

BRAJARAJNAGAR BY-POLL MAY 31

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 2: The Election Commission of India (ECI) Monday announced that Brajarajnar Assembly constituency will go for by-poll May 31 and the result will be out June 3.

According to the notification issued by the commission, formal notification for the by-poll will be issued May 4 while the last date of submission of nomination is May 11. On May 12, the nominations will be scrutinised and the candidates are allowed to withdraw their candidature by May 17. The by-poll is a necessity following the demise of Brajarajnar MLA from BJD Kishore Kumar Mohanty Mohanty had died following cardiac arrest December 30 last year.

With the issuance of notification, all three major political parties, BJD, BJP and Congress have started exercises to pick suitable candidates for the lone seat. The ruling party is likely to file later MLA Kishore Mohanty's widow Alaka Mohanty for the seat.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I always keep a track of who got which award. It exposes the award!



State to get 34 new courts soon

Bhubaneswar: The state government has decided to establish 34 courts in different districts of the state, Law Minister Pratap Jena said Monday. A high-level committee chaired by Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari has given its approval for the establishment of courts including a special judge (Vigilance) court at Paralakhemundi in Gajapati and seven additional district and sessions judge courts at Bhubaneswar (two), Soro and Jaleswar in Balasore, Chandikhole in Jajpur, Koraput and R Udayagiri in Gajapati. **MORE P3**



No winner in this war: Modi in Berlin

Berlin: Asserting that India is on the side of peace, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Monday that India believes there will be no winner in the Russia-Ukraine conflict and all will suffer losses. Addressing a joint press event with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz here, Modi said that from the start of the Ukraine crisis, India has called for immediate cessation of hostilities and stressed that talks are the only solution to resolve the dispute. He also said India is also concerned about the humanitarian consequences of the conflict. **MORE P10**

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Can't force jabs: SC

Apex court upholds both the right of an individual against forcible vaccination and the govt's current vaccination policy to protect community health

TOP COURT VERDICT

- Bodily integrity is protected under the law and nobody can be forced to be vaccinated
- Restrictions imposed on individuals through vaccine mandates cannot be called to be proportionate
- No restriction should be imposed on individuals on access to public places, services and resources till infection numbers are low
- Publish reports on adverse events of vaccination on a publicly accessible system



AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 2: In a landmark decision on India's Covid vaccine policy, the Supreme Court Monday said no individual can be forced to get vaccinated against Covid-19, and asked the Centre to make public data on the adverse events of immunisation. Bodily autonomy and integrity are protected under Article 21 of the Constitution, a bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao and BR Gavai said while suggesting that there be no

restrictions on unvaccinated people in public areas till Covid numbers are low. The SC, however, said in the interest of protection of communitarian health, the government is entitled to regulate issues of public health concern by imposing certain limitations on individual rights, which are open to scrutiny by constitutional courts. Upholding the government's current vaccination policy, the SC said that based on available material, and considering expert views, the current Covid-19 vac-

cine policy cannot be said to be manifestly arbitrary and unreasonable. The judgement came on a plea of Jacob Puliyel, a former member of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation, who has sought directions to also disclose post-vaccination data on adverse events. It clarified that in the context of the rapidly-evolving situation due to the pandemic, our suggestion to review the vaccine mandates imposed by states/UTs, is limited to the present situation alone and is not to be construed as interfering with the lawful exercise of power by the executive. It directed the Centre to set up a virtual public platform to facilitate reporting of adverse vaccine events. On the issue of vaccination for children, it said that it is not possible to second guess the opinion of experts and the vaccination indeed follows global standards.



OID MUBARAK: Young Muslim devotees wish 'Happy Eid' on the eve of Eid al-Fitr, in Moradabad, Monday. PFI PHOTO

OHRC to probe Paradip 'custodial death'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 2: The Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) Monday directed its own investigation wing to initiate an independent investigation into the alleged custodial death of a youth at Abhayachandpur police station near Paradip in Jagatsinghpur district Saturday. Taking suo motu cognizance of the case, the commission di-

rected the Director of investigation-cum-Addl DGP, OHRC to submit the enquiry report within two weeks period. "Let a copy of this order be handed over to the Director of investigation-cum-Addl DG of Police, Odisha Human Rights Commission, who shall take steps to conduct the enquiry regarding reported news and submit the report by 20.5.2022," instructed the commission. The state rights body also sought

an enquiry report in this regard from the Jagatsinghpur district Superintendent of Police. The Jagatsinghpur SP has been instructed to send the post mortem examination and inquest report along with the enquiry report. The commission also asked the Jagatsinghpur SP to mention in the enquiry report whether formal request has been made for the conduct of magisterial enquiry into the custodial death or not.

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leisure

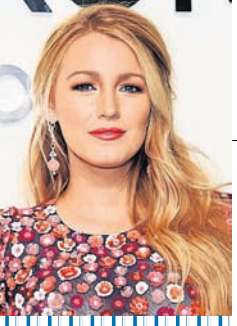


HEARD FIRES PR TEAM OVER BAD HEADLINES

Actress Amber Heard fired her PR team and switched to a new firm after she reportedly became frustrated following a week of bad headlines during the defamation trial brought by her ex-husband and actor Johnny Depp, a new report claimed.

BLAKE LIVELY TO MAKE DIRECTORIAL DEBUT

Actress Blake Lively will take on directing duties for *Seconds*. The movie will be an adaptation of Bryan Lee O'Malley's graphic novel, which follows Katie Clay, who receives the power to fix her mistakes by writing them down, eating a mushroom and falling asleep, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You may find yourself in a precarious position today, says Ganesh. You may feel challenged and swim against the current, which will be counterproductive. Nothing may seem to work out. Taking a break will ease the stress at such a time.

TAURUS
In all probability, it is a favourable day to begin financial planning, says Ganesh. You will focus on your relations and leave no stone unturned to make them prosper. You may yearn for a quiet getaway and end up spending a small fortune to get what you want.

GEMINI
Even though it is for your own benefit, you will spend the day safeguarding the sentiments of others. Not too uncharacteristic, but unusual nonetheless. For most part of the day, you will be away from your family, mostly on a trip for business or leisure purposes.

CANCER
The workaholic Bull will have more on their plate than they can chew. They will be under so much work pressure that their otherwise robust shoulders may wilt under pressure. Ganesh advises you to take it easy, and learn to say no.

LEO
There are chances of conflict on the home front today. However you will be able to solve these problems owing to your understanding nature. However, these conflicts would likely not have cropped up if you would have paid more attention to your family.

VIRGO
Keep an open mind and give vent to your imagination. You will feel very creative today, and will pursue your innovative ideas. Luck will favour you, and some things on which you took some risk will bear fruits. You will be very energetic and enthusiastic about all the work you do. Ganesh says it is an auspicious day to arrange social gatherings.

LIBRA
Ganesh says that your social status will increase now. Today is an auspicious day for venturing in new business or changing your profession. For those involved in the fields of interior designing, or running beauty parlours, now is an especially bountiful time for making progress in your business.

SCORPIO
A cheerful day lies ahead of you especially for the business community. It's a clincher, as good deals not only come to your door step, but yield good business. Feel, that you are the king of the world; bring out the best in you and you are bound to succeed.

SAGITTARIUS
Problems will push you in a corner today. But try resolving them as soon as possible. Expect delays in making final decisions. But as the day ends, expect fruitful results to come by, predicts Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
Good news for students! If you have been trying your luck for studies abroad, today is an opportune day, says Ganesh. Also, get your priorities straight and see that you achieve them one by one, for only a well-planned move can take you a step closer to your ambition.

AQUARIUS
Ganesh advises you to make a simple change in your routine and things will work out superbly. You also get recognition and rewards for past achievements. But that does not mean you become complacent, says Ganesh. Get going, as hard work is still the surest way to salvation!

PISCES
Ferdinand the Bull would be the cartoon character that would most aptly describe you today. Calmness will be second nature to you, and wisdom will ooze from your pores. Communal harmony is something dear to your heart, and your amenability will see you achieve it, says Ganesh.

'Dr Strange' loves India, its culture

The 'Power of the Dog' actor believes that SRK can be a part of Marvel Cinematic Universe movies



Mumbai: Benedict Cumberbatch's connection with India goes back to his teenage years and the *Doctor Strange* star says he hopes to return one day to interact with the country's 'first superhero'.
The British actor, who took a gap of a year after his school to travel to Darjeeling to teach English at a Tibetan monastery, fondly remembers his six-month-long stay in India.
"I love your country, I love your culture and cultures. It feels like I was there almost a lifetime ago, in my late teens for six months of teaching, exploring and traveling as well.
"I'd love to have an excuse to come back and if that's to interact with the first Indian superhero, bring it on," Cumberbatch told PTI in a virtual roundtable interview for his upcoming film *Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness*.
The part two of Marvel Studios' *Doctor Strange* (2016) marks the 45-year-old star's fifth appearance as Dr Stephen Strange aka Sorcerer Supreme in the Marvel Cinematic Universe.
When quizzed which Hindi movie actor he believes can be part of the MCU, the London-born actor asked for options and when suggested the names of Shah Rukh Khan and Hrithik Roshan, he said, "Khan is great."
The two-time Oscar nominee, also known for his work on TV series *Sherlock* and films

The Imitation Game and *The Power of the Dog*, said he is aware about the popularity *Doctor Strange* films enjoy in India and hopes to deliver another entertainer with the much-awaited sequel.

NAWAZUDDIN CALLS RAY THE 'MOZART OF FILM MAKING'

Mumbai: Tributes started pouring in on social media since morning on 101st birth anniversary of legend Satyajit Ray. While the film fraternity remembered the auteur paying homage to Ray, seasoned actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui came up with the most thoughtful tribute message on his Instagram handle.
Sharing a throwback picture of the legendary filmmaker the actor wrote, "The Man who made the whole World of Cinema talk about India. The Mozart of Film Making.
He made cinema on realistic people & very local subjects and it was appreciated globally. The one who made the Local go Global.
Wishing A Very Happy Birth Anniversary to the thespian of Film Making, the



Legendary #SatyajitRay." Incidentally this is not the first time the *Gangs of Wasseypur* actor has spoken about Ray's greatness and his influence in world cinema.
Nawazuddin has always said that he's a huge admirer of Satyajit Ray.
Ray's works always came with a new lesson for aspiring filmmakers. He made 36 movies in a career spanning 37 years. His timeless classics in-

cluding *Pather Panchali*, *Jalshaghar*, *Charulata*, *The Apu Trilogy* and *Mahanagar* are all a lesson to any filmmaker even today. Ray bagged 36 National Film Awards, a Golden Lion Award and an Honorary Academy Award to name a few AGENCIES



It's necessary to live in the moment: Sandeepa

Mumbai: Actress Sandeepa Dhar has not only carved a niche for herself in Hindi film industry, she has shone in the field of dance also. With a scholarship in dance from Australian academy, Sandeepa has been the lead of an international Broadway musical *The West Side Story* with over hundred shows across the globe.
She says, "Until just a few years ago, if kids told their parents that they wanted to be a dancer, I don't think any parent would have taken it seriously. Thanks to the kind of exposure that reality television has brought in, people have become more open to the idea of pursuing dance professionally as a career, which I think is great."
Talking about the positive impacts that dance brought into her life, the *Heropanti* actress revealed, "Dance has taught me a very, very important lesson, which is being 'present in now'. You know, we are always constantly thinking about the future without thinking about our goals, how to get there. It's so necessary to live in the moment."
Sandeepa's web series *Mai: A Mother's Rage*, which has recently been released on Netflix is receiving rave reviews among the viewers.

When quizzed which Hindi movie actor he believes can be part of the MCU, the London-born actor asked for options and when suggested the names of Shah Rukh Khan and Hrithik Roshan, he said, "Khan is great."
The two-time Oscar nominee, also known for his work on TV series *Sherlock* and films



NATYADHARA- DAY 2 Gotie Kahani highlights value of trust, respect in a relationship

Bhubaneswar: After a long hiatus of over two years, state government-sponsored monthly theatre show *Natyadhara* restarted Sunday here at a renovated Bhanja Kala Mandap.
While Rageshri Nilayam theatre troupe of Nayagarh staged play *Relay Race* on the first day of the 6-day event, City-based Panchadhvani Natya Parishad presented Odia play *Gotie Kahani*.
Adapted from a Bimal Kumar Mishra short story, the play was dramatised, designed and directed

by Dipti Ranjan Das.
The plot revolves around an ideal couple whose life turns upside down in no time. After an accident the husband loses his mobility. So, the wife starts working for sustenance. But tragedy strikes again after she, in a bid to become a mother, discovers that her husband also lost his fertility in the mishap. As she desperately wants to have a kid, the husband asks her to go for a second marriage. The conflict between her need for child and marital trust

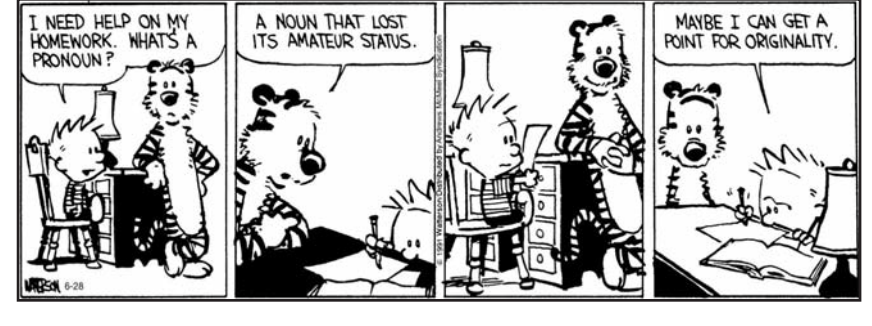
forms the crux of the drama. Sunil, Prasad and Khushi performed on stage while Shakti Prasad Mishra scored the music.
Theatre personalities Nabin Kumar Parida and Chittaranjan Satpathy, Odisha Natya Sangh vice-president Jitendra Patnaik and joint secretary Siba Sankar Tripathy were the guests on the occasion.
The event is being organised by ONS in collaboration with Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi and department of Odia Language, Literature and Culture. PNN



PEANUTS



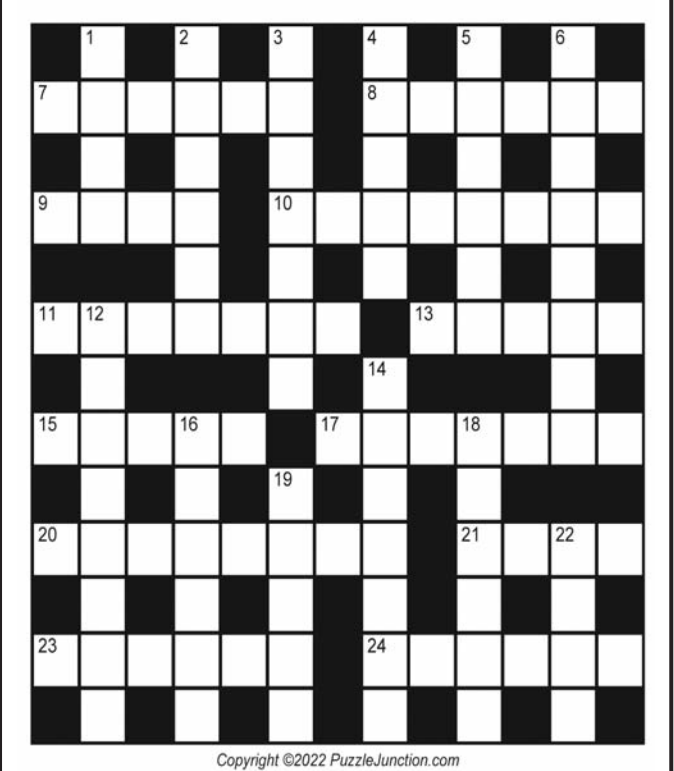
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



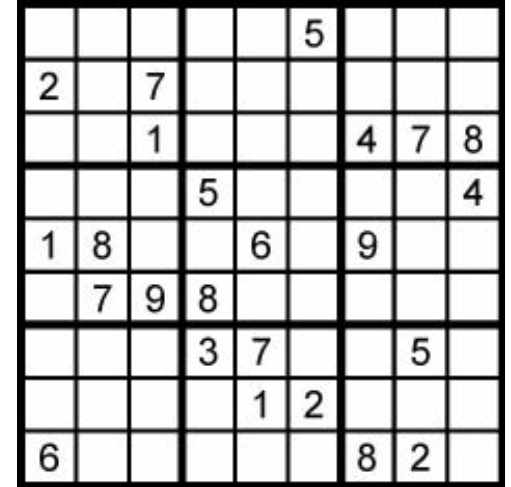
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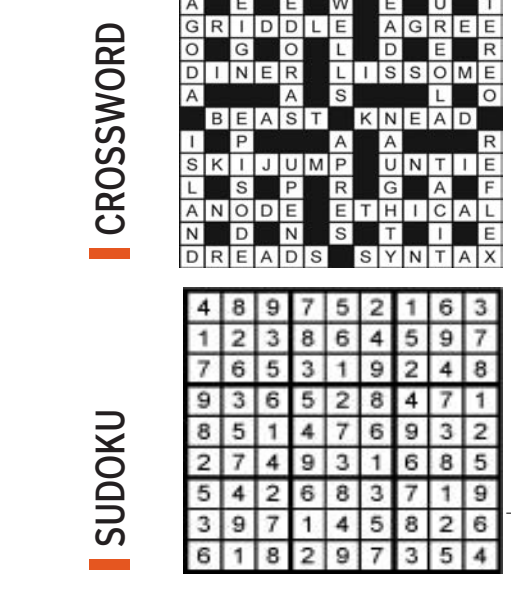
- Across**
- 7 Ancient military hub
 - 8 Ask over
 - 9 Advantage
 - 10 Summit
 - 11 High spirits
 - 13 Tract of level wasteland
 - 15 Impertinent
 - 17 Some flights
 - 20 Wealthy
 - 21 Detest
 - 23 Gentle
 - 24 Seldom
 - 4 Economy-size
 - 5 Fly
 - 6 Kind of heel
 - 12 Child's game
 - 14 Deform
 - 16 Strait of Dover port
 - 18 Orbit
 - 19 Military wear
 - 22 Narrative
- Down**
- 1 Potato
 - 2 Set straight
 - 3 Fizzig

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



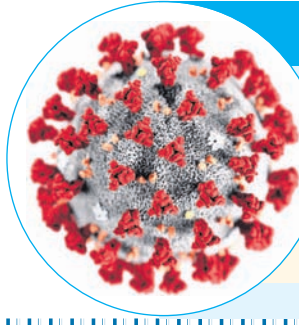
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



LORD'S WATER SPORTS TODAY

Servitors carry a ceremonial throne to Narendra pond in Puri, Monday, for Chandan Yatra of deities Tuesday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	51,36,97,387	46,79,38,886	62,62,188
India	4,30,82,345	4,25,38,976	5,23,869
Odisha	12,88,068	12,78,806	9,126

1,000 bridge-cum-weirs in 3 years to boost irrigation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 2: The state government has planned to construct at least 1,000 bridge-cum-weirs (low dams) to function as sources of irrigation and drinking water across the state in three years, according to senior officials.

Several bridge-cum-weir structures have earlier been built in the state and, as their impact was found positive, the administration has decided to scale up replication of this model.

The government has often been criticised for allegedly not creating more facilities for water storage in the state.

"It is the most cost-effective technology with multiple utilities like groundwater recharge, raising the water level in river beds, irrigating the fertile land on both sides of the river," Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra said.

In some places, riverfront parks can also be developed as a public utility, he said at a meeting Sunday while reviewing the water holding capacity of the bridge-cum-weir structures piloted in some districts.

Development Commissioner PK Jena said that the structures had no adverse effect on the usual flow of water in the river concerned.

The Chief Secretary directed the Works department to identify the high-level bridges on all roads under the Rural Development and Works departments where such structures would be feasible.

A target was set to construct 1,000 such structures in three years,



REPRESENTATIVE PIC

It is the most cost-effective technology with multiple utilities like groundwater recharge, raising the water level in river beds, irrigating the fertile land on both sides of the river

SURESH CHANDRA MAHAPATRA | CHIEF SECRETARY

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Works Secretary VV Yadav said around 49 bridges had been taken up for such structures on a pilot basis

Mahapatra said.

Works Secretary VV Yadav said that around 49 bridges had been taken up for such structures on a pilot basis. Out of this, the structures under 12 bridges were completed in districts such as Dhenkanal, Kalahandi, Mayurbhanj and Bhadrak. The remaining 37 structures would come up in the districts of Angul, Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Ganjam, Keonjhar, Kalahandi, Bolangir and Sundargarh. The horticulture department was asked to motivate the farmers to cultivate vegetables

and cash crops. The water could also be used for drinking water projects wherever necessary, the Chief Secretary said.

Works department engineer-in-chief Manoranjan Mishra said the cost involved in construction of 1 metre water-weir comes around Rs 1.5 lakh. It can hold water levels of around 1,000 cubic metre. Water-weir under a 30-metre bridge could yield 30,000 cubic metre water at a particular point of time, he said, adding, the structures also sustain the pressure of water during the monsoon.

MOMENT TO CAPTURE



Child artistes from Nabarangpur take a selfie at the concluding event of Adivasi Mela and National Tribal Art & Crafts Mela at Idco Exhibition Ground in Bhubaneswar, Monday

PHOTO: BIKASH NAYAK

State to have 34 new courts soon: Jena

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 2: The Odisha government has decided to establish 34 courts in different districts of the state, Law Minister Pratap Jena said Monday.

According to Jena, a high-level committee, chaired by Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari, approved the establishment of the new courts.

After receiving a go-ahead from the Orissa High Court, a formal



notification will be issued in this regard, the Law Minister said.

The committee has given its approval for the establishment of a special judge (Vigilance) court at Paralakhemundi in Gajapati district

and seven additional district and sessions judge courts at Bhubaneswar (two), one each at Soro and Jaleswar in Balasore, Chandikhole in Jajpur, Koraput and R Udayagiri in Gajapati.

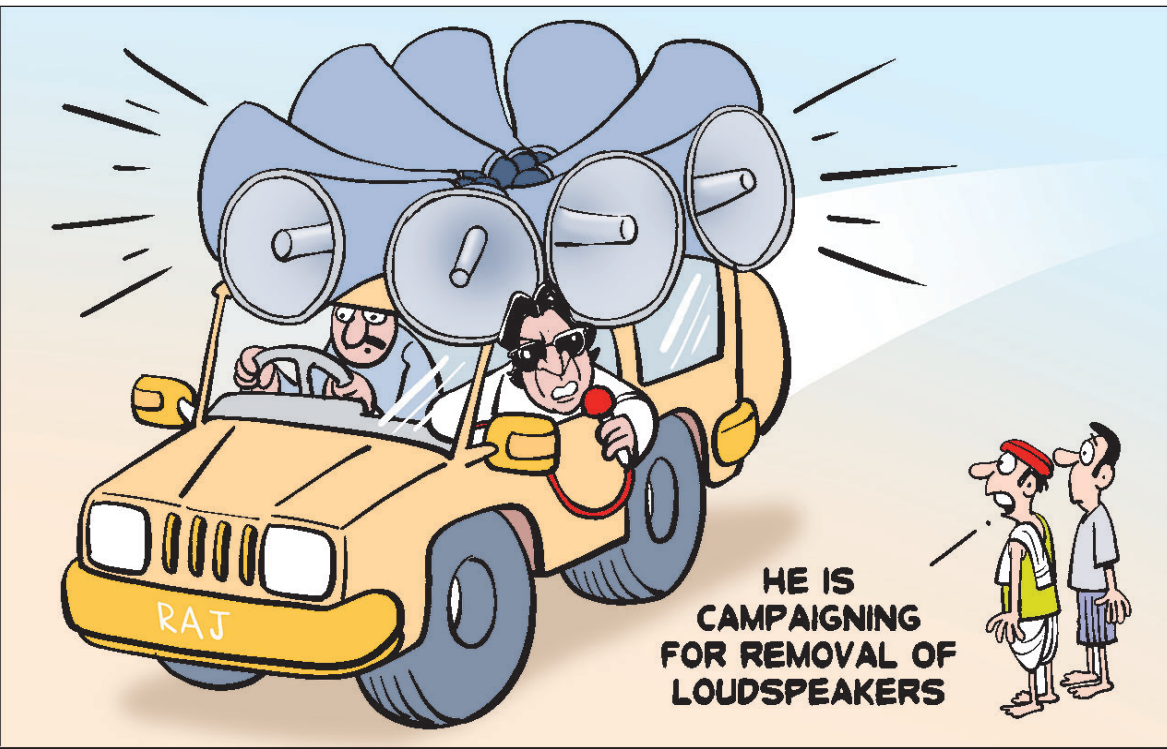
Similarly, the state government has also approved the setting up of five civil judge (senior division) courts, 11 civil judge (junior division) courts and 10 commercial courts, including one leave reserve court, said Jena, adding that Rs

21.26 crore has been approved for the purpose.

This apart, the committee has given post facto approval for establishment of four commercial courts and a court of civil judge (senior division). The Law department has already notified the five courts.

The remaining courts as recommended by the Orissa High Court will be established in a phased manner, added Jena.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



HE IS CAMPAIGNING FOR REMOVAL OF LOUDSPEAKERS

CM reviews projects pending with Centre

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, May 2: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday held a review meeting with the Resident Commissioner and other officials at his residence here on state proposals pending with the Centre.

Resident Commissioner Ravi Kant told media that the CM has asked them to prepare a report on various proposals of Odisha that are pending with the Centre. The commissioner himself was asked to submit the report to the CM.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had arrived in the national capital April 29. He had attended a joint conference of CMs and Chief Justices of High Courts April 30 to discuss challenges being faced by judiciary.

2 more Cov fatalities

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, May 2: Odisha's Covid-19 death toll rose to 9,126 Monday as two more persons succumbed to the disease after a gap of 11 days, an official said.

The previous coronavirus death was reported April 20. Fifty-three other Covid-19 patients in the state have died due to comorbidities so far, added the official.

Khurda man gets thumb back, thanks to AIIMS-Bhubaneswar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 2: Adding another feather to its cap, a team of doctors at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhubaneswar has successfully performed a thumb replantation procedure on a 54-year-old man.

According to the team, led by AIIMS Burns and Plastic Surgery department Associate Professor Sanjay Giri, it is the first-of-its-kind successful procedure at the premier healthcare facility.

Giri said Rabintra Muduli from Chandeswar in Khurda was brought to AIIMS-Bhubaneswar at 2am April 20 with his left thumb severed in a workplace mishap a few hours ago.

"The patient had a clean-cut complete amputation of the left thumb at the level of the metacarpophalangeal joint. However, the severed part was brought by the patient in a well-preserved condition. The patient was stabilised and planned for OT," Giri said.

A team of surgeons stitched his thumb back under a microscope in a 10-hour surgery that began at 9am April 20. The team comprised Santanu Suba of Department of Burns and Plastic Surgery, Kaushik, Ahana and Gopika. The anaesthesia team had Nitasha and Pregmanshu, Giri added.

Blood circulation in the joined thumb began soon after the surgery, hinting at a successful replantation. "Gradually, the

The team, led by AIIMS-Bhubaneswar Burns and Plastic Surgery department Associate Professor Sanjay Giri, successfully performed a thumb replantation procedure on Rabintra Muduli, who had met with a mishap April 20 this year



According to Giri, blood circulation in the joined thumb started after the surgery, hinting at the successful replantation

thumb will start functioning with help of physiotherapy and other precautions," added Giri.

In such cases, the first six hours are very crucial.

"When such incidents take place, the severed part has to be wrapped with a piece of gauge or cloth and the same has to be kept in a polythene bag. Then, the polythene bag should be kept properly in an ice chamber. The severed part should not be exposed directly to ice," Giri said, adding that Muduli was doing fine and was discharged after 10 days.

In 2014, less than 20% of the waste was processed. Today we are processing about 70% of daily waste. Now, we have to take it to 100%

Furthering Swachhta through Indigenous Technologies

Proposals are invited for Technology Interventions towards 'Garbage Free Cities'

The major thrust areas for indigenous technological innovations are as follows:

- Municipal Solid Waste
- Plastic Waste
- Construction and Demolition (C&D)
- Agricultural Waste
- Biomedical Waste
- E-Waste
- Industrial Hazardous & Non-Hazardous Wastes
- Battery Waste
- Radioactive Waste
- AI Specific Solutions

KEY FEATURES

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- Evaluation based on Scientific, Technological, Financial and Commercial Merit.
- Financial Assistance in the form of Loan, Equity and/or Grants.

Who can Apply?

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For Funding Guidelines and Proposal Submission, Visit TDB Website- www.tdb.gov.in / Scan QR Code

For additional info, please contact: projectcoordinator6@tdb.gov.in

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“ We are always surrounded by the things of which we think. **”**
THE MOTHER



Handling Handles

The expression, “free for all,” means a disorganised or unrestricted situation or event in which everyone may take part, especially a fight, discussion, or trading market. Free speech advocates are predicting this is going to happen in one of the most powerful social media platforms - Twitter - after the world’s richest man, Elon Musk, signed an agreement for a planned \$44 billion takeover. Their fears are not entirely misplaced since Musk is known for not always respecting the rules of fair games in trade, business and mobilising public opinion. The shape of things to come can already be seen in glimpses in post-deal tweets made by Musk. Announcing the deal, he said in his typical hyperbole that free speech is the bedrock of a functioning democracy and Twitter is the digital “town square where matters vital to the future of humanity are debated.” This is probably why Musk defines himself as a free speech ‘absolutist’.

On the surface, the remark shows Musk’s belief in freedom of expression. But the truth is hours later the self-described free speech absolutist was engaging with tweets criticising senior Twitter staff, including an interaction with a political podcast host who had labelled the company’s legal head, Vijaya Gadde, Twitter’s “top censorship advocate.” This immediately triggered a flurry of comments on the social media platform including calls for her to lose her job. This is said to be a known pattern to vilify a person in the social media with the intent to remove the unwanted person. The Gadde post elicited a wave of expressions of support for her and criticism of Musk, from present and former employees. A group of female Twitter employees, under the handle @TwitterWomen, posted “the women at Twitter are the best of us” while the platform’s former chief executive, Dick Costolo, accused the billionaire of “making an executive at the company you just bought the target of harassment and threats.”

Writing about Musk acquiring Twitter and the free speech controversy that erupted immediately thereafter, the New York Times had said “Twitter has been dragged into morasses over disinformation peddlers, governments’ abuse of social media to incite ethnic violence and threats by elected officials to imprison employees over tweets they didn’t like. Like Facebook, YouTube and other internet companies, Twitter was forced to morph from hardliner on free expression to speech nanny.” Many fear that Gadde might be ousted from Twitter to give a free hand to Musk and give shape to his extreme ideas on free speech.

Till the other day, Twitter had thousands of pages of rules prohibiting content such as material that promotes child sexual exploitation, coordinated government propaganda and offers of counterfeit goods. Musk is a relatively new player in this space. He has yet to tackle the difficult trade-offs in which giving one person a voice may silence many others. An almost anything-goes space for expression might be overrun with spam, nudity, violent incitement and bullying of children. Many amongst those who believe in freedom of expression will be apprehensive about Musk and his ideas on the subject. Support might come from those who are part of or control the establishment. However, in a country like India, the government promptly welcomed entry of Musk’s Tesla electric vehicles on only one condition that it should not be manufactured in China. This crude attempt of offering a carrot to Musk was obviously intended to keep him feeling good about the government of India. Conventional Indian thinking would have prompted this announcement since making more money in business is primary for every Indian. Musk however is very different. His known past would tell a different story wherein he can be termed as ‘illogical’ or ‘unpredictable.’ His takeover of Twitter itself is proof of such a mind. Allowing sale of Tesla cars, the Indian government probably calculates, will allow it to send slips of paper with names of handles that need to be banned. This tradeoff is very unlikely to succeed with someone like Musk. It may not be wrong to presume that the current Indian foreign policy is proving to be a disaster primarily because of the MEA mandarins’ inability to assume that people in other parts of the world, may be, think and act differently. Handling of Elon Musk and the hope for result in handling of Indian Twitter handles may not go in predictable lines.

WISDOM CORNER

- “If you reveal your secrets to the wind, you should not blame the wind for revealing them to the trees.” **KAHLIL GIBRAN**
- “There may be a great fire in our hearts, yet no one ever comes to warm himself at it, and the passers-by see only a wisp of smoke.” **VINCENT VAN GOGH**
- “You can’t wait for inspiration. You have to go after it with a club.” **JACK LONDON**

WORDSWORTH

Stillicide

The word is not one of that melancholy collection ending in -cide that refers to an act of killing or something that kills (suicide, pesticide), since it comes from a different Latin verb, caedere, to fall. The first part is from Latin stilla, a drop; the English word is a reformulation of Latin stillicidium, falling drops. The Latin word could mean in particular the drip of rain from the eaves of a house, which is exactly equivalent to an ancient meaning of our eavesdrop. This meaning led to the main historical sense of the word, a legal term in Scots law. If a householder let rain fall from his eaves on to the land of a neighbour, he needed the neighbour’s permission. John Erskine explained this in 1754 in his Principles of the Law of Scotland: “No proprietor can build, so as to throw the rain water falling from his own house immediately upon his neighbour’s ground, without a special servitude, which is called of stillicide.” (Servitude is another term for easement, a special permission relating to access to land.) It’s not a word much encountered these days. When it appears it has the sense of falling water, not the legal one. It is in a poem in Vladimir Nabokov’s Pale Fire: “Stilettoes of a frozen stillicide”, one of a collection of unusual words in that section that also includes shagbark, torquated, vermiculated, preterist, iridule, and lemniscate.

Stoozing

This largely British slang term refers to ways of making money from special offers by credit-card companies. The easiest way is to take advantage of the cashback systems promoted by some issuers in which the company pays you a small sum based on the value of purchases. A riskier method is to exploit the interest-free credit periods offered by some lenders by borrowing money on a card and investing it in a savings account. If the loan is repaid before the end of the interest-free period, whatever has been earned in the savings account is pure profit. There are now a number of websites which provide advice to prospective punters about offers and how to circumvent the risks of damaging their credit history. The term has been around online since early 2004. Its origin is one of the oddest examples of word formation of recent times. It started in the discussion forums of the Motley Fool financial Web site, where a user with the nickname Stooz advocated the combined borrowing and saving method. Someone else referred to doing a Stooz and the technique became known as stoozing; a person who does it is a stoozer. Even now there is always someone prepared to offer an introductory deal. Even if it is not 0 per cent it is still possible to make money from stoozing. -- Sunday Telegraph, 7 Nov. 2004 Revenge is sweet. And little’s sweeter than hitting back at credit card companies. This is my practical guide to “stoozing” – legally making risk-free cash, running into £100s a year (for some £1000s) out of credit cards. -- Guardian, 5 Nov. 2005

COAL CRUNCH, HOT SUMMER

FOCUS NATION



Ajit Ranade

THE COAL SHORTAGE PINCH IS SUCH THAT THE STOCKS KEPT AT GENERATING PLANTS ARE REACHING DANGEROUSLY LOW LEVELS

The bulk of India’s electricity comes from burning coal. This coal has to go from the minefields to the electricity generating plants. It travels by rail and road, mostly the former. The total annual demand for coal in India is close to 1 billion tonnes and is expected to rise to 1.5 billion by 2030. The domestic production by the government owned Coal India Limited was 622 million tonnes during the last fiscal year 2021-22. This was a record. In fact, the actual coal dispatched from CIL mines, was even higher at 662 million tonnes, due to prior inventory. To transport this huge amount of coal, and also imported coal from the ports to the generating plants, the railways haulage also reached new records. Over and above CIL production, there is private mining production of coal too, thanks to liberalisation in mining policy, and also captive mining which utilises coal for uses like producing steel and aluminum. Even then the country has to depend on more than 200 million tonnes of coal imports from places like Indonesia, Australia and South Africa. Despite such efforts, there is a shortage of coal which leads to energy shortage.

This is happening even after India’s great push to install solar electricity. The installed capacity for solar electricity is ahead of target, but the actual electricity produced is low, since the sun does not shine at night (i.e. fifty per cent of the time) and there is no way to store electricity produced during the day, to be used at night. This requires a massive increase in battery storage, which is as of now prohibitively expensive. The other promise is through hydrogen-based fuel cells which can store energy produced from the sun. This is a great technological promise which big companies like Reliance are betting on with large investments. Until that happens India has to depend on coal-based electricity, and hence face shortages.

The energy shortage even back in October was about 1.2 billion units. This shortage is mostly



As if the commodity inflation due to oil and other materials wasn’t bad enough, we now have to contemplate getting singed by the shortage of coal and expensive electricity

due to the unavailability of coal at the electricity plant, either because the rail rakes were not available, or not enough coal was mined. India’s total installed electricity capacity including all sources is 400 gigawatt, of which coal alone accounts for 51 per cent i.e. more than half. A coal plant can run all 24 hours of the day, unlike solar or wind power plants. India produced nearly 1500 billion units (BU) of electricity during 2021-22. But there was a shortage of around 1.2 BU recorded during October 2021 as demand peaked due to winter.

The shortage has become more acute now. During the last week of April 2022, the energy shortage is more than 2 BU. This is due to an unprecedented heatwave across much of India, causing temperatures to soar above 43 degrees. The daily peak demand exceeds 200 GW on a daily basis. This high demand will persist for another two or three months since summer will last till July, at least in North and West India. The coal shortage pinch is such that the stocks kept at generating plants are reaching dangerously low levels. In both domestic and imported

coal-based plants, stocks are as low as 7 days. Thus, in order to ensure that coal reaches these plants in a timely fashion, the railways are taking unprecedented measures. The railways cancelled passenger trains to make way for coal rakes to travel from mining areas to power plants. The cancellations include 753 trips across 21 trains till the end of May. More such measures might be necessary if the heatwave does not relent. The cumulative shortage of power if it exceeds 2.5 billion units, will call for power cuts. In some parts of India long hours of power outage cannot be ruled out. Of course, typically the metros and large cities will be spared the worst of the power cuts, and smaller towns and villages will bear the brunt. The coal crisis also means that non-power sector users, like aluminum and steel producers, textile and paper industry, sponge iron and some fertiliser units will be denied coal, which may affect their production. This is a complex optimisation exercise involving coal movement, railway train, rake planning and power outage planning.

The situation has been aggra-

vated by the Ukraine conflict. As gas from Russia becomes unavailable or boycotted, the Europeans and Americans will burn more coal. The price of international coal from Australia is usually 100 dollars per tonne, but thanks to the Ukraine war, coal prices spiked up to a shocking 440 dollars, as there were supply worries. Of course, the price of natural gas, the other fuel used for home heating in Europe has gone through the roof. So, coal-based energy at these high prices is still cheaper. The global demand for coal had risen 9 per cent during 2021, to an all-time high of nearly 8 billion tonnes. It will rise by another 2 per cent in 2022, even as there are fears of a recession and stagflation. The price of coal in India has shot up too, especially manifest in the e-auctions conducted by the exchanges. So, we have the twin scourge of power outage and a surge in prices. The power exchanges recorded prices of 12 rupees per unit of electricity, which normally is around 3 or 4.

One consequence of excessive dependence on coal is the implication for global warming and the net zero targets announced for emissions, most recently in the Glasgow Summit. As we wait for renewables like solar power and hydrogen to become economic and available in abundance, the world may have to explore an increase in nuclear energy. Countries like France and Japan are largely dependent on nuclear power, although after the Fukushima accident, there was a temporary stoppage. That freeze on nuclear power expansion needs to be re-examined, and India too must keep the nuclear expansion option open.

As if the commodity inflation due to oil and other materials wasn’t bad enough, we now have to contemplate getting singed by the shortage of coal and expensive electricity. Looks like it’s going to be hot, sweaty summer.

The writer is a noted economist.
@THE BILLION PRESS

SPECTRUM INFLATION

Spiraling prices in a subdued market



Shivaji Sarkar

FOR THE PAST ABOUT TWO YEARS, THE BENEFITS OF UNPRECEDENTED LOW CRUDE PRICES WERE NOT PASSED ON TO THE CONSUMERS

High or as some call it hyperinflation has become a serious issue with Prime Minister Narendra Modi talking to the states for bringing down fuel prices, supposedly a key reason for the economic trouble. Soaring corporate profiteering is another reason for the rising prices. The top 20 companies continue to have 70 per cent profits, as per Mercilus Investment Managers, and higher product prices in a supposedly subdued market.

The problem looks graver as earlier the RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) noted that inflation has become a larger issue than growth with 6.95 per cent retail and 14.5 per cent wholesale index spurring. It has raised bills of government transportation, other expenses. The RBI wonders how it should increase interest rates to match the inflationary trend. If it raises the deposit rates, lending rates too would move upward. A myth that the country may not find the borrowing costs affordable prevents it. The corporates are transferring minor additional costs to the consumers to keep their profits high in a distraught market. Most companies are raising prices in response to

the global supply squeeze in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine war. This needs a probe.

Despite efforts by the government except Gujarat and Karnataka not many states are known to have given relief in their taxes on petroleum products. Apparently this is becoming a political issue with the Opposition joining the spat and the Finance Ministry announcing that Rs 78,704 crore of the states’ shares of cess is yet to be transferred. The Central government levies excise/cess on petrol of Rs 32.90/litre which includes basic excise duty of Rs 1.40, road & infrastructure development cess of Rs 18, agriculture and infrastructure development cess of Rs 2.50 and special additional excise duty of Rs 11. There are state duties in addition to it. This is despite the Brent crude falling to \$ 104 a barrel. For the past about two years, the benefits of unprecedented low crude prices were not passed on to the consumers. Fuel prices have risen by 31 per cent in eight years. Even petrol pumps supposed to be benefitting from higher commissions as fuel prices rise, are paying almost double the cost for tankers. In addition, the rising toll taxes are making goods even more expensive.

Tolls also affect inter-region and localised trading.

The country sees an opportunity in the Ukraine situation of globally selling food grains at a higher price. While this may even give higher remuneration to farmers, there is a flip side. It could cause domestic prices to soar. PM Modi recently said the government was approaching the WTO for facilitating sales of Indian food grains in the world market. The WTO still has not come out with its terms.

The Ukraine situation has created a void as the largest suppliers are unable to meet the global demand. A new market may gradually open up for India. Its ramifications are too early to study. India domestically has been overflowing with food grains. About 80 crore people are being given free food doles worth over Rs 2 lakh crore a year for the past two years. While India is the second-largest wheat producer with a share of around 14.14 per cent in 2020, it accounted for less than 1 per cent of global wheat exports. The export potential could be large but with corporate domination, dream prices may elude farmers.

The Black Sea region problems are to keep edible oil prices elevated and feed cost pressures could

have a spillover impact on poultry, milk and dairy product prices, according to the RBI governor. Coal shortage, higher prices and dependence on thermal power is increasing power cost per unit to Rs 6 to over Rs 10 or more. This would make use of electricity for trains, vehicles, farms and industry an expensive affair.

The UN Conference for Trade and Development finds that still the e-commerce trade is growing. It however, does not consider this healthy. Total retail sales during the pandemic increased to 19 per cent in 2020 up from 16 per cent in 2019. It has hurt the least developed countries as well as small businesses. According to UNCTAD, global prices are creating problems all over. It has also led to over 8.81 lakh Indians leaving for greener pastures in the West.

The NDA II needs to follow NDA I of Atal Behari Vajpayee when low prices baffled observers. Vajpayee’s management skills need to be studied and used for solving a problem that is rocking the country. Modi needs to consult, set up a committee of experts and act tough to ensure the country goes back to a magic low inflationary phase for concerted growth.

INFPA

A modern way of living

Sir, Uniform Civil Code is a modern and scientific way of living. It is erroneous to believe that, it will snatch away religious rights of minorities. Secularism is the cornerstone of Indian Constitution. A Uniform Civil Code is prevalent in the United Kingdom, France, the United States and Australia. Uniform Civil Code encompasses Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, Jains and other religious minorities. It is not targeted against a particular community. If in India, there is one Constitution, one Aadhaar, one currency and one flag, then, why there are separate personal laws? Nowadays, many personal laws including adoption, inheritance, succession and maintenance are conducted according to scriptures of religious minorities. It is not proper in a constitutional democracy. Implementation of Uniform Civil Code will bring parity, equality, justice and harmony in society. Implementation of Uniform Civil Code is a precursor to achieve peace and harmony in the country.

Prabhudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR

Ecosystem restoration

Sir, According to a recent UN report, human activities have already altered 70 per cent of the earth’s land surface and degraded up to 40 per cent of it. The report says that food systems cause 80 per cent of deforestation, 29 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions and biodiversity loss. The authors of the report from the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) point out that never before in modern history has man faced such risks and hazards. If such activities are perpetuated, an area almost the size of South Africa could be degraded by 2050. On the other hand, if land is protected and restored, it could lead to the creation of 4m km2 of new natural areas by 2050. It must be noted that the report comes just a few days before the UNCCD’s COP15 scheduled to be held in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, from May 9 to 20 this year. It is hoped that COP15 will strengthen the fight against desertification, land degradation and drought. The UN is observing the decade from 2021 to 2030 as the decade of Ecosystem Restoration with the aim of preventing, stopping and reversing ecosystem degradation. The UN expects governments to offer practicable responses to the challenges of land degradation, climate change and biodiversity loss. The report says that global land restoration commitments will cost a substantial amount of money. As most developing countries cannot meet these costs, they would need extra financial support from developed countries.

Venu GS, KOLLAM

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

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of the day quote

The acute power crisis in the state is a result of the short-sightedness of the BJP-JJP government

In J&K, we have been witnessing atrocities of all kinds ranging from mass imprisonment of the population to unaccounted killings.

Dictatorship won't be allowed in Maharashtra. No one can give an ultimatum. There is rule of law here and law is equal for all

SHORT TAKES

Cocaine valued at Rs 80 crore seized

Hyderabad: Eight kg cocaine valued at Rs 80 crore has been seized from two passengers at Hyderabad International Airport by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), an official said Monday.

Narco-terror module busted

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir police along with security forces busted an inter-district narco-terror module by arresting two terrorist associates in Baramulla, and recovered heroin - valued at Rs 1.5 crore, and arms and ammunition from their possession, officials said Monday.

Grenade recovered

Srinagar: A hand grenade was recovered Monday from the baggage of an army soldier at Srinagar International Airport, an official said.

Edu sector biggest target of cyber threats: Report

THE REPORT HAS BEEN COMPILED BY THE THREAT RESEARCH AND INFORMATION ANALYTICS DIVISION OF CLOUDSEK, A SINGAPORE-BASED AI-DRIVEN DIGITAL RISK MANAGEMENT ENTERPRISE

New Delhi, May 2: India is the biggest target of cyber threats to educational institutions and online platforms followed by the USA, the UK, Indonesia and Brazil, according to a report.

Row over Rahul's visit to Osmania University

Hyderabad, May 2: The Osmania University has refused permission to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for a meeting with its students and while the national party was outraged, its cadres staged a protest on Monday as well decrying the decision and the arrest of their colleagues in this connection.

The Congress party slammed Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao and claimed that his pressure tactics resulted in the varsity's denial of permission. On the denial of permission, a university official said that it was due to various reasons, including the university's Executive Council passing a resolution last year not to allow any political activity on the campus.

Also, election of some employees unions have been scheduled, examinations for certain courses were underway and a section of students are also preparing for recruitment tests recently announced by the state government, the varsity official said.

Telangana Congress president and MP, A Revanth Reddy said



The Congress party slammed Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao and claimed that his pressure tactics resulted in the varsity's denial of permission

Rahul Gandhi plans meeting arrested NSUI leaders on May 7 and lodged at the Chanchalguda jail here to speak to them on issues faced by students. Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao 'pressured' the university authorities to deny permission to Rahul Gandhi's meeting, Revanth Reddy alleged. Earlier, the state Congress chief visited the NSUI leaders at the prison.

permission for Rahul Gandhi to meet the arrested NSUI leaders. On Rahul Gandhi's proposal to meet students, the Congress leader said an interaction was planned with students to understand their concerns and other relevant issues for the betterment of both students and the varsity as well and for raising such issues in the Parliament.

FOR MIND AND BODY



Students and defence personnel perform yoga at the Yoga Utsav, organised as part of the International Yoga Day at Sivadol, in Sivasagar

CBI files fresh case against Choksi

New Delhi: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Monday said that it has lodged a new case against fugitive Mehul Choksi and his company Gitanjali Gems for allegedly defrauding the Industrial Finance Corporation of India Ltd to the tune of Rs 22 crore between 2014 and 18.

Kishor hints at political plunge

Patna, May 2: Political strategist Prashant Kishor Monday caused ripples in Bihar politics, indicating his turn towards active politics in his home state with a cryptic tweet that it is time for him to go to the people to better understand their issues and the path of "Jan Suraj" (people's good governance).

Kishor, who had been with the JD(U) briefly and was on the verge of joining the Congress recently before things fell through, is likely to address a press conference on May 5 where he will spell out his next move amid speculation whether he will launch a political party or just an outreach programme, something which he had dabbled in earlier too.

"My quest to be a meaningful participant in democracy & help shape pro-people policy led to a 10-year roller coaster ride! As I turn the page, time to go to the Real Masters, THE PEOPLE, to better understand the issues & the path to Jan Suraj-Peoples Good Governance. Beginning from Bihar," he tweeted.



My quest to be a meaningful participant in democracy & help shape pro-people policy led to a 10-year roller coaster ride! As I turn the page, time to go to the Real Masters, THE PEOPLE, to better understand the issues & the path to Jan Suraj-Peoples Good Governance. Beginning from Bihar

Prashant Kishor hints at political plunge as a professional election consultant after his successful association with the Trinamool Congress for the West Bengal assembly polls in 2021. Always seen to be having an interest in active politics, he had joined Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal (United) in 2018 but was expelled in 2020 due to sharp differences with Kumar over their conflicting views on a host of issues like the Citizenship (Amendment) Act as he took strong anti-BJP stand and slammed Kumar

17 Kashmiri youths, who returned from Pak, killed

New Delhi, May 2: Seventeen Kashmiri youths, who returned from Pakistan to Jammu and Kashmir, were killed in recent counter-terror operations, sources in the security set up said.

Some of them had received weapon training, they added. These students had gone to Pakistan for higher studies and returned with terror training. According to the sources, at least 17 were trained by the terror outfits on the behest of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and became the part of the sleeper cells active in J&K.

A large number of Kashmiri youths have been going to Pakistan on the pretext of higher studies, meeting their relatives or even for marriage purposes since 2015, as per officials in the security agencies in J&K.

They further said that these youths were misguided by the anti-India elements and some of them were also trained by the

ISI's handlers. As per the officials, the State Investigation Agency (SIA) of Jammu and Kashmir Police has already filed a charge sheet against one Hurriyat leader who facilitates admissions for Kashmiri youths in various medical colleges in Pakistan in lieu of money. The officials also said that the money collected by offering admission in medical colleges, are being used to fund the terror activities in the valley. Explaining the modus-operandi, the officials further said that a strong lobby of the separatists groups in Kashmir arranges recommendation letters from Hurriyat leaders and also valid travel documents from Pakistan Embassy for these youths. The Pakistani Embassy also extends facilities to these students, they added. The students or people who visit Pakistan to meet their relatives, are provided all facilities during their stay once they agree to follow their instructions, the sources stated.



Soldiers in camouflage gear

TARUN APPOINTED ADVISOR IN PMO



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 2: Former Petroleum Secretary Tarun Kapoor has been appointed as Advisor in the Prime Minister's Office while IAS officers Hari Ranjan Rao and Atish Chandra have been appointed as Additional Secretaries.

According to the notification issued by the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet, Kapoor, a Himachal Pradesh cadre IAS officer of the 1987 batch, has been appointed as Advisor in the ranks and scale of Secretary to the Government of India, initially for the period of two years from the date of his joining or until further orders, whichever is earlier, as per the usual terms and conditions.

Hardik drops Guj Congress post from Twitter profile

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, May 2: Gujarat Congress working president Hardik Patel Monday removed his designation and party poll symbol of 'hand' from his Twitter profile amid mounting speculation about his next political move after he launched a scathing attack on the state party leadership and praised the ruling BJP. The removal comes days after Hardik Patel expressed strong displeasure over the functioning of the Gujarat Congress and claimed he was being "harassed" in the party.

A Gujarat Congress spokesperson asserted Hardik Patel was still with the opposition party. The latest move by the 28-year-old firebrand Patidar leader has sparked speculation that he may leave the Congress ahead of the



Assembly polls due by the year-end. Hardik Patel described himself as a "Proud Indian patriot" in his new profile on Twitter uploaded on Monday. He has also described himself as a "social and political activist" on the popular micro-blogging platform. The Gujarat Congress leader was not available for comment on his new Twitter profile.

SII's Covovax now available for 12-17 age group at private centres

New Delhi: Children aged 12 to 17 years can now get the Serum Institute's coronavirus vaccine Covovax at private centres with a provision for it being made on the CoWIN portal, official sources said Monday. A dose of Covovax will cost Rs 900 plus GST, in addition to hospital service charge of Rs 150, they said. The move followed the recommendation of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) that the COVID-19 jab can be administered in the age group of 12-17 years. Serum Institute of India (SII) Director for Government and Regulatory Affairs Prakash Kumar Singh had written to the Union Health Ministry recently, requesting for Covovax's inclusion in the immunisation drive for children aged 12 to 17 years. In his letter, Singh had stated that the Pune-based firm wanted to provide Covovax to private hospitals at a per-dose rate of Rs 900 plus Goods and Services Tax (GST).



based educational institutions and online platform. Indonesia was distant second being the target of 10 per cent cyber threats. These include ransomware attacks on prestigious institutions such as Tamil Nadu's Directorate of Technical Education," the report said. "Overall, the USA was the second most affected country across the globe with a total of 19 recorded incidents, accounting for 86 per cent of the threats in North America. These include ransomware attacks on prestigious institutions such as Howard University and University of California. In addition, high-risk API vulnerabilities were uncovered in Coursera, the massive open online course provider," it added.

Gehlot to people: Use power judiciously

The demand for power has shot up by 35 per cent and no additional power is available with the Indian Energy Exchange

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, May 2: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot Monday urged people to cut down on electricity consumption, saying the demand for it has shot up by 35 per cent and no additional power is available with the Indian Energy Exchange.

The CM said the state is no exception as the entire country is facing a power crisis due to the early onset of the heatwave. He also appealed to people to avoid using air conditioners unnecessarily.

"The gap between demand and supply has widened. Electricity is also not available for purchase from the Indian Energy Exchange," the CM tweeted.

Gehlot said the state government is trying its best to ensure adequate availability of water. "There is an appeal to all of you to make limited and judicious use



of electricity and water," he said. Gehlot said the demand for electricity has increased to 35 per cent due to severe heat conditions and power cuts from two to 10 hours are being imposed in 16 states of the country.

In Rajasthan, power cuts are being imposed in rural and urban areas as per the roster system.

However, essential services have been completely exempted from power cuts, he said.

For ensuring water supply, the

There is an appeal to all of you to make limited and judicious use of electricity and water

ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CHIEF MINISTER

CM said district collectors have been authorised to work as per the contingency plan. Drinking water is being supplied through tankers in 4,142 villages and 43 urban areas.

"The revival of economic activities after the coronavirus pandemic, increase in (water) pumping load and domestic consumption are the main reasons behind the increase in the demand of electricity," Principal Secretary (Energy) Bhaskar A Sawant said.

The temperatures started rising rapidly in the month of March and the situation turned severe by the end of April.

People got relief from severe

heat conditions to some extent due to thunderstorms triggered by a western disturbance on Sunday.

"There was no active western disturbance in March and April and the wind pattern was also anticyclonic. Moisture in the air had reduced and the sky was also clear. Due to all these conditions, the temperature increased," a Met department official said.

The western disturbance causes thundershower activities which reduce temperatures by a few degrees thus giving respite to people from the blistering heat. Sunday, the mercury soared to 47.1 degrees in Bikaner, which was the highest temperature in the state.

The department has predicted thunderstorms, light rains and strong surface winds with a speed of 30-40 kmph in Jaipur, Bharatpur, Bikaner and Jodhpur divisions on Tuesday and Wednesday, which is likely to bring down the maximum temperatures by 3 to 4 degrees.

MP BJP working overtime to woo state's SCs & STs



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 2: With the aim to raise its vote share in Madhya Pradesh assembly polls to at least 51 per cent, the BJP has prepared a blueprint with a focus on deepening its penetration among Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities and addressing their issues, party leaders said.

In the run-up to the assembly elections in the state next year, the BJP's state unit has been holding several functions in memory of tribal leaders and freedom fighters.

In September last year, senior BJP leader Amit Shah had launched 'Janajatiya Abhiyan' (tribal campaign) to mark the martyrdom of tribal king Shankar Shah and his son Raghunath Shah.

The BJP-led state government last year had celebrated the first Tribal Pride Day (Janajatiya Gourav Diwas) to honour and commemorate Chota Nagpur tribal leader Birsu Munda, who in the late 19th century fought the British, and contractors and landlords who he thought were exploitative.

The underlying idea behind all these events was to reach out to Madhya Pradesh's 15 million tribal population. STs constitute 17 per cent of the state's population and SCs 21 per cent. There are 47 tribal seats and 35 reserved seats, which combined together is more than one-third of the total 230 seats of the state assembly.

Sharing the details of the party's organisational activities, BJP's Madhya Pradesh in-charge Muralidhar Rao said the party used an app to update its organisational details and beef up its structure. Rao said the BJP has been working to increase involvement of SCs and STs in the party and giving them respectable posi-

TRIBAL FOCUS

STs constitute 17 per cent of the state's population and SCs 21 per cent. There are 47 tribal seats and 35 reserved seats, which combined together is more than one-third of the total 230 seats of the state assembly

In the run-up to the assembly elections in the state next year, the BJP's state unit has been holding several functions in memory of tribal leaders and freedom fighters

The party is also addressing their emotional issues by highlighting the contributions of their leaders and personalities who have long been neglected.

"When you have emerged as the central force in the Indian politics, then you have to carry the society and its representative character must be reflected in the party," Rao said while talking about the party's reach-out activities to STs and SCs.

In the 2013 assembly polls, the BJP had won 37 of these 47 tribal seats to retain power for a third consecutive time. However, in 2018, the Congress won 31 seats, reducing the BJP to just 16.

The party got 41.02 per cent votes in the last assembly elections, while the Congress got 40.89 per cent. But in terms of seats, the BJP won 109 and the Congress 114.

Despite narrowly losing the elections to the Congress in the 2018 polls, the party returned to power in 2020 after winning over a chunk of its MLAs, who owed allegiance to Jyotiraditya Scindia, now a Union minister.

The party has been working overtime to recover its lost ground and strengthen its base.

BJP MP campaigns for revoking quota benefits of converts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jhabua (MP), May 2: BJP MP Guman Singh Damor has said he had been organising 'delisting' rallies across Madhya Pradesh for the past few days seeking that tribals who convert to any other religion must not be given reservations mandated for Scheduled Tribes.

The Lok Sabha MP from Ratlam-Jhabua constituency, himself a tribal, said Article 342 of the Constitution speaks of reservations for STs but is silent on those (tribals) who convert to other religions, while Article 341 of the Constitution is clear that members of Scheduled Caste communities will be deprived of reservations if they convert.

"We have been organising delisting rallies in all tribal-dominated districts, including 22 such districts of Madhya Pradesh. Our demand is that any ST who converts to another religion should be deprived of reservation benefits (in government jobs and admission)," he said.

"I have held three rallies in Jhabua, Alirajpur and Ratlam to create public awareness about delisting such people who are enjoying reservation benefits even after religious conversion," Damor added.

The aim was to create awareness so that laws to this effect can be passed in the Parliament, adding that similar 'delisting' efforts were made in 1970 but in vain.

Hitting back, state Youth Congress chief Vikrant Bhuria tweeted a clipped video of Damor and said the latter should be "ashamed as he himself is an MP from an ST reserved seat."

Bhuria demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and MP Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan clarify their stands on this statement, adding that Damor's move was making it clear that "the



We have been organising delisting rallies in all tribal-dominated districts, including 22 such districts of Madhya Pradesh. Our demand is that any ST who converts to another religion should be deprived of reservation benefits (in government jobs and admission)

GUMAN SINGH DAMOR | MP

BJP's love for tribals and the deprived classes was just a gimmick."

After several others tweeted the clipped video uploaded by Bhuria, Damor, who shared the video in its entirety, threatened legal action.

Reacting to Damor's statements, Jhabua Christian Diocese public relation officer Rocky Shah said some people wanted to achieve their vested interests by linking this 'delisting' campaign to Christians.

"This is a conspiracy against not only those tribal people who are Christians but also against those who are following other religions. There are Constitutional provisions under which tribals have been given reservations and he or she cannot be deprived of it for following any other religion," Shah added.

Cops buy motorbike for man delivering food on bicycle

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indore, May 2: In a humanitarian gesture, some Indore police personnel have purchased a motor-cycle for a 22-year-old employee of an online food delivery firm after they saw him working hard to deliver food parcels at people's homes on his bicycle.

Vijay Nagar police station in-charge Tehzeeb Qazi Monday said during night patrolling, he recently saw Jay Halde drenched in sweat while cycling fast to deliver food parcels here in Madhya Pradesh.

"After talking to the man, we came to know that his family is facing financial problems and he does not have the money to buy a motorcycle," the official said.

Qazi and some other personnel from the Vijay Nagar police station then contributed money to make an initial payment at an automobile showroom and purchased



a motorcycle for Halde.

The official said the delivery man has told the police that he will pay the remaining instalments himself.

Thanking the police for their gesture, Halde said, "Earlier I used to deliver six to eight food parcels on my bicycle, but now I am delivering 15-20 food parcels at night while moving around on the motorbike."

EID MUBARAK



Dawoodi Bohra community children greet each other as they celebrate the Eid-ul-Fitr festival in Bhopal, Monday. PTI PHOTO

It's raining investments in Raj

INDUSTRIAL BIGWIGS FROM DIVERSE SEGMENTS MAKING A BEELINE TO INVEST IN DESERT STATE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, May 2: It's raining investments in Rajasthan as industrial bigwigs from diverse segments including automotive, agro-processing, textiles, pharma, energy, glass & ceramics, engineering and cement are making a beeline to invest here.

A new ceramic hub is on the anvil in Bikaner district while Alwar's Bhiwadi will emerge as the biggest spectacle manufacturing hub. Recently, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot announced the approval of investment proposals worth ₹71,486 crore.

According to him, "Many big industrial players are now attracted towards Rajasthan due to the state government's favourable industrial policy. These investments will further strengthen the industrial development in the state and will generate more than 26,000 jobs."

Senior officials confirmed to IANS that industrial bigwigs are attracted to Rajasthan due to the benefits being offered under the Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme (RIPS)-2019. This policy was launched in December 2019 to provide attractive benefits to the manufacturing and service sectors. The policy has now started paying dividends as companies including Karajaria Bathware, Saint Gobain India, Hero Electric Vehicles, Okaya, Lenskart Solutions, Kajaria Ceramics, Honda Cars and others have shown interest in starting their operations in Alwar district.

Jaipur district has also attracted the interest of around 7 companies including JCB, Indo Autotech,

Opal Glassware and Borosilicate Glassware, Wipro Hydraulics, Emami Agrotech, and Renew Power among others.

Investments are pouring into the sectors such as automotive, agro-processing, textile, pharma, energy, glass & ceramics, engineering and cement, said officials adding that new hubs are coming up in Alwar, Bhilwara and Western Rajasthan.

Hero Electric Vehicles will be investing around ₹1,240 crore in the state, while investment by Honda Cars is around ₹1,595 crore, Saint Gobain will invest more than 2,160 crore, Borosil Glassware will invest around ₹250 crore, Okaya will invest over ₹120 crore in electric vehicles, Krish Pharma shall invest around ₹336 crore, Lenskart will in-

vest approximately ₹400 crore, Renew will invest approximately ₹500 crore and HPCL Mittal Energy Limited will invest ₹19,000 crore among others.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister has also directed the officials to prepare a feasibility report on setting up a Ceramic Hub in Bikaner division as there is ample availability of raw materials for the industry. He has directed the officials to look into the possibility of setting up a Gas Grid in the area.

Going further, officials confirmed that Bhiwadi (Alwar) will soon become a hub for manufacturing spectacles, frames, prescription lenses, powered sunglasses, contact lenses and lens solutions as Lenskart Solutions Pvt Ltd will be setting up a manufacturing unit in

Kahrani Industrial Area to manufacture around 50,000 spectacles per day.

Rajasthan is also shining brighter in the Solar Energy Sector, superseding Karnataka.

The state is attracting sizeable investments in the Renewable Energy Sector as Rajasthan ranks first in the country overtaking Karnataka with 8,911 MW installed capacity in solar power projects, said officials.

Speaking to IANS, state industries minister Shakuntala Rawat said, "We are working on an action plan to bring the investment proposals received in the districts on the ground. Investors have shown wide interest in many districts and we want to create a new growth story in this desert state."



Khargone admin relaxes curfew for nine hours

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal/Khargone, May 2: The Khargone administration has changed its previous decision and announced a relaxation in curfew for nine hours Monday in the Madhya Pradesh city, where violence was reported during a Ram Navami procession April 10, officials said.

Earlier, the administration had announced a 24-hour curfew May 2 and 3 and asked Khargone residents to celebrate the Eid-ul-Fitr and Akshaya Tritiya festivals at home.

But, Indore's Divisional Commissioner Pawan Sharma and Inspector General of Police Rakesh Gupta reached Khargone on Sunday night and held a meeting with officials, following which the decision was changed. The curfew in the city was relaxed for nine hours - from 8 am to 5 pm - Monday, Special Armed Force Commandant Ankit Jaiswal, posted temporarily in Khargone, told reporters late Sunday night.

Additional forces have been deployed to beef up security in Khargone, the IPS officer said.

The decision about 24-hour curfew Tuesday is being reviewed in consultation with people, he said.

Curfew was clamped in Khargone after the violence April 10, during which shops and houses were damaged, vehicles torched and stones hurled. Since April 14, the local administration has been relaxing the curfew for some hours.

As per the district administration's order, the curfew relaxation will not be applicable to petrol pumps and for the sale of kerosene from PDS shops.

of the day quote

This 380 MW renewable energy power delivery agreement for our aluminium smelters stands true to our mission of aligning the incentives of growth with the imperatives for the planet

RAHUL SHARMA | CEO, VEDANTA LIMITED (ALUMINIUM BUSINESS)

Google Cloud will help Meesho gain faster insights with data, predict future outcomes with AI, and create dynamic, memorable customer experiences

BIKRAM SINGH BEDI | MD, GOOGLE CLOUD - INDIA

I wish to start my own venture with my own money and make it profitable. I don't want to go to the investors again

ASHNEER GROVER | CO-FOUNDER AND FORMER MD, BHARATPE



Those involved in production or business of alternative fuels should be included in priority sector lending. I shall speak about the issue with the finance minister and RBI Governor

NITIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER

INDIA GETS ITS 100TH UNICORN

India Monday welcomed its 100th unicorn, which is Bangalore-based neobank platform Open, that raised fresh funds as part of its Series D round, taking its valuation to \$1 billion. The new round was led by Mumbai-based investment firm IIFL and existing investors Tiger Global, Temasek and 3one4 Capital also participated in the round



Heatwave threatens wheat output, export

The drop could curb Indian exports of the staple. Cashing in on a rally in global wheat prices after Russia invaded Ukraine, India exported a record 7.85 million tonne in the fiscal year to March - up 275% from the previous year

REUTERS

New Delhi, May 2: India's wheat output looks likely to fall in 2022 after five consecutive years of record harvests, as a sharp, sudden rise in temperatures in mid-March cut crop yields in the world's second-biggest producer of the grain.

The drop could curb Indian exports of the staple. Cashing in on a rally in global wheat prices after Russia invaded Ukraine, India exported a record 7.85 million tonne in the fiscal year to March - up 275% from the previous year.

Expecting another record crop, traders and government officials saw an opportunity to export 122 million tonne in the current 2022-23 fiscal year.

In mid-February, nearly a month before the recent hot spell, the government said India was on course to harvest an all-time high 111.32 million tonne of the grain, up from the previous year's 109.59 million tonne. The government is yet to formally revise its production estimates, but an official note, seen by Reuters, said the output could fall to 105 million tonne this year.

"Loss of production of wheat, all India basis, more or less stands around 6%, on account of shrivelling of wheat grains around 20% due to terminal heat and heat waves," the note said.

In 2022, India recorded its warmest March in 122 years with the maximum temperature across the country rising to 33.1 degrees Celsius, nearly 1.86 degrees above



In 2022, India records hottest March in 122 years

Heatwave dents wheat yields in key growing region

Output could be 6% below initial estimate: Govt note

Thin supplies, rising prices indicate lower output

Lower surplus could limit India's wheat exports-traders

Scorching heat a boon for AC industry

New Delhi: The early arrival of summer and the subsequent heat wave have led to soaring demand for residential air conditioners, with manufacturers such as Voltas, Panasonic, Hitachi, LG and Haier posting record growth sales in April. The sales have also been boosted by pent-up demand and a low base of April last year when businesses were impacted by the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic. This year the AC sales have crossed the pre-pandemic levels in April 2019, according to industry players.

"In the month of April 2022, the AC industry has witnessed unprecedented growth over last year, due to a very strong summer, and a low base of 2021. We have witnessed high triple-digit growth across the sector," Voltas managing director and CEO Pradeep Bakshi told PTI. The company, which is an industry leader, witnessed "unprecedented growth" and almost touched the volume level of April 2019, which was also one of the hottest summers of the decade, he added. Similarly, Panasonic India said it has witnessed a "record demand" for air conditioners and sold over 1 lakh units during the month. The company is hoping to see an overall 30-35 per cent growth this summer vs FY19 for room ACs.

normal, according to data compiled by the state-run India Meteorological Department.

"We've some initial idea but it's a little early to fully understand the extent of crop loss," said a senior government official who keeps

tabs on planting and harvests.

At this stage, no one has a clear idea about the crop size, said Rajesh Paharia Jain, a New Delhi-based trader. "It's a dynamic situation, so we will have to wait for a while to see a clearer picture," Jain said.

Govt lens on algorithm used by car aggregators

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 2: Amid a rise in customer complaints against cab aggregators, consumer protection regulator CCPA has called a meeting of ride-hailing platforms like Ola and Uber next week for seeking details about their policies related to pricing and cancellation of rides.

Speaking to PTI, Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) Chief Commissioner Nidhi Khare said, "We have received several complaints from consumers regarding the cancellation and pricing policy of cab aggregators. The number of complaints are very high and therefore we have called the cab aggregators for explanation



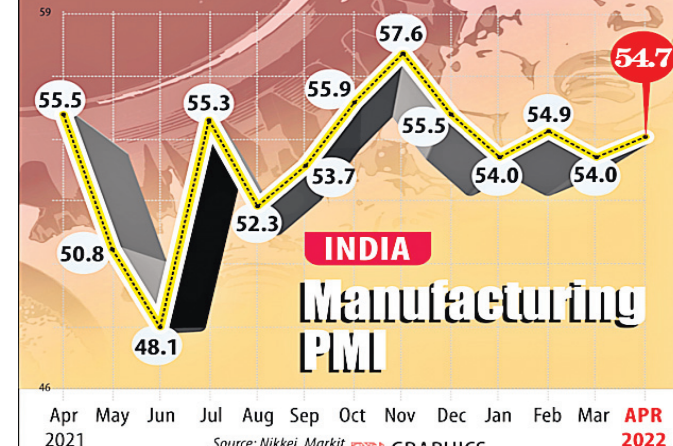
of their policies."

Khare further said existing consumers are being charged high rates for a ride, while new users are lured with lower charges for the same distance. It appears that the cab aggregators are using algorithms to lure new customers, putting old customers at disadvantage. This is unfair practice, she added. The meeting is likely to be held May 10.

AMID HIGH INFLATION Factory activity quickens in April

April PMI data pointed to an improvement in overall operating conditions for the 10th straight month. In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) rose from 54.0 in March to 54.7 in April, as a retreat of Covid-19 restrictions continued to support demand.

"The Indian manufacturing PMI remained well inside positive territory during April, recovering

some of the ground lost in March. Factories continued to scale up production at an above-trend pace, with the ongoing increases in sales and input purchasing, suggesting that growth will be sustained in the near-term," said Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at S&P Global.

April data showed a rebound in new export orders, following the first contraction for nine months in March. The rate of increase was solid and the strongest since last July.

Inflationary pressures meanwhile intensified, owing to rising commodity prices, the Russia-Ukraine war and greater transportation costs. Input prices increased at the fastest pace in five months, while output charge inflation hit a 12-month high.

SHORT TAKES

Wipro shares dip 3%

New Delhi: Shares of Wipro Monday declined by nearly 3 per cent after the company's quarterly earnings failed to cheer investors. The stock declined 2.84 per cent to Rs 494.50 on the BSE. At the NSE, it went lower by 2.81 per cent to Rs 494.50. IT company Wipro Friday posted a 4 per cent increase in its consolidated profit to Rs 3,092.5 crore in the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2022, on account of continued demand for IT services. The company had registered a profit of Rs 2,974.1 crore a year ago. The March 2022 quarter was the sixth straight quarter of revenue growth for Wipro at over 3 per cent. The company's annual revenue crossed the \$10 billion mark for the first time.

HDFC net up 16%

Mumbai: Housing finance major HDFC Monday reported a 16 per cent growth in standalone net profit to Rs 3,700 crore for the January-March quarter, helped by record loan sales. For the full year, the company, which is working on a reverse merger with its banking subsidiary, has booked a net profit of Rs 13,742 crore, up from Rs 12,027 crore in FY21, vice-chairman and chief executive Keki Mistry said Monday in an earnings call with analysts. On a consolidated basis, net profit for the quarter surged 21.6 per cent to Rs 6,892 crore on-year and for the full year it jumped 21 per cent to Rs 22,595 crore, Mistry said.

Sakthi Sugars to sell Odisha units

Chennai: Coimbatore based sugar major Sakthi Sugars Ltd Monday said it will sell its sugar and distillery units in Odisha and the soya factory in Tamil Nadu. The company's board approved the sale of these two plants at its meeting. The decision to sell the plants is taken to reduce the company's debt levels. Sakthi Sugars acquired the Odisha sugar unit several decades back. The company is into production of sugar, power, industrial alcohol and soya.

ISMC to set up \$3bn chip plant

Bangalore: International semiconductor consortium ISMC will invest \$3 billion in India's southern Karnataka state to set up a chip-making plant, the state government said Sunday. ISMC is a joint venture between Abu Dhabi-based Next Orbit Ventures and Israel's Tower Semiconductor. US chip giant Intel Corp has announced plans to acquire Tower. India's first semiconductor fabrication unit is expected to generate more than 1,500 direct jobs and 10,000 indirect jobs, the state's investment promotion division said in a tweet.

BIZ BUZZ

MCL celebrates Miners' Day

Sambalpur: Coal miners are playing an important role in strengthening the economy and development of the country, said OP Singh, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Mahanadi Coalfields Limited on the occasion of May Day that company celebrates as Miners' Day. Addressing a programme at Belpahar (Jharsuguda) last evening, the CMD said coal miners are the drivers of energy security in the country. Singh said, "It is the 24x7 tireless efforts of coal miners despite scorching sun or inclement weather that makes people sleep comfortably at their homes." Prominent among others present on the occasion included KR Vasudevan, Director (Finance), Keshav Rao, Director (Personnel) and PK Patel, CVO. Besides, KC Patel, President OCMS, Shankar Behera, Secretary OCMLF, AK Dash, President BCMWU, AK Pradhan, Vice-President ABKMS and AP Shukla, General Secretary, CMOAI also participated in the corporate level celebrations. During the celebration, hosted by Lakhampur Area of MCL, the employees with outstanding performance were also awarded.

Reddy new Zonal Manager of PNB, Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar: A Uday Bhaskar Reddy has taken over as the new Zonal Manager of Punjab National Bank, Bhubaneswar Zone. He was previously working as Head of Vijayawada Circle. On joining, the new Zonal Manager expressed his hope and commitment for acceleration of the growth momentum of the bank in the state in every sector including retail, agricultural and MSME. He also stressed on popularisation of digital banking facilities in order to make PNB the preferred destination for the Gen-Next customers.

Musk shares long-term investment advice

ACCORDING TO THE 2022 FORBES REAL-TIME BILLIONAIRES LIST, MUSK IS THE RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD, WITH A NET WORTH OF \$268.2 BILLION

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

According to Musk, he's been asked a lot about how to increase one's wealth. And his biggest advice: "Don't panic when the market does," Musk wrote on Twitter.

Musk advised people to buy stocks in companies that make products and services they believe in. He noted that people should sell their stocks only if they "think their products & services are trending worse".

The owner of Tesla and SpaceX recently took over microblogging platform Twitter in a \$44 billion deal.

Musk has also sold around 4.4 million

Since I've been asked a lot: Buy stock in several companies that make products & services that you believe in. This will serve you well in the long-term

ELON MUSK | WORLD'S RICHEST PERSON



shares of the company worth around \$4 billion. The money could possibly go towards acquiring the micro-blogging platform, as Musk has to shell out \$21 billion in his own personal capacity.

As part of the deal, Morgan Stanley and other financial institutions have committed to providing \$13 billion in financing, along with \$12.5 billion in margin loans to Musk, against his shares in Tesla and other companies.

Musk is expected to provide equity financing of approximately \$21 billion on his own. The value of the latest Tesla stock sales by Musk, filed with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), is around \$4 billion.

Won't accept all of world's Bitcoin for \$25, says Buffett

Bitcoin finished the month of April down by 17 per cent, making it the worst monthly performance this year

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

San Francisco, May 2: As Bitcoin hovers in the range of \$38,000-\$40,000 per digital coin, billionaire Warren Buffett has said that he will not even pay \$25 for all the Bitcoin in the world.

Addressing Berkshire Hathaway's annual shareholder meeting, the ace investor said Bitcoin is not a productive asset and doesn't produce anything tangible, reports CNBC.

"If you told me you own all of the Bitcoin in the world and you offered it to me for \$25, I wouldn't take it because what would I do with it? I'd have to sell it back to you one way or another. It isn't going to do anything," he was quoted as saying in the report.

"If you said for a 1 per cent interest in all the farmland in the United States, pay our group \$25 billion, I'll write you a cheque this afternoon," Buffett added.

"If you offer me 1 per cent of all the apartment houses in the country and you want another \$25 billion, I'll write you a cheque. The apartments are going to produce rent and the farms are going to



Whether it goes up or down in the next year, or five or 10 years, I don't know. But the one thing I'm pretty sure of is that it doesn't produce anything. It's got a magic to it and people have attached magic to lots of things

WARREN BUFFETT | ACE INVESTOR

produce food," said the billionaire, adding that Bitcoin will not produce anything.

The global crypto market cap is \$1.74 trillion and Bitcoin dominates it with a 42.15 per cent share, as per data from CoinMarketCap.

