



POOJA'S FLOPS

Pooja Hegde appears to be in a bad spot with *Radhe Shyam* in March and *Beast & Acharya* in April labeled as utter flops

LEISURE | P2



MP QUILTS OVER PORN SAGA

UK MP Neil Parish resigns after admitting that he twice viewed pornography on his phone in the Parliament

INTERNATIONAL | P10



SINDHU BAGS BRONZE

PV Sindhu ends her BAC campaign with a bronze medal after going down fighting to Japan's Akane Yamaguchi

SPORTS | P12

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Xiaomi India's ₹5,551cr seized for FEMA violation

New Delhi: Funds worth over ₹5,551 crore of Chinese mobile manufacturing company Xiaomi India have been 'seized' for violating the Indian foreign exchange law, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) said Saturday. The action has been taken against Xiaomi Technology India Private Limited. The company (also called Xiaomi India) is a trader and distributor of mobile phones in the country under the brand name of MI. "Xiaomi India is wholly owned subsidiary of China-based Xiaomi group. This amount of ₹5,551.27 crore lying in the bank accounts of the company has been seized by the Enforcement Directorate," the agency said in a statement. **More P11**



No coal crisis at power plants: Chief Secy

Bhubaneswar: Amid energy crisis in several states due to coal shortage, the Odisha government Saturday clarified there is no shortage of coal at any power plant in state. Speaking to reporters here, state Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra said there is no coal crisis in Odisha unlike other states where power supply is being cut down for 10 to 12 hours per day due to its shortage. "We have coal mines in state. I have instructed Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL) to ensure supply of adequate quantity of coal to all power plants in state," he said. **More P4**



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GOVT BIGGEST LITIGANT: CJI

CJI NV Ramana dubs the judge-to-population ratio of 20:10 lakh 'very alarming' while highlighting pendency of cases



Litigation is triggered because of two major reasons. One is non-performance by the various wings of the executive. Second is the legislature not realising its full potential

NV RAMANA | CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 30: Chief Justice of India (CJI) NV Ramana Saturday termed governments as the 'biggest litigants', accounting for nearly 50 per cent of pending cases, and said the 'docket explosion' is due to non-performance of various wings of the executive and the legislature not realising its full potential.

Speaking at the Joint Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of High Courts, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Ramana flagged key problems faced by the Indian judiciary such as pendency, vacancies, dwindling judge-population ratio and

While dealing with the reasons for docket explosion, the CJI referred to growing number of con-

tempt cases arising out of defiance of judicial orders by the executive and said that "deliberate inactions by governments, despite judicial pronouncements, are not good for the health of democracy".

In the corresponding period, pendency in district courts has gone up from 2.65 crore to 4.11 crore. This data shows how inadequate the increase in the sanctioned strength is," he said and termed the judge-to-population ratio of 20 judges per 10 lakh as "very alarming".

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Similarly, the Learning Recovery Plan (LRP) prepared by OSEPA will also be conducted during summer vacation. This LRP is applicable to government and government-aided schools.

"The students who are being promoted from Class III upto Class X, including new admissions and also Class XI students who will be promoted to Class XII (higher secondary schools), will be covered under the plan," he added.

Earlier, the S&ME department had announced summer vacation for schools for 11 days from June 6 to June 16, 2022.

However, the examinations al-

ready scheduled by different Boards/Councils will continue as usual, he said.

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Addressing a press conference, India Meteorological Department (IMD) Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said northwest and west central parts of the country – Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana – will continue to experience above normal temperatures in May as well.

Nights would be warmer in May in most parts of the country, except some regions of south peninsular India, Mohapatra said.

The average temperatures observed pan-India for April was 35.05 degrees, which was the fourth highest in 122 years, he said. "The average rainfall in May 2022 over the country is most likely to be above normal," Mohapatra said.



WOMAN POWER: Women participate in a tug of war competition during Spring Festival at Dhalpur Ground, Kullu in Himachal Pradesh, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

FITNESS TEST



Man kills wife over family feud

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 30: With the state witnessing rising incidents of murders recently, the Capital city Saturday woke up to brutal killing of a woman by her husband over family dispute at Basuaghari village under Sahid Nagar police limits. The accused, identified as Soubhagy Ranjan Das, has been arrested.

Soubhagy, who hails from Banki area in Cuttack, had tied knot with Lili Das of Dasapalla in Nayagarh district in 2017 after his first wife left him. The couple has a 4-year-old daughter out of the wedlock. Soubhagy works for a non-government organisation. Police sources claimed that a mentally unstable Soubhagy used to engage in fights with his family members. He used to beat up his father, younger brother and his wife.

Soubhagy's first wife has allegedly left him as she failed to reconcile with the eccentric and violent behaviour of the accused. The accused's younger brother has also been staying apart in a nearby



Police and scientific team personnel at the spot for investigation

OP PHOTO

house in Tankapani Road area here.

On Friday evening, the accused allegedly started quarrelling with his father and wife. He also allegedly beat up his father, who later left for his younger son's house.

"My son, who is suffering from mental illness, used to get violent and beat his family members including me and my wife. He would behave normally for some days after we pacify him but would again turn violent. On Friday evening, I escaped from him after some locals' intervention," said his father.

"I came to know about the death of my daughter-in-law Saturday morning," he further said.

Police reached the spot and sent the body to Capital Hospital for an autopsy.

A case (191/22) has been registered on the basis of a complaint lodged by Lili's parents. The accused is likely to be produced before the court Sunday after medical examination.

Sources revealed that Lili has no external injuries barring one on the neck.

HOLIDAY NOTICE

The offices of **Orissa POST** will remain closed May 1 (Sunday) on account of 'May Day'. Thus, there will be no edition of the paper May 2 (Monday)

—EDITOR

DEOGARH MLA ATTACKS BDO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Deogarh, April 30: Local MLA Subash Chandra Panigrahi of BJP along with his supporters allegedly attacked Tileibani BDO Krishna Chandra Dalapati, Saturday. It was also alleged that the lawmaker attempted to murder Dalapati.

The BDO lodged a police complaint against Panigrahi following which an investigation began. On the other hand, the MLA also accused the BDO of threatening him with life and abusing him.

Dalapati said he along with officials had gone to Chheliapanchayat in connection with a field enquiry when the MLA along with his 10 supporters attacked and abused him. **P5**

Classes from 6 to 9am

POST NEWS NETWORK

SCHOOLS TO REOPEN MONDAY

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

SCORCHING SUMMER

The average temperatures observed pan-India for April was 35.05 degrees, which was the fourth highest in 122 years.

Nights would be warmer in May in most parts of the country, except some regions of south peninsular India.

Parts of northwest and northeast India as well as the extreme southeast Peninsula are expected to get below normal rainfall in May.

Sound is well within the limit but remove it immediately. It is making noise about rising prices

AGENCIES

New Delhi, April 30: Northwest and central India experienced their hottest April in 122 years with average maximum temperatures reaching 35.9 and 37.78 degrees Celsius respectively, the weather office said Saturday.

Addressing a press conference, India Meteorological Department (IMD) Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said northwest and west central parts of the country – Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana – will continue to experience above normal temperatures in May as well.

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However, parts of northwest and northeast India as well as the extreme southeast Peninsula are expected to get below normal rainfall in May, he said. "The normal to above normal rainfall

is likely over most parts of India, except some parts of northwest India and some parts of northeast India as well as extreme southeast Peninsula where it is likely to be below normal," Mohapatra added.

The high temperatures in March and April were attributed to 'continuously scanty rainfall activity', he said.

In March, northwest India recorded a deficit in rainfall of around 89 per cent, while the deficit was nearly 83 per cent in April, mainly on account of feeble and dry western disturbances, Mohapatra said.

North India witnessed six western disturbances but they were mostly feeble and moved across the higher parts of the Himalayas, he said, adding the last three western disturbances caused strong winds in parts of Delhi and dust storms over Rajasthan in April.

India, particularly northwest and western parts of the country, has been reeling under intense heatwave conditions for the past few weeks.

PUNJABI KULFI



Hottest April for NW, central India in 122 yrs

POST NEWS NETWORK

WEATHER

BHUB

CTK

TEMP

MAX

37.8°C

36.8°C

Rainfall

Nil

Partly cloudy sky

Forecast

MIN

27.4°C

26.8°C

Humidity

77%

77%

Partly

cloudy sky

Forecast

MAX

37.8°C

36.8°C

Forecast

MIN

27.4°C

26.8°C

Humidity

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MAX

37.8°C

36.8°C

Forecast

STF nabs brothers with 107kg ganja

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, April 30: Two brothers were arrested with 107 kg ganja in Ganjam district, police said Saturday. The Special Task Force (STF) of Odisha Police arrested the duo from Raghunathshahi village in Buguda police station area, sources said.

The arrested have been identified as Banamali Pradhan and Arun Pradhan, who happen to be brothers.

Ganja weighing 107 kg, 517 gm opium, 607 gm gold, 196 gm silver, an SUV and 29 parcels of land were seized from their possession, police said. A case was filed and further investigation is underway, an official said.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of the STF raided the village late Friday night leading to the huge seizure and arrest.

"As the accused brother duo could not produce any valid document in support of possessing the cannabis and opium, they were arrested and forwarded to a local court earlier Saturday," the official added. A case under the NDPS Act, 1985 has been registered in this connection and police have launched a detailed probe.

STF has seized more than 50 kilograms of brown sugar and heroin, 202 grams of cocaine, over 93 quintals of cannabis, 750 grams of opium, and arrested 141 drug peddlers since 2020.

SOA, AICTE hold meet on 'Universal Human Values'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 30: A three-day regional conference on 'Universal Human Values', organised in collaboration with the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), began at Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) here, Friday.

More than sixty participants from different Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) of the eastern region are attending the conference.

SOA VC Ashok Kumar Mahapatra presided over the inaugural function held at the Institute of Technical Education and Research (ITER) - the university's faculty of engineering and technology. He said the life of a person devoid of human value was of little consequence. The New Education Policy (NEP) was focused on inculcating moral values in students, he added.

The AICTE is attaching a lot of importance to inculcation of moral values in students pursuing technical courses, for which such conferences are being held to train around 10,000 teachers of technical institutions, AICTE Regional Officer of Eastern Region B Goshwami said in his virtual address.

Workshop by SLBC on water and sanitation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 30: For the first time in Odisha, a state level workshop for banks was organised by the State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) along with Odisha Livelihoods Mission (OLM), UNICEF and Water.org here, Friday.

The workshop was held with an objective to motivate banks operating in state to extend values towards households struggling for water and sanitation. The event also gave details on present status of water and sanitation in Odisha by UNICEF.

UCO Bank GM and SLBC convenor Arupananda Jena welcomed the participants representing public sector banks, private sector banks, RRB, SFB, cooperative banks, lead district managers and OLM staff.

NABARD CGM C Uday Bhaskar said that banks can explore alternate models like using their BC channel, loan to MFIs for further deployment of WASH. There is also a dedicated refinance schemes for WASH to banks, NBFCs from NABARD.

No coal crunch at state power plants: CS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, April 30: Amid power supply crisis in several states due to coal shortage, the Odisha government Saturday said there is no shortage of coal at any power plant in state.

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sudden

outage in an 800-megawatt (MW) capacity unit at NTPC's Darlipali plant in Sundargarh district has led to the power crisis in the state as it used to get 400MW from the unit



The energy department has requested the power consumers to regulate their AC load, flexible industrial load and agricultural load during the peak hours for next few days to maintain stable power supply

Besides, the peak power demand has gone up by almost 10 per cent due to the hot weather conditions

Now, the state's peak hour power demand (from 7pm till 11pm) has been estimated at 4,000 to 4,400MW and there is a shortfall of 450MW

severe heat wave conditions, official sources said.

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Besides, the peak power demand has gone up by almost 10 per cent due to the hot weather conditions, said official sources in the state energy department.

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BJEM launches its 1st Atal Lab

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 30: In order to inculcate scientific temperament in young learners, the BJEM School here opened its first Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL), Saturday.



Minister for Science and Technology for Odisha Ashok Chandra Panda, the Chief Guest for the event, inaugurated the lab in presence of other dignitaries. Welcoming the guests, BJEM Vice-Principal Pallabi Mohapatra said that the initiative aims at encouraging students to inculcate an experiential learning environment and empowering the educators to design creative ways to nurture the budding scientists.

"The school is truly making all sincere efforts to create and push innovators towards a skilled nation. The lab will facilitate students harness scientific knowledge and skills with hands-on activities," said Pratap Kumar Jena, Manager, SMC.

A science exhibition project competition was held in which students from six different schools displayed their models. All the models were innovative and futuristic in nature. In the valedictory function, prizes were given away to the winners from BJEMS-II, DAV Unit-8 & BJEM School in the presence of guests and dignitaries.

Stand depends on candidate: Naveen

POST NEWS NETWORK

PRESIDENTIAL POLL

ity of a third front and said that his party prefers its independence over any political formation.

"We have always preferred our independence and the matter of the presidential candidate hasn't

come up for discussion," he said to national media.

In 2017 presidential polls, the BJD had supported NDA candidate Ram Nath Kovind.

Significantly, the President of India is elected by an electoral college comprising members of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and Legislative Assemblies. While the value of the vote of MPs from both houses remains uniform - 708 a seat, the value of votes of MLAs depends on the population of the state. According to the Presidential Electoral College, the value of each Odisha MLA is 149. The BJD has 113 MLAs out of 147 in Odisha Assembly and 21 MPs - 12 in Lok Sabha and eight in Rajya Sabha.

No Cov death in last 10 days

PNN & AGENCIES



are Bolangir, Jajpur, Nuapada, Rayagada, Sambalpur and Sundargarh (one each).

Odisha's coronavirus death toll remained unchanged at 9,124. The state now has 80 active cases, while 12,78,789 people have recovered from the disease so far, including 10 Friday, it said. Besides, 53 other coronavirus patients have died due to comorbidities to date.

FOOD, FRIENDSHIP, FAITH

An Iftar get-together was organised by the Chandni Chowk Durga Puja Committee in Cuttack, Saturday

OP PHOTO

ALL HAT AND NO CATTLE**Cyclone resilient infra on hold; nothing from Centre**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 30: Despite the fact that Odisha has faced seven severe cyclonic storms in the past 10 years and incurred a loss of around ₹35,000 crore, a proposal given by the state government to the Centre two years ago for cyclone resilient infrastructure hangs in balance.

According to an official source, primarily the agriculture, housing and electricity sectors in the coastal districts get damaged in cyclone, which require years to be revived.

Keeping this in mind, the proposal for a cyclone resilient infrastructure in state was put up by the Odisha government June 22, 2020 seeking Central assistance of ₹11,114 crore. Allegedly neither the Centre

has provided any assistance nor the state government has taken any step forward, the official source further said.

After the devastating Super Cyclone of 1999, the state faced Phailin in October 2013, which ravaged the southern Odisha districts. As many as 8 million people belonging to 13 districts were affected and the total loss was estimated to be more than ₹2,300 crore.

Similarly, another cyclone Hudhud damaged the southern Odisha districts of about ₹1,000 crore in October 2014. Again, after a gap of four years, the very severe cyclonic storm Titli caused massive damages in the coastal districts in October 2018. As per an official estimate, over 60 lakh people belonging to 8,125 villages under 128 blocks of 17 districts



were severely affected in the cyclone and the loss was estimated to be ₹2,765 crore.

including Puri. The total loss caused due to Fani was estimated at ₹12,000 crore. Sixty-three individuals lost their lives and the infrastructure in electricity, drinking water and housing sectors had crumbled. It had damaged 34km of 33kv line, 453km of 11kv line, 680km of LT line and 2,439 electric transformers.

Again, after nearly a year, cyclonic storm Amphan tormented Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara and Jagatsinghpur in May 2020 and affected 44,44,896 people belonging to 272 wards under 22 civic limits and 9,833 villages of 1,558 panchayats under 92 blocks. The total Amphan-induced loss was estimated at ₹5,000 crore.

Likewise, cyclonic storms Yaas and Gulab too made their appearance before the regularly

battered coastal state of Odisha and dented its infrastructure yet again.

A senior official in the Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Office informed that four letters have been written to the Centre so far, but to no avail.

Notably, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Friday said a low pressure area is likely to form over South Andaman Sea and adjoining Bay of Bengal around May 4. Under its influence, a low pressure area is likely to form over the same region during next 24 hours. It is likely to become more marked during the subsequent 24 hours.

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“
Delight is the secret. Learn of pure delight and thou shalt learn of God.

SRI AUROBINDO



Misplaced Priorities

The two separate terms of the National Democratic Alliance government can also be seen as separate in another way. In the first, there was a desire for economic reform. In the second that desire appears to have gone in favour of something else. Let's look at the 2014-19 period first. This is the time in which the Prime Minister attempted to improve India's share of manufacturing in Gross Domestic Product. He did it through a programme called Make in India (launched September 25, 2014).

Make in India had three objectives. These were to increase manufacturing's share in GDP from 16% to 25%; secondly, to achieve this by increasing manufacturing growth at 12% per year (compared to GDP growing at 8%); and thirdly to create 10 crore jobs in manufacturing. The next reform was Demonetisation, aimed at eradicating black money from the economy, with side benefits being an end to counterfeiting and to terrorism. This was announced November 8, 2016. The Goods and Services Tax came the following year, July 1, 2017. It was intended to unify India as a market and to bring the states and Union closer together ('co-operative federalism' in the words of the Prime Minister).

The government said it would also improve its standing on global rankings of various sorts, because it was encouraged by India's shooting up in the World Bank's Doing Business Index. Niti

Aayog would monitor 32 indices and figure out how to make India's ranking improve. What happened on this front has been widely reported but we can summarise it because much of it is data from the government itself. Manufacturing's share of GDP fell instead of rising, and has gone from 16% to 13% today. Its rate of growth was negative after 2014. Jobs in manufacturing halved, according to one study by Ashoka University's Centre for Economic Data and Analysis from 5 crore to 2.7 crore in 2021. For the first time in Independent India, more people went to work in agriculture, where from 14 crore people in 2016, the number went to 15 crore in 2021 and then went up another 1.5 crore by March 2022. Meaning manufacturing jobs went down by 2.3 crore and agricultural jobs went up by 2.5 crore. Agricultural 'jobs' are often disguised unemployment.

The effects of Demonetisation and GST on the economy and on the MSME sector have been written about by me before and there is a chapter on the economy in my last book. The point to note is that GDP growth began to implode sequentially from January 2018, according to government data and by the time the pandemic arrived it was close to zero. In the last two years, India's economy has grown by about 1.5%.

My sense is that the government and the Prime Minister particularly lost interest in this after the results became clear. We have seen no big bang announcements or 'masterstrokes' on the economy after the election of 2019. The government has taken another track which can be seen from its actions.

Kashmir lost its constitutional 'autonomy' (which it never actually had) August 5, 2019. The previous month, July 30, 2019, triple talaq, which had already been declared invalid by the Supreme Court in August 2017, was criminalised. The Citizenship Amendment Act was passed December 9, 2019. August 2, 2019, the UAPA law was amended to allow the government designate any individual it wanted as a 'terrorist', even if that person was not a member of a designated terror group. November 9, 2019, the Ayodhya verdict was delivered in favour of the Hindus. In the same period, Uttar Pradesh became the first BJP state, joined this year by Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat and Delhi (whose police force is run by the BJP) to bulldoze homes, mostly Muslim-owned without charge or trial or due process.

Haryana withdrew permission it had given migrant workers to congregate in a public space for Friday prayers in December 2021. The ban on hijab was added to a list of bans including on beef, then on selling eggs, on selling meat during Navratri, on Muslim vendors operating near temples or during Hindu festivals.

Attacks on Christians by Hindu mobs led by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and other groups associated with the BJP went up in this period, from 127 in 2014 to 486 in 2021. The attacks were usually in BJP states, including Karnataka.

Seven BJP states in this period criminalised marriage between Muslims and Hindus. These states are Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Gujarat. This was not the sort of thing that the BJP government was pushing in the first 2014 term.

It appears to be the case that the BJP has shifted its focus from the economy to its primary social agenda. We do not hear the Prime Minister speak of improving manufacturing's share of GDP and we hear nothing about why our labour force participation rate has collapsed and why unemployment has remained at record highs of over 6% since 2019.

The last thing is that while we can conclude that the BJP failed on the side of what it sought to achieve in the economy, it has been quite successful at achieving what it wants on the issue of the social fabric and harmony.

WISDOM CORNER

“A thing of beauty is a joy forever: its loveliness increases; it will never pass into nothingness.” JOHN KEATS
“Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them humanity cannot survive.” DALAI LAMA
“There is no greatness where there is no simplicity, goodness and truth.” LEO TOLSTOY

WORDSWORTH

Staycation

A staycation is a stay-at-home vacation. It has been said that it was invented by the writers of the Canadian TV comedy show Corner Gas in an episode broadcast in October 2005. However, the word appeared in print a little earlier, in an article in the Washington Post 4 August 2005: "The city empties out. The commute becomes bearable. It's the perfect time for a 'staycation,' to dig in those heels and enjoy the comforts of home: 300-thread-count sheets, stainless outdoor fire pit, well-stocked fridge." Staycation is a blend of stay-at-home and vacation. It was probably generated from the rather older daycation for a one-day vacation, a day-trip, which is recorded in that sense from 1986; that word has also appeared, usually as day-cation, in the sense of a one-day special educational event (in which the second element is instead a truncation of education). After a couple of appearances in 2007, the word became significantly more visible from March 2008 onwards, largely because of financial concerns as the economy weakened and fuel prices increased. Other reasons were given in the Washington Times on 23 March: "Increasing concerns over the environment as well as the desire for more family time add to the staycation's popularity." The word has since become established enough to be added to Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary in July 2009. It has become known in other countries, too, including the UK. This is mildly surprising, because vacation in British English is a formal term used mainly for institutional breaks between terms by universities and the legal profession. People take holidays. However, the term is understood and exposure to the American sense through films and television has clearly helped staycation to be accepted. In the UK, the sense has evolved to refer to a holiday taken within the country rather than travelling abroad.

Ilabour is an important factor in production. If there is no labour, all other factors, be it land or capital, will remain idle. It is labourers that constitute the workforce that creates capital. Hence, Karl Marx termed labour as the "creator of all value." However, since India embraced neo-liberalism, its workers are the worst affected. Their rights are curtailed and privileges squeezed with profit maximisation becoming the sole objective of corporates today with the government abdicating its social responsibilities.

Capitalists are employing more capital and technology, squeezing the labour force, enhancing working hours, retrenching labourers, and curtailing real wages to maximise profits and minimise cost. The power to hire and fire at will, and privatisation of public sectors have enabled capitalists to amass wealth while leading to impoverishment of the workforce. The deliberate reduction in jobs especially in the organised sectors both by governments and capitalists has worsened the plights of working-class people.

Out of 50 crore workers in India, around 10% are employed in organised sectors and the remaining 90% in unorganised sectors. While there is some sense of job security, and facilities in organised sectors, the informal sectors are bereft of these facilities.

The informal sector, which was devastated by the draconian demonetisation and flawed GST, was further decimated by the pandemic, rendering many workers jobless. During the first wave of the pandemic, 12.2 crore lost their jobs, 9.2 crore of them in the informal sector. In the second wave, one crore people lost jobs. Though the formal sector is back to its pre-pandemic level, the informal sector continues to bear the brunt.

What is distressing is that according to a study by SBI Research (November 2021), the share of the informal sector in India's economy fell drastically to 15.20% in



The fleetness with which the government is annihilating the protection afforded to workers under various labour laws in the name of reforms to suit the interests of capitalists is perturbing

2020-21 from 52.4% in 2017-18 due to digitisation and fast-escalating gig economy. India's job creation problem in the organised sector has morphed into a greater threat. It was found that at least 30 lakh sanctioned posts under the central government (including those under various bodies and institutions run by the Centre) and an estimated 30 lakh posts under various state governments are lying vacant.

The situation is so discouraging that a growing number of people are no longer even looking for work. According to the CMIE report, in India, more than half of the 90-crore workforce of legal working age stopped looking for jobs. Between 2017 and 2022, the overall labour participation rate dropped from 46% to 40%. Among women, the data is even starker: About 2.1 crore women have disappeared from the workforce.

The legal process of working hours is not fully followed in many countries. India is no exception. According to Time Use Survey (2019) conducted by the NSO, Indians spend less than a tenth of their day on leisure activities, with women getting even less time than men to spend on leisure.

According to ILO data, Indian workers are overworked, underpaid, and have very little leisure. The very first ILO Convention adopted in 1919 fixes working time in the industry to a maximum of eight hours per day and 48 hours per week, with certain clearly defined exceptions. But workers in India clock longer working hours than in other countries. It ranks fifth among all countries in terms of mean weekly hours actually worked per employed person.

The NSSO's first periodic labour force survey (PLFS) data also show that the people of India work 53 to 54 hours a week in cities and 46 to 47 hours in villages, the highest number of hours as compared to employees in other countries.

The Modi government is looking to implement the revised Labour laws from July 1. According to the draft labour code, companies that choose a four-day week will have to provide 12-hour shifts and three consecutive days of holiday. But actually, companies will not choose a four-day week but will implement 12-hour shifts.

Indians don't enjoy good wages commensurate to their long hours of work. According to the ILO Global Wage Report (2020-22), India's minimum wage is one of the lowest in the world. High inflation is eroding the real wages. More than 70% of India's workforce is involved in the rural economy.

After the decline of their real wages by 3.5% each in 2018-20, agricultural and non-agricultural rural wages grew only 0.5% each in 2020-21.

According to Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) reports, the share of wages in the total yearly input costs has been visibly low (2-3%). This reveals how the bargaining strength of workers has been weakened. Moreover, the labour market in India is already characterised by low wages and is considerably less protected compared to its peers in the region. Labour rights are both legal rights and human rights. These rights are codified in national and international labour and employment laws. Many labour laws provide many of the basic guarantees to workers – decent wages on time, reasonable working hours, and work as bulwarks against exploitation. But the fleetness with which the government is annihilating the protection afforded to workers under various labour laws in the name of reforms to suit the interests of capitalists is perturbing.

These insidious labour law reforms can squash the organised sector and will increase the size of the already large informal sector. Reforms leading to a reduction in workers' income and social security affect their productivity and ability to purchase goods and services, which squash demand, investment and growth.

In a 2011 paper, Simon Deakin and Prabirji Sarkar contended that contrary to the belief that pro-worker labour regulations lead to a shrinkage in output, the empirical results have shown that stronger pro-worker regulations boost employment and increase industrial output. The need of the hour is formulating labour policies that are more inclusive, pro-working class and bringing informal workers into their ambit.

The writer is an Odisha-based economist and columnist. Views are personal.

THE SITUATION IS SO DISCOURAGING THAT A GROWING NUMBER OF PEOPLE ARE NO LONGER EVEN LOOKING FOR WORK

It appears to be the case that the BJP has shifted its focus from the economy to its primary social agenda

SPECTRUM SOCIAL MEDIA

Elon Musk's Twitter test



REDUCING CONTENT MODERATION TO THE BARE MINIMUM IS UNLIKELY TO HELP MUSK TURN AROUND TWITTER'S STRUGGLING BUSINESS

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

Boost your happiness

Sir, World Laughter Day is celebrated around the globe every year on the first Sunday of May. Hundreds of people assemble from all around the world to share a laugh. The goal of the day is to increase awareness about the benefits of laughter, as well as to promote world peace via laughter. Laughter provides a plethora of health benefits. Laughing has so many amazing health benefits. Laughter, which is sometimes referred to as "the finest medicine," has a great impact on our health. It helps to calm the entire body, ease physical tension, and strengthen the immune system. Laughter is a natural activity that helps to relieve pain and tension. Everyone understands how nice it feels to laugh, but few realise how important it is to use this simple tool to improve our health and well-being. Laughter by itself is insufficient to solve or heal any problem, but it can aid in the healing and dissolution of any problem. It is an important aspect of self-care and maintaining one's happiness and health. Laughter is linked to the release of stress in yoga, resulting in happiness. Laughter also assists us in viewing life in a more relaxed, cheerful, and positive manner. A good laugh has great short-term mental and physical benefits. People who laugh frequently have a lower risk of getting depression and have lower levels of anxiety and other unpleasant feelings, according to studies. Laughter also helps to bring people together in difficult situations and generates a nice atmosphere. Laughter is a great stress reliever, and it can help you forget about your worries. Laughter, according to scientists, reduces the stress hormone levels, lessening the risk of heart attack and stroke through boosting blood flow to the brain. Laughter is a universal language that brings people from all walks of life together.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

Coal crisis

Sir, Coal stocks reaching critical levels at most thermal plants in the country threaten to worsen the ongoing heatwave. In addition, transportation issues because of a shortage of rakes with the Railways have also compounded the problem. As against a requirement of 453 rakes per day, only 380 are available with the Railways. As a result, the number of thermal plants with critical coal stock has shot up in the past week, forcing the Power Ministry to cancel over 700 passenger train trips to expedite the movement of coal wagons to thermal power plants.

N J Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

national

of the day quote



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pakistan

Our neighbouring country (Pakistan) was destroyed by misusing religion at that time (Independence). To date, they are bearing its brunt. They armed people with guns in the name of religion. The same is happening in our country, in the name of religion today.

MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP PRESIDENT

Gujarat

Gujarat is a laboratory of governance and party organisation (for the BJP). We will implement this model across the country. As a party chief, it is also my responsibility to take ahead this model.

JP NADDA | BJP PRESIDENT

Andhra Pradesh

We need to collect taxes and increase revenue but must do it in a manner that is not arbitrary and unjust. It should be transparent and user-friendly.

M VENKAIAH NAIDU | VICE PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Woman thrown out of moving train

Chhattarpur/Jabalpur (MP)

A 25-year-old woman from Uttar Pradesh was allegedly thrown out of a running train by a man after she resisted his molestation attempt near Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh's Chhattarpur district, an official said Saturday. After the incident, which took place on Wednesday night, the woman was admitted to the District Hospital in Chhattarpur, where she is undergoing treatment, he said. "The woman was allegedly pushed out of the running train after she opposed a molestation attempt by a male co-passenger," Jabalpur's Government Railway Police (GRP) Superintendent of Police (SP) Vinayak Verma said.

New Army chief takes charge

New Delhi:

General Manoj Pande Saturday took over as the new Indian Army chief following the retirement of General Manoj Mukund Naravane after 42 years in service. Gen Pande had serving as the Vice Chief before being appointed as Army Chief. He became the first officer from the Corps of Engineers to helm the force.

Three injured

Ashok Nagar (MP)

A group of people involved in illegal sand mining allegedly attacked a forest department team when it went to seize their tractor-trolleys in Chanderi area of Madhya Pradesh's Ashok Nagar district, in which three personnel were injured, police said Saturday. During the incident, which occurred on Thursday, the illegal miners also snatched a range officer's personal rifle before escaping from the spot with their tractor-trolley, they said.



On April 20, 2022, I told the Modi government to stop running the bulldozer of hatred and start power plants of the country. Today the coal and electricity crisis has created havoc. I am saying again - This crisis will destroy small industries, due to which unemployment will increase further. Small children cannot stand this scorching heat. The lives of patients in hospitals are at stake

RAHUL GANDHI | FORMER CONGRESS CHIEF

POWER CRISIS IN RAJ

Reeling under an acute power crisis, the Rajasthan government has announced scheduled power cuts each day across the state as there has been a wide gap between power demand and supply



Man hung from tree, beaten mercilessly

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bilaspur, April 30: A man was allegedly hung upside down from a tree and brutally thrashed with sticks by five people, including a minor, at a village in Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur district, police said Saturday.

After the video of the incident that took place in Uchchabhatti village under Sipat police station limits went viral on social media on Friday, and the five persons involved in the attack have been apprehended, an official said.

"While three of the attackers identified as Manish Khare, Shivraj Khare and Janu Bhargav were taken into custody late on Friday evening, Bhim Kesarwani and a 15-year-old boy, were nabbed this morning," a senior police official said.

The victim, Mahaveer Suryawanshi, a native of Ratamup area of the district, has been living in Uchchabhatti and working as labourer and watchman. On the intervening night of April 25 and 26, Manish allegedly spotted Suryawanshi trying to sneak into his house. Suryawanshi managed to escape, but the next day, Manish caught him and handed him over to the police, claiming that he was trying to commit theft, the official said.



Patiala, April 30: The Punjab government on Saturday shunted out three senior police officials, including an inspector general, and suspended mobile internet and SMS services in Patiala district, a day after clashes between two groups over an anti-Khalistan march left four people injured.

The AAP government in the state transferred the inspector general of police (IG) Patiala Range, the Patiala senior superintendent of police and the Patiala superintendent of police with immediate effect.

A spokesperson of the Chief Minister's Office said Mukhwinder Singh Channa has been appointed as the new IG-Patiala while Deepak Parikh will be the new Patiala SSP. Wazir Singh has been appointed as the new superintendent of police of Patiala.

Channa replaces Rakesh Agrawal as IG (Patiala Range) while Parikh takes over the post of SSP-Patiala from Nanak Singh. Police and district administration authorities on Saturday claimed that the situation is under control and peaceful in the city.

Heavy police security has been deployed at the site of the clashes outside the Kali Mata temple here. Various Hindu outfits had given a call for a bandh in protest against the Friday incident. Several markets in Patiala city remained shut Saturday.

Representatives of some Hindu outfits lifted their 'dharna' outside the temple and deferred their protest march after police and district administration assured them of action within two days against those who were behind the disturbance and violence on Friday.

The groups had clashed over the anti-Khalistan march, hurling stones at each other and brandishing swords. Police had to fire in the air to bring the situation under control. This is the first

THE AAP GOVERNMENT IN THE STATE TRANSFERRED THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE (IG) PATIALA RANGE, THE PATIALA SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE AND THE PATIALA SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT

VARIOUS HINDU OUTFITS HAD GIVEN A CALL FOR A BANDH IN PROTEST AGAINST THE FRIDAY INCIDENT. SEVERAL MARKETS IN PATIALA CITY REMAINED SHUT SATURDAY

major law and order incident in the state under the Bhagwant Mann-led state government. Opposition parties had attacked the AAP-led regime, alleging that the law and order in the state had collapsed.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann had ordered a probe into the clashes and had said that not a single culprit will be spared. The order to suspend mobile internet and SMS services, except voice calls, was issued by the state's home affairs and justice department.

"In exercise of power conferred upon me by virtue of temporary suspension of telecom services (public emergency or public safety) rules, 2017, I Anurag Verma, prin-

cipal secretary, home affairs and justice, do hereby order suspension of the mobile internet services (2G/3G/4G/CDMA), all SMS services and all dongle services etc provided on mobile networks except voice calls in the territorial jurisdiction of the district of Patiala from 9:30 am to 6 pm on April 30," said the government order.

"And, where there is an imminent danger of loss of life and/or damage to public/ private property, and widespread disturbances of public tranquility and communal harmony as a result of inflammatory material and false rumours which are being/ could be transmitted/ circulated to the public through social media/ messaging services on mobile internet services, all SMS services and dongle services," it said.

To thwart designs and activities of "anti-national and anti-social groups or elements", maintain peace and communal harmony and to prevent loss of life or damage to public or private property, the order said, it has become necessary to take necessary steps and measures to maintain law and order due to "unavoidable circumstances" in Patiala district in public interest.

Jacqueline's assets worth ₹7cr frozen

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jacqueline Fernandez is a Sri Lankan national and she has been questioned in this case by the Enforcement Directorate a number of times

Singh Kochhar, an established and well known international hawala operator."

The agency said its probe found that Chandrashekhar had "delivered cash to the tune of ₹15 lakh to a script writer on behalf of Fernandez as advance for writing a script of her web series project."

"This cash amount has also been attached," it said. Investigation with regards to tracing the remaining proceeds of crime is in progress, the ED added.

Fernandez is a Sri Lankan national and she has been questioned in this case by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) a number of times. She was also stopped by the ED from flying abroad and was directed to join the probe, after she was intercepted at the Mumbai airport in December last year before she could take an international flight.

The actor made her debut in the Hindi film industry in 2009. In addition to these gifts, it said, Chandrashekhar also gave "funds to the tune of USD 1,72,913 (about ₹1.3 crore as per current exchange rate) and AUD 26,740 (approx. ₹14 lakh) to the close family members of Fernandez out of the proceeds of crime through co-accused Avtar

KEEP SMILING



Students wearing smiley masks pose for photos on the eve of World Laughter Day, at a school in Moradabad

Three injured

Ashok Nagar (MP)

A group of people involved in illegal sand mining allegedly attacked a forest department team when it went to seize their tractor-trolleys in Chanderi area of Madhya Pradesh's Ashok Nagar district, in which three personnel were injured, police said Saturday. During the incident, which occurred on Thursday, the illegal miners also snatched a range officer's personal rifle before escaping from the spot with their tractor-trolley, they said.

similar service for 50 more stations in one year."

This will help the authorities concerned and the general public to take informed decisions and suitable measures for weather and air quality related events.

The IMD plans to start these services first for metro cities Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Bengaluru in the first phase and then the remaining capital cities. "We hope we are able to launch these all in this coming year," he said.

For now, like Delhi, it would be available only as a web portal and only later, there would be an App for it as part of the modified Mausam App that the IMD cur-

PM bats for local languages in courts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 30: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday made a strong pitch for use of local languages in courts, contending that it will increase the confidence of common citizens in the justice system and they will feel more connected to it.

He also appealed to chief ministers and chief justices of high courts to give priority to cases related to undertrial prisoners languishing in jails and release them, as per law, based on human sensitivities, and asserted that judicial reform is not merely a policy matter.

Human sensitivities are involved and they should be kept in the centre of all deliberations, Modi said. In

every district there is a committee headed by the district judge, so that these cases can be reviewed and wherever possible, such prisoners may be released on bail, the prime minister said.

"I would appeal to all CMs and CJs of high courts to give priority to these matters on the basis of humanitarian sensibility and the law," he said.

Addressing the inaugural session of the joint conference of chief ministers and chief justices of high courts, being held after a gap of six years, the prime minister said a group is looking into making legislations in two formats -- one in typical legal language and the other in simple language which can be understood by ordinary people.

IMD to start Urban Meteorological Services for 50 cities

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi:

On the lines of Urban Meteorological Services for Delhi-NCR, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Saturday announced to start similar services for 50 cities in a year's time.

Speaking about the urban heat island effect and how advance warnings about the local area weather conditions vis-a-vis urban landscape can help people be better prepared in their own areas, IMD director general (Meteorology) Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said, "IMD had started Urban Meteorological Services for Delhi that gives localised readings. We plan to start



rently has. On July 30, 2021, the Urban Meteorological Services for

System through a web portal and an App.

It provides current weather observations, current air quality observations, weather forecast, air quality forecast, district-wise weather warnings and a Nowcast (forecast applicable for next three hours) too.

The real time weather (Temperature, Relative Humidity, Rainfall, Wind Speed and Wind Direction) and air quality information (PM10, PM2.5, Ozone and Air Quality Index) are collected from monitoring stations of different institutions in Delhi and NCR and presented in a graphical form in the webpage so that hotspots can be identified easily.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

No.B-120:- WORKS DEPARTMENT Bid Identification No. S.E. CBT (R&B) 02/2022-23 charbatiadivision1@gmail.com

- Name of the work: Culvert-1 No. Estimated cost : Rs.57,61,524/-
- Period of completion : 06 months (180 days)
- Date & time of availability of bid documents in the portal: From 10.00 A.M. of 02.05.2022 to 5.00 P.M. of 09.05.2022
- Last date / time for receipt of bids in the portal: 5.00 P.M. of 09.05.2022.
- Name and address of the officer inviting bid: Superintending Engineer, Charbatia (R&B) Division, Choudwar. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in>. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer Charbatia (R&B) Division, Choudwar OIPR-34092/11/0002/2223

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, BOUDH (R&B) DIVISION, BOUDH E-mail: eeboudhrb@gmail.com INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)

No.B-117:- "e" procurement Notice Letter No. 1350 dt.d.25.04.2022 Bid Identification No. SE (R&B)- BDI 03/2022-23

- Name of the work : 01 (One) No. of External Electrification work (Single cover)
- Estimated cost : 15.10 lakhs
- Period of completion : 3 (Three) calendar months
- Date & time of availability of bid documents in the portal: From 02.05.2022, 10.00 A.M. to 11.05.2022, 5.00 P.M.
- Last date / time for seeking of tender clarification : 11.05.2022 upto 1.00 P.M.
- Last date / time for receipt of bids in the portal : Upto 5.00 P.M. of dated 11.05.2022
- Date & time of opening of tender / bid : 12.05.2022 at 11.30 A.M.
- Name and address of the O.I.T. : Superintending Engineer, Boudh (R&B) Division, Boudh

Further details corrigendum (s) if any issued can be seen from the website <http://tendersorissa.gov.in>.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Boudh (R&B) Division, Boudh OIPR-34134/11/0004/2223



Parties play blame game over reports of Red resurgence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, April 30: Amid reports that Maoists were trying to regroup in Junglemahal area of West Bengal, their former stronghold, with posters having resurfaced in some pockets, political parties in the state have taken to blame game, maintaining that fears were being unnecessary fuelled by rival camps for individual gains.

The Centre had warned of Maoist activities in Bengal earlier in the week, with the state police having tightened its vigil in Junglemahal - comprising parts of East and West Midnapore, Jhargram, Bankura and Purulia districts.

"Security forces have been put on high alert. We are keeping a close watch on the situation," a senior police officer said.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, however, alleged earlier in the week that the posters were put up by BJP workers, and that a few television channels were creating "an atmosphere of fear" by giving the matter "unnecessary" coverage.

In the same breath, she also said that at least five Maoists had entered the state from neighbouring Jharkhand in the recent past.

Echoing her, TMC West Midnapore district president and MLA Ajit Maity said that it was a



Bloodbath and killings became a regular affair in the area shortly after, with over 350 deaths recorded between 2009 and 2011.

The TMC government's ability to reign in Maoist movement post 2011 is mostly credited to its developmental schemes for the people of the poverty-stricken region, including the availability of rice at Rs 2 per kg for every household

ploy by opposition parties to create a "fear psychosis".

The situation in Junglemahal is no longer conducive for Maoists' activities as underdevelopment, which was the real issue of concern, has been resolved," he told PTI.

Maoist activities ebbed in the state after 'Operation Green Hunt' was launched in 2009 with central and state forces jointly mounting attacks on the Left-wing rebels.

Kishenji, a CPI (Maoist) politburo member leading the rebel ac-

tivities, was killed during a gun fire exchange with security personnel November 24, 2011.

Rebuffing his allegation, BJP's West Midnapore district president Tapas Mishra said it was a hoax generated on purpose to stop the opposition from carrying out work there.

He also said that there was no such concrete information that pointed towards the resurgence of ultra-wing extremism in the area.

"We think this entire episode is

BLOODY HISTORY

The state, which was the cradle of the Naxalite movement in the late sixties, had witnessed a spurt in Maoist violence towards the end of 2008, following an attack on the then Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharya's convoy in Salboni area of West Midnapore district

It prompted a police crackdown, following which Maoist-backed People's Committee against Police Atrocities (PCAPA) was formed in the area

ministration was sitting idle to ensure that this Maoist strike call is a success. Usually, the administration goes overboard to foil a strike call by opposition parties. I have no information about any Maoist activity. Those who were then Maoists or members of PCAPA have either joined the TMC or are supporters of the ruling party," he told PTI.

According to sources in the three parties, mass outreach initiatives were being scaled up in the zone to foil attempts to breed insurgency, if any.

Prasun Chatterjee, a Kolkata-based political activist who was arrested for alleged links with the CPI(Maoist) in 2009 and later acquitted, also said that it was best not speculate.

"Is there anyone left to lead such a movement? I don't think so as most of them have joined mainstream political parties. It is not wise to speculate," Prasun Chatterjee said.

Former West Bengal DGP Bhopinder Singh, who was the state police chief at the height of Maoist movement, issued a word of caution, underscoring that insurgent movements go through a cycle. "All insurgent movements, including ultra-left extremism, go through highs and lows. It is better to remain vigilant than getting caught off guard," he added.



Indigenous outfits oppose mandatory Hindi move

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Agartala, April 30: The Roman Script for Kokborok-Choba (RSKC), a conglomeration of 56 indigenous socio-cultural organisations of Tripura have opposed the move to make Hindi a compulsory subject till Class 10 in the northeastern states.

RSKC president Bikash Roy Debbarma told reporters Friday that "RSKC is neither against Hindi or Devanagari, but it strongly opposes the forceful imposition of Hindi language and Devanagari script in NE states in general and Tripura in particular."

He said, "Language is a state subject and RSKC is of the opinion that making Hindi compulsory in Northeast is nothing but blatant deviation from constitutional provision."

As far as the script is concerned, RSKC is opposed to the proposal of the Central government to impose Devanagari on languages not having their own scripts.

"The Union government can't dictate or impose Devanagari to any linguistic group against their will or choice. Right to choose is a constitutional guarantee which can't be snatched away," he said.

Debbarma said the people of Northeast are peace loving but making Hindi compulsory for NE people will be an "ill-move", which RSKC feels will be counter-productive.

He further urged the Central government not to make Hindi compulsory in NE states and leave it to the people.

"The Indigenous people including Kokborok speaking people should be given the right to choose their script for their own mother tongue," he said.

Responding to a question on what will be the script for Kokborok, Debbarma said "over 90 per cent of indigenous people prefer the Roman script for Kokborok."

In Tripura, the script for Kokborok, the mother tongue of around 80 per cent of 19 indigenous tribes, could not be finalised yet even after the constitution of two language commissions earlier.

FRUITS OF LABOUR



Workers leave after collecting tea leaves from a plantation on the eve of International Labour Day, at Gandhigram near Agartala, Saturday.

PTI PHOTO

Dhankhar in war of words with VCs over functioning of varsities

Centre's new scheme to minimise migration from border areas

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, April 30: The general secretary of the West Bengal Vice-Chancellors' Council Saturday said no convocation was held on the campuses of the state universities in the last two years due to the pandemic, as Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar lamented that he was not being invited to the ceremonies though he was the chancellor.

Alleging that the state of universities in West Bengal was worrisome, Dhankhar at a programme Friday said he was unable to "sleep at night" because of the situation.

"What the governor has said does not reflect the real situation. How many convocations were held on campuses in the last two years? Please remember how the pandemic affected everything," Subires Bhattacharya, the general secretary of Upacharjya Parishad or VC Council, told PTI.

Addressing the National Students' Convocation of the Institute of Cost Accountants of India, Dhankhar also raised con-

What the governor has said does not reflect the real situation. How many convocations were held on campuses in the last two years? Please remember how the pandemic affected everything

SUBIRESH BHATTACHARYA | GENERAL SECRETARY OF VC COUNCIL



cern over "unionism of the VCs" against him, referring to the meetings that he had called, which were ducked by the vice-chancellors. Bhattacharya, who is the vice-chancellor of the University of North Bengal, said, "There is a mechanism for calling such meetings."

"If the mechanism is followed, the VCs will go as per the rules. The governor is our chancellor," he said.

The vice-chancellor of another state university, who refused to be identified, said the governor was invited to the convocations of Jadavpur University and Calcutta University in December 2019 and January 2020, respectively, but faced protests by students. "After that, the pandemic happened."

The issue escalated to a political fist-fight between the opposition BJP and the ruling TMC.

"What the governor said is very

true and it doesn't bring glory to the state if the VCs of state universities treat him in such a manner at the behest of the Trinamool Congress government," BJP spokesperson Samik Bhattacharya said.

Bhattacharya claimed he was told by the VC of a private university how he was cautioned after attending a meeting convened by the governor.

TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said the governor should introspect how he was acting in favour of the BJP.

"The governor is trying to become a super authority by summoning the VCs and issuing letters questioning different moves of the Higher Education Department," Ghosh said. The Higher Education Department refused to comment on the fiasco.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, April 30: The three-tier panchayat polls in West Bengal are scheduled for next year. Understanding that local issues will be the key factors that will determine the mood of the voters, the West Bengal government, from Saturday, has started a detailed survey to feel the pulse of the rural population in the state residing in the panchayat areas.

The idea behind conducting the survey is to have a clear idea about the grievances of the people related to different services provided by the state government in the panchayat areas. The survey will be conducted for a period of one month, where a team of surveyors composed of state government employees will move door to door with a set of 72 questions.

This is for the first time in the last 11 years that the Trinamool Congress government is conduct-



ing such a survey for the panchayat polls in the state.

Before 2021, a somewhat similar survey was conducted. But that survey was conducted by poll strategist Prashant Kishor-founded Indian Political Action Committee (I-PAC). But this time the survey is being conducted by the state government through its own team of officers and staff.

In the set of 72 questions in the survey, the focus is on the farming sector. There are questions on whether the farmers are receiving the minimum support price (MSP) fixed by the state government for their produce. There is also

a question on whether the farmers are getting a platform to showcase and market their produce.

The state government, through this survey, also wants to have a clear idea about the number of families living in the panchayat areas who have been left out of the food security scheme. It also wants to know who are yet to receive job cards under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and whether they are getting the wages under this same act on a regular basis or not.

In the housing sector, the survey will try to find out whether any beneficiary enlisted for state government-provided housing schemes has been left out. In the education sector, the survey will try to find out the number of school dropouts in the recent past and more importantly whether there has been any increase in the number of girl student dropouts.

What the governor has said does not reflect the real situation. How many convocations were held on campuses in the last two years? Please remember how the pandemic affected everything

SUBIRESH BHATTACHARYA | GENERAL SECRETARY OF VC COUNCIL

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The Centre had warned of Maoist activities in Bengal earlier in the week, with the state police having tightened its vigil in Junglemahal - comprising parts of East and West Midnapore, Jhargram, Bankura and Purulia districts.

"Security forces have been put on high alert. We are keeping a close watch on the situation," a senior police officer said.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, however, alleged earlier in the week that the posters were put up by BJP workers, and that a few television channels were creating "an atmosphere of fear" by giving the matter "unnecessary" coverage.

In the same breath, she also said that at least five Maoists had entered the state from neighbouring Jharkhand in the recent past.

Echoing her, TMC West Midnapore district president and MLA Ajit Maity said that it was a



national

of the day quote

The state will form a committee to control hate speeches in accordance with instructions of the Supreme Court



BASAVARAJ BOMMAI | KARNATAKA CM

The way we achieved Telangana statehood and took the state towards the destination of progress, we will, in a similar way, look at India (to address the situation)



K CHANDRASEKHAR RAO | TELANGANA CM

I was just telling chamber of commerce people, who met me, that green hydrogen is the future. Now, you can make green hydrogen not only from water, but you can make green hydrogen from organic waste



NITIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

SHORT TAKES

Woman gangraped

Hyderabad: A woman was allegedly gangraped by four men in Dindigul in the outskirts of Hyderabad, police said Saturday. The victim, who had come from Sholapur, was sexually assaulted in Medchal district late Friday night. All the accused, identified as Narasimha (23), Imam (20), Abdul Quddus (21) and Umrudin (21), are said to be auto-rickshaw drivers. They allegedly took the victim to an isolated place and committed the crime.

Soldier killed

Srinagar: A soldier was killed and two others were injured on Saturday in a road accident in Kashmir's Ganderbal district, police sources said. "The vehicle, which was part of an army convoy, turned turtle near Masjid Mohn in Sumbal Bala area. The soldier came under the ill-fated vehicle which killed him on the spot," the sources said. "Two other soldiers sustained injuries in this accident. They have been shifted to hospital."

39 injured

Srinagar: Thirty-nine people, including 17 tourists, were injured in an alleged attack by stray dogs in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar city. Locals said 39 persons were injured when a pack of stray dogs attacked them in Dalgate area of Srinagar city on Friday evening. "The injured included 17 tourists and 22 locals. All the injured were shifted to hospital," local eye witnesses said.

AP MLA attacked

Amaravati: Tension prevailed at a village in Andhra Pradesh's Eluru district on Saturday when an MLA of YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) was attacked by a rival group within the ruling party following murder of a local sarpanch. The incident occurred in G. Kothapalli village of Dwaraka Tirumala mandal. The infighting in the ruling party came to the fore when MLA Talar Venkata Rao was attacked by rival group when he went to the village following murder of G. Kothapalli sarpanch Ganji Prasad.

Six injured

New Delhi: At least six people were severely injured after a DTC bus rammed into shops in the national capital's Jangpura area Saturday, police said. A senior police official said the victims were rushed to a nearby government hospital where they were undergoing treatment and were said to be out of danger by the doctors.



“
The meteorological department scientists had already warned that temperature in May can soar up to 48 degrees Celsius, but despite the warning the ruling BJP government did not take any step to provide relief to the people

AKHILESH YADAV | SP CHIEF

WELCOME MOVE

An ambulance service for sick and injured cows was inaugurated in Assam's Dibrugarh district. The service, to be run by Gopal Gaushala, was inaugurated by Dibrugarh Deputy Commissioner Biswajit Pegu



Heat in India unlikely due to climate change alone: WMO

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, April 30: After multiple scientists claimed that the current spell of heatwaves in India and Pakistan are due to climate change, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said it would be premature to attribute it solely to climate change.

The WMO also appreciated warning systems and heat action plans that helped save lives.

In a statement issued on Friday night, the WMO said: "It is premature to attribute the extreme heat in India and Pakistan solely to climate change. However, it is consistent with what we expect in a changing climate. Heatwaves are more frequent and more intense and now start earlier than it did in the past.

"India, especially the northwest, has been witnessing a third heatwave since March with the current, third spell sending mercury soaring to more than 45 degrees Celsius across dozens of states of India, including the northwestern Himalayan states too.

"Similar temperatures have been seen in Pakistan. The Pakistan Meteorological Department said that daytime temperatures are likely to be between 5 degrees Celsius and 8 degrees Celsius above normal in large swathes of the country.

The agency warned that in the mountainous regions of Gilgit-Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkwa, the unusual heat would enhance the melting of snow and ice and might trigger glacial lake outburst floods or flash floods in vulnerable areas.

"Air quality has deteriorated, and large swathes of land are at risk



India recorded its warmest March on record while Pakistan recorded its highest March temperature in the past 60 years, with a number of stations breaking March records, the WMO said

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in its Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) has said that heat waves and humid heat stress will be more intense and frequent in South Asia in this century

of extreme fire danger."

India recorded its warmest March on record while Pakistan recorded its highest March temperature in the past 60 years, with a number of stations breaking March records, the WMO said.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in its Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) has said that heat waves and humid heat stress will be more intense and frequent in South Asia in this century.

The WMO, endorsing India's Ministry of Earth Sciences' publication on climate change in India that has a whole chapter on temperature change, said: "The frequency of warm extremes over India has increased during 1951-2015, with accelerated warming

trends during the recent 30 year period 1986-2015. Significant warming is observed for the warmest day, warmest night and coldest night since 1986."

Through its statement, the WMO also reminded the need for a multi-hazard early warning system that it has promised to ensure for all in the next five years.

"Heatwaves have multiple and cascading impacts not just on human health, but also on ecosystems, agriculture, water and energy supplies and key sectors of the economy. The risks to society underline why the WMO is committed to ensuring that multi-hazard early warning services reach the most vulnerable," it said.

Man gets death for raping daughter

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, April 30: A special court trying sexual offences against children, handed over the death sentence to a 49-year-old man in Chennai, for sexually assaulting his daughter while the mother of the girl was awarded a life sentence by the court.

The sexual abuse had come to light when the girl studying in Class 11 narrated her ordeal to her friends in school which they informed the teachers. The teachers further conveyed the matter to the Childline authorities. Volunteers of the Childline rescued the girl and lodged a complaint with the all-women police station in Guindy.

The victim's father was arrested under the Juvenile Justice Act. Special court judge for Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO), M. Rajalakshmi awarded the death sentence to the 49-year-old man for sexually abusing his daughter. The judgment was pronounced on Friday.

The judge in her order said the man must be hanged by the neck till he is dead and added that the punishment is subject to clearance from the Madras High Court. Section 6 of the POCSO Act says that capital punishment is given for the offence of aggravated penetrative sexual assault.

The girl revealed to the investigating officers that her father used to assault her since she attained the age of seven and had continued it even after she attained puberty.

The victim in her statement told the police that she got pregnant by her father in 2019 and that he had forced her to undergo abortion with the support of her mother. She also revealed to the police that her father had inserted foreign objects in her genitals and had forced her to sleep nude with him.

Packed itinerary for PM

The Prime Minister will hold meetings, bilateral as well as multilateral, with eight world leaders from seven countries besides having an interaction with 50 global business leaders



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Modi will embark on a three-day visit to Germany, Denmark and France from May 2 amid the Ukraine crisis, which has united much of Europe against Russia

In Paris, Modi will hold talks with French President Emmanuel Macron, who was re-elected to the top post in a fiercely-fought presidential election.

In Berlin, the prime minister will hold bilateral talks with Olaf Scholz, Federal Chancellor of Germany, and the two leaders will co-chair the sixth edition of the India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC), the MEA had said in a statement.

It will be Modi's first meeting with Chancellor Scholz who took charge of the top office from his predecessor Angela Merkel in December last year.

Many vials of Covid vax found in garbage dump

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kannauj (UP), April 30: A probe has been ordered after several vials of Covishield vaccine were found in a garbage dump at a community health centre here, officials said on Saturday.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of the district, Dr Vinod Kumar termed the "wastage of vaccine" a serious matter. An investigation will be ordered and action will be taken against those found guilty," said Kumar.

CHC superintendent Dr. Mahendra Bhan Singh said a single vial of Covishield contains 10 doses. According to the rule, a vial of Covishield is opened only when 10 patients are available to take the dose.

"Sometimes if the vial has been opened, and fewer people are present as others didn't turn up within a few hours, that vial is kept aside."

Meanwhile some local residents alleged that despite not taking the second dose of the vaccine, they have been receiving messages on their mobile phone that the second jab has been administered to them. Nirmal Yadav and Vimal Kumar of Tilpai village said they have received messages on their mobile phones that they have taken their second dose. "But in reality we are yet to receive the second dose of the Covishield vaccine," they said.

BJP trying to divide Hindus, says Uddhav

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 30: Maharashtra Chief Minister and Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray Saturday accused the BJP of conspiring to divide Hindus in the state.

Thackeray made the comments during his online address to Shiv Sena's district chiefs from Konkan region, and from western and north Maharashtra, according to the points shared by the party from his speech.

Without naming the BJP, Thackeray alleged that it was trying to paint Maharashtra as "anti-Hindu" as it allegedly did in the cases of West Bengal and Kerala - both non-BJP ruled states.

The BJP has been targeting its erstwhile ally, the Shiv Sena, over the issue of Hindutva ever since the Thackeray-led party formed government in Maharashtra by joining hands with the NCP and the Congress.

"We always say Maharashtra shows the direction. Now, Maharashtra should show the direction again... It is the BJP's conspiracy to divide Hindus and Marathis and non-Marathis in Maharashtra

UDDHAV THACKERAY | MAHARASHTRA CM

phasis on building the party organisation.

Thackeray also made a pitch for retaliation if political attacks are made on the Shiv Sena, Raut said. "He (Thackeray) said we will need to unmask the pretentious elements. There is no challenge of duplicate Hindutvavadis before the Shiv Sena," Raut said. The Parliamentarian added that Thackeray also expressed his resolve to visit parts of Maharashtra in the near future.

fluences the occurrence and severity of human-elephant conflict," it observed.

In this report, preliminary details on HEC pertaining to seven elephant range states of India have been pictorially depicted and broad trends presented. The report also identified new challenges such as elephant dispersal into human-dominated areas, rapid landuse transformation around elephant habitats, and sustained economic and infrastructure development related pressures that fragment, isolate and degrade elephant habitats, consequently resulting in human-elephant conflicts.

"The spatial relationship between elephants, people and associated socio-economic factors in

WATER WOES



People stand in queues to collect water, at Jogeshwari in Mumbai

PTI PHOTO

Smriti to take on Rahul in Wayanad

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, April 30: After bringing down Rahul Gandhi at Amethi, Smriti Irani is all set to land in Wayanad next week, the constituency that the Congress leader had won in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

According to sources in the know of things, Irani, the Union Minister for Women and Child Development, is coming with a

mission to take on Rahul Gandhi, especially with the Wayanad district having the largest population of tribals in the state and their condition continues to rot, despite the numerous schemes that the Centre has for their upliftment.

According to the 2011 Census, the Scheduled Tribe population in Kerala is 4,84,839 (1.5 per cent of the total population). And Wayanad district has the highest number

of tribals at 1,51,443.

Incidentally, it was actor-politician Suresh Gopi, a nominated member of the Upper House whose term ended this month, who in his last few speeches in the Parliament raised the issue of how centrally sponsored schemes for the upliftment of the poor and down-trodden and for the SC/ST communities in Kerala are not getting due attention, giving the impetus to Irani to make a visit to Wayanad.

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"(However), there is now an increased recognition that conflict resolution cannot be a one-off effort, but a continuous and sustained endeavor of learning and implementing different strategies over longer period of time. Although

human-elephant conflict is one of the most well researched topics in both conservation biology and management in India; many questions beg satisfactory answers so as to devise lasting solutions to

"the problem," it said.

With an objective of making the HEC database readily assessable for policymakers and field managers, Project Elephant Division along with the Elephant Cell of Wildlife

Institute of India (WII) embarked on the task of mapping HEC across the country.

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REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE: PTI

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"The spatial relationship between elephants, people and associated socio-economic factors in

international

of the day quote



I want to give a message to all of Pakistan to start preparing from now. The start of our preparation will be chaand raat (eve of Eid) and I want to say specifically to the youth that you have to come out with flags and tell the whole world that the Pakistani nation is alive

IMRAN KHAN | EX-PM, PAKISTAN



We continue to urge Americans not to go to Ukraine... this is an active war zone, this is not the place to be traveling to

JOHN KIRBY | SPOKESMAN, PENTAGON



We expect the Greek side to put an end to its provocative rhetoric and actions and to sincerely support the confidence building measures process initiated both bilaterally and within the NATO, so that such incidents do not recur

TANJU BILIC | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN, TURKEY

SHORT TAKES

Pak sees 2nd polio case within a week

Islamabad: A two-year-old girl in Pakistan's Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province has been tested positive for polio, the second such case in the country in a week, triggering panic among health officials as the virus causing the crippling disease can travel along with people in the massive movement during Eid holidays. "Today, the Pakistan National Polio Laboratory at the NIH, Islamabad, has confirmed the detection of Type-1 Wild Poliovirus from the stool specimen from a 24-month-old girl from district North Waziristan, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. The girl had an onset of paralysis on 14 April 2022," an official statement said.

Serbia shows off Chinese missiles

Belgrade: Serbia Saturday publicly displayed a recently delivered Chinese anti-aircraft missile system, raising concerns in the West and among some of Serbia's neighbours that an arms buildup in the Balkans could threaten fragile peace in the region. The sophisticated HQ-22 surface-to-air system was delivered last month by a dozen Chinese Air Force Y-20 transport planes in what was believed to be the largest-ever airlift delivery of Chinese arms to Europe.

Omicron sub-variant detected in Oz state

Canberra: Health authorities of Australia's Victoria state confirmed that the Omicron sub-variant BA.2.12.1 has been traced in wastewater in Melbourne. The Victoria Health Department said authorities would now prioritize the sequencing of PCR samples from Covid-19 cases in the water catchment area to get a better understanding of the spread of the BA.2.12.1, reports Xinhua news agency. Victoria reported 19 Covid deaths Saturday along with 9,064 new cases, bringing the state's overall active cases to 54,992.

8 children killed in accident in Egypt

Cairo: At least eight children died Saturday when a passenger tricycle overturned and sank in an irrigation channel in Egypt's Nile Delta, authorities said. The accident took place in the city of Itay el-Baroud in the Mediterranean province of Beheira. The children were workers at a factory in the city, around 140 km (87 miles) north of the capital of Cairo, a police statement said.



Everyone will be able to see that we command a majority next week. President should resign from his post and then constitutional reforms should follow to ensure checks and balances among the pillars of the government

LAKSHMAN KIRIELLA | OPPOSITION LEADER, SL

LONGEST GLASS-BOTTOMED BRIDGE
Vietnam launched a new attraction for tourists with a head for heights, with the opening of a glass-bottomed bridge suspended 150 metres above a lush jungle. The Bach Long pedestrian bridge -- whose name translates to "white dragon" -- snakes around dizzying cliff faces hitting a total length of 632 metres



Russia pounding Donbas: Ukraine

REUTERS



RUSSIA CONTINUES ASSAULT ON EASTERN UKRAINE

UKRAINE SAYS RUSSIANS 'NOT SUCCEEDING' IN TAKING TARGETS

US TO PASS UKRAINE AID AND WEAPONS PACKAGE SOON

ANOTHER MASS GRAVE WITH 900 BODIES FOUND IN KYIV REGION

cupied. Moscow denies the claims.

In Washington, US President Joe Biden's proposed \$3 billion aid package for Ukraine, including \$20 billion for weapons, has received bipartisan support. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Friday she hoped Congress would pass the package as soon as possible.

Russia calls its actions in Ukraine

a "special operation" to disarm Ukraine and protect it from fascists. Ukraine and the West say the fascist allegation is baseless and the war is an unprovoked act of aggression.

The war has turned cities to rubble, killed thousands and forced 5 million Ukrainians to flee abroad. After failing to capture the capital, Russia is now focusing on the east and south of Ukraine.

Moscow hopes to take full control of the eastern Donbas region made up of Luhansk and Donetsk, parts of which were already controlled by Russian-backed separatists before the invasion.

Britain's defence ministry said Saturday that Russia had been forced to merge and redeploy depleted and disparate units from failed advances in northeastern Ukraine.

Ukraine's deputy agriculture minister Taras Vysotskiy accused Russian forces of stealing hundreds of thousands of tonnes of grain in the areas they occupy, and said he feared an additional 1.5 million tonnes were at risk of being stolen.

Zelenskyy on Time Magazine's cover

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is featured on the cover of Time Magazine's latest issue. The cover story, by reporter Simon Schuster, promises to take readers inside the world of the Ukrainian President and how he has led the country during its toughest times. The text on the magazine's cover reads, "How Zelenskyy leads: Inside the compound with the president and his team".

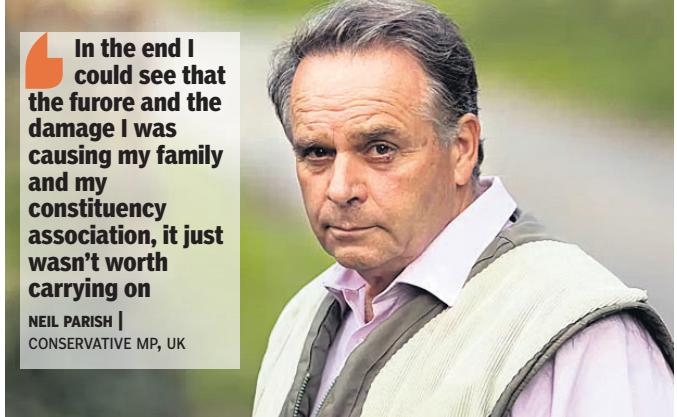


While the US and some European countries have rushed to Ukraine's help, Zelenskyy told the magazine that the flagging attention of the world bothers him nearly as much as the raining Russian bombs. "People see this war on Instagram, on social media. When they get sick of it, they will scroll away," he said. "It's a lot of blood."

The story mentions that Zelenskyy once drove outside the presidential house compound in secret to see the devastation of Kyiv. The reporter, who met and interviewed him, stated that two months of war have made the Ukrainian President "harder, quicker to anger, and a lot more comfortable with risk."

PORN IN PARLIAMENT

UK MP resigns after admitting allegations



In the end I could see that the furore and the damage I was causing my family and my constituency association, it just wasn't worth carrying on

NEIL PARISH | CONSERVATIVE MP, UK

Earlier this week British media had reported that a female minister said she had seen a male colleague

viewing pornographic material while sitting beside her in the Commons chamber and the same lawmaker watching pornography during a committee hearing

REUTERS

London, April 30: A British lawmaker who had been suspended from Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservative Party said Saturday he had resigned after admitting he twice viewed pornography on his phone in the House of Commons "in a moment of madness."

The Conservatives suspended Neil Parish Friday after he reported himself to parliament's standards commissioner. Parish resigned Saturday, having previously said he would continue as a member of parliament while an

investigation was carried out.

Parish, a farmer, said the first time he had viewed the explicit material he had stumbled across it by accident when looking for tractors on a website with a similar name, and had then "watched it for a bit which I shouldn't have done. But my crime, most biggest crime is that on another occasion I went in a second time and that was deliberate. That was sitting waiting to vote on the side of the chamber."

Asked what had been going through his mind, he described it as "a moment of madness".

"I was not proud of what I was doing," Parish said, adding that he had not intended those around him would see it. "I am not going to defend what I did. What I did was absolutely, totally wrong ... I think I must have taken complete leave of my senses."

In an interview with The Times newspaper published before his resignation, Parish's wife said she was not aware of her husband having done anything similar before and that her husband was "a lovely person". "It was all very embarrassing. My breath was taken away, frankly," said Parish.

Over 20 trapped, 39 missing in China building collapse

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, April 30: At least 39 people were missing and 23 trapped in a six-storey residential building collapse in China's central Hunan province, authorities said Saturday.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has ordered all-out efforts to rescue the trapped and injured people. Five people have been rescued and admitted to nearby hospitals.

The six-storey building, which has a floor area of about 700 square meters, toppled at noon Friday in Changsha city's Wangcheng district, state-run China Global Television Network reported. The owner of the building has been detained.

Huang Ming, minister of emergency management, in a video conference Saturday called for an inspection of work safety to prevent further accidents.

"Related departments should launch a crackdown on illegal and irregular building activities such as unauthorised construction and unauthorised alteration of the main structure to prevent collapses and other similar accidents," Huang said.

Italian court has said it will decide by May 25 whether to force a sale of the buildings, some of which house German cultural, archeological, historical and educational institutions.

NAZI COMPENSATION CLAIMS

Germany takes Italy to UN court again

REUTERS

The Hague, April 30: Germany has filed a case against Italy at the highest UN court because Rome continues to allow victims of Nazi war crimes to claim compensation from the German state even after an earlier ruling that such claims violated international law.

Germany's application to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), published on the court website late Friday, says Italy continues to allow compensation claims to be brought in domestic courts despite the ICJ's 2012 ruling that this violated Berlin's right to immunity under international law.

Berlin says that since the 2012 ruling, there have been more than 25 new compensation claims filed in Italy against the German state for damages arising from Nazi crimes during World War Two. In many of these cases, courts have ordered Germany to pay compensation.

Germany says it has filed the case at the ICJ now because an



The dispute over WWII compensation claims started in 2008 when Italy's highest court ruled that Germany should pay around 1 million euros to families of nine people who were among 203 killed by the German army in Civitella, Tuscany in 1944

Germany has said it will decide by May 25 whether to force a sale of the buildings, some of which house German cultural, archeological, historical and educational institutions.

Shanghai marks Covid feat

OVERALL, MAINLAND CHINA REPORTED 10,793 DAILY COVID-19 CASES, DOWN FROM 15,688 NEW CASES A DAY EARLIER

REUTERS



Shanghai records no Covid cases outside quarantine areas
Beijing on tenterhooks, bracing for more restrictions
Breakthrough would mark victory for Xi in crucial year
Infections ease as China starts Labour Day holiday

leaving their compounds.

Shanghai reported 47 Covid-19 deaths for Friday, down from 52 a day earlier. Some have questioned the fatality rate, as many residents have said relatives or friends have died after catching coronavirus as early as March. Beijing has reported 295 new Covid-19 cases since April 22, the local health authority said, of which 123 cases were found in the Chaoyang district.

Saturday, health authorities said there were close to 16,000 sealed-off areas in Shanghai, with more than 4 million people prevented from leaving their homes. A further 5.4 million people were blocked from

leaving their compounds.

Shanghai officials did not discuss the break in Covid transmission at their daily news conference, but social media cheered the news.

"Shanghai has finally reached zero at the community level!!! May Shanghai wake up as soon as pos-

sible!!," said one post on the Weibo platform.

Friday's zero cases outside quarantine areas in Shanghai compared to 108 for Thursday. Some, however, played down the milestone, noting that most of the city's residents were locked in some form of quarantine.

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"Shanghai has finally reached zero at the community level!!! May Shanghai wake up as soon as pos-

business

of the day quote



We have got 82 unicorns in the whole internet space, software space and it is time now to create unicorn in semiconductor design space

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR | MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND IT

MUSK GAINS 6MN FOLLOWERS

Amid Twitter's \$44 billion deal saga, tech billionaire Elon Musk has gained approximately 6 million followers on the platform. The Tesla CEO likely had around 83 million followers before the Twitter deal. However, as of now, he has over 89 million followers on the microblogging site



Xiaomi's assets worth ₹5,551 crore seized over forex violations

THE SEIZURE OF FUNDS HAS BEEN DONE UNDER RELEVANT SECTIONS OF THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE MANAGEMENT ACT (FEMA) AFTER A PROBE WAS LAUNCHED BY THE FEDERAL AGENCY AGAINST THE FIRM IN CONNECTION WITH ALLEGED "ILLEGAL REMITTANCES" SENT ABROAD BY THE CHINESE FIRM IN FEB



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MSME

RAJESHWAR RAO | DEPUTY GOVERNOR, RESERVE BANK

MSME

CHAKRAVARTI | MD AND CEO, SHRIKRISHNA CIVIL UNION FINANCE

MSME

ANNAVAPU | PRESIDENT, FMC INDIA

Within the MSME space, we largely cater to the trading community and they have rebounded with the pick-up in activity, thus spurring demand for MSME credit

YS CHAKRAVARTI | MD AND CEO, SHRIKRISHNA CIVIL UNION FINANCE

MSME

Our objective with project MadhuShakti is to transform the lives of rural families by empowering women in agriculture with sustainable business opportunities

RAVI ANNAVAPU | PRESIDENT, FMC INDIA

SHORT TAKES

KVIC logs ₹1.15trn turnover in FY22

New Delhi: The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) achieved a whopping Rs 1.15 lakh crore turnover in 2021-22, growing at a rate of 20.54 per cent from the previous year, the government said Saturday. The MSME ministry stated that KVIC has achieved a height which remains a distant goal for all FMCG companies in India. Last fiscal year, the overall turnover of KVIC stood at Rs 1,15,415.22 crore as compared to Rs 95,741.74 crore in 2020-21. KVIC has thus registered a growth of 20.54 per cent from 2020-21. "Compared to the year 2014-15, the overall production in Khadi and Village Industry sectors in 2021-22 has registered a whopping growth of 172 per cent while the gross sales during this period increased by over 248 per cent," the ministry said.

Yes Bank Q4 net profit at ₹367cr

New Delhi: Yes Bank Saturday said it returned to full-year profitability in the fiscal ended March 2022, registering a profit of Rs 1,066 crore during the year. The private sector lender had posted a net loss of Rs 3,462 crore in the previous fiscal year ended March 2021 and a loss of Rs 22,715 crore in FY20. FY22 is the first full-year profit since FY19, Yes Bank said in a regulatory filing. In the quarter ended March of the fiscal year 2021-22, the bank registered a net profit of Rs 367 crore. There was a net loss of Rs 3,788 crore in the same quarter of the previous fiscal year 2020-21. Compared sequentially, the net profit in Q4 FY22 rose by 38 per cent from Rs 266 crore in the preceding quarter ended December 2021.

Astral to buy 51% stake in Gem Paints

New Delhi: PVC pipes and plastic products maker Astral said it will acquire a majority 51 per cent stake in Gem Paints for Rs 194 crore, a move which will allow the Ahmedabad-based firm to expand its product portfolio into the paints segment. Astral has entered into a definitive agreement with Gem Paints and its shareholders after the deal was approved by its board on Friday, it said in a regulatory filing. "Astral shall initially invest Rs. 194 Crores in Gem Paints Private Limited by subscribing to Optionally Convertible Debentures equivalent to the value of 51 per cent equity stake of Operating Paint business of Gem Paints," it said, adding it will be an all-cash deal.

XIAOMI DENIES WRONGDOING

In a statement, a Xiaomi spokesperson said "as a brand committed to India, all our operations are firmly compliant with local laws and regulations".

"We have studied the order from government authorities carefully. We believe our royalty payments and statements to the bank are all legit and truthful. These royalty payments that Xiaomi India made were for the in-licensed technologies and IPs used in our Indian version products," the spokesperson said.

"It is a legitimate commercial arrangement for Xiaomi India to make such royalty payments. However, we are committed to working closely with government authorities to clarify any misunderstandings," the spokesperson added.

Xiaomi started its operations in India in 2014 and started remitting the money from the next year, it said. "The company has remitted foreign currency equivalent to Rs 5,551.27 crore to three foreign based entities which include one Xiaomi group entity, in the guise of royalty," the ED said.

Such huge amounts in the name of royalties were remitted on the instructions of their Chinese "parent group" entities, it alleged.

The ED also accused the company of providing "misleading information" to the banks while remitting the money abroad.

Earlier this month, the ED had also questioned the global vice president of the group, Manu Kumar Jain, at the agency's regional office in Bangalore, Karnataka.

entities to whom such amounts have been transferred.

"Under the cover of various unrelated documentary facade created amongst the group entities, the company remitted this amount in guise of royalty abroad which constitute violation of section 4 of the FEMA," it said.

The said section of the civil law of FEMA talks about "holding of foreign exchange."

The ED also accused the company of providing "misleading information" to the banks while remitting the money abroad.

Earlier this month, the ED had also questioned the global vice president of the group, Manu Kumar Jain, at the agency's regional office in Bangalore, Karnataka.

Japan, but the equation may not hold when inflation is high and rising. Euro zone inflation hit a record 7.5% this month, although so far European Central Bank policymakers blame it mainly on energy prices.

Bank of Japan boss Haruhiko Kuroda still views yen weakness as a positive for Japan, but lawmakers fret that the yen, at 20-year lows, will inflict damage via costlier food and fuel. Half of Japanese firms expect higher costs to hurt earnings, a survey found.

TIGHTENING BECOMING FRIGHTENING

A rising US dollar tends to tighten financial conditions, which reflect the availability of funding. Goldman Sachs estimates that a 100 basis point tightening in its widely used proprietary Financial Conditions Index (FCI) crimps growth by one percentage point in the following year.

The FCI, which factors in the

impact of the trade-weighted dollar, shows global conditions at their tightest since 2009. The FCI has tightened by 120 basis points in April alone, as the dollar has strengthened 5%.

Emerging markets tend to have especially high levels of dollar debt. EM conditions have tightened 190 basis points this month, led by Russia,

PANDEMIC LOSSES

Economy may take 12 yrs to recoup: RBI



In an analysis of the impact of Covid-19 on the economy, the report has estimated the output losses during the pandemic period at around

Rs 52 lakh crore in 2021-22 and 2022-23, respectively

demic can potentially alter the growth trajectory in the medium-term," the report said.

The pre-Covid trend growth rate works out to 6.6 per cent (CAGR for 2012-13 to 2019-20) and excluding the slowdown years, it stands at 7.1 per cent (CAGR for 2012-13 to 2016-17). "Taking the actual growth rate of (-) 6.6 per cent for 2020-21, 8.9 per cent for 2021-22 and assuming growth rate of 7.2 per cent for 2022-23, and 7.5 per cent beyond that, India is expected to overcome Covid-19 losses in 2024-25," the report said.

The report has been authored by officials in the RBI's Department of Economic and Policy Research (DEPR). The RBI, however, said the findings and conclusions expressed in the report are entirely those of the contributors and do not represent the views of the central bank.

The dividends of reforms initiated to counter the pre-COVID slowdown along with additional measures and initiatives during the pandemic will help launch the economy on a sustainable high growth path, it said.

IREDA profit rises to all-time high

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 30: State-owned Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) has posted a historic all-time high profit of Rs 634 crore for 2021-22. This profit was 82.88 per cent higher as compared to the previous year's.

Profit Before Tax (PBT) in 2021-22 was Rs 834 crore, higher by 46.41 per cent from 2020-21, a company statement said.

The loan book of IREDA, an NBFC under Ministry of New & Renewable Energy grew from Rs 27,854 crore as March 31, 2021 to Rs 33,931 crore at March-end this year, registering a growth of 21.82 per cent.

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BIZ BUZZ

Vedanta unveils Jal Seva Shibir in City

Bhubaneswar: In a time when Capital city is witnessing severe heatwave, Vedanta in association with Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Saturday, flagged off 15 Jal Seva Shibir (kiosks) at important locations of the City. The ceremonial opening of the kiosks was done by Mayor Sulochana Das, in the presence of President of Vedanta Tapan Chand. These kiosks will provide cool water, lemon water and butter milk from 9 am to 5 pm until mid June. The kiosks will be operated by two NGOs - Automaheasan and Deesha Biogram, an all-women startup, which is leading the NGOs for the work. "It is indeed a welcoming initiative especially setting up such kiosks during this duration. However, we should also take care of birds and animals that are also facing the extreme weather. We should also look to plant trees to augment greenery and rain fall," Das said. Meanwhile, Rahul Sharma, CEO, Vedanta Aluminium and Power in his message said that Jal Seva Shibir is a need based beneficial program and that they will be introducing more such beneficial programs shortly. Many resident welfare associations, citizens' associations and groups have praised the initiative of Vedanta at State level providing relief in scorching summer as a welcome change and noble job.



MCL provides ambulance services for 3 western districts

Sambalpur: Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) Friday commissioned five ambulances for strengthening healthcare facilities in Jharsuguda, Sambalpur and Barghars districts. Suresh Kumar Pujari, MP (LS) flagged off a fleet of five Basic Life Support ambulances from the MCL headquarters here. Nitesh Ganguly, MP (LS), Sambalpur and Om Prakash Singh, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, MCL joined the flagging off ceremony through video-conferencing. KR Vasudevan, Director (Finance), Keshav Rao, Director (Personnel), Jugal Kumar Borah, Director (Technical/Projects & Planning) and PK Patel, Chief Vigilance Officer were prominent among senior officers present on the occasion. Addressing on the occasion, OP Singh, CMD spoke about company's role in energy security of the nation while Kehav Rao, Director (P) briefed about CSR initiatives for development of rural areas and marginalised farmers in Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh and Angul districts in which MCL has operational mines.

GM Rath joins as new Sastra Head of PNB



Bhubaneswar: General Manager Jyoti Ranjan Rath has joined as the new Zonal head of Zonal Sastra of Punjab National Bank, Bhubaneswar. Prior to this he was serving the bank as the General Manager at Bank's Corporate office, New Delhi. Rath has also served the bank as Circle Head of PNB Circle office, Bhubaneswar. In order to accelerate recovery, the Bank has set up Circle Sastra Centers in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Balasore, Berhampur and Sambalpur along with Zonal Sastra Center in Bhubaneswar.

TWO-DECade HIGH

Dollar surge leaves a trail of destruction in its wake



Almost all past emerging market crises were linked to dollar strength. A 10.5% jump in 1993 followed by a 4.6% rise in 1994 for instance were blamed for triggering the "Tequila crisis" in Mexico, which was followed by meltdowns in emerging markets in Asia, as well as Brazil and Russia.

Dollar strength means higher revenues in local currencies for commodity-exporting developing countries. However, the flip side is higher debt servicing costs.

Median foreign-currency government debt stood at a third of GDP by end-2021, Fitch estimates, compared to 18% in 2013. Several developing countries are already seeking IMF/World Bank assistance, and further dollar strength could add to those numbers.

NO RELIEF ON COMMODITIES

The rule of thumb is that a firmer greenback makes dollar-denominated commodities cost-

lier for consumers who use other currencies, eventually subduing demand and prices.

This year, however, tight supplies of major commodities have prevented that equation from kicking in as the Ukraine-Russia war has hit exports of oil, grain, metals and fertiliser, keeping prices elevated.

"When you see what's happening in Eastern Europe, it swamps anything the dollar is doing," LGIM's Onuekwusi said.

GOOD FOR FED?

The Fed might welcome a rising greenback that calms imported inflation - Societe Generale estimates a 10% dollar appreciation causes US consumer inflation to decline by 0.5 percentage points over a year.

If dollar gains continue, the Fed won't need to tighten monetary policy as aggressively as anticipated; notably, the dollar surge of the past week has also seen money market bets on Fed rate hikes stabilise.

GT INCH CLOSER TO IPL PLAYOFFS



DEADLY COMBO: David Miller (L) and Rahul Tewatia have something to discuss about during their match-winning partnership against RCB, Saturday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 30: Gujarat Titans extended their dominance at the top of the table with a six-wicket win over Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL here Saturday and inch closer towards clinching a playoff spot in their inception year.

After failing multiple times, Virat Kohli finally came out of a prolonged slump in form by registering his first IPL fifty (58, 53b, 6x4, 1x6) in 14 matches, including nine this season, as RCB posted a challenging 170/6.

In reply, Rahul Tewatia (43 n.o, 25b, 5x4, 2x6) and David Miller (39 n.o, 24b, 4x4, 1x6) did the job for GT after the table toppers were struggling at 95/4 in the 13th over. With 16 points which has been the magic mark, Titans are well on course towards a top-two finish at the end of league stage.

On the day, Kohli struggled to get going before walking back to the dugout amid a standing ovation at the Wankhede Stadium. Rajat Patidar blasted a 32-ball 52 (5x4, 2x6) – his maiden IPL fifty – while Glenn Maxwell blazed away to 33 (18b, 3x4, 2x6) to prop up RCB.

The returning Pradeep Sangwan (2/19) was excellent with the ball, while Rashid Khan gave away just 29 runs in his four over to check the flow of runs in the middle overs.

GT were off to a sound start with Wriddhiman Saha (31) and Shubman Gill (29) putting on 51

BRIEF SCORES

RCB 170/6

(Virat Kohli 58, Rajat Patidar 52, Glenn Maxwell 33; Pradeep Sangwan 2/19, Rashid Khan 1/29)
lost to **GT 174/4**
(Rahul Tewatia 43 n.o, David Miller 39 n.o, Shubman Gill 31, Wriddhiman Saha 29; Shabaz Ahmed 2/26, Wanindu Hasaranga 2/28)
by 6 wickets.

runs before Wanindu Hasaranga (2/28) effected the first breakthrough by removing the former.

Left-arm spinner Shahbaz Ahmed (2/26) had Gill trapped in front of the wicket. GT skipper Hardik Pandya (3) once again got out cheaply, falling to Shahbaz.

Sai Sudharsan chipped in with a 14-ball 20 before Hasaranga picked up his second wicket. Sudharsan's dismissal left RT at 95/4 with the innnings entering the 14th over.

Needing 71 from six overs, Miller and Tewatia showcased their brilliance with the bat to help GT script a comfortable win.

Earlier, Mohammed Shami (1/39) pulled out twice in his run up, the false starts leaving the umpire annoyed, before the seasoned India seamer beat Kohli with his late movement.

Out in the middle was a batting maestro battling a lean patch but it didn't quite look like that really when the former India captain played Shami for two lovely boundaries.

RCB's top-order woes continued, though, as left-arm seamer Sangwan marked his return to the league with the wicket of rival skipper Faf du Plessis in his very first over. Alzarri Joseph was introduced, and he saw Kohli play a classic cover drive and then pull a short one over the mid-wicket region for a boundary. In came Lockie Ferguson and the Kiwi pacer's low full toss was smashed over long-on by Kohli, who followed that up with a four towards backyard point.

Even as Kohli was getting into the groove, Patidar was gaining confidence, thanks to the flurry of confident strokes that flowed from his willow during their 99-run association.

Alzarri bowled one short and Patidar pulled him over deep mid-wicket for a six and found a four in the next ball to close in on his maiden IPL fifty. He got there soon, reaching the landmark in only 29 balls with a four off Ferguson.

There was a bigger roar at the ground just before that as Kohli reached his half-century in 45 balls. Patidar took the risks and largely succeeded, helping Kohli to settle down and get some runs under his belt.

Sangwan got his second of the match when Patidar top-edged the seamer, and Kohli too failed to convert his fifty into a bigger score as a Shami delivery made its way through, even as the batter tried to make room and play it through cover.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Navi Mumbai, April 30: Seasoned Suryakumar Yadav (51, 39b, 5x4, 2x6) and young Tilak Varma (35, 30b, 1x4, 2x6) gave the best 35th birthday present to their skipper Rohit Sharma as Mumbai Indians finally opened their account, beating Rajasthan Royals by five wickets in an IPL match here Saturday.

Chasing a victory target of 159, MI reached home in 19.2 overs, courtesy Surya and Tilak adding 81 for the third wicket.

It was MI's first win after eight successive defeats and even though the result bears little consequence but it is certainly going to keep the five-time champions in a good mind space.

Losing is also a kind of habit like winning, albeit a bad one, as with itself belief also goes out of the window. Rohit didn't look one bit of his cheery self when he was cutting his birthday cake and by the end of the day, a win must have felt like a healing balm.

Teams then manage to snatch defeat from jaws of victory and something of that order was happening Saturday night before Surya and Tilak sang the redemption song with Tim David (20 n.o) providing the finishing touch. It was Daniel Sams who hit the winning six to send the spectators into a frenzy.

Rohit's run of poor scores continued as he tried a slog sweep off Ravichandran Ashwin (1/21) and offered an easy catch to Daryl Mitchell at square leg.

The price tag of Rs 15.25 crore is increasingly seeming like a noose around Ishan Kishan's (26) neck

MI end 8-game losing streak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BRIEF SCORES

RR 158/6

(Jos Buttler 67, R Ashwin 21; Riley Meredith 2/24, Hrithik Shokeen 2/47, Kumar Kartikeya 1/19)
lost to **MI 161/5**
(Suryakumar Yadav 51, Tilak Varma 35; R Ashwin 1/21, Trent Boult 1/26)
by 5 wickets.

as he started well but in desperation to over-compensate mistimed a pull-shot.

Surya was once again smooth in his strokeplay and so was MI's most consistent player of the season Tilak. The duo took its own time to first settle down, taking the team's score to 75 in first 10 overs and set an ideal platform to knock off the remaining 82 off back-10. From 122/2, MI slumped to 122/4 with Pollard and David at the crease.

Earlier, Jos Buttler threatened to hit six sixes in an over but managed four on the bounce in his 52-ball-67 (5x4, 4x6) as Rajasthan Royals were



restricted to 158/6 by Mumbai.

Buttler wasn't in his element for the better part of the innings before launching into rookie off-spinner Hrithik Shokeen, hitting him for four consecutive sixes. He holed out in the deep in the final ball of the 16th over as MI prevented the England marauder to cause more damage at the death.

Shokeen looked like a lamb for slaughter conceding 47 in 3 overs which included half a dozen of sixes, forcing him to come round the wicket but that was of little benefit.

In nine games so far, Buttler has already amassed 566 runs at an average which is northwards of 70 and a strike-rate of 155 plus.

But on the day, MI attack performed way better than they have in the initial games with new inductee left-arm spinner Kumar Kartikeya being extremely impressive in his first outing on the big stage.

The best bowler on the day for MI was Aussie pacer Riley Meredith (2/24). He gave only three runs in the 20th over. Debutant Kartikeya (1/19) had nine dot balls and conceded only one boundary as well as bagging the prize wicket of rival skipper Sanju Samson.

Super Giants test awaits Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 30: Delhi Capitals would expect more from their batters after an underwhelming display in their previous win, while Lucknow Super Giants must be eager to shrug off overdependence on skipper KL Rahul when the two teams clash in the IPL here Sunday.

Delhi have endured a tough couple of weeks with a mini COVID outbreak in their camp and a no-ball controversy, however; Rishabh Pant and his troops came out from it to march to a four-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders.

While the win boosted the Capitals' who are sixth on the points table, playoff chances, the middle order collapse while chasing an easy total will be a cause of concern.

David Warner continued his sparkling form but his fellow opener Prithvi Shaw, who despite looking in good touch, hasn't been able to convert his starts.

The Capitals have tried various batters at number three, including skipper Rishabh Pant, but are yet to find a suitable candidate for



the job. Mitchell Marsh, who returned to the side after finishing his quarantine, is expected to make it his own but the Australian all-rounder must shake off the rust.

Pant himself has failed to play the explosive innings he is known for. He will need to take greater responsibility along with the likes of all-rounders Lalit Yadav, Shardul Thakur and Axar Patel. Delhi would breathe a sigh of relief that their faith in the Rovman Powell as a finisher is finally paying off.

Delhi's bowling department, on the other hand, has done well. The bowlers, after leaking runs against the Royals, came back strongly to lay the foundation for a comfortable win. Kuldeep Yadav is enjoying



his best IPL season, producing match-winning spells. The left-arm spinner has two four-wicket haul this edition, taking his tally to 17 wickets.

Khalil Ahmed has been bowling economically, snapping 11 wickets in six games at the economy of 7.91. He has been complemented well by Mustafizur Rahman, while spinners Axar and Lalit have also played their parts.

LSG, meanwhile, are on course to sealing a playoffs berth, sitting at number three on the points table with six wins from nine outings. However, LSG will hope they can breakaway from the overdependence on captain Rahul, who has been in sublime form.

Rahul has two centuries and a fifty under his belt this season and his innings have been the bedrock of LSG's wins. Such is the dependence on the skipper that all three of LSG's losses have come when Rahul has failed to get going.

LSG do have enough fire power in the form of Quinton de Kock, Ayush Badoni, Deepak Hooda and Krunal Pandya and they need to shoulder more responsibility. They also have the multi-talented duo of Jason Holder and Marcus Stoinis.

In the bowling department, Krunal and pacer Dushmantha Chameera did well to help defend a modest total against Punjab but Ravi Bishnoi has been on the expensive side.

TODAY'S MATCHES

DC	V	LSG
Time: 03:30 pm		
SRH	V	CSK
Time: 07:30 pm		

TELECAST
Star Sports channels & Hotstar

Jadeja hands back reins of CSK to Dhoni

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 30: MS Dhoni was handed the reins of the Chennai Super Kings yet again after Ravindra Jadeja "relinquished" the captaincy to focus on his game, following team's miserable run in the ongoing edition of IPL.

CSK have lost six out of their eight matches so far and Jadeja wants to concentrate more on his game. The development shows that Indian team's most dependable all-format all-rounder struggled to come out of his illustrious predecessor's shadow after being asked to lead the 'Canary Yellow' brigade at the beginning of the league.

"Ravindra Jadeja has decided to relinquish captaincy to focus and concentrate more on his game & has requested MS Dhoni to lead CSK. Dhoni has accepted to lead CSK in the larger interest & to allow Jadeja to focus on his game," CSK said in a statement.

Jadeja's own game has also suffered due to the pressure that comes with leadership responsibility. He has scored only 112 runs and taken five wickets in the eight games so far.

While CSK won their fourth IPL title under Dhoni with a 'Dad's Army' last year, the legendary former India skipper wanted to prepare someone for this responsibility and thus, the second senior-most player Jadeja was thrust into the leadership role.

The official announcement came a day before CSK started their campaign.

SINDHU SETTLES FOR BRONZE AT BAC MEET



took the first game easily in 16 minutes.

In the second game, the fourth-seeded Sindhu was handed a point penalty for taking too much time between points, leading to an argument with the referee.

The argument between the two led to a momentum shift as Yamaguchi levelled the proceedings to force a decider. The Japanese shuttler found her rhythm and never let Sindhu regroup.

In the final game, Sindhu trailed from the beginning. In the end, Yamaguchi had five match points, which she duly converted.

The head-to-head between Sindhu and Yamaguchi is now 13-9 in the Indian's favour. With Sindhu's defeat, India's challenge at the individual continental championship has ended.

DELAYED BY 2 DAYS RANJI TROPHY KNOCKOUT TIES RESCHEDULED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 30: The BCCI has delayed the knockout matches of the Ranji Trophy by two days and now the quarterfinals will begin from June 6 and the title clash of the premier domestic event will start from June 22.

According to an internal communication circulated by the BCCI to its state units, the two semifinals will now begin from June 14, instead of June 12. The final is slated to be played at the Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore.

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THE SCHEDULE

(Quarterfinals: June 6-10)

1st QF: Bengal vs Jharkhand

2nd QF: Mumbai vs Uttarakhand

3rd QF: Karnataka vs Uttar Pradesh

4th QF: Punjab vs Madhya Pradesh

SEMIFINALS: JUNE 14-18

FINAL: JUNE 22-26

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Strasbourg (France), April 30: Kylian Mbappe notched two goals and an assist but Paris Saint-Germain still felt the hangover from a record-tying 10th French league title as it blew a two-goal lead to draw with Strasbourg 3-3.

PSG won the league last weekend. "We