mata's head held high," he added. Singh also said that the eastern boundary of the country was currently experiencing more peace and stability compared to the western frontier, with Bangladesh being a friendly neighbour.

"The tension that India experiences on western frontier does not exist along eastern boundary as Bangladesh is a friendly country," he noted. "The problem of infiltration has almost ended. There is peace and stability at the border (in the eastern frontier) now," the minister said. The defence minister praised the Border Road Organisation (BRO) for its efforts in building strong boundary infrastructure, needed for defence preparedness.

"We have stronger border infrastructure now, but more has to be done and we are working on it," he stated.

SHORT TAKES

7 killed, 10 hurt

Latur/Beed: Seven persons including five women were killed and ten injured after a truck rammed into their SUV in central Maharashtra's Beed district Saturday morning, police said. The incident took place at Nandgaon Phata near Ambajogai town on the Latur-Ambajogai highway around 10 am, said a police official. The condition of three of the injured was critical, he added. The victims, who hailed from Sai and Arvi villages in Latur district, were traveling to Radi in Ambajogai tehsil in Beed for a program when a truck rammed into their Cruiser Jeep near Nandgaon Dairy, the police official said.

Man killed, 3 injured

Vijaywada: In yet another incident, a man was killed and three others were injured when the battery of an electric two-wheeler exploded in their house in Andhra Pradesh Saturday. The incident occurred in Vijaywada early Saturday when the man had kept the battery on charging in the bedroom. Shiva Kumar, his wife and their two children sustained burn injuries.

Teacher arrested

Thiruvananthapuram: A lady teacher has been arrested for allegedly harbouring an RSS activist accused of murdering a CPI-M worker. According to the CPI-M, RSS worker Nijen Das was allowed to hide in lady teacher Reshma's house, which is very close to the ancestral home of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan at Pinarayi in Kannur. Das is an accused in CPI-M worker Haridas's murder which took place in Kannur in February. Since then, he has been on the run.

2 held for murder

New Delhi: The Delhi Police said Saturday that it has arrested two people for murdering a man by smashing his face with bricks and later dumping his body on a vacant plot in the national capital. The accused have been identified as Raj Kumar alias Raman, a resident of Delhi's Karala and Kartik, a resident of the capital's Begumpur area.

7 doctors booked

Yavatmal: An offence has been registered against seven doctors of the government medical college and hospital in Maharashtra's Yavatmal for medical negligence over the death of a 16-year-old boy last year, police said Saturday. Based on a complaint lodged by the mother of the boy, who died in September 2021, a case under section 304 (A) (causing death by negligence) of the IPC was registered at Lohara police station on Wednesday, an official said.

Air pollution exposure may cause heart attack within an hour: Study

In the new study, researchers analysed medical data for nearly 1.3 million people treated for heart attacks and unstable angina at 2,239 hospitals in 318 Chinese cities between 2015 and 2020

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi/Beijing, April 23: Exposure to air pollutants -- even at levels below World Health Organization (WHO) air quality guidelines -- may trigger a heart attack within an hour,

claims a new study.

The study found exposure to any level of four common air pollutants -- fine particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and carbon monoxide -- could quickly trigger the onset of acute coronary syndrome (ACS).

ACS is an umbrella term describing any situation in which blood supplied to the heart muscle is blocked, such as in a heart attack or unstable angina, chest pain caused by blood clots that temporarily block an artery.

Exposure to nitrogen dioxide was most strongly associated, followed by fine particulate matter, and was most dangerous during the first hour following exposure. The link was strongest among adults age 65 and older with no history of



smoking or other respiratory illnesses and for people exposed during the colder months.

"The adverse cardiovascular ef-

fects of air pollution have been well documented. But we were still surprised at the very prompt effects," said Haidong Kan, Professor

in the School of Public Health at Fudan University in Shanghai.

"Another surprise was the non-threshold effects of air pollution. Any concentration of air pollutants may have the potential to trigger the onset of a heart attack," Kan added.

The study was published in the American Heart Association's journal Circulation. Exposure to fine particulate matter -- microscopic solids or liquid droplets that come from automobile emissions, power plants, construction sites and other sources of pollution -- has been unequivocally linked to heart disease, stroke and other health issues, as well as 4.2 million premature deaths worldwide. These particles can be so small that when inhaled, they may go deep into the

lungs or even the bloodstream.

In the new study, researchers analysed medical data for nearly 1.3 million people treated for heart attacks and unstable angina at 2,239 hospitals in 318 Chinese cities between 2015 and 2020. They compared hourly onset times of heart events with concentrations of fine particulate matter, coarse particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide and ozone.

While short-term exposure to any level of the pollutants was associated with the onset of all types of ACS, as levels of the studied pollutants rose, so did the risk for heart attacks. "The cardiovascular effects of air pollution should be a serious concern for all, including policymakers, clinicians and individuals," Kan said.

UP seriously considering UCC implementation: Dy CM Maurya

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, April 23: The Uttar Pradesh government is thinking seriously in the direction of the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code in the state, Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya said Saturday.



One law for all in one country is the need of the hour. It is required that we should get out of the system of one law for one person and another for others. We are in favour of a common civil code

KESHAV PRASAD MAURYA | DEPUTY CM

Maurya made the revelation while favouring the expeditious implementation of the UCC both in the country and the state.

Termining the constitutionally- envisaged measure an 'important step' for the realisation of the governance 'mantra' of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' (inclusive growth), he said it should be welcomed by everybody.

"One law for all in one country is the need of the hour. It is required that we should get out of the system of one law for one person and another for others. We are in favour of a common civil code," Maurya said while talking to newsmen here.

"The Uttar Pradesh government is thinking in this direction seriously," the deputy CM said.

Even in other states where there is no BJP government, its implementation is necessary for inclusive growth, he said, adding the "common civil code is such a thing which should not only be demanded but also welcomed by all."

Soon after the formation of the Uttarakhnad government after the recent assembly elections, the first Cabinet meeting presided by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami there decided to form a committee of experts on the implementation of a Uniform Civil Code in the state.

After his first cabinet meeting, Dhami had said that Uttarakhnad will be the first state to implement UCC, however, quickly adding that "perhaps it is already in force in Goa".

"Common civil code is definitely required at this point of time, it is very much required for the country, for Uttar Pradesh and for the people of the country," the deputy CM said.

"But when there are vote bank considerations everywhere, it definitely shows the politics of appeasement. But we are not in favour of this," Maurya said.

Just as the Uttarakhand government has initiated steps, in UP and other states too where there is the BJP government, the "common civil code" should be implemented, he said.

DELHI'S R-VALUE 2.1 THIS WEEK

EVERY COVID-19 INFECTED PERSON IS INFECTING TWO OTHERS IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 23: Delhi's R-value, which indicates the spread of COVID-19, was recorded at 2.1 this week, implying that every infected person is infecting two others in the national capital, according to an analysis by IIT-Madras.



The 'R' or reproductive value indicates the number of people an infected person can spread the disease to, and a pandemic is considered to end if this value goes below one.

The preliminary analysis by computational modelling was done by IIT-Madras' Department of Mathematics and Centre of Excellence for Computational Mathematics and Data Science headed by Prof Neelesh S Upadhye and Prof S Sundar.

This was shared with PTI and according to it, Delhi's R-value this week was recorded at 2.1. India's R-value, at present, stands at 1.3, the analysis found.

Asked if it can be deduced that this is the beginning of the fourth

wave of COVID-19 in Delhi, Dr Jayant Jha, Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics, IIT-Madras, said it would be too early to declare an onset of another wave.

"We can only say right now that every person is affecting two others....But we need to wait a bit to declare onset...We don't know about the immunity status and whether

the people who got affected during the third wave in January are getting affected or not again," he told PTI.

For other metro cities - Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, Jha said the number of cases is too low to ascertain a trend.

Delhi is witnessing an uptick in the number of COVID-19 cases.

Dump sites in Delhi like time bombs: NGT



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 23: The National Green Tribunal has expressed serious concern over fire incidents at Ghazipur landfill site in the national capital saying dump sites are like "time bombs".

A massive fire erupted at the Ghazipur landfill site Wednesday, the third such incident since March 28, sending a dense plume of smoke into the sky and exacerbating the already polluted air in nearby areas. Last year, the authorities reported four fire incidents at the Ghazipur landfill. In 2017, a large part of it broke away, crashing onto a road and killing two people.

A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice A K Goel said the dump sites in Delhi and in other cities are like "time bombs" because they constantly generate explosive gases like methane which may escape through vertical and lateral ways posing constant threat of explosion. "It is a matter of concern that such incidents are taking place elsewhere also and there is potential for the same wherever legacy waste remains unremediated. It is for this reason that there is statutory timeline expected to be followed strictly.

serious having regard to the size of the garbage dump and its location in densely populated area. This requires constitution of a multi-department committee of concerned Departments and responsible prompt action at higher levels of the administration," the bench said.

The NGT constituted a committee headed by Justice SP Garg, former Delhi High Court judge with members from Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), Department of Urban Development, Delhi, EDMC, Delhi Disaster Management Authority and District Magistrate and DCP, East Delhi.

"DPCC will be the nodal agency for coordination and compliance. The Committee may hold its first meeting within one week, undertake visit to the site, interact with the stakeholders, ascertain the factual situation and suggest further course of action after interaction with the concerned stakeholders," the bench said. The green panel said the committee may furnish the report within one month by e-mail. The tribunal took up the matter in the light of media report showing serious hazard to public health and environment on account of fire at the Ghazipur garbage dump site.

SP worried as party leaders' properties bulldozed by govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, April 23: Two delegations of the Samajwadi Party will visit Uttar Pradesh's Bareilly and Shahjahanpur districts where the authorities have bulldozed the petrol pump of an MLA and a building owned by the family of a party leader, respectively.

While one SP delegation will visit Shahjahanpur April 25, the other will go to Bareilly April 26.

The teams have been formed on the instruction of Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, according to a press release issued Saturday by the party's state unit chief Naresh Uttam Patel.

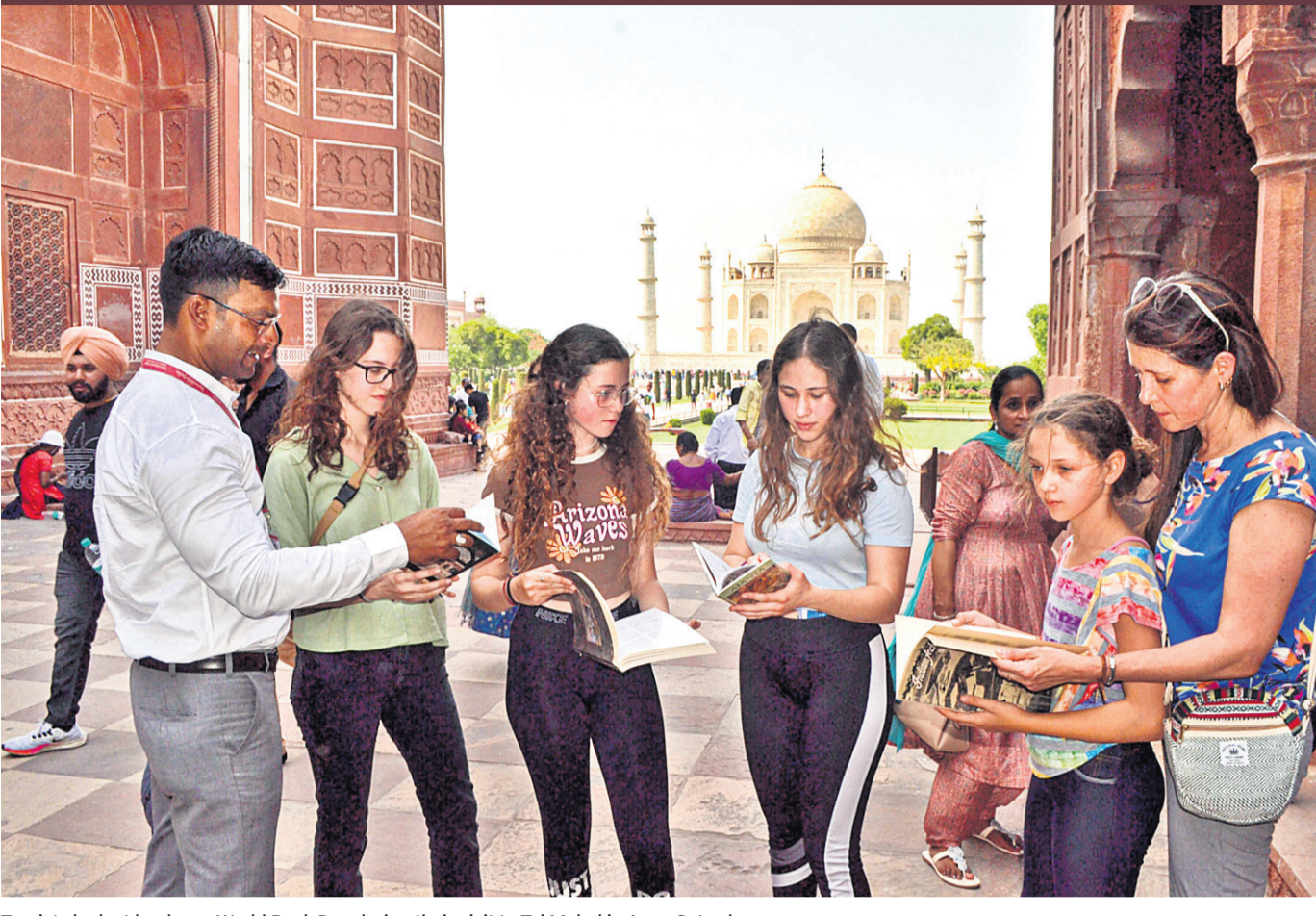
Patel said Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council Sanjay Lathar, former minister Omkar Singh Yadav, MLA Kamal Akhtar and ex-MP Praveen Singh Aron have been included in the delegation that will visit Bareilly and speak to the district magistrate. Samajwadi Party spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary said former minister Hemraj Verma and Rajpal Kashyap are part of the delegation that will visit Shahjahanpur.

A petrol pump that was built "illegally" by Samajwadi Party MLA Shazil Islam Ansari was bulldozed by the Bareilly Development Authority April 7, days after he was booked for a "provocative remark" against Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

April 21, an "illegal" structure owned by the family of a former BJP MLA who had crossed over to the Samajwadi Party before the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls was demolished by the Shahjahanpur administration.

The action came two days after former MLA Roshanlal Verma said he hopes for justice from Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



Tourists look at books on World Book Day during their visit to Taj Mahal in Agra, Saturday. PTI PHOTO

153 booked for offering namaz on road

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Agra, April 23: Agra Police has registered an FIR against three named and 150 unknown persons for offering 'taravah namaz' on a public road, police here said Saturday.

The case has been registered under section 188 (disobeying a public order), and 153 A (promoting enmity between different groups) of the Indian Penal Code and section 3 and section 5 of Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act, 1984, police said.

SSP Agra Sudheer Kumar Singh told reporters that the FIR has been registered against these people for violating the terms and conditions set for organising the namaz.

The 'taravah namaz', which is conducted at night, was held on a public road at Imli Wali Masjid in Agra city. "An investigation has been launched into the matter and we will take action accordingly," Singh said. MM Gate Police Station SHO Awadhesh Kumar Awasthi said that an FIR was registered in the matter on April 8 at the MM Gate Police Station. "An FIR has been lodged against



REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE

Sayyad Irfan, Haseen, and Shami Aghai and 150 others unknown persons who offered 'taravah namaz' on a public road at Imli wali masjid," he told PTI.

He said the people were granted permission April 1 by the Assistant District Magistrate, City, to hold the 'taravah namaz' at a mosque in Gur Ki Mandi area in Agra.

He said they had been given the slot from 8 pm to 10 pm on April 2 - the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan - to offer the namaz. "But the organisers violated the

terms and conditions and organised the namaz on road by blocking the traffic," Awasthi said.

He said the ADM withdrew his permission for namaz April 4 after he was informed about the 'violation' of conditions laid down.

One of the organisers of the namaz denied the allegations and claimed they had followed the terms and conditions.

He also claimed that no traffic was blocked and they have been following this tradition for the past 40 years.

Anger, dissatisfaction among residents

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 23: "My children are demanding new clothes on Eid, what should I tell them?" asks Sheikh Akbar sitting close to the ruins of his kiosk at Jahangirpuri's Kushal Chowk.

Akbar's kiosk was among the many structures destroyed in violence-hit Jahangirpuri during an "anti-encroachment" drive by the North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) Wednesday.

For the past 15 years, the kiosk was the source of income for Akbar's family and now the rubble lying there foretells their shattered hopes and dreams.

Akbar is still processing the events of the last few days which have turned his life upside down. With the festival of Eid around the corner, the sole breadwinner of the family is worried about how he is going to buy new clothes for his children and other household items.

"This Eid is not the same. I wanted to buy clothes for children which I cannot do now. It is not feeling like a festival. Our livelihood is destroyed," said Akbar, who lives in a one-room set with his family.

He has three sons - two in their teenage years and one a toddler. "I have a family to feed. With the source of our income gone, wherefrom should I bring the food for them. Two of my sons are in school. How will I pay their fees?" he sighed. Akbar claimed that he suffered losses of around Rs 5-6 lakh as his kiosk was razed by the NDMC bulldozers. He said no warning or notice was issued before the demolition drive.

"I was at the shop when these clashes broke out. I shut down the



Security personnel stand guard in the violence-hit Jahangirpuri area in New Delhi, Saturday. PTI PHOTO

This Eid is not the same. I wanted to buy clothes for children which I cannot do now. It is not feeling like a festival. Our livelihood is destroyed SHEIKH AKBAR

kiosk and ran inside. And a few days later, we heard NDMC people are coming but we were told that they are to clear the road from scrap lying around. Nobody told us they will remove my kiosk too. If I had known this in advance, I would have emptied the shop. Everything is gone now. There were three fridges in the kiosk," he said.

Much like Akbar's home, the sombre mood has engulfed Jahangirpuri where clashes broke out last week and the whole area has been barricaded since then.

The violence has forced people to confine themselves to their homes as police, along with CRPF and RAF personnel, are manning the roads. The majority of the shops in the area are still lying closed and busi-

nesses are not operating. A resident of G block, Aslam, said usually there is a lot of hustle-bustle around Eid but the violence has ruined the festivity spirit.

"Around this time of year, people come out and shop for Eid. And there is a mood of cheerfulness in the area. People buy new clothes and prepare for Eid. But this time it is not the same," he said pointing toward the shuttered shops and barricaded roads.

"It is like living in some kind of a jail. Festivals are meant to be enjoyed but we are unable to do so because of the current situation," he added. Salma (28) was standing near a barricade in the H block and was visibly angry. When PTI team approached her, she accused the police of ruining the festival.

"We want to celebrate our festival with the same freedom Hindus

are allowed to celebrate theirs. They (police) are preventing us from enjoying our rights. No shop is open and no business is being carried out. How are we supposed to earn money and buy things?"

A shopkeeper in C block, who does not wish to be named, said business has been impacted badly.

"This time sales were supposed to triple and quadruple. But violence has impacted everything. I was very hopeful for the coming Eid as the economy was finally getting back on track after two years of the Covid pandemic. Now this happened," he said.

DCP (northwest) Usha Rangnani Friday said the police will facilitate the opening of shops and businesses in the area.

"I am happy. Peaceful existence between two communities must remain. I have never stopped shops in H and G blocks from opening. I don't know why these shops are closed. We will facilitate the opening of shops and businesses in these blocks," she said.

of the day quote

The ministries of the government must work together to plan, execute and market the idea of making India a hub of healing

ANURAG THAKUR | UNION MINISTER

My fight was not against any individual. It was against the system and against some persons who were eating into the state like termites

NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU | CONGRESS LEADER

If poll strategist Prashant Kishor joins the Congress, the party should take advantage of his experience

KAMAL NATH | FORMER MP CM

SHORT TAKES

Two ultras killed

Srinagar: A Pakistani militant of the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) outfit was among two ultras killed in an encounter with security forces in Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir Saturday, police said.

Rly cop dies

Srinagar: A Railway police officer injured in a terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's (J&K) Pulwama district, succumbed to critical injuries in a city hospital Saturday.

Bombs found

Kolkata: As many as 19 crude bombs were seized from an abandoned auto-rickshaw near a children's home in Kolkata's Haridevpur area, prompting the police to investigate whether the explosives were a part of a terror plot.

Drug peddler hurt

Guwahati: An alleged drug peddler was injured when police fired upon him as he purportedly attacked them and tried to escape from custody in Assam's Nagaon district, an officer said Saturday.

Woman molested

Bhopal: A 20-year-old woman was allegedly molested by her two co-passengers in a shared autorickshaw here, following which police have registered an offence against three persons, including its driver, an official said Saturday.



The danger of Covid-19 is not over completely. The situation in Delhi is changing. And once the virus spreads in one state, it won't take much time for it to spread in other states

AJIT PAWAR | MAHARASHTRA DEPUTY CM

IIT MADRAS TURNS COVID CLUSTER

With 25 more testing positive, the total number of persons infected with coronavirus in the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IITM) has gone up to 55, said Tamil Nadu Health Secretary J.Radhakrishnan



Ranas arrested over Hanuman Chalisa dare

Earlier this month, Ravi Rana had demanded that CM Thackeray recite the Hanuman Chalisa at his residence on Hanuman Jayanti, and announced that if the Chief Minister did not do so, he would go to Matoshree and recite it

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 23: Mumbai Police Saturday evening arrested MLA Ravi Rana and his wife, MP Navneet Rana, both Independent legislators from eastern Maharashtra, for allegedly "creating enmity between different groups" after escorting them out of their house in suburban Khar amid high drama.



Shiv Sena workers break through police barricades set up outside MLA Ravi Rana and Navneet Kaur's residence, at Khar in Mumbai, Saturday

The Ranas were booked under IPC section 153(A) (Promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony), and section 135 of the Mumbai Police Act (violation of prohibitory orders of police), said an official of the Khar police station in western Mumbai.

At the Khar police station, Navneet Rana, who is MP from Amravati in Maharashtra, and Ravi Rana, MLA from Badnera in Amravati district, submitted a complaint against chief minister Thackeray, Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut, and Sena leader and state transport minister Anil Parab, accusing them of instigating people to 'kill the couple. But no case had been registered yet, police said.

Earlier this month, Ravi Rana had demanded that CM Thackeray, who heads the Shiv Sena, recite the Hanuman Chalisa at his residence on Hanuman Jayanti, and announced that if the chief minister did not do so, he would go to Matoshree and recite it.

Friday, Ravi Rana had said he would visit Matoshree Saturday. But as his announcement drew a strong reaction from Shiv Sena cadres, on Saturday morning he an-

nounced that he and his wife were cancelling their plan so as not to create any law and order situation ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Mumbai April 24.

But despite their backtracking, another high-voltage drama began as Sena cadres laid a siege to the building in suburban Khar where the couple were staying, and said the Ranas would not be allowed to leave until they apologized for insulting Matoshree, their "temple".

Sena workers also tried to break through barricades and enter the building in the morning, but were stopped by police.

When police sought to escort the Ranas to Khar police station late in the afternoon, the couple were initially seen arguing with them, saying they would not budge until criminal cases were also registered against Sena leaders who 'threatened' them.

Navneet Rana also demanded that police produce a warrant. But later they agreed to step out, and left in two police vehicles.

An empty water bottle was thrown in their direction when they came out. Some Sena leaders claimed that Ravi Rana used swearwords for CM Thackeray as he entered the Khar police station.

BJP leader Devendra Fadnis, speaking in Nagpur, said the Shiv Sena-led Maharashtra government's way of handling the entire episode was "very childish". "If allowed, the Rana couple would have gone there (Matoshree), recited Hanuman Chalisa and returned without creating any news. I don't understand why so many people had gathered at several places as if they (Rana couple) were planning some attack. What kind of politics is this?" the former chief minister said.

In Amravati city, Shiv Sena workers staged protests outside the Ranas' residence.

Nearly 78,000 Indians break Pakistan's record



Union Home Minister Amit Shah with others waves the national flag during Veer Kunwar Singh Vijayotsav at Jagdishpur, in Bhojpur district

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jagdishpur (Bihar), April 23: Nearly 78,000 people simultaneously waved the national flag at a function attended by Home Minister Amit Shah here Sunday, in an attempt to break a previous world record set in Pakistan 18 years ago.

The occasion was the 164th death anniversary of Veer Kunwar Singh, the then ruler of Jagdishpur, one of the heroes of the Revolt of 1857 against the British. The event was organised by the Bihar BJP as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', the 75th anniversary of India's Independence.

Shah railed against "historians" for their "injustice" to Veer Kunwar Singh and his valiant fight, at a ripe age, against the British imperialists. He also alleged that the Revolt of 1857 had been "belittled as a failure" until RSS ideologue V

D Savarkar penned his seminal work "India's First War of Independence".

Shah was joined by top BJP leaders from Bihar, including Union ministers R K Singh and Nityanand Rai, deputy chief ministers Tarkishor Prasad and Renu Devi, and their predecessor Sushil Kumar Modi in waving the Tricolour for full five minutes, to an instrumental rendition of the national song 'Vande Mataram'.

The attendees were made to wear bands for physical identification and camera trap was installed, with Guinness Book of World Records for supervision. The crowds applauded when the gigantic screen installed at the venue put the headcount of flag wavers at 77,700.

The previous world record was of about 56,000 when Pakistani flags were waved at a function in Lahore in 2004.

Woman asked to remove hijab in school, probe ordered

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, April 23: The Selaiyur police in Chennai have commenced a probe following a complaint by a person that his wife was asked to remove her hijab when they had gone to a school to seek a seat for their four-year-old son.

Ashiq Meeran of Tambaram, in his complaint, said that he and his wife had gone to a private school in East Tambaram for getting their son admitted to the LKG class. He said that an employee of the school asked his wife to remove her hijab stating that the school does not allow wearing hijab on its premises.

The couple then went to the principal and complained about the incident. Station House officer of Selaiyur police station said that according to the complainant and his wife, the principal was supportive of the stand taken by the employee and told the couple that the school does not permit women wearing hijab within its premises. Meeran and his wife came out of the school and along with other family members and relatives lodged a complaint with the Selaiyur police.

A police officer said that they will be meeting the school principal and elicit a response regarding the complaint and also will speak to other teachers and staff members of the school.

Tamil Nadu was free of hijab row even as neighbouring Karnataka was reeling under the issue and the action of the school authorities has upset the state government and political parties.

Tamil Nadu school education minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi said: "This is unfortunate and I will have to check on what transpired in the school on Thursday."

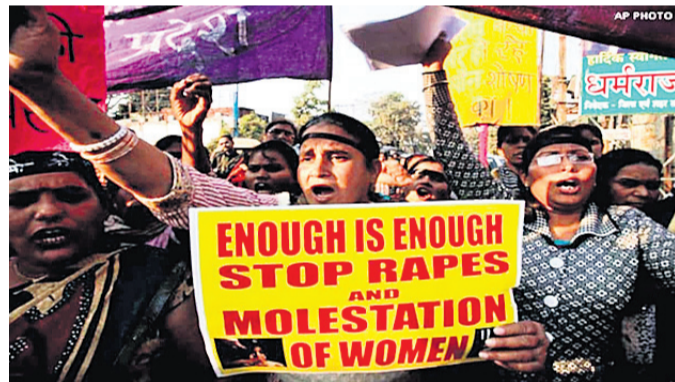
3-year-old raped, killed, thrown into well

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, April 23: In a horrific incident, a three-year-old girl, who along with her mother came to attend a marriage function at a village in Chittorgarh district of Rajasthan, was allegedly raped and killed by a youth who also came to attend the wedding.

The incident was reported from a village under the Bassi police station in Chittorgarh district Friday. The police have arrested the accused after registering a case of rape and murder.

According to the information received, two daughters in a family were getting married in the village. When everybody was busy with the marriage rituals, the ac-



cused first picked up a four-year-old boy and took him near a well around a kilometre from the wedding venue. As he started molesting the kid, the child cried loudly

which scared the accused who then left the child back at the venue.

After that, he picked up the three-year-old girl and took her near the same well.

The cops have arrested the accused after registering a case of rape and murder

After raping the minor, he reportedly strangled her to death and threw her body into the well. Thereafter, he went back to the marriage function where he even danced before returning to his village with the wedding procession.

When the girl was not found till late evening, the relatives and villagers informed the police.

During police interrogation, it was found that the girl was last seen with Rameshwar Dhakad, a resident of Kishanpura in Bhillwara.

₹5,050-cr fraud by Yes Bank's Rana Kapoor, Wadhawans: ED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 23: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has alleged that Yes Bank co-founder Rana Kapoor and Dewan Housing Finance Limited (DHFL) promoters Kapil and Dheeraj Wadhawan siphoned off funds worth ₹5,050 crore through suspicious transactions.

The ED said this in its second supplementary (third overall) charge sheet filed in special court here recently against Rana Kapoor, his family, Wadhawans and others in a money laundering case.

During the probe, it came to light that a big part of the proceeds of crime (POC) generated in this case has been siphoned off overseas by Rana Kapoor and hence they are not available for attachment directly under the provisions of PMLA, it said. "Rana Kapoor, DHFL promoters Kapil Wadhawan, Dheeraj Wadhawan and others were involved in criminal conspiracy with each other in illegal diversion and siphoning off of funds through suspicious transaction of ₹5,050 crore," the central probe agency claimed in its fresh prosecution complaint (charge sheet) filed recently.

The ED said investigation has revealed that Yes Bank had bought debentures worth ₹3,700 crore between April 2018 and June 2018 from DHFL. Therefore, the amount was transferred to DHFL. Subsequently, DHFL gave a loan of ₹600 crore to DOIT Urban Ventures Pvt Ltd (an entity, beneficially owned by Rana Kapoor and his family). The probe also revealed that Yes Bank had used public money for the purchase of the above-said short-term debentures of DHFL, which has not yet been redeemed by DHFL.

GEARING UP



Preparations in full swing for the upcoming 27th Kolkata International film Festival at Nandan, in Kolkata

PTI PHOTO

People must relate, understand procedures of courts: CJI

He said a Judicial Infrastructure Authority both at the national and state level should be set up to implement a National Court Development Project

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, April 23: The Indian justice delivery system should be Indianised for the benefit of the country's population, said Chief Justice of India N.V.Ramana on Saturday.

He also said people should relate and understand the practices, procedures of the courts, the development of the case and efforts should be made towards that.

"It should not be like chanting of mantras in a wedding which most of us do not understand," Ramana said. Speaking at the foundation stone laying function at the Madras

High Court here, Ramana stated that Indian people look up to the judiciary in times of distress with a firm belief that their rights will be protected by the courts. Ramana said it is necessary to contemplate on how to improve the functioning of the judiciary and reach out to the people to fulfill their judicial needs.

"This is precisely why I have been a strong proponent of Indianisation of the justice delivery system," he said. According to him, Indianisation of the justice delivery system is a moulding of the judicial system for the benefit of Indian people and is a multi-dimensional concept.



"It calls for inclusivity, providing access to people to participate in the proceedings, removal of language barriers, reforms in practice and procedure, development of infra-

structure, filling up of vacancies, augmenting the strength of judiciary and so on," he said.

He said a Judicial Infrastructure Authority both at the national and state level should be set up to implement a National Court Development Project. "I have sent a comprehensive proposal to the Government of India. It is pending with the Government," Ramana said. On the judicial vacancies, he said a proposal has been sent to the central government - to increase the sanctioned strength of judges and fill up the vacancies.

Another issue of Indianisation of the judicial system is the lan-

guage used in the court. The common citizen cannot relate to the practices, procedures of our courts. Efforts should be made to make the general population an active part of the justice delivery process. The people should understand the ongoing process and development of the case.

"It should not be like chanting of mantras in a wedding which most of us do not understand," Ramana said. On the demand for use of regional language in the High Courts as provided in the Constitution, Ramana said it has been debated several times.

"There were certain processes

that prevented local languages from being adopted in the High Court proceedings. I am sure with the innovation in science and technology and the advancement such as artificial intelligence, some of the issues associated with the introduction of languages in the High Court may be solved in near future," he said. "The practice of law before constitutional courts should be based on one's intelligence and understanding of law and not mere proficiency in language. It is time some decisions are taken on these issues after assessment of pros and cons. Inclusivity is one of the dimensions of Indianisation."

international



God grant that this Easter gift helps those who are involved in this difficult conflict to calm their hearts, minds, souls, so that internecine strife ends as soon as possible and the long-awaited peace reigns
PATRIARCH KIRILL | LEADER, RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

BEIJING ON COVID ALERT

Beijing is on alert after 10 middle school students tested positive for Covid-19, in what city officials said was an initial round of testing. City officials suspended classes in the school for a week following the positive test results



of the day quote

What use of interim governments when people with varying policies can't see eye to eye? There has to be accord which is not possible. If there is a need for an interim government it should happen only under my leadership
MAHINDA RAJAPAKSA | PM, SRI LANKA

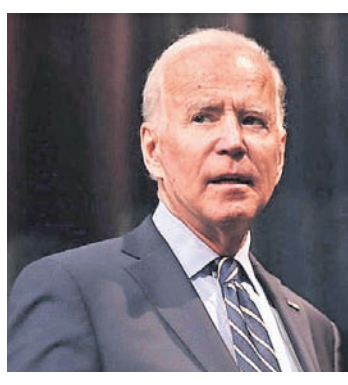
I'm off to New Delhi as we celebrate 60 years of EU-India relations. 60 years during which we built a solid friendship. And a cooperation that we now both want to take to the next level
URSULA VON DER LEYEN | PRESIDENT, EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Next week, I will meet with President Vladimir Putin in Russia and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Ukraine. We need urgent steps to save lives, end the human suffering and bring about peace in Ukraine
ANTONIO GUTERRES | SECRETARY-GENERAL, UN

US PRESIDENT ON DICTATORSHIPS

India has its own problems: Biden

US PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN SPOKE ABOUT WHAT "AUTOCRATS FEAR MOST" AND NAMED CHINA, RUSSIA, INDIA AND OTHERS AT A PARTY FUNDRAISER EVENT



The point being that one of the things that the autocrats fear most -- and India has its own problems; all those countries have their own problems -- is the notion that somehow we can work together in concert and contrary to what are essentially dictatorships, which a lot of countries have become, particularly not only China but Russia and many other countries...the Philippines
JOE BIDEN | PRESIDENT, US

Washington, April 23: US President Joe Biden spoke about things that "autocrats fear most" at a fundraising event in the United States Friday. What stood out was the fact that he clubbed India in the sentence, which also mentioned dictatorships. Joe Biden also spoke about China's Xi Jinping and Russia's Vladimir Putin. On China, he recalled how Xi Jinping once complained to him about the Quad alliance working in the Indo-Pacific in a way that is "against China".

On Putin, Joe Biden said how the Russian leader got "exactly what he didn't want" as "Finland and Sweden too now want to join NATO". "I indicated to Xi Jinping that I was going to pull together the Quad Australia, India, Japan, and the United States. He said, 'You're just doing that to affect us.' I said, 'No, it's because we're trying to put together those folks who have an opportunity to work together in the Indo-Pacific,'" Biden said during a party fundraiser event at a private residence in Seattle. Joe Biden said when he got elected,

Russian president Vladimir Putin thought that he would easily be able to break up NATO. "That's what part of his objective was from the very beginning. And I know I've been saying that for eight years, but it was part of his objective," he said. "But the irony of all ironies to this...he got exactly what he didn't want. He was looking for the further Finlandisation of Europe. Instead, he got Finland and the President of Finland calling, wanting to see me, wanting to join NATO, and Sweden wanting to join NATO. His action is generating exactly the opposite of what he intended," Biden said. "I'm not suggesting that that makes things all that easier. But the point is that we have a circumstance where the Ukrainian people are incredibly brave; they're incredibly resolved, not just the military that was trained but the people in the streets," he said. "They are making a lie of Putin's theory that somehow because they're Slavic in background and many spoke Russian that somehow there would be a welcoming party. The exact opposite has happened," he added. In November 2017, the US, Australia, India and Japan gave shape to the long-pending proposal of setting up the Quad to develop a new strategy to keep the critical sea routes in the Indo-Pacific free of any influence, amidst China's growing military presence in the strategic region.

Defiant Lankan PM says he won't resign



Thousands of demonstrators have hit the streets since April 9, as the government ran out of money for vital imports; prices of essential commodities have skyrocketed and there are acute shortages in fuel, medicines and electricity supply

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, April 23: A defiant Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa Saturday dismissed calls to form an interim government to tackle the unprecedented economic crisis in the debt-ridden island nation, saying he would anyway head any such dispensation if it is required. Anti-government protesters in Sri Lanka are demanding the resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and his elder brother Prime Minister Mahinda as they blame the government policies for the worst forex crisis. Commenting on the economic crisis, Rajapaksa, 77, said, "People need to show patience to face it (the economic crisis). They can keep on protesting if they don't want to have talks." Speaking on the protestors who are currently occupying Galle Face, the Prime Minister said that the protestors simply continue to occupy the place without coming forward for discussions. "They should speak and discuss with the Government officials," he said. He added that if the protestors are willing, the doors of Temple

Trees (the official residence of the prime minister) are open for them to come in at anytime and discuss with officials. Last week, the ruling dispensation reached out to the Opposition parties and protesters for talks, but all efforts were rebuffed as the agitators said they want the government to resign. Prime minister Rajapaksa said he wasn't aware personally of anyone calling for his stepping down. "Even if there are demands for my resignation, it would not be from the majority, it will be from a minority group who wouldn't know the political history of the country," he asserted. A group of over 40 Parliamentarians from the ruling coalition have declared independence and have demanded the formation of an interim government comprising all political parties to tackle the economic crisis. Meanwhile, India has agreed to extend an additional \$500 million credit line to help Sri Lanka import fuel. India has already agreed to defer \$1.5 billion in import payments that Sri Lanka needs to make to the Asian Clearing Union.

What use of interim governments when people with varying policies can't see eye to eye? There has to be accord which is not possible. If there is a need for an interim government it should happen only under my leadership
MAHINDA RAJAPAKSA | PM, SRI LANKA

SHORT TAKES

Kenya's ex-Prez Kibaki no more

Nairobi: Former Kenyan president Mwai Kibaki, who led the East African nation for more than a decade, has died, his successor Uhuru Kenyatta announced Friday. He was 90. "It is a sad day for us as a country. We have lost a great leader," Kenyatta said in an address on state television. Kenyan politicians, African leaders and former colonial ruler Britain were among those to send their condolences.

NZ logs 1st case of Omicron XE variant

Wellington: New Zealand reported its first case of Omicron XE variant at the border, the Ministry of Health said in a statement Saturday. A person who travelled from overseas to New Zealand has been confirmed as having the XE variant, Xinhua news agency quoted the Ministry as saying. This is the first known detection of the Omicron XE variant in New Zealand, it said.

Tour boat with 26 missing in Japan

Tokyo: A tour boat with 26 people aboard was missing in rough and cold waters off northern Japan Saturday after issuing a distress call and reporting to be sinking, the coast guard said. No survivors have been found after more than seven hours of an intense search involving six patrol boats and four aircraft. The 19-ton Kazu 1 made an emergency call in early afternoon while it was traveling off the western coast of Shiretoko Peninsula in the northern island of Hokkaido, the coast guard said.

Russia to deploy Sarmat missiles

Moscow: Russia said Saturday it plans to deploy its newly tested Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missiles, capable of mounting nuclear strikes against the United States, by autumn. The target stated by Dmitry Rogozin, head of the Roscosmos space agency, is an ambitious one as Russia reported its first test-launch only Wednesday and Western military experts say more will be needed before the missile can be deployed. The Sarmat is capable of carrying 10 or more nuclear warheads and decoys, and of striking targets thousands of miles away in the United States or Europe.

Israel closes crossing to Gaza workers after multiple rockets fired

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jerusalem, April 23: Israel said Saturday that it would close its border crossing to thousands of Gaza workers after a series of rockets were fired from the territory ruled by the militant Hamas group in recent days.

The Palestinians denounced the move as "collective punishment" of the impoverished territory's 2 million residents, who have lived under an Israeli-Egyptian blockade since Hamas seized power from rival Palestinian forces nearly 15 years ago. The rocket fire came amid near-daily clashes at a flashpoint Jerusalem holy site over the past week, with Palestinians hurling stones and fireworks and Israeli police entering the compound and firing rubber-coated bullets and stun grenades. The violence in Jerusalem, and a string of deadly attacks inside Israel and raids across the occupied West Bank, have raised fears of another war between Israel and Hamas like the one that broke out under similar circumstances last year.

Israel said Palestinian militants fired two rockets late Friday, with one landing in an open area inside Israel and the other falling inside Gaza. Palestinian media reported that two Gaza residents were wounded by the rocket that fell short. There was no immediate comment from health officials. Another rocket was fired from Gaza early Saturday, but the military did not say where it landed. There were no reports of casualties or damage. The Israeli military body that coordinates civilian affairs in Gaza said the crossing used by workers would not be re-opened on Sunday, the start of the work week. "The re-opening of the crossing will be decided accordingly with a security assessment," it said in a statement.

EARTH DAY MARKED BY PROTESTS



Activists from the climate group Extinction Rebellion demonstrate in front of the John Wilson District of Columbia government building to demand an end to all new fossil fuel infrastructure in Washington

Intensifying barrage pounds Luhansk

REUTERS

Kyiv, April 23: Russia resumed its assault on the last Ukrainian defenders holed up in a giant steel works in Mariupol, a Ukrainian official said Saturday, days after Moscow declared victory in the southern port city and said its forces did not need to take the factory. Russian forces were hitting the Azovstal complex with air strikes and trying to storm it, presidential adviser Oleksiy Arestovych said, adding "the enemy is trying to strangle the final resistance of Mariupol's defenders".



The biggest battle of the conflict has raged for weeks as Russia seeks to capture a city seen as crucial to its attempts to link the eastern Donbas region with Crimea, the Black Sea peninsula that Moscow seized in 2014. Russia's defence ministry said Friday the remaining fighters had been "securely blockaded" at the steel plant. On Thursday, President Vladimir Putin had declared the city "liberated" and ordered his defence minister to block off the Azovstal complex "so not even a fly can get through" rather than try to storm it. "There's no need to climb into these catacombs and crawl underground through these industrial facilities" Putin said on television. Arestovych said Ukrainian troops in the Azovstal complex were still holding out "despite the very difficult situation" and were attempting counterattacks.

SITHARAMAN CLEARS INDIA'S STAND

'India needs Russia to defend borders'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 23: India wants to be strong friends with the "liberal world" but it needs Russia's assistance to defend its borders, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told Bloomberg in an interview in Washington. India procures most of its military hardware from Russia and in recent weeks has rejected appeals from Western nations to limit bilateral relations with Moscow in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has faced criticism from Western allies with regard to its refusal to outright condemn Russian President Vladimir Putin over the devastating conflict in Ukraine. Sitharaman said India, which has long-standing border disputes with neighbouring Pakistan and China and in the past has gone to war with both, was focused on protecting its own regional interests. Alluding to Pakistan and China,



Sitharaman told Bloomberg: "You have a neighbour who joins hands with another neighbour, both of whom are against me. In the context of the Russia-Ukraine war, God forbid, if there are alliances created, India has to be strong enough to protect itself." Sitharaman made the remarks Friday in the United States where she attended the annual spring meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. While the United States has traditionally sought to balance relations between arch regional rivals India and Pakistan, in recent years it has also improved strategic ties with New Delhi to counter China.

US discourages reliance on Russia

Washington: The US discourages India to rely on Russia for its defence needs, the Pentagon has said. "We've been very clear with India as well as other nations that we don't want to see them rely on Russia for defence needs. We've been nothing but honest about that and discouraging that," Pentagon Press Secretary John Kirby said Friday. "At the same time, we also value the defence partnership that we have with India. And as was evidenced a week ago, we're looking at ways to improve that going forward. That's going to continue because it matters and it's important," he said. "India is a provider of security in the region and we value that," Kirby said. US State Department Counsellor Derek Thursday said the Biden administration is very much eager to work with India as it diversifies its defence capabilities and defence suppliers.

Venice Biennale: Women outnumber male artists for 1st time

THE RESULT IS A BIENNALE THAT PUTS THE SPOTLIGHT ON ARTISTS WHO HAVE BEEN LONG OVERLOOKED DESPITE PROLIFIC CAREERS, WHILE ALSO INVESTIGATING THEMES INCLUDING GENDER NORMS, COLONIALISM AND CLIMATE CHANGE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Venice, April 23: For the first time in the 127-year history of the Venice Biennale, the world's oldest and most important contemporary art fair features a majority of female and gender non-conforming artists, under the curatorial direction of Cecilia Alemani. Alemani's main show, titled "The Milk of Dreams," alongside 80 national pavilions opens Saturday after a one-year pandemic delay. The art fair runs through Nov 27. It is only the fourth of the Biennale's 59 editions under female curation. Women took the top Golden Lion awards announced Saturday for best national pavilion, which went



to the United Kingdom pavilion and artist Sonia Boyce. Best participant in the main exhibition was won by US sculptor Simone Leigh. The predominance of women among the more than 200 artists that Alemani chose for the main show "was not a choice, but a process," Alemani, a New York-based Italian curator, said this week. "I think some of the best artists today are women artists," she told The Associated Press. "But also, let's not forget, that in the long his-

Of the more than 200 artists the curator Cecilia Alemani is showing in her huge main exhibition, the vast majority are women

tory of the Venice Biennale, the preponderance of male artists in previous editions has been astonishing." "Unfortunately, we still have not solved many issues that pertain to gender," Alemani said. Concealed during the coronavirus pandemic and opening as war rages in Europe, Alemani ac-

knowledge that art in such times may seem "superficial." But she also asserted the Biennale's role over the decades as a "sort of seismograph of history... to absorb and record also the traumas and the crises that go well beyond the contemporary art world." In a potent reminder, the Russian pavilion remains locked this year, after the artists withdrew following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Nearby, sandbags have been erected in the center of the Giardini by the curators of the Ukrainian Pavilion, and surrounded by stylized posters of fresh artwork by Ukrainian artists representing the horrors of the two-month-old war.

business

of the day quote

Government is now planning to create public digital platforms on the lines of UPI, Cowin. Such digital platforms will then be opened up to the start up community and industry

ASHWINI VAISHNAW | COMMUNICATIONS AND IT MINISTER

No doubt that we are faced with uncertainties. The (Russia-Ukraine) conflict is just one part of it. If you go back, in the middle of the pandemic inflation came in. But if you look at the fundamentals, the growth story and the promise of India is very much intact

SANJIV PURI | CHAIRMAN & MD, ITC LTD

We are disappointed that our fourth-quarter revenues were below our expectations. This was due to the ongoing global chip supply shortage and despite our best efforts, we could not manufacture enough products to fulfil open orders

SANJAY NAYAK | MD AND CEO, TEJAS NETWORKS

SHORT TAKES

ICICI Q4 profit surges by 59%

New Delhi: ICICI Bank Saturday reported a 58 per cent jump in its March quarter consolidated net to Rs 7,719 crore, helped by a sharp decrease in the money set aside for bad debts. On a standalone basis, the second largest private sector lender reported a 59 per cent jump to Rs 7,019 crore for the January-March quarter of 2021-22. It ended the fiscal year FY22 with a 44 per cent growth in the bottomline at Rs 23,339 crore. The total income of the bank on a standalone basis rose to Rs 27,412 crore in the January-March period from Rs 23,953 crore in the year-ago quarter, ICICI Bank said in a regulatory filing.

Climate change ads banned

San Francisco: Twitter Friday banned ads that deny the reality of climate change. Twitter's announcement on Earth Day came as it tries to fend off an unwanted takeover bid by billionaire Elon Musk, who has said he thinks people should be able to say pretty much whatever they want on the platform. "Misleading advertisements on Twitter that contradict the scientific consensus on climate change are prohibited, in line with our inappropriate content policy," Twitter global sustainability manager Casey Junod said in a blog post. "We believe that climate denialism shouldn't be monetized on Twitter, and that misrepresentative ads shouldn't detract from important conversations about the climate crisis."

HDFC shareholders get 1550% dividend

New Delhi: HDFC Bank Saturday declared a 1550 per cent or 15.50 per share dividend to its shareholders for the financial year 2021-22. The board at its meeting has recommended a dividend of Rs 15.50 per equity share of Re 1 (1550 per cent) out of the net profits for the year ended March 31, 2022, HDFC Bank said in a regulatory filing. This is subject to the approval of the shareholders at the ensuing Annual General Meeting, it said. The record date for determining the eligibility of members entitled to receive dividend on equity shares is May 13, 2022, it said.



When I look back at our brands, they all have something different which has succeeded in the market. So, if you to succeed in the marketplace you have to you innovate because it is a matter of time others will start copying you

HARSH MARIWALA | FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN, MARICO

TATA MOTORS HIKES PRICES

Tata Motors Saturday said it has hiked the prices of its passenger vehicles by an average 1.1 per cent with immediate effect. Tata Motors has increased prices across its passenger vehicles to partially offset the rise in input cost



EU law targets Big Tech over hate speech & disinformation

Up until now, regulators have had no access to the inner workings at Google, Facebook and other popular services. But under the new law, the companies will have to be more transparent and provide information to regulators and independent researchers on content-moderation efforts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Brussels, April 23: Big tech companies like Google and Facebook parent Meta will have to police their platforms more strictly to better protect European users from hate speech, disinformation and other harmful online content under landmark EU legislation approved early Saturday.

European Union officials clinched the agreement in principle on the Digital Services Act after lengthy final negotiations that began Friday. The law will also force tech companies to make it easier for users to flag problems, ban online ads aimed at kids and empower regulators to punish non-compliance with billions in fines. The Digital Services Act, one half of an overhaul for the 27-nation bloc's digital rulebook, helps cement Europe's reputation as the global leader in efforts to rein in the power of social media companies and other digital platforms.

"With the DSA, the time of big online platforms behaving like they are 'too big to care' is coming to an end," said EU Internal Market Commissioner Thierry Breton.

EU Commission Vice President Margrethe Vestager added that "with today's agreement we ensure that platforms are held accountable for the risks their services can pose to society and citizens."

While the Justice Department and Federal Trade Commission have filed major antitrust actions against Google and Facebook, Congress remains politically divided on efforts to address competition, online privacy, disinformation and more.



Under the EU law, governments would be able to request companies take down a wide range of content that would be deemed illegal, including material that promotes terrorism, child sexual abuse, hate speech and commercial scams

Social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter would have to give users tools to flag such content in an "easy and effective way" so that it can be swiftly removed

Online marketplaces like Amazon would have to do the same for dodgy products, such as counterfeit sneakers or unsafe toys

Breton said they will have plenty of stick to back up their laws, including "effective and dissuasive" fines of up to 6% of a company's annual global revenue, which for big tech companies would amount to billions of dollars. Repeat offenders could be banned from the EU, he said.

The tentative agreement was reached between the EU parliament and the bloc's member states. It still needs to be officially rubber-stamped by those institutions, which is expected after summer but should pose no political problem. The rules won't start applying until 15 months after that approval, or Jan. 1, 2024, whichever is later.

Google said it looks forward to "working with policymakers to get the remaining technical details right to ensure the law works for everyone." Amazon referred to a blog post from last year that said it welcomed measures that enhance trust in online services. Facebook and TikTok didn't respond to requests for comment.

Govt to sell 3.5% stake in LIC, IPO to fetch Rs 21K cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 23: The government is likely to sell a 3.5 per cent stake in Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) through an initial public offering which will hit the markets in the first week of the next month, an official said.

The issue size is expected to be worth Rs 21,000 crore, valuing the country's largest insurer at Rs 6 lakh crore. LIC is likely to file the red herring prospectus with market regulator Sebi by Wednesday.

LIC IPO is likely to come to the market in May first week. 3.5 per cent stake dilution, subject to regulatory approval, an official said.

In February, LIC had filed draft papers with Sebi wherein it had said that the government will sell 5 per cent stake or 31.6 crore shares in the state-run insurer.

However, the IPO plans faced headwinds due to the ongoing volatility in stock markets due to Russia-Ukraine war, forcing the government to cut the issue size to 3.5 per cent.

TRAIN SHORTAGE

NALCO faces coal scarcity



REUTERS

OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE COMPANY HAD COAL INVENTORIES THAT WOULD LAST ONLY FOUR DAYS

HE ADDED IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO INCREASE TRANSPORT BY ROAD DUE TO LOGISTICAL CHALLENGES

New Delhi, April 23: Indian state-run aluminium producer National Aluminium Co Ltd (NALCO) is facing a coal supply shortfall, due to supplies being diverted to priority electricity generation and a shortage of trains to deliver fuel to NALCO's power plants.

Daily supplies to NALCO were falling short of requirement by at least 5,000 tonne due to the train shortage, a senior company official told Reuters.

India has diverted coal supplies from the non-power sector, and put on hold plans for some fuel auctions, in a bid to ensure coal availability for utilities and tackle widespread power outages across the country.

There is also a general shortage of trains to move coal around the country. State-run Indian Railways has fallen short of utilities' requirements by 16% in the first half of April, a government official

familiar with the matter said.

NALCO data seen by Reuters show that supplies by state-run Coal India under a long-term supply deal fell short of the contracted quantity by 17% in 2021/22, while shortfalls were more than 75% under another related deal.

A shortage of trains to deliver coal to utilities is exacerbating a coal supply crisis which has led to power cuts across the country.

Mahanadi Coalfields (MCL), the Coal India unit which supplies NALCO, said it has sufficient coal and has asked NALCO to prioritize moving coal via conveyor belts and trucks instead of using trains.

The NALCO Officers' Association, a welfare association for executives of the company, is taking legal action over the coal supply shortfalls, alleging poor planning by the Indian government and the various state bodies involved.

DOMESTIC CRUNCH

INDONESIA TO BAN PALM OIL EXPORTS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Jakarta, April 23: Indonesia will ban exports of palm oil starting next week, its president said Friday, as the world's biggest producer faces a shortage of cooking oil made from the product.

The Southeast Asian archipelago has been running low on palm-based cooking oil since November as producers turn to exports to cash in on an increase in prices around the world.

Authorities now fear the scarcity and soaring prices could provoke social tensions and have moved to secure supplies.

"The government will prohibit the export of raw materials for cooking oil and cooking oil itself... until a deadline to be determined later," President Joko Widodo said in a statement.

"I will continue to monitor and evaluate the implementation of this policy so that cooking oil in the country is abundant at affordable prices," he added.

Officials introduced limited curbs on palm oil exports in January, capped prices, and announced cash subsidies for some Indonesians to compensate for rising food prices.

But the commodity continued to become harder to find at markets and grocery stores, with long queues appearing at many locations.

This week the Attorney General's Office accused an official in the trade ministry of corruption for issuing export permits to palm oil producers when they had not met domestic market obligations.

The office also arrested several high-ranking officials at three of Indonesia's big palm oil companies, including Wilmar Nabati Indonesia, a subsidiary of Singapore-based giant Wilmar International.

Palm oil is the most widely used vegetable oil in Indonesia whereas crude palm oil is exported worldwide.

GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS

WTO trouble for Indian exports: FM



The opportunities that we have identified and have progressed in it...our export of food grains, particularly wheat. We are probably now tapping also for our manufacturing goods to move to destinations which are now suddenly found as their suppliers are in a situation they can't continue with uninterrupted supply

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, April 23: Amidst a global shortage of food grains in the aftermath of the Ukrainian war, countries like India which have the potential to address this by exporting agricultural products, in particular cereals, are facing difficulties from the World Trade Organization, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said Friday.

Responding to India's concerns, WTO Director General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala during the just-concluded annual Spring meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank said that the organisation is looking at it very positively and hopefully it would be sorted, the minister told a group of Indian reporters here.

The United States has requested India to help out with the food grain situation right now, India's Ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu noted during a news

conference with the minister.

"I was very positively inspired by the fact that in the plenary... response from the WTO was very positive. I hope we'll break that decade-long restriction which has held us back from using our agricultural products after taking care of the buffer we need for food security purposes. So that the farmers also can get a better return," Ms Sitharaman said in response to a question.

She said India has identified opportunities of export of food grains and also manufacturing in the aftermath of the Ukrainian crisis.

The war has revealed some realities to the world, she added.

"In some of the interactions that I've had, in one of the sessions (that) impacted the plenary itself, I had voiced that countries like India which have potential for exporting agricultural produce, particularly cereals, have faced difficulties with the WTO," the finance minister said.

BIZ BUZZ

Renault India launches KWID MY22



New Delhi: Renault, the number one European brand in India, launched the all-new KWID MY22 with advanced features, at a starting price of Rs 4.49 lakh. Launched in 2015, Renault KWID is a breakthrough product in terms of design, innovation and modernity, while offering value and best-in-class cost of ownership. Available in both 0.8L and 1.0L S-Ce powertrains with manual and automatic transmission options, the KWID MY22 features a striking new interior & exterior colour harmony with sporty white accents in the Climber range. Accentuating the attractiveness of the car, the KWID MY22 Climber range will offer customers an array of new colour options - Metal Mustard & Ice cool White with Black roof in Dual Tone, along with new dual tone flex wheels. The value proposition of KWID is further enhanced with the introduction of new RXL(O) variant on both 0.8L & 1.0L MT powertrains. The new RXL(O) variant includes features to enhance the style and economy quotient. The event was organized in presence of Adarsh Dhawan, Director, Supersales Automobiles Pvt Ltd; Chinmaya Padhi, Asst Vice President Retail, Axis Bank; Bibhuti Bhuyan, GM Sales, Supersales Automobiles Pvt Ltd Renault Bhubaneswar North.

BOI holds first Triennial General Body Meeting

Bhubaneswar: The first triennial General Body Meeting of Bank of India pensioners and Retirees Association, Odisha Chapter held at Hotel Arya Palace, here Saturday. Prakash Patki, General Secretary of the Association graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Among others Saroj Kumar Mohanty, Senior Vice-president, All Bank Pensioners Association, Odisha Chapter, Ganeswar Mishra, General Secretary, Pensioners Association, State Bank of India, Kamaljit Mohapatra, Bank of India Officer's Association, Odisha Chapter, Malaya Das, Zonal Manager, Bhubaneswar Zone, Bank of India, Mihir Kumar Tripathy, Employees Association, Bank of India were present on this occasion.



Important terms to know before buying health insurance policy

Almost everyone has heard the famous adage 'Health is Wealth' and the last couple of years have shown us how much wisdom lies in this age-old saying. Today, having a health insurance policy is a necessity to ensure we are well covered in case of health-related exigency. However, before you buy a health cover, you must understand a few key terms related to health insurance.

Free look period
What if after buying your health insurance policy you realise that the terms and conditions of the policy do not meet your requirement or you are not happy with the covers? Don't assume that you are stuck. Fortunately, you have the option to cancel the policy and get a refund of your premium, this is called the free look period. Most of the insurers provide a free look period of 15 or 30 days from date of receipt of policy document, during which you have the option to cancel or terminate your new insurance policy and get the due refund.

Grace period
In case you missed renewing your policy on time, there is a solution for your worries. Most insurers offer a grace period of 15 days, during which you can renew your policy even if you have missed the due date. Although you must always renew the policy on time, just in case you missed the renewal you have the grace period to rescue you, considering there has been no claim during the break-in period.

Deductible
A deductible is the amount of the claim that you have to bear before your insurer compensates you for the loss. You have to bear the cost till a certain point, and the insurer will pay the claim only after the deductible threshold is crossed.

Suppose the deductible in your policy is 2,000 and your admissible claim amount is 15,000, it means your insurer will pay you 13,000 for the loss, but first you have to bear the initial amount of 2,000. Deductible is inversely proportional to the insurance premium, the higher the deductible, the lower the premium. Although deductible helps bring down the premium, you must understand that this comes at a cost of bearing a portion of a claim during a later stage and you must be cautious about the same.

Co-pay Clause
When a policyholder agrees to pay for a certain percentage of the medical expense, it is referred to as co-pay. If your policy has a co-pay clause it means that you have agreed to bear some part of the expense from your pocket, this is usually mentioned in percentage terms. For example, if your policy has a

co-pay clause of 10 per cent, it implies that you will pay for 10 per cent of the admissible expenses and your insurer will pay the remaining 90 per cent. Like deductible, co-pay too helps bring down premium cost. However, there is a major difference. Once the deductible threshold limit exceeds, the insurer bears entire remaining amount. While co-pay is a set amount that the insured has to bear for every claim throughout the policy. Deductible or Co-pay are popularly known as self-insurance in some countries.

Cumulative Bonus in health insurance
A cumulative bonus, also known as CB, is the reward that your insurers give you for a claim-free year. The bonus accumulates for each claim-free year, up to a certain limit. The insurer rewards you with increased cover in the form of

a higher sum insured without charging any additional premium. For example, a sum insured of 20,00,000 will increase to 21,00,000 if the insurer is offering a 5 per cent cumulative bonus for the first claim-free year; to 22,00,000 for the second-claim free year and so on. Similarly, if you make a claim your bonus will be reduced at the same rate at which it was accumulated. There is no fixed, year-wise slab for the increase in sum insured, and it varies from in-

surer to insurer and product to product.
By Mr. Bhaskar Nerurkar, Head - Health Administration Team, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance



Titans beat KKR in thriller Sunrisers humble RCB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 23: Andre Russell's pyrotechnics (48, 25b, 1x4, 6x6) proved to be too little too late in the end as Gujarat Titans defended a small total to clinch a dramatic eight-run win over Kolkata Knight Riders in an IPL thriller here Saturday.

KKR's top and middle order batters failed miserably in the wake of a clinical bowling display from the Titans with only Rinku Singh scoring 35 and it was left to Russell to go for a win and the West Indian nearly did it only to fail in the last over.

Chasing 157 for a win, KKR ended their innings at 148/8 after Russell was out in the second ball of the final over. Needing 18 from the final over bowled by Alzarri Joseph (1/31), Russell hit the first ball for a six before Lockie Ferguson (1/33) took a fine catch in the deep under pressure from the very next delivery to end KKR's hopes.

This was Titan's sixth win in seven matches and they strengthened their position at the top of table while KKR slumped to their fourth straight loss. With 12 points already in its kitty, the Titans are looking good for a play-off berth in their inception year.

For the Titans, Mohammed Shami (2/20), Rashid Khan (2/22) and Yash Dayal (2/42) took two wickets apiece while Joseph and Ferguson got one each.

Veteran India pacer Shami wreaked havoc in his first spell of two overs, taking the wickets of new opening pair of Sam Billings (4) and Sunil Narine (5) to reduce KKR to 2/10 in the third over.

To make matters worse for KKR, Nitish Rana (2) edged a beautiful delivery from Ferguson to



HARDIK PANDYA

Wriddhiman Saha to continue his struggle for form this season. Captain Shreyas Iyer looked in top form with an exquisite six off Ferguson as KKR reached 34/3 at the end of powerplay.

But, KKR suffered their biggest jolt with Iyer edging an angled de-

livery from pacer Dayal in the first ball after powerplay, that left them a huge mountain to climb in their run chase.

Russell got a life after he holed out to fine leg fielder but Dayal overstepped for a no-ball. Russell made the reprieve count with two

successive sixes off the same bowler. KKR knew they were still in the game as long as Russell was there and the West Indian survived two close calls to keep his side in the hunt only to get dismissed in the last over.

Earlier, captain Hardik Pandya's third fifty (67, 49b, 4x4, 2x6) of the season was the lone saving grace in Gujarat Titans' underwhelming batting show as they scored a below-par 156/9. The Titans skipper missed the last game as a precautionary measure and looked a bit rusty.

KKR bowled as many as 43 dot balls and were brilliant at the death as they conceded only 29 runs and took as many as seven wickets in the final five overs. Russell (4/5 in 1 over) got four wickets in the final over as Rinku Singh was a live wire in the field with four catches.

While Shubman Gill (5) was out early as Sam Billings collected a faint tickle down the leg-side off Southee's delivery, Wriddhiman Saha (25), for the second match in succession, piled on the pressure, consuming too many dot balls.

However, an early breakthrough didn't stop Pandya from playing his natural, aggressive game as there was no marks for guessing as to who dominated their 75-run stand for second wicket stand. David Miller (27) gave his skipper some support in a 50-run third wicket stand but there wasn't a lot of resistance from other batters.

BRIEF SCORES

GT 156/9 (Hardik Pandya 67, David Miller 27; Andre Russell 4/5, Tim Southee 3/24) beat **KKR 148/8** (Andre Russell 48, Rinku Singh 35; Mohammed Shami 2/20, Rashid Khan 2/22) by 8 runs.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 23: Sunrisers Hyderabad gave Royal Challengers Bangalore a harsh lesson handing the Faf du Plessis-led side a 9-wicket thumping in their IPL match here, Saturday.

It was another day to forget for Virat Kohli as he was again dismissed outside the off-stump off the very first delivery he faced with RCB huffing and puffing their way to a meagre 68 all out. This was the sixth lowest total in the history of IPL.

In response, SRH rode on a splendid 47 (28b, 8x4, 1x6) by Abhishek Sharma to notch up the win in just eight overs. Sharma, along with his skipper Kane Williamson (16 n o) added 64 runs in just 7.1 overs, before the left-hander got out, caught in deep off Harshal Patel (1/18), while going for glory shot.

Earlier, the Sunrisers pace attack led by Marco Jansen (3/25 in 4 overs) and ably supported by Umran Malik (1/19 in 4 overs) and T Natarajan (3/10

in 3 overs) left the star-studded RCB line-up rattled with pace, swing and seam. In between, left-arm spinner Jagadeesha Suchith (2/12) was also unrelenting as RCB never got elbow room to get some momentum going their way.

There couldn't have been a quicker end to a contest as Jansen removed Faf du Plessis (5), Kohli (0) and Anuj Rawat (0) off second, third and final delivery of the second over to make it 8/3.

It soon became 20/4 when Natarajan got Glenn Maxwell (12) caught brilliantly by skipper Kane Williamson at mid-off. The other player to reach double figure was Suyash Prabhudesai (15).

But, it is Kohli's dismissal that would certainly deflate his legion of fans as his problems outside the off-stump seems to have resurfaced. Jansen did pose problems for Kohli during the South Africa Test series few months back and again bowled the ideal Test match length, full and getting the ball to either shape in or hold its line.

In the last match against Lucknow, it was the backward point that was in operation and Kohli's propensity to jab at deliveries on off-stump channel with hard hands caused his undoing with Aiden Markram snapping it in second slip.

There was not much resistance from the other batters and once Dinesh Karthik (7) was caught down leg-side off Suchith trying to sweep, it was all over for RCB.

Once it was 47/6 after nine overs, the lower order looked mortally scared facing the fast and furious Umran as it seemed as if the ball was hitting the bat rather than the other way round.

Natarajan also kept up the pressure, snuffing out the wickets as veteran Bhuvneshwar Kumar wrapping up the innings.

BRIEF SCORES

RCB 68 (Suyash Prabhudesai 15; T Natarajan 3/10, Marco Jansen 3/25, Jagadeesha Sucheth 2/12) lost to **SRH 72/1** (Abhishek Sharma 47) by 9 wickets.

Cuttack to host second India-SA Twenty20 June 12

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 23: The iconic Barabati Stadium in Cuttack will host the second T20I between India and South Africa June 12, the BCCI also confirmed after an apex council meeting of the board, Saturday.

Delhi, Vizag, Rajkot and Bangalore will host the other four matches of the five-T20I series against the Proteas. Sanjay Behera, secretary of Odisha Cricket Association (OCA), had revealed Friday about the Silver City - Cuttack is popularly known as - being playing host to the June 12 T20I.

BCCI president Sourav Ganguly also confirmed that the three-team Women's challenger will be held in Lucknow from May 24th to 28th after an apex council meeting of the board.

In another major development, the first play-off and eliminator in Kolkata May 24 and 26 followed by second play-off and final at Ahmedabad May 27 and 29 respectively will be held to full capacity.

"As far as the men's IPL knock-out stage matches are concerned, it would be held in Kolkata and Ahmedabad, with 100 percent attendance allowed for the matches to be played after the league staged finishes May 22," he added.

Third umpire should have interfered: Pant

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 23: A disappointed Delhi Capitals captain Rishabh Pant said the third umpire should have "interfered" to check for a possible waist-high no-ball in the dramatic final over of their IPL match against Rajasthan Royals as it proved "precious" for his team.

Pant had called back his batters - Rovman Powell and Kuldeep Yadav - after the umpires did not check the delivery for a possible no-ball in the last over as DC lost the match by 15 runs.

Asked about the incident at the post-match presentation, Pant said, "I thought the no ball could have been precious for us. I thought we could have checked that no ball, but it's not in my control."

Needing 36 runs from the final over, Powell hit three successive sixes from the first three deliveries off Obed McCoy. DC needed another 18 more from the final three deliveries. At this juncture, Kuldeep, who was at the non-striker's end, gestured to the umpires demanding that the last delivery be checked for a possible no-ball on height.

Powell joined in the discussion with the umpires too but the officials stood their ground, saying the



Pant was fined 100 percent of his match fee, while assistant coach Amre was handed a one-match ban for breaching the IPL Code of Conduct during the match against RR

delivery was legal. Pant then gestured Powell and Kuldeep to walk out though assistant coach Shane Watson tried to reason with him.

"Yes, disappointed, but can't do much about it. Everyone was frustrated because it was not even

close, so I thought it was only a no ball. Everyone in the ground saw that," Pant said.

"I think third umpire should have intervened in between and said it was a no ball, but I can't change the rule myself I guess."

The incident also saw DC coaching staff member Praveen Amre walk into the playing arena but he was told to go back by the umpires.

RR leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal tried to stop Kuldeep from walking out, while Royals opener

Delhi Capitals don't stand for what happened in the final over. The umpire's decision, whether it's right or wrong, we have to accept. Someone running onto the field. It's not acceptable, we simply weren't good enough

SHANE WATSON | DC'S ASSISTANT COACH

Jos Buttler was also seen having words with Pant near the boundary line. The match eventually resumed after a long delay and DC fell short by 15 runs.

Asked if it was all right to send a team management member onto the field to argue for not calling a no-ball, Pant said, "Obviously it wasn't right, but what happened with us was also not right. It was just the heat of the moment, can't do much about it."

"I think it was the fault of both of the sides, not even only for us because throughout the tournament we have seen some good umpiring," Royals captain Sanju Samson said, "It went for a six, it was a full toss and the umpire gave it a normal ball. But batsman wanted it as a no ball. I think umpire made his decision very clear and stuck to it."

Ravi secures gold, Bajrang bags silver



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia), April 23: Ravi Dahiya's physical prowess and superior tactical acumen was on show yet again as he became the first Indian wrestler to win three gold medals at the Asian Championship but Bajrang Punia struggled badly on his return to action even as he grabbed a silver here Saturday.

Tokyo Olympics silver medalist Ravi was his usual dominant self in his three bouts as he out-classed the 57kg field to emerge champion. Ravi had won gold at the 2020 edition in Delhi and in Almaty last year.

Gourav Balian (79kg) was impressive in his silver-winning effort while Naveen (70kg), making his senior debut and the seasoned Satywart Kadiyan (97kg), bagged bronze medals as all five Indians in action earned podium finishes.

The 24-year-old Ravi Dahiya conceded early lead in all his bouts, but as is his wont, he bounced back in tremendous fashion to give India its first gold medal of this edition. He won the final against Kazakhstan's Rakhat Kalzhan by technical superiority.

It was his second final of the season, having won a silver at the Dan Kolov event in February. Ravi, who hails from Nahri village in Sonapat, outsmarted Japan's Rikuto Arai (VSU) and pulled off a comprehensive 12-5 win over Mongolia's Zanabazar Zandanbud en route the final.

In the title clash, Kalzhan moved ahead with a take-down and for considerable time did not let the Indian make any move. However, true to his style, Ravi began to

dominate the bout with his unmatched class.

He effected six consecutive two-pointers and in-between saved himself from a left-leg attack to finish the bout early in the second period to secure India's first gold medal of the tournament this year.

Before the final, the Japanese was quick with his moves and initially troubled Ravi with his double-leg attacks which even took the Indian off his feet but once the Haryana wrestler got the measure of his rival, he dictated the terms in the bout.

Ravi not only found away to block Arai's attack but also got himself into position to initiate take-down moves from both sides as the Japanese did not have a plan 'B' to counter the in-form Indian. Ravi kept consolidating his lead and eventually won by technical superiority.

Bajrang, competing in his first tournament since winning a bronze at the Tokyo Games, looked like a pale shadow of himself. Hardly any attacking move was seen from him as he was engaged in standing wrestling, largely defending. It was Bajrang's eighth medal at the Asian Championship.

However, Gourav (79kg) set the mat on fire his gritty performance, including in the final against formidable Ali Bakhtiar Savadkouhi from Iran. He lost the final on criteria after score was tied 9-9 (Iranian had a high-scoring 4-point move) to settle for silver but won hearts with his fearless approach.

India have now won 15 medals, including one gold and four silver medals, in the continental championship.

Jesus lifts Man City, Arsenal beat United



NIGHT TO REMEMBER: Gabriel Jesus gesticulates after scoring his fourth goal against Watford

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manchester, April 23: Gabriel Jesus scored four goals as Manchester City crushed Watford 5-1 to chalk off another win in their battle with Liverpool for the Premier League title Saturday.

It was yet another disappointing outing for Manchester United. Erik ten Hag looks increasingly likely to be taking over a United team missing from the Champions League. Despite Cristiano Ronaldo making an emotional scoring return, United were beaten 1-3 at Arsenal and dropped six points off their rival in the race for a top-four finish.

Granit Khaka blew kisses to the home fans - who have often criti-

cized him - after his long-range, 70th-minute strike clinched victory for Arsenal in a wild game at Emirates Stadium that saw the hosts lead 2-0 after 32 minutes on goals by Nuno Tavares and Bukayo Saka before withstanding a fightback from United launched by Ronaldo's 100th Premier League goal.

At the Etihad Stadium, Brazil striker Jesus, beside scoring four times, also provided the assist for City's other goal, a stunning strike by Rodri, as the defending champion increased their lead to four points.

Hassane Kamara did get on the scoresheet for the visitors but Roy Hodgson's relegation-threatened side was no match for City, which was relentless and efficient in attack.

Compound men's team win gold

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Antalya, April 23: Indian men's compound archery team of Abhishek Verma, Rajat Chauhan and Aman Saini downed France by one-point in a thrilling final to win the gold medal at the World Cup Stage 1 here Saturday.

This was the men's compound team's first World Cup gold medal since Shanghai 2017. India, however, lost out on a second medal after the compound mixed pair of Verma and Muskan Kirar went down 156-157 to Croatia in the bronze medal playoff.

In the compound men's team final, the Indian trio started off with a one-point deficit, losing the first end 56-57 to their French rivals of Jean Philippe Boulch, Quentin Baraer and Adrien Gontier.

India slowly improved on their first-end score by one-point but the French team had a near perfect set of 59/60 comprising three four 10s, including arrows closer to the centre (X) to extend their lead (113-116).

Trailing by three points, Indians showed amazing resilience to drill in a perfect end of 60/60 with two Xs to win the third set 60-58, and curtail the deficit by one-point (173-174). There was no stopping the Indian trio thereafter as they shot



a 59 in the fourth end, with the under-pressure Frenchmen managing 57 to go down by one-point.

"Mentally we were really strong today, and we've been preparing for this event only and we have the Asian Games coming up this year which is something we also want to do well at," 24-year-old Saini, who bagged his first World Cup

gold, said.

"After the gold medal that gives us a great confidence boost especially for the other world cup events, it will hopefully help us."

Sunday, India's recurve mixed team pair of Tarundeep Rai and Ridhi Phor will be vying for a second gold after having defeated Spain in the semifinal 5-3.