HERE.NOW

BHUBANESWAR | TUESDAY, MAY 3 | 2022

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BRAJARAJNAGAR **BY-POLL MAY 31**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar; May 2: The Election Commission of India (ECI) Monday announced that Brajarajnagar 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 bypoll is a necessity following the demise of Brajarajnagar 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.



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

publicly

through vaccine AGENCIES mandates cannot New Delhi, May 2: In a be called to be proportionate landmark decision on India's Covid vaccine policy, No restriction

the Supreme Court Monday should be said no individual can be imposed on forced to get vaccinated individuals on against Covid-19, and asked access to public places, services the Centre to make public and resources till data on the adverse events infection of immunisation. numbers are low Bodily autonomy and **Publish reports on**

integrity are protected under Article 21 of the adverse events of vaccination on a Constitution, a bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao accessible system 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.



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

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.







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 GaneshaSpeaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust

FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181* ARIES

You may find yourself in a precarious position today. says Ganesha. 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 tim

TAURUS

In all probability, it is a favourable day to begin financial planning, says Ganesha. 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.

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. Ganesha advises you to take it easy, and learn to say no

LEO There are chances of con-

flict 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. Ganesha says it is an auspicious day to arrange social gatherings

LIBRA Ganesha says that your social status will increase

'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 savs 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 sixmonth-long stay in India. "I love your country, I love your cul-

ture 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

Universe. When quizzed which

> Mumbai: Actress Sandeepa Dhar has not only

> > 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 ex-The two-time posure that

Oscar nominee, also reality telknown for his work on

WHAT DO YOU MEAN

HE'S NOT IN CAMP HE LEFT SATURDAY

MORNING! ARE YOU



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

It's necessary to live in the moment: Sandeepa

sion 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

AGENCIES

MY BROTHER'S

THE KIND WHO'S

EASY TO OVERLOOK!

NAWAZUDDIN CALLS RAY THE 'MOZART OF FILM MAKING'

Mumbai: Tributes started pouring in on Legendary #SatyajitRay.' 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 Siddique came up with the most thoughtful tribute message on his Sharing a throw-

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

FUN

Wishing A Very Happy Birth Anniversary to the thespian of Film Making, the

Incidentally, this is not the first time the Gangs of Wasseypur actor has spoken about Ray's greatness and

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

his influence in world cinema. Nawazuddin has always said that he's a huge admirer of Satyajit Ray.

piring filmmakers. He made 36

in a career spanning 37 years. His timeless

Golden Lion Award and an Honorary Academv Award to nameafew AGENCIES

Ray's works always came with a new lesson for asmovies

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 Natvadhara restarted Sunday here at a renovated Bhanja Kala Mandap.

classics

While Rageshri Nilayam theatre troupe of Nayagarh staged play Relay Race on the first day of the 6-day event, Citybased

Panchadhwani Natya Parishad presented Odia play Gotie Kahani.

Adapted from a Bimal Kumar Mishra short story, the play was drama

tised, de-

signed and di-

rected

by Dipti Ranjan Das. The plot revolves around an

accident the husband loses his

mobility. So, the wife starts work-

ing 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 mar-

riage. The conflict between her

need for child and marital trust

forms the crux of the drama. Sunil, Prasad and Khusi perideal couple whose life turns upside down in no time. After an

formed on stage while Shakti Prasad Mishra scored the music. Theatre personalities Nabin Kumar Parida and Chittaranjan

Satpathy, Odisha Natya Sangh vicepresident 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.



Marvel Cinematic

Hindi movie actor he believes can

great.

carved a niche for herself be part of the MCU, in Hindi film industry, she the Londonborn actor asked for

options and when suggested the names of Shah Rukh Khan and Hrithik Roshan, he said, "Khan is

TV series Sherlock and films

PEANUTS

HELLO...BROWN RESIDENCE... NO, HE'S NOT HERE ...HE'S AT CAMP... ME? I'M HIS SISTER...

has shone in the field of dance

evi-

viewers.

MAYBE YOU'D

BETTER CHECK

AGAIN ...

Instagram handle. back picture of the legendary filmmaker the actor wrote, "The Man who made the whole World of Cinema talk about India. The Mozart

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.

5

SAGITTARIUS

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

CAPRICORN

Good news for students! If you have been trying your luck for studies abroad today is an opportune day, says Ganesha.

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.

Ganesha 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 compla cent, says Ganesha. 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 vou 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 Ganesha

SURE HE'S NOT IN CAMP









CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

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.

					5			
2		7						
		1				4	7	8
			5		2	Ĩ		4
1	8			6		9		
	7	9	8				Î	
			3	7			5	
				1	2			
6			1	÷		8	2	

SOLUTIONS PURIFYSHEARS CROSSWOR BEAST JUM N T DREADS 5 4 8 9 2 6 1 2 3 8 6 4 5 7 6 5 3 1 9 2 9 3 6 5 2 4 SUDOKU





downtown



LORD'S WATER **SPORTS TODAY**

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



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

State to have 34 new courts soon: Jena

COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
orld	51,36,97,387	46,79,38,886	62,62,188
lia	4,30,82,345	4,25,38,976	5,23,869
isha	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-cumweirs (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,



It is the most cost-effective technology with multiple utilities like

groundwater recharge structures would be feasible raising the water level in river beds, irrigating the fertile land on both sides of the river SURESH CHANDRA MAHAPATRA

Works Secretary The Chief Secretary VV Yadav said directed the Works around 49 department to identify the bridges had high-level bridges on all been taken up roads under the Rural for such Development and Works

departments where such

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

structures on a

pilot basis

Mahapatra said.

CHIEF SECRETARY

Works Secretary VV Yaday 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 Kalahandi, Dhenkanal. 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-inchief 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.

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

in Bhubaneswar, Monday



notification will be issued in this regard, the Law Minister said. The committee has given its ap-

proval 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 Udavagiri 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.

PHOTO: BIKASH NAYAK

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



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%



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 firstof-its-kind successful procedure at the premier healthcare facility.

Giri said Rabindra 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 Rabindra 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.

through Indigenous Technologies

Proposals are invited for Technology Interventions

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

• Financial Assistance to Indian Companies for Technology Commercialisation.

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

Who can Apply?

- Indian companies (as per Companies Act, 1956 /2013)
- Start-ups with Recognition Certificate from DPIIT

Last Date to Apply 3rd July, 2022

davp36106/15/0005/2223

**The call is not limited to these areas only.

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







downtown

MAHANADI TUSSLE Odisha files affidavit of 1st witness

According to Naik, the Net Irrigation Requirement (NIR) stands

at 17.12 MAF and the Gross Irrigation

Requirement (GIR) stands at 26.33

MAF (at 65 percent irrigation effi-



POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, May 2: Odisha has filed the affidavit of its first witness Dibakar Naik, former Dean of College of Agriculture, in the Mahanadi Water Dispute Tribunal in connection with the dispute between Odisha and Chhattisgarh over sharing of Mahanadi water.

According to officials, the affidavit has been filed along with a report on "Sustainable Agriculture in the Mahanadi Basin in Odisha". In the affidavit, Naik has estimated the scientific crop water requirement.

ciency) at 75 percent effective rainfall for the irrigated area of 24.06 lakh hectares in Kharif and 14.46 lakh hectares in Rabi in the entire Mahanadi basin in Odisha, the officials said. He also stated that the NIR will increase by additional 4.07 MAF in monsoon if 50 percent effective rainfall is considered. Earlier in March, the tribunal

had asked Odisha and Chhattisgarh

to submit affidavits of witnesse in order to depose their studies in connection with the Mahanadi river.

Significantly, Odisha proposed nine witnesses to examine in the tribunal during the hearing of the matter. Meanwhile, Chhattisgarh has proposed around eight witnesses for the same.

It is to be mentioned here that Odisha and Chhattisgarh have filed petitions in the Mahanadi Water Dispute Tribunal over sharing of Mahanadi river water. Odisha in its petition claimed that Chhattisgarh has constructed several barrages on the river obstructing the water flow to Odisha. Odisha has sought stay on the construction and operation of barrages being built on the Mahanadi river and also maintenance of specific flow of water during the non-monsoon months i.e. November to May



Officials of the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) conducted a meeting ahead of the possible cyclonic storm, Monday

Frauds use Om Birla's image to dupe people

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 2: In a startling revelation, the crime branch sources said that three accused held Sunday in pre-activated SIM card racket from Dhenkanal used to dupe people through a WhatsApp account using the photograph of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

The issue first came to the notice of Delhi police that flagged the BSNL number and informed state crime branch about the involvement of some criminals from Odisha in the fraud

The cyber cell of state crime branch tracked the BSNL number which was mainly used in three different mobiles in Talabarkot village of Dhenkanal District. The sleuths carried out raids and nabbed the trio, including Sai Prakash Das and Avinash Nayak, who used to illegally activate and later sell the SIM cards to the mastermind Dushmanta Sahu of Nadiali village in Dhenkanal.

Cops have seized as many as 19,641 pre-activated SIM cards, Rs 14, 32,892 lakh cash, 48 mobile phones, laptop, Xerox copies of several photo identity cards and other documents during the raid.

IAGES fellowship prog concludes POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 2: The Odisha Chapter of Indian Association of Gastrointestinal Endo-Surgeons (IAGES) concluded the three-day fellowship on laparoscopic gastro-intestinal surgeries. Sunday,

28% growth in April gross GST mop-up

The high growth in gross GST has been led by mining and manufacturing sectors. There is a growth of 179 per cent in the mining sector, 270 per cent in the manufacturing sector and 105 per cent in the trading sector in April 2022

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 2: The gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection in April 2022 was ₹4,910.23 crore as against ₹3,849.48 crore collected during the corresponding period of 2021, registering a 28 per cent growth, an official said Monday.

The gross GST collection of ₹4,910.23 crore in April 2022 is the highest collection in a month since inception of GST, said the official.

The state has also recorded the highest ever OGST (Odisha GST) collection of ₹1,714.78 crore during April 2022 as against ₹1,126.67 crore collected during same month last year, witnessing a 52.20 per cent growth. The growth rate has surpassed the previous highest record in March 2022 by a big margin of ₹363.53 crore, it was learnt.

There is a collection of ₹1.381 crore in CGST with growth of 45 per cent and ₹722.40 crore in cess with growth of 18 per cent during the last month. However, the IGST



monthly settlement has shown a negative growth of 89 per cent owing to substantial increase in interstate sales during the month. the official said.

The total collection of VAT (petrol and liquor) is ₹232.88 crore during April 2022 as against ₹224.25 crore collected during the corresponding period last year, registering a marginal growth rate of 3.85 per cent. Collection from petroleum stands at ₹176.52 crore in the last month

as against ₹172.70 crore collected during April 2021, registering a 2.21 per cent growth. Similarly, the collection from liquor was ₹56.36 crore in April 2022 while ₹51.55 crore collected from the commodity during April 2021, recording a growth rate of 9.33 per cent.

The state has also witnessed a growth of 19.43 per cent in professional tax with a collection of ₹27.17 crore in April 2022 as against the collection of ₹22.75 crore dur-

ing April last year.

The high growth in gross GST has been led by mining and manufacturing sectors. There is a growth of 179 per cent in the mining sector, 270 per cent in the manufacturing sector and 105 per cent in the trading sector during the last month.

In addition, regular surveillance and intelligence-based action against the tax evaders have contributed significantly in improving compliance by the taxpayers.

During April 2022, 3,145 new taxpayers were bought under the GST fold. GST Commissioner SK Lohani has instructed the field officers to ensure at least 90 per cent return filing, return scrutiny of all suspected/big taxpayers as well as prompt demand and recovery in case of detection of irregularities.

Lohani has further advised to plan sector-specific strategies for detection of tax evaders and focus on real estate, minor mineral and trading sectors.

NIA nabs one from City over Khejuri explosion

Bhubaneswar: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has reportedly arrested one person from the outskirts of the Capital city for his alleged involvement in the explosion at Khejuri in West

Joint team inspects Puri Heritage Corridor project

PNN & AGENCIES

Puri, May 2: Amid the raging row over the Puri Heritage Corridor project, a joint team comprising officials of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Odisha Bridge & Construction Corporation (OBCC), and Tata Project Sunday inspected the construction sites close to Shree Jagannath Temple here.

The ASI will prepare a map and report on how deep the soil has been dug for the ongoing work and the steps that had been taken before construction.

The Orissa High Court had directed the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to undertake a joint visit to the site along with officials of the state government and file its affidavit by at least two days before May 9.

The team comprising ASI regional director Dilip Kumar Khamari, Superintendent Arun Kumar Mallick and Assistant Superintendent CR Dash, along with officials of the project executing agencies OBCC and Tata Project, and Puri district Collector Samarth Verma jointly inspected the construction sites and examined the depth, width, and other parameters of the pits.

Khamari said, "We inspected the depth of construction with the help of a laser distometer. We will prepare a joint survey report and submit it to the High Court.' It was alleged that the state gov-

ernment had carried out con-

struction works within the pro-

hibited zone of the 12th century

The Orissa High Court had directed the ASI to undertake a joint visit to the site along with state government officials and file its affidavit by at least two days before May 9

The joint team visited all the construction sites in the west, north, and south of the temple and the place near old Emar Mutt.

'We are not authorised to reveal the findings of the inspection and our detail report will be submitted at the Orissa High Court by May 7, before the court takes up the matter for hearing May 9,' Khamari said.

The date for the hearing of the petition, which sought HC intervention claiming that the work on the project was affecting the integrity of the temple, has been advanced from May 16 to May 9.

A resident of Puri had approached HC seeking its intervention in the construction of public amenities that would come up within 75 metre radius of the temple.

The petitioner contended it was illegal as it violated the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, which prohibited new construction within 100 metre of a protected monument.

The project has also run into a controversy with the state opposition parties levelling allegations that norms are being violated during its implementation. However, the state government has claimed that works are being done as per law



Kalia money distribution today For smooth implementation of the scheme and to increase the income of farmers, the state Cabinet has recently extended the scheme for a period of an-



Under the name IAGES-2022 organised by Sparsh Hospitals, the programme was attended by 150 surgeons from Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi, Kolkata Mumbai, Jharkhand, Bihar and Tamil Nadu among others.

Eminent Gastro Endo-Surgeon and IAGES President LP Thangavelu graced the occasion as chief guest. The programme was hosted by organising chairman Chita Ranjan Das. Among other dignitaries present were course director Sreejoy Patnaik and consultant surgeon Madhuri Patnaik as Organising Secretary.



bank accounts of more than 40 POST NEWS NETWORK

lakh small and marginal farmers Bhubaneswar. May 2: Chief in a special programme at 5pm to-Minister Naveen Patnaik will dismorrow. sources said. Monday. tribute financial assistance of ₹2.000 After the launch of the PM

Kisan scheme, eligible farmers are each to about 40 lakh farmers under now getting ₹4,000 financial asthe Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income sistance per year in two install-Augmentation (Kalia) scheme on the ments under the state scheme occasion of Akshay Tritiya, Tuesday. Kalia. While ₹2,000 is provided for The financial assistance of ₹800 Rabi crop, ₹2,000 is given for crore will be transferred to the Kharif season crop.

other three years (2021-22 to 2023-24 financial years). The government has approved an estimated budget of ₹5,933.31 crore for the scheme for the extended period.

Ahead of the 2019 general election, the state government had launched the Kalia scheme as 60 per cent of the state's labour force is dependent on agriculture for their livelihood

The scheme is aimed at accelerating the prosperity and progress of agriculture and alleviating the poverty of indebted farmers, non-indebted farmers. sharecroppers, and landless agricultural households

Bengal's Purba Medinipur district January 5 this year. Two NIA teams Sunday raided different places in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, and arrested Ratan Paramanika, 42, of Baghmari village in Purba Medinipur, West Bengal, from Pandra area here. Notably, two persons were killed and three others sustained severe injuries in a village within Khejuri police limits after the bombs, they were allegedly manufacturing, went off. The NIA had arrested three accused - Saidul Ali Khan, SK Arif Billa and Samar Shankar Mandal - who were part of a criminal conspiracy for making bombs to terrorise public.

Shrine, a centrally protected monument, allegedly without seeking prior permission from the ASI.



CLASSIFIED

REAL ESTATE SALE

Land sale near Malatipatapur Bus Stand, Puri 1 K.M. distance from NH, Low Cost Plot available. 9692213354.

AFFIDAVIT

By an affidavit in the court of the Executive Magistrate, Kesinga, Kalahandi. I have changed my name from Rajani Ranjan Bishi to Shaaz Bishi. Henceforth I will be know as Shaaz Bishi in all purposes.

STA to hold short film fest on road safety in June

Altogether, 1,51,113 people in India died due to road accidents in 2019, according to data from police departments of various states and Union territories

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, May 2: A film festival aiming at making people aware of road safety to reduce accidents will be held in state next month, the State Transport Authority said Monday.

The National Road Safety Short Film Festival will be held in Rourkela and Puri June 18-19 and 24-25 respectively. The festival seeks to promote increased engagement of people in road safety cooperation in the state, as well as in the country, according to a release.

It will be in two categories of Odia and non-Odia languages with subtitles in English a must for all the entries. The last date for submission is June 3. The total duration of a film, which can be a documentary, experimental, narrative, fiction, non-fiction or animation, should be a maximum of two minutes including

Best films in both categories will be rewarded ₹50,000 each, while the runners up and the second runners up will get ₹40,000 and ₹30,000 each respectively

Similarly, ₹25,000 each will be rewarded to the best directors, best screenplays, best cinematographies and best actors in both categories

Winners will be selected by a judging panel of film industry professionals and non-industry professionals and luminaries from different walks of life



front and end credits.

The film should be in Full HD (1920x1080) format or above. Filmmakers can mail their entry via Google Drive or We Transfer Link to roadsafetyod@gov.in and roadsafetyshortfilms@gmail.com. All the details are available on the web-

site http://odishatransport.gov.in/. Best films in both categories will be rewarded ₹50,000 each, while the runners up and the second runners up will get ₹40,000 and ₹30,000 each respectively. Similarly, ₹25,000 each will be rewarded to the best directors, best screenplays, best cinematographies and best actors

in both categories.

Winners will be selected by a judging panel of film industry professionals and non-industry professionals and luminaries from different walks of life.

Notably, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari had in February pointed out that road safety is a serious issue and there should be zero tolerance for road accidents. He had also mentioned that all efforts should be made to reduce road accidents by 50 per cent by 2025.

Altogether, 1,51,113 people in India died due to road accidents in 2019, according to data from police departments of various states and Union territories.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488. Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieman-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.







state

Tipsy man kills his 3 children, nabbed

POST NEWS NETWORK

Tensa, May 2: In a bone-chilling incident, police Sunday evening arrested a man for killing his three minor children and dumping their bodies in a well at Kula Munda slum under Koida police limits in Sundargarh district.

The man was hiding in a forest after killing his three kids.

The accused has been identified as Pandu Munda, 21, husband of Dhobali Munda, 20. Sources said, Pandu lived with his wife Dhobali and three children including Seema Munda, 5, son Raju Munda, 2, and a two-month-old baby girl. Pandu Saturday night returned home drunk and allegedly fought with his wife. Later, he killed his three children and dumped the bodies in a well. He was nabbed later.

2 minors killed in blasting

SAMBALPUR: Two minor boys were killed when locals were allegedly blasting explosives to catch fish from Haradajora water body in Kulatkani area under Dhanupali police limits in this district Monday. The incident occurred when the two minors joined a group of locals to catch fish from the water body by blasting explosives. A pall of gloom descended on the area over the death of the two minors. Meanwhile, family members cremated the body of one of the minors while the body of another minor was seized by police and sent to the district headquarters hospital for post-mortem.

Transit pass bungling bleeds govt of crores



POST NEWS NETWORK

Joda, May 2: Leaseholders and transporters are reportedly adopting novel ways to smuggle iron ores from Joda mining circle in Keonjhar district.

The leaseholders in connivance with transporters are allegedly using a single transit pass multiple times to transport minerals to various destinations. This leads to an annual revenue loss of ₹150 crore to the government.

The matter came to the fore when officials of deputy director of mines in Joda were verifying the mineral laden trucks passing through the area April 22. They detained some trucks but the drivers jumped off their vehicles and ran away.

Suspecting something amiss, the officials launched an investigation. A verification of three trucks revealed that the vehicles were loaded with over 90 tonne iron ores. "Suitable action will be taken against the guilty once the probe is completed," said a mines official.

A senior official, on condition of anonymity, said that the miners who get lease of mines by quoting a higher price during auction are involved in this fraud. The leaseholders, after mining the minerals, manage to get permission from the mines office for transportation. The trucks are then tagged in Integrated Mines Minerals and Management System (i3MS) software for transportation.

ORE SMUGGLING IN JODA

he leaseholders in connivance with transporters are allegedly using a single transit pass multiple times to transport minerals to various destinations

his leads to an annual revenue loss of ₹150 crore to the state government

he matter came to the fore when The matter came to the test mines in Joda were verifying the mineral laden trucks passing through the area April 22

Later, some unscrupulous lease holders try to do away with the hassle of getting transit passes every time for transportation of minerals.

The truckers after unloading the minerals at their destinations do not put the receiving seal on the transit pass and use it to transport minerals to their respective destinations multiple times, the senior official added.

It is said that the fraud is bleeding the state exchequer of ₹150 crore as revenue and premium towards minerals annually. Moreover, it needs to be investigated how the mines which had high-grade iron ores before their auction in 2020 were suddenly found with low grade ores post auction.



Bhawanipatna, May 2: A Maoist carrying a reward of ₹5 lakh on his head surrendered before police in Kalahandi district, an officer said Monday.

The surrendered Maoist has been identified as Laxman Apka, 30, alias Lalsu aka Sendhu. He belongs to Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh under Ganglore police station. He had joined the banned outfit in 2009 at the age of 17 years and shifted to Odisha in 2011.

Since then, he was operating in BGN division in Kalahandi district and now is the area committee secretary. He surrendered before DIG Rajesh Pandit, Kalahandi SP Saravana Vivek and CRPF Commandant Biplab Sarkar.

The SP said Lalsu was gradually disillusioned with the outlawed Maoist activities. But the immediate motivating factor was the marriage of surrendered Maoist couple Ramdas and Kalamdei organised by Kalahandi police April 22 at Bhawanipatna reserve police barrack compound

The surrendered Maoist was involved in the

exchange of fire with police at Manaska in

2016, Barangapadar in 2017, Turkey and

Kotalghati in 2019 and Sohespadar in 2020, the

DIG said. He is being further interrogated to

ascertain his involvement in other offences,

and rehabilitation policy of the state govern-

ment and will be provided financial assistance

of ₹5 lakh besides homestead plot with build-

ing assistance, marriage allowance, study al-

lowance of ₹3,000 per month and vocational

He will be rehabilitated as per the surrender

Pandit said.

4 held for Rourkela bizman murder

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, May 2: Town police Monday claimed to have cracked the murder mystery of a businessman and arrested four persons including the prime accused.

The businessman, identified

as Murari Tanti of Mohantiapada, was shot dead April 29 evening near PVR Cinema Hall on Government College Road at Rourkela.

Police seized the weapon of offence-a country-made pistol - and a motorcycle, Sundargarh SP Sagarika Nath said while addressing a presser here Monday.

Four teams were formed to nab the accused as the accused persons had fled the district. An inter-district coordination team, a local investigation team, a cyber team and one dedicated ITMS team were constituted.

"Based on the efforts of these four teams, we have been able to apprehend all the four accused. The murder weapon has been seized. The vehicle used by them to escape has also been seized. The accused have been forwarded to court," the SP elaborated. The murder was fallout of family and land disputes, the SP added. The arrestees include the persons who had planned it, the ones who had helped the assailant to escape and the ones who had supplied the murder weapon--a pistol, the SP further added.

All the accused have criminal antecedents and have pending cases against them at various police stations, she added. Worth mentioning, masked miscreants had fired two rounds at Tanti while the latter was crossing the road after alighting from his car.

	OFFICE OF THE RURAL WORKS 0.0-152: BHUE E-Mail-eerwel	MENT OF ODISHA E EXECUTIVE ENGINEER S ELECTRICAL DIVISION SANESWAR L_bbsr@yahoo.co.in IO -EERWELBBSR-01 / 2022-23		
1	Name of the work	Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning of one no 6 passenger lift (G+2) 3 stop MRL type, Hair line finish, Stain less steel to be installed at R.W Rest Shed at Puri (Make-Otis,Jhonson,Thyssenkrup, Kone & Schneider)		
2	Total No. of Projects	One no		
3	Estimated cost (approx.)	Rs. 12.3 lacs (Excluding GST)		
4	Period of completion	90 days		
5	Bid Identification No	EERWELBBSR - 01 / 2022-23		
6	Date and time of availability of Bid documents in the portal			
7	Date & Time of opening of tender	Dt. 20.05.2022 at 03.00 P.M.		
8		Executive Engineer, R.W ELDIVN.BBSR At- 1st floor of Divn. Complex, Rasulgarh Behind Esplanade Mall. DistKhurda Odisha. Pincode-751010		
Fui		he Govt. website www.tenderorissa.gov.in Sd./- Executive Engineer, vork Electrical Division,Bhubaneswar OIPR-25168/11/0001/222		



S.O. 1692(E).-Whereas by the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, , published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) issued under subsection (1) of section 3A of the National Highway Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government declared its intension to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the said notification for building (widening/four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of NH16 on the stretch of land from Km. 98 to Km. 111 (Office of the Tahasildar, Bhandaripokhari, At/Po/PS- Bhandaripokhari, Dist-Bhadrak, Pin-756120, Odisha) in the district of BHADRAK in the state of ODISHA:

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in "Sambad" and "OrissaPost" both dated 04.02.2022; under sub-section (3) of section 3A of the said Act;

And whereas no objections have been received from any corner by the Competent Authority;

And whereas, in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Competent Authority has submitted its report to the Central Government;

Now, therefore, upon receipt of the said report of the Competent Authority and in exercise of the powers conferred by the sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that the land specified in the said Schedule should be acquired for the aforesaid purpose;

And further, in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby



TEXTILE EXPO

Customers checking for products at a stall of National Art and Crafts Cotton Silk Expo at PHD Ground of Ainthapali in Sambalpur, Monday

12-hr bandh over MLA's arrest hits life



Collector and Governor. residence in Bhubaneswar for al-

Notably, Deogarh police Sunday arrested Panigrahi from his official

legedly thrashing the BDO. The

POST NEWS NETWORK

Deogarh, May 2: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Monday observed a 12-hour dawn-to-dusk bandh in the district opposing the arrest of its Deogarh MLA Subash Chandra Panigrahi. The agitators resorted to picketing and road blockade during the bandh.

Shops and business establishments remained closed for the day. Vehicular movements came to a standstill and normal life was affected due to the bandh from 6am to 6pm. However, emergency services and vehicles carrying students for examinations were excluded

from the ambit of the bandh. Protesting the arrest, BJP MLAs

Kusum Tete, Mohan Majhi and Bhabani Bhoi along with party workers staged a dharna. The BJP legislators demanded the arrest of Tileibani BDO with whom Panigrahi had a tiff. Though Panigrahi had lodged the FIR alleging he was misbehaved by the BDO, police have arrested the MLA, alleged Majhi.

On the other hand, Congress supporters held another rally and demanded Panigrahi's dismissal. They took out a rally in the town and held a demonstration near the Collectorate. Later, they submitted a memorandum to the District

MLA's two associates-Akalu Dhal and Kumarmani Sahoo-were also held by the police. The BDO had accused the legislator of thrashing him and filed an FIR. The MLA had also lodged a counter FIR alleging that the BDO misbehaved with him when he had gone to meet him for some public work.

BJP leader and Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan too criticised the government for arresting Panigrahi. On the other hand, BJD spokesperson Lenin Mohanty said assaulting and intimidating government officials have become the habit of BJP.

"When action as per law is being taken against Panigrahi, the Odisha BJP, instead of condemning his violent behaviour, is unfortunately protecting him and his misdeeds,' Mohanty said. The BJD always stands for the rule of law and for the law to take its course, he added.



declares that on publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, the land specified in the said Schedule shall vest absolutely in the Central Government, free from all encumbrances.

SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling within the NH16 in the stretch of land from Km. 98 to Km. 111 (Office of the Tahasildar, Bhandaripokhari, At/Po/PS-Bhandaripokhari, Dist- Bhadrak, Pin-756120, Odisha) in the district of BHADRAK in the state of

Sta	te: ODISHA	District:	BHADRAK				
Sr. No.	Survey No.	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area in Hectare	Name of the Land Owner/Interested Person Part Survey No.		
1	2	3	4	5	6		
Talu	uk: Bhandarip	ookhari					
Villa	age: Dakshina	abar-42					
1	1193	Private	Patita	0.0060704	Ramachandra Panda, Laxmidhar Panda, S/ Nabakishor Panda, Chandrabhanupur		
2	1194	Private	Gharabari	0.0323756	Jyosthna Mayee Sahoo, W/o. Subash Chand Sahoo, Uttarbar		
3	1196	Private	Sarad Jal II	0.0222582	Sibaram Panda, Gopinath Panda, Bhagab Panda, S/o. Sanatan Panda, Chandrabhanupur		
Talu	uk: Shasan-32	2	1		47.		
4	1122	Private	Sarad Jal I	0.0182112	Malati Manjari Sahoo, W/o- Gangadhar Saho Village- Uttarbar		
5	1124	Private	Gharabari	0.0101174	Himanshu Sekhar Sahoo, Diptiranjan Sahoo, S/o Kishor Kumar Sahoo, Village- Uttarbar		
6	1125	Private	Sarad Jal I	0.0161878	Shree Shree Shyamasundar Jew Thakur Bij 3 Uttarbar, Marfat- Diptiranjan Sahoo, S/o. Kisho Kumar Sahoo		
7	1126	Private	Jalasaya-II	0.0182112	Haramohan Sahoo, S/o Ghanashyama Saho Uttarbar		
8	1126/1476	Private	Gharabari	0.0141643	Bibhuti Bhusana Nayak, S/o- Banshidhar Nay. Village- Shamaraipur		
9	1132	Private	Sarad Jal I	0.0586807	Manas Kumar Mahapatra, Manoj Kur Mahapatra, Jagdish Mahapatra, Rajibloch Mahapatra, S/o. Kailash Chandra Mahapa Village- Bayanbanpur		
10	1133	Private	Sarad Jal I	0.0182112	2 Sakuntala Acharjya, W/o. Surendra Mohan Mish Uttarbar		
11	1134	Private	Sarad Jal I	0.0202347	7 Sakuntala Acharjya, W/o. Surendra Kumar Mishi Uttarbar		
12	1135	Private	Gharabari	0.0080939	Bhagabat Prasad Sahoo, S/o. Jadunatha Sahoo Uttarbar		
13	1135/1437	Private	Gharabari	0.0101174	Sebati Dwibedi, W/o. Niranjan Dash, Khadipada		
14	1135/1452	Private	Gharabari	0.0182112	Surendramohan Mishra, S/o. Sukadeba Mishr Uttarbar		
15	1145	Private	Gharabari	0.0121408	Surendra Mohan Mishra, S/o. Sukadeba Mishra Uttarbar		
16	1146	Private	Sarad Jal 1	0.034399	Bhagabati Nayak, W/o. Digambar Nay Dakhinabar		
17	1149	Private	Sarad Jal 1	0.0161878	Kishore Kumar Sahoo, S/o. Padmanava Sahoo Uttarbar		
18	1150	Private	Chaka	0.0060704	Subhakanta Senapati, S/o- Bhagaban Senap Dakhinabar		
('			TOTAL	0.3399432			

RAJESH GUPTA, Director

	NGT OPD	FR ON RUDHARALA	NGA SAND MINING	
	NUT UND	ER UN DUDIIADAEA		
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POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, May 2: Acting on an order of National Green Tribunal (NGT) regarding alleged illegal sand mining from Budhabalanga river in Mayurbhanj district, police Monday arrested sand quarry leaseholder Pradeep Bindhani. The police also registered a case against Badasahi tehsildar, who is suspected to have fled the district fearing arrest.

The smuggling of the minor mineral was reported from Arapata and Dingira sand quarries on the riverbed.

Badasahi police registered two cases (114/22 and 115/15) - one against the leaseholder and another against the tehsildar - and made the arrest after the eastern bench of NGT issued an order to the Mayurbhanj district administration. Sadar sub-collector Anya Das directed the assistant collector Geeta Murmu to file complaint with Badasahi police.



The district administration also recommended the state Revenue and Disaster Management department to suspend the Badasahi tehsildar and take disciplinary action against her.

Reports said the matter came up before NGT after Radha Mohan Singh, a

Dadministration also recommended the state Revenue and Disaster Management department to suspend the Badasahi tehsildar and take disciplinary action against the officer

ehsildar Mumtaz Moharana has fled outside the district fearing arrest

local, filed cases 30/22 and 31/22 with the apex green body alleging illegal mining and transportation of sand from Arapata sand quarry of Budhabalanga river. The green panel admitted the cases for hearing.

Judicial member Justice B Amit

Sthalekar and expert member Saibal Dasgupta heard the matter and directed the leaseholder to pay over ₹17.3 crore as penalty. The bench also directed the district Collector to register cases under relevant Sections of IPC, CRPC and Misappropriation of Public Funds Act-2002 against the Badasahi tehsildar and the leaseholder. The Collector was asked to personally file an affidavit before the NGT.

Consequently, the office of the subcollector vide its letter no-3986, dated April 30 directed the Badasahi police to register cases against the tehsildar and the leaseholder.

Meanwhile, tehsildar Mumtaz Moharana has fled outside the district fearing arrest.

Locals demanded action against other officials involved in illegal sand mining and smuggling which they claim will go a long way in curbing sand smuggling from the river in coming days.







power post

FOCUS NATION

We are always surrounded by the things of which we think

THE MOTHER

Handling Handles

he 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 almostanything-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.

COAL CRUNCH, HOT SUMMER

he bulk of India' 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 gov ernment 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 LOW LEVELS 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

will be denied coal, which may af-

fect their production. This is a

complex optimisation exercise

involving coal movement, rail-

way train, rake planning and

The situation has been aggra-

power outage planning.

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 fertilliser units

SPECTRUM INFLATION Spiraling prices in a subdued market

T Tigh or as some call it hy- the global supply squeeze in the Tolls also affect inter-region and have a spillover impact on poultry.

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







Ajit Ranade **THE COAL**

SHORTAGE **PINCH IS SUCH** THAT THE **STOCKS KEPT AT** GENERATING **PLANTS ARE** REACHING DANGEROUSLY

- If you reveal your secrets to the wind, you should not blame the win 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

WORDS**WORTH**

WISDOM CORNER

Stillicide

he 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: "Stilettos 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



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

perinflation 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 Mercilius 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 spurting. 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

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.

localised trading.

The country sees an opportunity in the Ukraine situation of globally selling food grains at a higher price. While this may ensure 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

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 wells 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.

etters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are 101 requested to send their contact numbers and full 4 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

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 Abidian, 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





national



Rajasthan has become a leading state in the country in implementing universal health coverage ASHOK GEHLOT RAJASTHAN CM

TOURISM PUSH

The Yogi Adityanath government has embarked upon a mission to tap the immense tourism potential of its abundant historical heritage sites in the state dating from the Mahabharata period to the struggle for independence. The government is developing the Mahabharata Circuit and Bundelkhand as part of this mission





Row over Rahul's visit to Osmania University Kishor hints at

The acute power crisis in the state is a result of the shortsightedness of the **BJP-JJP** government BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA

FORMER HARYANA CM

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

unaccounted killings. The people of the state faced these attacks on their existence as a distinguished part of the country with silent dignity and fortitude without compromising on their aspirations

MEHBOOBA MUFTI PDP PRESIDENT

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 AJIT PAWAR MAHARASHTRA DEPUTY CM

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. The contraband was seized in two separate cases. A male Tanzanian national, travelling from Cape Town to Hyderabad on a business visa and a lady passenger from Angola, with itinerary Angola - Mozambique - Lusaka - Dubai - Hyderabad on a tourist visa were arrested.

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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.

Following the university's refusal of permission to the Congress leader to hold an interactive session with students on May 7, the party's students' wing (National Students Union of India-NSUI) held a protest here Sunday and at least 18 protesters were arrested.

Telangana Congress president and MP, A Revanth Reddy said



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

The state Congress president said a letter has been submitted to the jail superintendent seeking 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.

The OU, which was a hub of separate Telangana agitation by the students years ago, was the alma mater of late P V Narasimha Rao, M Chenna Reddy, S Jaipal Reddy and several other veteran leaders, he said. Meanwhile, activists of NSUI, held a protest on Monday in the OU campus over denial of permission to Rahul Gandhi's meeting and the arrest of NSUI leaders on May 1.

The protesting NSUI members, who raised slogans against the TRS government and the university authorities, were taken away by the police. Further, the varsity official said that considering the Executive Council resolution, no political activity has been allowed in the campus during the last one year, he pointed out.

Congress party shared with media a letter written by OU Registrar to Koturi Manavatha Roy who was one of the applicants for Gandhi's meeting in the campus saying that it is not feasible for the university to accord permission for the meeting.

Enraged over the denial of permission, a group of activists of NSUI allegedly pelted stones at the main door of the varsity's Administrative Building on Sunday after which at least 18 of them were arrested by police.

Similarly, police also took few NSUI activists into custody after they attempted to lay siege to the Ministers' Quarters here on Sunday protesting against denial of permission by the university administration.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 10year 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.

The ace poll strategist, who has worked with parties across the ideological spectrum ranging from the BJP to the Congress and numerous regional parties, had announced the decision to stop work-



meaningful participant in democracy & help shape propeople 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 | POLITICAL STRATEGIST

ing 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

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

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 Hurrivat leaders and also valid travel documents from Pakistan Embassy for these vouths. 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



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.

possession. officials said Monday. Police said Baramulla Police and Army (52RR) during routine checking at Chenad crossing. Baramulla intercepted a vehicle (Tipper) with two persons on board.

Grenade recovered Srinagar: A hand grenade was

recovered Monday from the

baggage of an army soldier at

Srinagar International Airport,

a.m. today, a hand grenade was

recovered from the baggage of

screening at the drop gate of

Srinagar airport. "The soldier

identified as Balaji Sampath of

recovered was travelling from

Indigo flight," an official said.

Srinagar to Chennai via Delhi by

an army soldier during

Tamil Nadu from whose

baggage the grenade was

an official said. "Around 9.30

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

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. After lodging the case the CBI also conducted raids at eight premises of the accused valuers in Mumbai and Kolkata which led to the recovery of incriminating documents. A complaint was received from IFCI Limited against Gitanjali Gems Ltd, its director Mehul Choksi, three valuers -- Narendra Jhaveri, Pradip C. Shah and Shrenik R. Shah -and a private firm Surajmal Lallu Bhai & Co, for causing an alleged loss of Rs 22.06 crore to IFCI Ltd. During the period 2014 to 2018, IFCI Ltd. relying on the representation, assurances and undertaking of the said private company as well as its Director and the value of the pledged iewels on the basis of valuation conducted by the valuers, had disbursed the entire loan amount of Rs 25 crore on the basis of security cover of two times, pledge of shares, pledge of gold, diamond and gold CS studded iewellerv.

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 davs after Hardik Patel expressed strong displeasure over the functioning of the Gujarat Congress and claimed he was

being "harassed" in the party.

spokesperson asserted Hardik

Patel was still with the oppo-

sition party. The latest move

by the 28-year-old firebrand

Patidar leader has sparked

speculation that he may leave

the Congress ahead of the

A Gujarat Congress



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 microblogging platform. The Gujarat Congress leader was not available for comment on his new Twitter profile.

Edu sector biggest target of cyber threats: Report

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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.

The report also says that the adop-

tion of remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, digitisation of education, and prevalence of online learning platforms are key triggers that enlarged the attack surface.

The report, titled "Cyber Threats Targeting the Global Education Sector", also claimed that data shows a 20 per cent increase in cyber threats to the global education sector in the first three months of 2022 when compared to the corresponding period of 2021

The report has been compiled by the Threat Research and Information Anayltics Division of CloudSEK, a Singapore-based AI-driven Digital Risk Management Enterprise. CloudSEK's XVigil platform scours thousands of sources (across the surface, deep and dark web) to detect cyber threats, data leaks, brand threats and identity thefts.

"Of the threats detected in Asia and Pacific last year, 58 per cent of them were targeted at Indian or India



based educational institutions and online platform. Indonesia was distant second being the target of 10 per cent cyber threats. This included attacks on BYJU's, IIM Kojhikode and 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.

According to Darshit Ashara. Principal Threat Researcher at CloudSEK, the growing global education and training market both online and offline, is expected to reach USD 7.3 trillion by 2025.

"This promising outlook is predicated on the expanding education technology market, population growth and increasing digital penetration in developing countries. Hence, it's no surprise that cybercriminals are gravitating towards entities and institutions in the sector." he said.

Adoption of remote learning by schools, universities and related entities to combat the disruption caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic; large-scale digitisation of educational content material, student data and documents and online learning platforms catering to the needs of everybody ranging from preschool children to retired professionals are among the reasons listed in the report, behind the trend.

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 iab 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).











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 elec-In Rajasthan, power cuts are being imposed in rural and urban tricity has increased to 35 per cent areas as per the roster system. due to severe heat conditions and However, essential services have power cuts from two to 10 hours are been completely exempted from being imposed in 16 states of the

power cuts, he said. For ensuring water supply, the



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 (Janjatiya Gourav Diwas) to honour and commemorate Chota Nagpur tribal leader Birsa 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

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

n 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

tions. 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 Jvotiraditva Scindia, now a Union minister.

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

BJP MP campaigns for revoking quota benefits of converts

country.

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).





We have been organising delisting rallies in all tribaldominated 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

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 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 motorcycle 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 incharge 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.

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

It's raining investments in Raj Khargone admin

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 invest 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."

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-al-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 petrolpumps and for the sale of kerosene from PDS shops.





national

REUTERS



Inclusiveness and equitable access to education to rural youth is critical because education plays a key role in human development, nation-building, and creating a prosperous and sustainable global future

M VENKAIAH NAIDU VICE PRESIDENT

WELCOME STEP

Fulfilling the commitment to deliver ration to the people at their doorstep, the Punjab Cabinet, led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, Monday gave approval to roll out home delivery service of atta from October 1 and it will be implemented in three phases



uote **Unrelenting heat pushes April** power demand to record high

woman. No one would tell you that her husband should marry three women. Who wants this? If Muslim women and mothers have to be given honour in the society, after the Triple Talaq (law), the UCC has to be put in place

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA ASSAM CM

No Muslim

one wants this. You

can ask any Muslim

woman wants

her husband to have three wives. No

If a Congress government is formed in Madhya Pradesh in 2023, the old pension scheme for government employees will be implemented like

how other states ruled by our party have done KAMAL NATH MP CONGRESS CHIEF

As many as 4.07 crore women have undergone breast screening for detection of its cancer, while 3.16 crore others were screened for cervical cancer under the Centre's Ayushman Bharat Yojana SMRITI IRANI UNION MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

IED defused

Srinagar: An improvised explosive device (IED) was detected and defused by the security forces Monday in Kashmir's Pulwama district, police said. The IED was detected by a joint team of police, Army and the CRPF along the Rajpora road. "Bomb disposal squad was called in and the IED was successfully defused," the police said.

Goodwill gesture

New Delhi: As a goodwill gesture, the Border Security Force (BSF) has handed over two Bangladeshi nationals to its counterpart Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB). According to BSF officials of the South Bengal Frontiers, two Bangladeshi nationals who crossed the International border illegally on Sunday, were nabbed by the troopers at two different Border Out Posts at Ranaghat and Hakimpur. Of the two, one was a Bangladeshi woman who was lured by the touts for better livelihood in India.

New Delhi, May 2: India's electricity demand touched a record high in April as its northern states reeled under the hottest pre-summer months in decades, with a surge in the use of air conditioning triggering the worst power crisis in more than six years. Power demand grew 13.2% to 135.4 billion kilowatt hours (kWh),

as the electricity requirement in the north grew between 16% and 75%. a Reuters analysis of government data showed. Electricity use is expected to

grow as India's weather office has forecast above normal maximum temperatures over most parts of the west central, northwest, north and northeast.

India and neighbouring Pakistan have been suffering from extreme heat this year and more than a billion people are at risk from the heat, scientists have warned, linking the early onset of an intense summer to climate change.

The unprecedented electricity use resulted in widespread power cuts in April, as utilities scrambled to manage demand as coal supplies dwindled. Power supply fell short of demand by 2.41 billion units, or 1.8%, the worst since October 2015. Demand for power in Delhi rose 42% in April, with northern states such as Punjab and Rajasthan seeing electricity demand grow 36% and 28% respectively, government

data showed. Soaring tempera-

tures lead to a 74.7% rise in elec-

tricity use by Sikkim, a small hilly

state in the northeast famous for

its scenic mountains.

A girl selling water uses an umbrella to protect herself from the sun as she waits for customers on a hot day, in New Delhi

Power demand grew 13.2% to 135.4 billion kilowatt hours (kWh), as the electricity requirement in the north grew between 16% and 75%, a Reuters analysis of government data showed

Electricity use is expected to grow as India's weather office has forecast above normal maximum temperatures over most parts of the west central, northwest, north and northeast

he unprecedented electricity use resulted in widespread power cuts in April, as utilities scrambled to manage demand as coal supplies dwindled

Himachal Pradesh and tainous states thronged by tourists Uttarakhand, two other mounseeking a retreat from the heat of the plains, saw power demand surge by more than a sixth because of the higher temperatures.

Other northern states such as Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, and Jharkhand in the east saw demand for electricity rise more than 25%, the data showed. Seven states including southern Andhra Pradesh state suffered their worst power cuts in more than six years, according to the data. Most of the states were those in the north that faced soaring temperatures due to the heatwave.

India is likely to face more power cuts as utilities' inventories of coal, which were at the lowest pre-summer levels in at least nine years, declined 13%, despite state-run Coal India, which makes up 80% of India's coal output, ramping up production by more than 27%.

Raghav Chadha, two others take oath

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 2: Aam Aadmi Party leaders Raghav Chadha, Ashok Kumar Mittal and Sanjeev Arora Monday took oath as their party's Rajya Sabha members from Puniab.

Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu administered the oath to the newlyelected AAP members of Rajya Sabha in his chamber at Parliament House. All the three AAP leaders were elected unopposed from Punjab in March as no other political party had nominated any candidate the state for the Rajya Sabha elections.

Naidu advised the new members to go through various publications, including 'Rajya Sabha at Work', 'Practice and Procedure of Parliament', the 'Members Handbook', 'Rule Book' among others to enable them to become conversant with the procedures of the House and enrich their knowledge about its functioning.

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs V Muraleedharan, Deputy Chairman Harivansh, Rajya Sabha Secretary-General P C Mody and other senior officers of the RS Secretariat were also present during the oath-taking.

While Chadha is a senior leader of the AAP, Mittal is the founder of Phagwara-based Lovely Professional University (LPU), the first private university in the state and one of the largest in India. Chadha is considered to have played a significant role in the AAP's stupendous victory in the Punjab assembly polls.

He was co-incharge of the AAP's political affairs in Punjab where the Arvind Kejriwal-led party contested the assembly polls and came out victorious winning 92 seats. Chadha expressed his gratitude to Kejriwal for giving him this big responsibility.

SpiceJet turbulence: DGCA derosters crew

On Sunday, the Mumbai-Durgapur flight encountered a severe turbulence during its descent phase, injuring 14 passengers and three cabin crew members, the

DGCA said in a statement



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 2: India's aviation regulator DGCA Monday announced that it is carrying out an inspection of the entire SpiceJet aircraft fleet after its Mumbai-Durgapur plane ran into a severe turbulence leading to injuries to 17 people.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) also took off the roster the flight's crew, aircraft maintenance engineer (AME) and in-charge of SpiceJet's maintenance control centre, pending a probe.

At present, the aircraft that was involved in the incident on Sunday is grounded in Kolkata, the DGCA said. The rest of the SpiceJet aircraft fleet are in operation

SpiceJet has 91 aircraft in its fleet, according to its website. On Sunday, the Mumbai-Durgapur flight encountered a severe turbulence during its descent phase, injuring 14 passengers and three cabin crew members, the DGCA said in a statement.

Two of the injured passengers one with head injury and another with spinal injury -- are in ICU right now, it mentioned."The DGCA has off-rostered the involved crew, the AME ... And incharge of Maintenance Control Centre of SpiceJet pending investigation," it said. "The involved aircraft is at pres-

ent grounded in Kolkata. As a regulatory measure, DGCA is carrying out inspection of SpiceJet aircraft across the fleet," it added. Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said, "The turbulence encountered by a flight while landing in Durgapur, and the damage caused to the passengers is unfortunate. The DGCA has deputed a team to investigate the incident."The matter is being dealt with utmost seriousness and deftness, he said. "More details on the cause(s) will be shared once the investigation is completed," Scindia noted. There were 195 people, including two pilots and four cabin crew members, on board the Mumbai-Durgapur flight, the DGCA mentioned

My arrest a pre-planned conspiracy by PMO: Mevani

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 2: "Some Godse bhakts" in the Prime Minister's Office had got FIRs registered against him, Gujarat legislator Jignesh Mevani alleged Mondav and termed his arrest by the Assam Police a "pre-planned conspiracy" to destroy him ahead of assembly elections in the state. Mevani, who was released on Saturday, also said his arrest was an act of "56-inch cowardice" that had undermined Guiarat's pride. an apparent swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 56-inch chest assertion. Addressing a press conference, Mevani announced that he would take to the streets and ensure a Gujarat Bandh on June 1 on a raft of issues -- seeking action against those behind the leak of 22 exam papers, the recent recovery of "Rs 1.75 lakh-crore" worth of drugs from the Mundra Port, and to press for the withdrawal of all cases against Dalits in Una and against minorities in the state. "Some Godse-bhakts sitting in the PMO have got serious FIRs registered against me over my mere tweeting," he told reporters at the Congress headquarters here. The Independent legislator from Vadgam who has pledged his support to the Congress was picked up by the Assam Police from Gujarat on April 19 and taken to the northeastern state after a purported tweet that Modi "considered Godse



planted something on my com-

puter which has been seized by

Mevani said he had only tweeted

asking the prime minister to give

a call for peace and harmony in Gujarat, a state he considers

"Mahatma's temple"."Does this

mean you do not want to appeal for

peace and harmony...I challenge

NG HOMELESS



2 killed, 24 injured

Patna: Two children were killed and as many critically injured after a speeding truck plowed into a house in Bihar's Supaul district Monday morning. The incident occurred at NH 327E Pipra-Triveniganj road at Gaghar village. The victims were asleep in their house located on the roadside. The house belongs to one Anil Ram.

..... 9-year-old raped

Bijnor (Uttar Pradesh): A nineyear-old girl was allegedly raped by her 18-year-old uncle who works as a labourer at a brick kiln here, the police said Monday. The incident took place at Shivalakala Kalan when the girl's parents had gone for work at the same brick kiln. A police spokesman said the accused was arrested after an FIR was filed against him under the relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Protection of Children Against Sexual Offences Act (POCSO).

Man killed

Patna: A man was killed while his wife was critically injured after two robbers attacked them inside their house in Patna, an official said. The incident took place at the Karbala locality under Phulwarisharif police station in the wee hours of Monday. The robbers repeatedly smashed a pressure cooker on the head of Mohammad Jafruddin (35) until his death during the robbery bid.



pre-planned conspiracy. It was in blatant

as God".

After being released on bail in ent case... "My arrest by the Assam Police

was a pre-planned conspiracy. It

My arrest by the Assam Police was a

disregard to protocol and rules for an MLA JIGNESH MEVANI | GUJARAT LEGISLATOR



the case, the Dalit leader was rearrested on charges of assaulting a policewoman. A court in Barpeta granted him bail in the case and urged the Gauhati High Court to consider directing the Assam Police to reform itself to 'prevent registration of false FIR like the pres-

already accepted his continued

those 'bhakts' and BJP leaders to say Godse murdabad' from the Red Fort, if they are not Godse bhakts,' he said. Mevani also asked what the in-

them.

terest of the BJP or the prime minister could be in arresting him over a mere tweet as if he were a terrorist. "Such things are very dangerous for our democracy." He alleged that the woman police officer was put under "pressure" to complain against him, but he will not go against her "öut of generosity". The attempt to harass him had failed, Mevani declared.

On Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's claim that he was not aware of the arrest, he said, "It is impossible that the Assam CM does not even know about my arrest. He got offences registered against me at the instance of his political bosses."



Homeless people rest under a bridge near the Yamuna River on a hot day in New Delhi

Rajoana's mercy plea: SC sets deadline for Centre

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 2: The Supreme Court on Monday gave two months to the Centre to decide on the mercy plea of Balwant Singh Rajoana, who was sentenced to death for his role in the assassination of then Puniab Chief Minister Beant Singh in 1995.

A bench, headed by Justice U.U. Lalit and comprising Justices S. Ravindra Bhat and P.S. Narasimha, said the decision by the Centre should be taken as early as possible, "preferably within two months from today". Additional Solicitor General K.M. Nataraj, representing the Centre, submitted that the mercy petition cannot be considered as it has been filed by another organisation and not by the convict. The MHA has also argued that the

mercy petition cannot be decided until the appeals filed by other convicts in the case before the apex court are not disposed of.

Vice President is also Chairman of

the Rajya Sabha, he plays an active

role in the smooth functioning of the Upper House. The NDA currently has 336 seats in the Lok Sabha and around 124 in the Rajya Sabha taking its total to 460. This number may even go up if more regional parties like the BJD, YSR-Congress, Janata Dal (S), BSP and others decide to support the NDA candidate. The situation may further improve in favour of the BJP

after the current round of biennial elections for 60 more seats in Rajya Sabha is over in July. The BJP and NDA are far better placed this time around if regional parties not part of the NDA or UPA vote for BJP's nominee.

On Banda tour, **UP** minister rushed to hospital

PTI PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Banda (UP), May 2: Uttar Pradesh Minister Girish Chandra Yaday was rushed to a hospital here in the early hours of Monday following a bite possibly by a rat or a mole, a senior official at the district hospital said.

The minister of state for Youth Welfare and Sports, who was on a tour of Banda district and was staying in a circuit house, is fine and left for Lucknow in the morning, officials added. The minister woke up feeling uneasy around 3 am on Monday, suspecting that he had been bitten in the hand by an insect and was rushed to the trauma centre of the district hospital.

An examination revealed that the bite on a finger of his right hand was possibly from a rat or a shrew (a insectivorous mammal that resembles a mouse), the district hospital's Chief Medical Superintendent (CMS) Dr SN ২ Mishra said.

The circuit house is in a forest area, leading the minister to suspect he had been bitten by a poisonous insect, he said. The incident in the dead of the nightsent the district administration into a tizzy.

pleas to raise the level of bio-fuel to 20% in petrol and diesel to promote green fuel. The oil companies brought in new technologies to meet this extra mixing. Earlier, it was 5% and now it has been raised to 20%. But Gadkari wants this limit to be raised further to 25% and then to 30%. He persuaded the Petroleum Minister to organise a meeting with all heads of the Oil companies to Gadkari's green fuel buttress his case. Puri called all of them at his residence over dinner. But Gadkari could not turn up as he

had an urgent appointment. Meanwhile, Puri reportedly developed an obsession with green discussed the issue with other seniors in the government and it was decided that mixing bio-fuel more than 20% will bring additional pressure on sugarcane industry and won't promote the aatmanirbhar objective either.

Government on extension spree!

t's an extension season if the goings-on in the government are any indication. After the Union Home Secretary and Chiefs of Intelligence Bureau and Research & Analysis Wing were given an extra year even after they completed their fixed two years in service, it's the turn of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) Chairman to reap the

harvest. The Cabinet Secretary was earlier given an extension and Enforcement Director Sanjay Mishra got a windfall tenure of more than four years. It transpires that incumbent Chairman of CBDT JB Mohapatra may also get an extension in service before he retires on April 30.

Who is the next VP?

Whispers in the corridors of power have begun with regard to the election of the Vice President, slated to be held in August after the Presidential polls. It now transpires that talks within the top echelons have begun for the next VP candidate. Since the

AITT

Puri cool to

Union road transport minister Nitin Gadkari is gradually

fuel. The Modi government has

getting isolated as he has







international



The Ukrainian authorities are working with the **United Nations to** evacuate other civilians from Mariupol steel plant VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT

STUDY REVEALS

A team of US researchers has uncovered genetic links between Covid-19 severity and certain medical conditions that are known risk factors for severity of the infectious disease. Some people with Covid experience the disease more severely than others



uote

People are dying inside houses. Some even collapse while on the road and die. And someone was

shot dead during the protests. This situation could escalate if the Government continues to stay in power. The Government has to accept the demand of the people

GOTABAYA RAJAPAKSA

SRI LANKA'S BELEAGUERED PREZ

Lavrov could not help hiding the deeply rooted antisemitism of the Russian elites

UKRAINE'S FOREIGN MINISTER



LIU XIAOMING SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF CHINESE GOVERNMEN

SHORT TAKES

Eight killed in Manila fire

Manila: At least eight people were killed in a fire that engulfed a residential area of the state university campus in Manila Monday. Citing Bureau of Fire Protection officials. local radio DzBB said the victims were trapped in their homes when the fire broke out at around 5 a.m. inside the University of the Philippines compound in the Quezon City suburb, reports Xinhua news agency. Six of the victims, including children, were found in one house.

8 killed in Nigeria building collapse

Abuj: At least eight people were killed when a threestorey building collapsed in Nigeria's Lagos state, an emergency management official said Monday. Ibrahim Farinloye, coordinator of the National Emergency Management Agency, told Xinhua news agency that the building, in the Onyigbo area, collapsed at about 11 p.m. Sunday night, and rescuers have so far found eight bodies. At least 23 people were rescued and are being treated in hospital, he said.

BOOST TO GREEN DEVELOPMENT

India, Germany sign \$10.5bn deal

AGENCIES

Berlin, May 2: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Monday that the partnership between India and Germany could serve as an example of success in a complex world as the two sides inked several agreements focused on sustainable development under which India would receive \$10.5 billion assistance by 2030 to boost the use of clean energy.

Prime Minister Modi, who cochaired with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz the sixth plenary session of the Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC), also invited the German participation in India's 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India) campaign.

In their opening remarks, both the leaders highlighted key aspects of the bilateral relationship as well as shared perspectives on regional and global issues during the session, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a press release

Prime Minister Modi emphasised that India-Germany partnership could serve as an example of success in a complex world, it said. Participating ministers and officials from both sides presented brief reports on their meetings on the different tracks of the IGC, which included foreign affairs and security; economic. financial policy, scientific and social exchange; climate, environment, sustainable development

and energy. Finance Minister



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, right, and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, left, shake hands after contract signing ceremony as part of a meeting at the chancellerv in Berlin. Germany PTI PHOTO

Nirmala Sitharaman; External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar; Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Jitendra Singh and Secretary Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Anurag Jain made

presentations from the Indian side. The plenary session concluded with the signing by Prime Minister Modi and Chancellor Scholz of the Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) establishing the green and sustainable development partnership. This partnership envisages a

whole-of-government approach to India-Germany cooperation on Sustainable Development Goals and climate action, under which Germany has agreed to make an advance commitment of 10 billion

Euros (\$10.5 billion) of new and additional development assistance until 2030, the MEA release said. This JDI will also create a ministerial mechanism within the framework of the IGC to provide

high-level coordination and political direction to the partnership. "PM @narendramodi and @Bundeskanzler Olaf Scholz cochaired the 6th IGC. Agreed to expand the India-Germany Strategic Partnership further to a partnership for: Shared Values and Regional and Multilateral Interests, Green and Sustainable Development, Trade, Investment and Digital Transformation. Political and Academic Exchange, Scientific Cooperation, Mobility of Workforce and People and Global Health,"

Modi receives grand welcome

Berlin: The colours and diversity of India were on display at Berlin's iconic Brandenburg Gate as members of the Indian community gave a rousing welcome to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his arrival in the German capital Monday. Modi arrived here on the first leg of his three-nation Europe trip that will also take him to Denmark and France. Dressed in traditional nine-yard Paithani sarees, women hailing from Maharashtra performed the traditional lezim dance at the iconic Brandenburg Gate to welcome Modi, A 'dhol-tasha' troupe from Pune-based Ramanbaug, played traditional drums, and a person dressed as Chhatrapati Shivaji also joined the celebrations. "It was early morning in Berlin yet several people from the Indian community came by. Was wonderful connecting with them. India is proud of the accomplishments of our diaspora," Modi tweeted after his arrival here.

Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said in a tweet.

Modi arrived in Berlin Monday morning on the first leg of his three-nation Europe trip that will also take him to Denmark and France.





ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zaporizhzhia (Ukraine), May 2: People fleeing besieged Mariupol described weeks of bombardments and deprivation as they arrived Monday in Ukrainian-held territory, where officials and relief workers anxiously awaited the first group of civilians freed from a steel plant that is the last redoubt of Ukrainian fighters in the devastated port city. Video posted online Sunday by

Ukrainian forces showed elderly women and mothers with small children climbing over a steep pile of rubble from the sprawling Azovstal steel plant and eventually boarding a bus

The evacuation, if successful, would represent rare progress in easing the human cost of the almost 10-week war, which has caused particular suffering in Mariupol. Previous attempts to open safe corridors out of the Sea of Azov city and other places have broken down, with Ukrainian officials repeatsent rare progress in easing the human cost of the almost 10-week war, which has caused particular suffering in Mariupol ore than 100 civilians VI from the plant were

cessful, would repre-

expected to arrive in Zaporizhzhia

edly accusing Russian forces of shooting and shelling along agreedupon evacuation routes.

The city council told residents wanting to leave to gather at a shopping mall, though it said that buses to take them out of the city had yet to reach the gathering point. As in the past when official evacuations faltered, some people managed to escape under their own steam, though

others remain trapped. At least some of the people evacuated from the plant on Sunday were apparently taken to a village controlled by Moscow-backed separatists. The Russian military said Monday that some chose to stay in separatist areas, while dozens have left for Ukrainian-controlled territory. The information could

not be independently verified. In the past, Ukrainian officials have accused Moscow's troops of forcibly relocating civilians from areas they have captured to Russia; Moscow has said the people wanted to go to Russia.

Spanish PM's phone targeted with 2021 Pegasus spyware

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Madrid, May 2: The Spanish government has said the mobile phones of Prime Minister, Pedro Sanchez, and Defence Minister, Margarita Robles, were both infected last year with the Pegasus spyware that its manufacturers claim is available_ only to state agencies, the media reported.

In a hastily convened press conference Monday morning, Felix Bolanos, the minister for the presidency, said Sanchez's phone was targeted in May and June 2021, while Robles' was targeted in June 2021. Data was extracted from both phones, The Guardian reported. Bolanos said the "illicit" and "external" targeting would be investigated by Spain's highest criminal court, the Audiencia Nacional. adding the targeting must have come from abroad as any such monitoring in Spain would have had required judicial authorisation, The Guardian reported.

Would like to marry Melinda again: Bill Gates

AGENCIES

Washington, May 2: Bill Gates has said that he would like to marry his ex-wife Melinda again.

The couple had announced their divorce back in May 2021 after nearly 30 years of marriage. It was finalised in August 2021 but the couple had announced that they would continue to run their foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, together. They have three children together - Jenner.

Bill Gates also opened up about his current working relationship with his ex-wife and expressed how he feels about the end of their marriage

Every marriage "goes through a transition" after children grow up and leave the family home. For him, the transition was "called divorce," as per his statement. Meanwhile, the business magnet added that in spite of its ending. from his point of view he had a "great marriage



DMYTRO KULEBA The issues on

will continue to play a positive role



MyPillow CEO gets banned from Twitter

Washington: MyPillow CEO Mike Lindell was banned from Twitter for a second time after attempting to use a new account to access the social media platform. Lindell set up a new account Sunday on Twitter under @MikeJLindell. The account was guickly suspended. Twitter said Monday that Lindell's new account was permanently suspended for violating its rules on ban evasion.

Rory and Phoebe.

terview with Sunday Times.

Bill Gates was formerly the Bill Gates described the last two world's richest person and his vears as "pretty dramatic" but he fortune is estimated at well over \$100 also added that even with the Covidbillion. 19 pandemic and his divorce, the 'weirdest part" for him has been

The Gateses were married in 1994 in Hawaii. They met after she his children leaving, as per his inbegan working at Microsoft as a product manager in 1987.



FOR A CAUSE: Left-wing demonstrators take part in a May Day protest in Hamburg, Germany. Banner reads "Forbidden good: Anarchism on the offensive

SL extends credit line with India for fuel

REUTERS

Colombo, May 2: Sri Lanka has extended a credit line with India by \$200 million in order to procure emergency fuel stocks, the country's power and energy minister said Monday, with four shipments due to arrive in May.

Colombo was also in talks with New Delhi over extending the credit line by an additional \$500 million, minister Kanchana Wijesekera told a news conference.

Hit hard by the pandemic and



short of revenue after Gotabaya Rajapaksa's government imposed steep tax cuts, the island nation is

now also critically short of foreign exchange and has approached the International Monetary Fund for an emergency bailout.

Rampant inflation and shortages of imported food, fuel and medicines has led to weeks of sporadically violent protests.

Sri Lanka has used \$400 million, on multiple shipments in April, of the \$500 million credit line extended by India earlier this year, Wijesekera said. Two fuel shipments will be paid for from the remaining funds in May.

"These facts have been confirmed



Delivery drivers walk off job in rare protest

Dubai: Food-delivery drivers protesting wage cuts and gruelling working conditions went on an extremely rare strike in Dubai over the weekend - a mass walkout that paralysed one of the country's main delivery apps and revived concerns about labour conditions in the emirate.

Armenia detains **180 protesters**

Yerevan: Police in Armenia's capital Monday detained 180 anti-government demonstrators that were blocking streets to protest against Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan. Protests demanding that Pashinyan step down reignited in Armenia last month, after he spoke in the country's parliament about the need to sign a peace agreement with Azerbaijan.

MATTER OF CONCERN

Sea levels rising twice as fast in New Zealand

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Wellington, May 2: New data released Monday revealed that sea levels in New Zealand were rising some 20 to 30 years faster than previously expected.

Based on current international emissions reduction policies, global sea levels are expected to rise about 0.6 metres by the year 2100, reports Xinhua news agency.

However, for large parts of New Zealand this will double to about 1.2 metres due to ongoing land subsidence, said Professor Tim Naish from the Victoria University of

Wellington, co-leader of the NZ SeaRise programme. 'We have less time to act than we thought," Naish said.

What may be a real surprise to people is that for many of New Zealand's most populated regions, such as Auckland and Wellington,



"this unavoidable rise is happening faster than we thought.

"Vertical land movements mean that these changes in sea level may happen 20 to 30 years sooner than previously expected," said Richard Levy from GNS Science and Victoria University of Wellington, co-leader of NZ SeaRise. For many parts of New Zealand's coast, 30 cm of sea-level rise is a threshold for extreme flooding, above which the 100-year coastal storm becomes an annual event, Levy said.

NZ SeaRise, a five-year research programme funded by the government, brings together 30 local and international experts from universities and research institutes to improve projections of sealevel rise in New Zealand.

On Monday, the programme released location-specific sea-level rise projections out to the year

or the first time, New Zealanders will be able to see how much and how fast sea levels will rise along their own stretch of coast and in their neighbourhood

Iimate change and warming temperatures are causing sea levels to rise, on average, by 3.5 mm per year

This sea-level rise is caused by thermal expansion of the ocean, and the melting of land-based glaciers as well as the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets

2300 for every 2 km of the coast of New Zealand

These projections can be accessed through a new online tool. The new projections are being incorporated into the next Ministry

for the Environment guidance for local governments' work on coastal hazards and climate change, Levy

said. However, local sea-level rise around the coast of New Zealand is also affected by the up-and-down movements of its land.

"We are very aware when these vertical land movements occur in large jumps during earthquakes, but less obvious to us all is that smaller shifts occur continuously in between large seismic events,' said a statement of the programme.

"These small but continuous changes add up, and in areas that are going down (subsiding) the annual rate of sea-level rise can double," it said, adding the programme has connected this vertical land movement data with the climatedriven sea-level rise to provide locally-relevant sea-level projections. Sea-level rise can be kept to a

minimum by enacting policies to meet the Paris Agreement targets to limit global warming by 2100 to between 1.5 to 2 degrees Celsius.

and are irrefutable," said Bolanos. "I don"t think now is the time to engage in supposition or conjecture about what the motivation may have been.

The phones of other members of the government are being examined to determine whether they may also have been targeted.

The allegations come as the Spanish government faces questions over how Pegasus -- which is sold by the Israeli company NSO Group -- allegedly came to be used to monitor dozens of members of the Catalan independence movement, including the president of the north-eastern Spanish region, Pere Aragones, and three of his

predecessors. The Catalan regional government has pointed the finger at Spain's National Intelligence Centre (CNI), which insists its operations are overseen by the supreme court and that it acts "in full accordance with the legal system, and with absolute respect for the applicable laws".





business

REUTERS



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

In 2022, India records

Heatwave dents wheat

vields in key growing

region

hottest March in 122 years

Output could be 6% below

nitial estimate: Govt note

Thin supplies, rising prices

indicate lower output

Lower surplus could

limit India's wheat

exports-traders

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





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

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 guarter 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 guarter 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

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

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 12 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



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



GOVT MONITORING EDIBLE OIL PRICES, **SAYS STOCK AMPLE**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 2: Government has said there is sufficient stock of edible oils and it is keeping a close watch on the price as well as supply situation, amid Indonesia banning export of palm oil.

"India has optimum stock of all edible oils. As per the industry sources, the present stock of all edible oils in the country is 21 lakh tonne approx and 12 lakh tonne approx. is in transit arriving in May, 2022," the food and consumer affairs ministry said in a statement. Therefore, the country has sufficient

stock to cover the lean period due to ban on export by Indonesia, it added. On the oilseeds front, the agri-

culture ministry's second advance estimate released in February 2022 showed a very positive picture of sovabean production for the year 2021-22 at 126.10 lakh tonne, which is higher than last year's production of 112 lakh tonne.

As a result of higher sowing of mustard seeds by 37 per cent in all major producing states, including Rajasthan, in comparison with last year, the production may rise to 114 lakh tonne in the 2021-22 season.

'The Department of Food and Public Distribution is monitoring the price and availability situation and meetings are held regularly with major edible oil processing associations to discuss further reduction in the domestic edible oil prices and MRP to give relief to consumers." the statement said.

The food ministry noted that palm oil (crude and refined) constitutes around 62 per cent of the total imported edible oils. They are imported mainly from Indonesia and Malavsia.

Soyabean oil (22 per cent) is imported from Argentina and Brazil, while sunflower oil (15 per cent) is imported mainly from Ukraine and Russia.

LIC IPO Strong response seen from anchor investors



Anchor investors are high-profile institutional investors that are allotted shares before the subscription opens for retail and other investors, and have to commit to holding their shares for a certain period after listing

NORWEGIAN WEALTH FUND

NORGES BANK INVESTMENT

MANAGEMENT AND SINGAPORE

SOVEREIGN WEALTH FUND GIC

HAVE SUBSCRIBED TO THE

ANCHOR BOOK

ALONGSIDE OTHER GLOBAL FUNDS,

DOMESTIC MUTUAL FUND HOUSES

SUCH AS HDFC MUTUAL FUND, SBI,

ICICI AND KOTAK HAVE ALSO COME

IN AS ANCHOR INVESTORS

shares are reserved for employees

While retail investors and LIC

employees will get a discount of

Rs 45 per share, LIC policy holders

bidding in IPO would get a dis-

count of Rs 60 a share. LIC would

start trading on the stock exchanges

LIC's embedded value, which is

a measure of the consolidated

shareholders value in an insur-

and policyholders.

May 17.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 2: LIC's initial public offering Monday saw 'excellent' response from anchor investors. an official said.

The government is selling 22,13,74,920 shares in Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) at a price band of Rs 902-949 a share, targeting to raise about Rs 21.000 crore. The issue would be open for subscription for institutional and retail buyers from May 4-9.

The issue opened for anchor investor subscription Mondav and saw 'excellent' response, an official said, adding that the details of price bids would be known later in the day.

The LIC share sale would be the biggest ever amount raised through an initial public offering in the Indian stock market. The previous such high fund raising was seen in IPO of PayTM in 2021 at Rs 18,300 crore and Coal India in 2010 at Rs 15,200 crore.

Of the over 22.13 crore LIC shares on offer, over 9.88 crore shares are reserved for qualified institutional buyers and over 2.96 crore shares for non-institutional buyers. Up to 15,81,249 shares and 2,21,37,492

ance company, was pegged at about Rs 5.4 lakh crore as of September 30, 2021, by international actuarial firm Milliman Advisors. Based on investor feedback, the market value of government owned LIC has been pegged at 1.1 times its

embedded value or Rs 6 lakh crore

AMID HIGH Factory activity quickens in April



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

Govt lens on algorithm used by car aggregators

()) OLA

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

Uber

trader: "It's a dynamic situation, so we will have to wait for a while to see a clearer picture," Jain said.

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

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.

and Uber next week for seeking details about their policies related to pricing and cancellation of rides.

BUZZ

B Z

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

MCL celebrates Miners' Day

Sambalpur: Coal miners are playing an important

ment of the country, said OP Singh, Chairman-cum-

the occasion of May Day that company celebrates

Managing Director, Mahanadi Coalfields Limited on

employees with outstanding performance were also awarded.

role in strengthening the economy and develop-

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.

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

fortably at their homes." Prominent among others present on the occasion included KR

Patel, President OCMS, Shankar Behera, Secretary OCMLF, AK Dash, President BCMWU, AK

efforts of coal miners despite scorching sun or inclement weather that makes people sleep com-

Vasudevan, Director (Finance), Keshav Rao, Director (Personnel) and PK Patel, CVO. Besides, KC

Pradhan, Vice-President ABKMS and AP Shukla, General Secretary, CMOAI also participated in

the corporate level celebrations. During the celebration, hosted by Lakhanpur Area of MCL, the

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 2: India's manufacturing sector activities witnessed faster growth in April amid quicker increases in production India Manufacturing Purchasing as well as factory orders, and re-Managers' Index (PMI) rose from newed expansion in international sales, a monthly survey said Monday. 54.0 in March to 54.7 in April, as a re-The seasonally adjusted S&P Global treat of Covid-19 restrictions con-

ritory during April, recovering

tinued to support demand. "The Indian manufacturing PMI remained well inside positive terMarch. 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 in-

flation hit a 12-month high. 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.

Berkshire Addressing 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

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.

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.

Musk shares long-term investment advice

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.

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

ACCORDING TO

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 2: Elon Musk, who is the richest man in the world, on Sunday shared some investment advice on when to buy and sell stocks.

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 beices are trending worse" The owner of Tesla and

SpaceX recently took over microblogging platform Twitter in a \$44 billion deal Musk has

🧐 Since I've been asked a lot: Buy stock in several companies that make products & services that you believe in. This will serve you w<mark>ell in th</mark>e long-term

ELON MUSK | WORLD'S RICHEST



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.



also sold around 4.4 million





Reddy new Zonal Manager of

as Head of Vijayawada Circle. On joining, the new

and MSME. He also stressed on popularisation of

digital banking facilities in order to make PNB the

preferred destination for the Gen-Next customers.

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

PNB, Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar: A Uday Bhaskar

Zonal Manager of Punjab

National Bank, Bhubaneswar

Reddy has taken over as the new

Zone. He was previously working

shares of the company worth

anything.



KNIGHTS THRASH ROYALS Kings face team to beat GT



Mumbai, May 2: Kolkata Knight Riders defeated in-form Rajasthan Royals by seven wickets to snap their five-match losing streak in the IPL here Monday.

KKR first restricted RR to 152/5 after opting to bowl and then chased down the target with five balls to spare to return to winning ways and heave a sigh of relief.

Nitish Rana (48 n o, 37b, 3x4, 2x6) anchored the chase, while Rinku Singh (42 n o, 23b, 6x4, 1x6) played an unbeaten cameo to help KKR overwhelm the target with consummate ease.

Aaron Finch's poor run continued as he was cleaned up by Kuldeep Sen (1/28) early on as KKR made a sedate start to their chase. KKR batters found the going tough on a slow paced Wankhede pitch, where shot-making wasn't easy at all.

Baba Indrajith (15) was bounced out by Prasidh Krishna soon but captain Shreyas Iyer (34, 32b, 3x4, 1x6) and Rana batted sensible to help KKR reach fifty in nine overs. It was Rana who finally managed to free his arms in the 11th over, and used the sweep and reverse sweep to great effect to hit R Ashwin for a 4-6-4 to pick up 16 runs. Iyer then clobbered Yuzvendra

Chahal over wide long-on boundary to bring up the half-century stand for the third wicket with Rana. Just when it seemed Iyer was

Boult (1/25) delivery to Samson behind the stumps in the next over. New man Singh marked his arrival at the crease with a boundary of the first ball.

Needing 46 off 30 balls, Singh played the shot of the day, a paddle scoop to a 141 kmph Sen delivery on his legs high and mighty over the fine leg fence. Singh meant business as he found the fence at crucial junctures to first bring down the equation to 31 runs off 18 balls.

Samson's decision to bring Chahal back into the attack in the 18th over backfired as Singh took his chances against the spinner and struck consecutive fours to make it 18 off last 12 balls. Singh continued his onslaught against Prasidh, who conceded 17 runs in the penultimate over as KKR

wrapped up the match in style. Earlier, KKR restricted RR to a modest 152/5, despite rival skipper Samson's half century (54, 49b, 7x4, 1x6). Samson's knock was the only saving grace, as wickets tumbled at regular intervals.

KKR bowlers justified skipper Iver's decision to ask the opposition to bat first with quick wickets. A late onslaught by Shimron Hetymar (27 n o, 13b, 1x4, 2x6) took Rajasthan beyond the 150-run mark.

RR lost opener Devdutt Padikkal (2) cheaply as pacer Umesh Yadav (1/24) grabbed a return catch in the third over. Samson joined inover deep extra cover for his first maximum as RR amassed 11 runs in the sixth over, scoring 38 runs in power-play. The RR skipper then cut Sunil Narine (0/19) for another boundary. But RR slipped to 55/2 after pacer

Samson lofted Anukul Roy (1/28)

Tim Southee (2/46) removed a rusty looking Buttler, who was caught by Shivam Mavi (1/33) at long on. Samson struck two successive boundaries off Mavi but was devoid of partners. He was able to add only 35 runs with Karun Nair (13) and 25 with Riyan Parag (19).

Karun (13), Parag (19) and Samson fell in quick succession as RR slipped to 115/5 from 90/3. While Nair became left-arm spinner Roy's only victim, Parag was caught by Roy at deep-mid wicket off Southee.

Samson, in a bid to score quickly, gave a skier to Singh at deep-midwicket. Hetymer and Ashwin (6 n o) added unbeaten 37 runs in 18 balls to push RR's total beyond the 150-run mark.

BRIEF SCORES Rajasthan Royals 152/5

(Sanju Samson 54, Shimron Hetmyer 27 n o, Jos Buttler 22; Tim Southee 2/46, Umesh Yadav 1/24, Anukul Roy 1/28, Shivam

Mavi 1/33) lost to Kolkata Knight Riders 158/3 (Nitish Rana 48 n o, Rinku Singh 42 n o, Shreyas Iyer 34; Trent Boult 1/25) by 7 wickets.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Navi Mumbai, May 2: Gujarat Titans, who have been remarkable in bouncing back from adverse situations, would look to seal a spot in the playoffs when they clash with inconsistent Punjab Kings in the IPL here Tuesday.

Gujarat, the IPL debutants, are clearly the team to beat in the competition having won eight out of nine games. A sixth consecutive win will make them the first side to enter the play-offs.

A big reason for Gujarat's stellar run has been their ability to come back from tough situations. Whether it is Rahul Tewatia, David Miller, Rashid Khan or skipper Hardik Pandya-they all have produced match-winning efforts during the course of the tournament. If one has failed, the other has risen to the occasion.

"That's the beauty of this team, people coming in and showing what they can do in clutch situations is becoming quite a habit, something I don't mind happening. We always back them to do it, but they're defying odds time and again," Hardik's words after the win over RCB summed up his team's sprit aptly.

The last time Gujarat and Punjab met, they produced a cracking finish with Tewatia bringing his team back from the dead by smashing two sixes off the last two balls of the game.

Punjab would hope to be on the right side of the result and that the game doesn't go deep. They



are in the middle of another inconsistent campaign and with five losses in nine games and are running out of time.

Their senior batters, captain Mayank Agarwal himself, Jonny Bairstow, Shikhar Dhawan and Liam Livingstone have done well in patches but have not been consistent enough. Barring pacer Arshdeep Singh,

who seems to be getting better with every game, the bowling department can also do better. They did well in the previous game but the batters flopped to let the team down.

For Titans, wicket-keeper Wriddhiman Saha has been a great replacement for a struggling Matthew Wade. His opening partner Shubman Gill has had starts but of late the elegant right-handed batter hasn't been among the runs and considering his potential, he would be keen to get back to form. The batting mainstay for Gujarat

has been Hardik, who has played responsible knocks, and with 308 runs is the third highest run-scorer. A rare failure in the last game against the RCB shouldn't bother



Another important cog for Gujarat is all-rounder Rashid Khan, who has also displayed his six-hitting prowess, to go with his crafty bowling.

Gujarat also have one of the most lethal attacks in the IPL. While Mohammed Shami can wreak havoc with the new ball, the big-hitters in the Punjab lineup would be warv of the pace and variety which Lockie Ferguson brings with him. They can also continue with Pradeep Sangwan, who returned with fine figures in his first IPL game after four seasons

TODAY'S MATCH Time: 07:30 pn TELECAST Star Sports channels & Hotstar

CAPTAINCY PRESSURE BURDENED JADEJA: DHONI

selves afloat in the tournament

"I think Jadeja knew last sea-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

tried to rally the innings, sharing

48 runs for the second wicket as

KKR bowlers didn't allow RR bat-

to get his first four in the fourth over

as RR crawled to 12/1 Samson and

Buttler tried to break the shackles

in the fifth over, which fetched RR

Samson carved through the point

ters to free their arms.

15 runs.

Pune, May 2: The pressure and demands that come with captaincy affected Ravindra Jadeja's preparation and performance, says MS Dhoni, who had encouraged the all-rounder to take responsibility as a skipper rather than "spoon-feeding" him after the initial two-match transition period.

Jadeja had been appointed CSK skipper after Dhoni decided to step aside just before the tournament began last month. But the all-rounder buckled under pressure and eventually gave up the job, forcing the franchise to fall back on their most trusted lieutenant. Under Jadeja, CSK lost six out of their eight matches. India's most dependable all-format allrounder's batting, bowling and fielding also took a hit



Back at the helm of affairs, Dhoni, who has led CSK to four titles, produced instant result as CSK registered a 13-run win over

son he'd be captaining this year. For the first two games, I oversaw his work and let him be later. After that. I insisted he'd take his own decisions and responsibility for them," Dhoni said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

"Once you become captain, it means a lot of demands come in. But it affected his mind as the tasks grew. I think captaincy burdened his prep and performances.

Dhoni said Jadeja taking over the mantle of the side was a gradual transition, which he wanted. "He knew and got enough time to prepare, what is important is you want him to lead the side and I wanted that transition to happen. At the end of the season, you don't want him to feel as the captaincy was done by someone else and I'm just going for toss. "So it was a gradual transition. Spoon-feeding doesn't really help captain, on the field you have to take those crucial decisions and you have to take responsibility for those decisions.

"Once you become the captain, we have to take care of lot many things and that also includes your own game," he said.

Dhoni hoped Jadeja would rediscover form after being freed from captaincy. "Even if you relieve captainship and if you are at your best and that's what we want. We were also losing a great fielder, we are struggling for a deep mid-wicket fielder, still we have dropped 17-18 catches and that's a matter of concern.'

"These are tough games and hopefully we will comeback strong. important to communicate with the bowlers," he said

NEWS IN BRIEF India hockey teams Real prepare for City rise in FIH Rankings LAUSANNE: The Indian men and London, May 2: As you were in the

Barca end losing run, Arsenal, Spurs maintain CL chase ASSOCIATED PRESS up Son, who found the bottom cor-

Sunday.

women hockey teams climbed to third and seventh positions respectively in the latest FIH World Rankings issued Monday. Both the Indian teams made upward movement in the rankings chart. courtesy their impressive performances in the FIH Pro League matches recently. Three wins and a draw over England (3-3 and 4-3) and Germany (3-0 and 3-1) helped Indian men move ahead of Netherlands, who dropped to fourth. Australia continued to lead the men's rankings, while Belgium are in second place. followed by India. Netherlands, Germany, Argentina, England and New Zealand. In the women's rankings India jumped to the seventh spot following a win over top ranked Netherlands in the FIH Pro League. Argentina continuing good form in the Pro League means they remain in second place with Australia in third. England are in fourth spot ahead of Germany, Spain and India. Belgium are in eighth position ahead of New Zealand and Japan.

Osaka, Muguruza out of Madrid Open

MADRID: Naomi Osaka and Garbine Muguruza were among leading players to be knocked out of the Madrid Open on a day of upsets. Spain's Sara Sorribes Tormo beat Osaka 6-3, 6-1 in the second round Sunday on the Spanish capital's outdoor clay courts. Tormo, , who had already bettered French Open runner-up Anastasia

Pavlyuchenkova, next faces Daria Kasatkina after she fought back to upset fourth-seeded Maria Sakkari 3-6. 6-3. 6-1. Ukraine's Anhelina Kalinina brushed aside Muguruza 6-3. 6-0. Muguruza, the reigning WTA Finals champion, had pain in her right calf but said this wasn't the reason for her defeat. Bianca Andreescu beat sixth-seeded Danielle Collins 6-1, 6-1 after the American lost her serve six times and had six double-faults. US Open champion Emma Raducanu beat Marta Kostyuk 6-2, 6-1.

1



RELIEF AT LAST: Barcelona players celebrate one of their goals against Mallorca at Camp Nou, Sunday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Barcelona, May 2: While Real Madrid's players went back to training after celebrating the club's latest Spanish league title, Barcelona had a peace offering for its fans by ending an embarrassing losing streak at Camp Nou.

Goals from Memphis Depay and Sergio Busquets in each half were enough to beat Mallorca 2-1 and move Barcelona back ahead of Sevilla into second place. More importantly, it opened up a ninepoint gap over fifth-place Real Betis in the fight for a top-four finish and a lucrative Champions

League berth. But the win was otherwise made meaningless after Madrid's 4-0 victory over Espanyol the day before had clinched its record-extending 35th league title.

After parading the trophy for

thousands of fans immediately

after the win on Saturday in the

Spanish capital, Madrid coach

Carlo Ancelotti put out the cigar he

was seen smoking alongside his

players during the party and or-

dered them back to practice.

cider Wednesday and needs to overturn a 4-3 loss in the first leg. Xavi Hernández had never promised that he could make a Barcelona side that had lost Lionel Messi into

Champions League semifinal de-

an immediate title winner when he took over the club in November. But after a good run of wins earlier this year, Barcelona had

slumped to three straight losses in the same season for the firstever time at Camp Nou. The last collapse, a 0-1 defeat to lowly Cadiz, had provoked boos from the crowd. Sunday, Depay controlled a long ball

from Jordi Alba before firing home in the 25th minute. Busquets doubled the lead early in the second half after he collected a rebound and shot

from just inside the area But what looked like a comfortable victory was put in doubt when Antonio Raíllo slotted in a free kick by Salva Sevilla in the 79th.

Barcelona lost Gerard Pique, who was returning from injury, when he appeared to hurt a leg in the first half. He walked off the field when replaced by Eric García. Ansu Fati went on as a late substitute for the 19-year-old forward's

first minutes since he injured a Madrid is preparing to face Manchester City in their hamstring January 21.

pursuit of Champions League qualification. At the other end of the Premier League, though, the relegation scrap just got even tighter. Arsenal remained in fourth place after Gabriel's header secured a 2-1 win at West Ham to stay two points ahead of Tottenham after its

north London rival beat Leicester 3-1 Sunday through Son Heungmin's double.

Chelsea look well placed to qualify for the Champions League despite now being only three points ahead of Arsenal with four games remaining after losing 0-1 at Everton.

It's a result — secured by Richarlison — that gives Everton renewed hope of avoiding relegation after a 68-year stay in the top division. Everton moved two points from safety with five matches to go and a game in hand over both Leeds and Burnley, which are just above the drop zone

SON'S DAY OUT

Son is now on a career-high 19 Premier League goals in a season, only three behind Liverpool striker Mohamed Salah in the race for the Golden Boot.



SPLENDID SHOW: Son Heung-min (No.7) rejoice after scoring against Leicester

Before scoring against Leicester, Son also provided the opener in the 22nd minute by delivering a corner for the unmarked Harry Kane to head into the bottom corner to end a five-game goalless run. It also was Tottenham's first attempt on target in 221 minutes.

The hosts struggled for another sight of goal until the hour mark when they doubled their lead. Cristian Romero was the architect as he produced a crunching tackle on Caglar Sovuncu on the halfway line which set Dejan Kulusevski free and the Swede raced clear and teed

ner. Son's second came after he picked up the ball on the right, cut inside and curled a shot high into the net in the 79th minute from distance. The South Korea forward was denied a shot at a hat-trick after being substituted by manager Antonio Conte

Kelechi Iheanacho scored a stoppage-time consolation for Leicester, which is 11th in the standings and focused on its Europa Conference League semifinal against Roma Thursday after drawing 1-1 in the first leg.

DEFENDERS' HEADERS

Arsenal found it hard going against West Ham before Bukayo Saka's corner was headed in by Rob Holding in the 38th minute for his first-ever Premier League goal since making his debut in 2016. The lead lasted seven minutes as Jarrod Bowen levelled from close range before the break. But Arsenal went in front again nine minutes into the second half when Gabriel Martinelli crossed to an unmarked Gabriel for a diving header that beat former Arsenal goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski at the far post. After three straight losses, Arsenal has now won three in a row.

Priya beats Dutee for 200m gold in KIUG

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, May 2: Young Priya Mohan outpaced the experienced Dutee Chand to win the 200m gold, a day after securing the 400m title at the Khelo India University Games at the Kanteerva Stadium here Monday.

While the 2018 Asian Games silver medallist Dutee raced out of the blocks to take the lead into the first 100m, the 19-year-old Mohan ran a brilliant bend to overtake and cement her stature in the event.

While Mohan clocked 23.90 seconds for the gold, Dutee, representing KIIT, claimed silver with a timing of 24.02 seconds and Florence Barla of Ranchi University secured the bronze with 24.13s.

Despite the win, Mohan was unhappy that rain had wreaked havoc on her plans to set a personal best. "I'd prepared really hard for this and I was in peak form, but the weather wreaked havoc," said Mohan, who represented hosts Jain University.

"I was hoping to do a 51 in the 400m. This is a great track, my home track, I'd called all my friends, but, well, sometimes things don't go your way. I'll be travelling to Europe now to try and qualify for the Senior Worlds,

and improve my timing. This is a good start, gives me confidence," she added.

ODISHA EVES GO DOWN

Odisha bowed out of the Senior Women's T20 Trophy Monday after suffering a 35-run defeat against defending champions Railways in their semifinal match in Surat. Railways will face Maharashtra in the summit clash.

Batting first, Railways posted 159/2, riding on the twin fifties by S Meghana (84, 63b, 9x4, 1x6) and Nuzhat Parween (55 n o, 51b, 4x4). In reply, Odisha could manage 124/7 in their stipulated 20 overs with opener Madhuri Meheta topscoring with a 25-ball 35.

Defending the total, Swagatika Rath (2/23) and Tanuja P Kanwer (2/25) snapped two wickets each, while Poonam Yadav (1/20) and Sneh Rana (1/14) took one each.

Earlier in the day, Yastika Bhatia scored a sublime 71 off 45 balls but that wasn't enough as Maharashtra outplayed Baroda by six wickets to enter the final.

The Smriti Mandhana-led Maharashtra restricted Baroda to 121/7 after opting to field at Lalbhai Contractor Stadium. In-(reply, Maharashtra coasted to win in 19.1 overs.

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